

Converting SAS files to SPSS on the UNIX¹

Converting SAS files to SPSS files on the UNIX is a two-step process. First, using SAS, a SAS export file must be created. This exported file can then be converted to an SPSS systems file using SPSS's GET SAS.

Following are the two programs necessary for the conversion. Lines beginning with an asterisk are comments, and provide explanation and documentation. Comment lines are not essential to the program. Program statements do not begin with asterisks. In the program statements, uppercase words do not need to be changed. Lowercase words will need to be changed to fit your file specifications. Remember that the UNIX is case sensitive, and case is important in defining locations of files.

We don't know of problems with this conversion, but we do know that problems have occurred in other conversions. You should check the number of cases, means, and ranges for variables in the original and converted file to make sure there were no errors.

```
* SASSPSS1.SAS ;
* FIRST STEP IN CONVERTING SAS FILE TO SPSS ;
* USE SAS TO CREATE A SAS EXPORT FILE;
* RUN THE SAS PROGRAM WITH COMMAND LIKE:
* SAS SASSPSS1 (LOWERCASE) ;

LIBNAME SASDATA '/full/path/' ;
LIBNAME SASSPSS XPORT '/full/path/filename.xpt' ;
PROC COPY IN=SASDATA OUT=SASSPSS; SELECT filename ;

*****
* SASSPSS2.SPSS
* SECOND STEP IN CONVERTING SAS FILE TO SPSS
* USE SPSS TO "GET SAS" WITH A THE
* SAS EXPORT FILE CREATED ABOVE.
* RUN THE SPSS PROGRAM WITH COMMAND LIKE:
* SPSS -M SASSPSS2.SPSS & (LOWERCASE) ;

SET LISTING SASSPSS2.LIST
GET SAS DATA = 'filename.xpt'
SAVE OUTFILE = 'filename.spssfile'
DESC VARS=ALL
```

¹Prepared by Patty Glynn, Brian Stults, and Kyle Crowder and distributed courtesy of the Center for Social and Demographic Analysis, University at Albany, State University of New York. February 24, 1999