**Violent Crime in the U.S.**

**Data Background:**  
The [National Crime Victimization Survey](http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=nvat) (NCVS) “is the nation's primary source of information on criminal victimization. Each year, data are obtained from a nationally representative sample of about 90,000 households, comprising nearly 160,000 persons, on the frequency, characteristics, and consequences of criminal victimization in the United States. The NCVS provides the largest national forum for victims to describe the impact of crime and characteristics of violent offenders.” NCVS data have been collected from 1972-2014; the instrument underwent a major redesign in 1992.

**Assignment:** *To be typed up in a separate document.*

1. Go to the [NCVS raw data](http://www.bjs.gov/developer/ncvs/index.cfm), download the .csv file for Personal Victimization 1993-2014, and open this file in SPSS. Open up the variable description page, called “Personal” under the heading “Variable Descriptions,” and read through the list of variables and their categories. (Note, not all variables are listed on this description page.)
2. Pick one variable to examine in depth, the one variable you want to be able to explain (i.e. your dependent variable).
3. Create a frequency table for your dependent variable.
4. Identify the level of measurement for this variable.
5. Identify the factors (variables) that you think will predict or influence your dependent variable.
6. **Explore correlations** between the independent variables and your dependent variable. Be sure to define certain categories as missing, as appropriate. You may want to enter the category labels in variable view to make interpreting your output easier.
7. Look at the levels of measurement for each variable in each pair, and determine the appropriate **measures of association**. Identify them in the table below:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Var1 | Var1Level | Dependent Variable | Dependent V. Level | Measure of Association | Recoding Needed? |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

* 1. Recode your variables as needed. Run the appropriate measures of association to determine the strength of relationships between your variables. Summarize your findings.

1. After identifying some strong relationships, let’s now see if they are **statistically significant**. Outline your plan here:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Var1 | Var1Level | Dependent Variable | Dependent V. Level | Test of Significance |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |

1. Now run the appropriate tests of significance to determine the statistical significance of your relationships. Summarize your findings.
2. Overall, write a brief report explaining what you’ve found, supporting it with data and tables as needed, and discussing opportunities for further study.