

SELECTING CASES

Sometimes, you want to run an analysis on one or more subsamples. For example, here is the command to run a correlation in the total sample:

```
corr vars = consis ach100 .
```

Correlations

Correlations

		Consistency (R)	Achievement, 100 cases
Consistency (R)	Pearson Correlation	1.000	.518
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.	.000
	N	106	106
Achievement, 100 cases	Pearson Correlation	.518	1.000
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.
	N	106	106

Suppose that you wanted to know what this correlation is among members of each sex. You can restrict the sample to men only (and then women only) using the "select if" command, as shown below. You can specify any criteria for selection that you like. Here, I've used (`sex = 1`) to run the correlation on men only:

```
temporary .  
select if (sex = 1) .  
corr vars = consis ach100 .
```

Note also the "temporary" command. This tells SPSS to use your subsample for only ONE analysis (here, I've used correlation, but you can use the temporary and select if commands along with any type of analysis). In other words, after it does this correlation, all subsequent commands will revert back to the entire sample. It's important to include temporary, or else all of your subsequent analyses will only include men.

Note that you can specify multiple criteria for inclusion. For example, I could have selected only men over 20 years old:

```
temporary .  
select if (sex = 1) and (age > 20) .
```

Whatever command followed these lines would have been done using the subsample of 21+ year-old men.

Below are the results of the correlation analysis for men, then for women. Whenever you use subsamples, you should always check the sample size indicated for your analyses to be sure that the proper cases have been selected. Below, you can see that men and women were picked out (their n's add to the the total N of 106).

Correlations

Correlations

		Consistency (R)	Achievement, 100 cases
Consistency (R)	Pearson Correlation	1.000	.543
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.	.003
	N	28	28
Achievement, 100 cases	Pearson Correlation	.543	1.000
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.003	.
	N	28	28

Finally, here are the results for women only:

```
temporary .
select if (sex = 2) .
corr vars = consis ach100 .
```

Correlations

Correlations

		Consistency (R)	Achievement, 100 cases
Consistency (R)	Pearson Correlation	1.000	.525
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.	.000
	N	78	78
Achievement, 100 cases	Pearson Correlation	.525	1.000
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.
	N	78	78