

## Converting SPSS files to SAS on the UNIX<sup>1</sup>

Converting SPSS files to SAS on the UNIX is a two-step process. First, using SPSS, an SPSS portable file must be created.<sup>2</sup> This portable file can then be converted to a SAS systems file using libname statement which uses the SPSS engine.

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. **Bolded 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.

### \*\*\* SPSS PROGRAM – CREATE PORTABLE FILE \*\*\*

- \* export.spss
- \* This program creates an exported spss systems file.
- \* It could be transported to another system as an ASCII file,
- \* or converted to SAS.
- \* The following line tells spss where to write the output.

```
get file='/full/path/file1.spssfile'  
desc var = all  
export out = 'full/path/file1.por'
```

### \*\*\* SAS PROGRAM – CREATE SAS FILE FROM SPSS PORTABLE FILE \*\*\*

- \* convert.sas;
- \* This program converts a spss portable file to sas;
- \* Be sure to check the number of;
- \* cases, and the distributions on variables to make;
- \* sure the converted file is the same as the original.;

```
options linesize=72 compress = yes;  
libname mylib '/full/path';  
libname spssdat spss '/full/path/file1.por';
```

```
data mylib.file1;  
set spssdat._first_;  
proc means data = mylib.file1;
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<sup>1</sup> Prepared by Patty Glynn, University of Washington, February 16, 2000. Modified by Hui-shien Tsao, University at Albany, March 10, 2006.

<sup>2</sup> Note that the SPSS portable files have to be created in the UNIX environment. The SAS program will not work for SPSS portable files created in the Windows environment.