For this assignment you will learn how to produce measures of central tendency using SPSS. Central tendency refers to measures that assess the average of observations. These measures include mean, median, and mode.

For this assignment I want you to calculate the measures of central tendency for each of the following variables: “age,” “partyid,” “hlth5,” “empathy5r,” “ager,” and “empathyindex.” You are also to report each measure, decide which measure (or measures) is most appropriate and discuss why this measure (or measures) is most appropriate for describing the selected variable, and provide an analysis of each of these measures.

Generating the measures of central tendency is very easy and in fact it is just an extension of the frequency distribution skills you first learned in SPSS EX2.

First open the “Frequencies” window and enter in all of the variables in question (see figure 1).

Figure 1

SOC 104
Quantitative Research Methods

DUE DATE
SPSS EX6 – Central Tendency

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Generating the measures of central tendency is very easy and in fact it is just an extension of the frequency distribution skills you first learned in SPSS EX2.

First open the “Frequencies” window and enter in all of the variables in question (see figure 1).
Once you have entered in the variables click on the “Statistics” button. This will cause a window like that in Figure 2 to come up. In this window under central tendency select “Mean,” “Median,” and “Mode.” Next click “Continue” and then “OK” in the “Frequencies” window. This will cause output like in Figure 3 to pop up in the output window.

This is great but you have some extra output that you do not need. I recommend deleting some of the superfluous output to save paper and ink. To do so simply find where is says “Frequency Table” in the window on the left side of the output window. You will see that there is a small “-” sign to the left of the words “Frequency Table.” Click on that and the “-” sign will turn into a “+” and the frequency tables will disappear. If this seems too confusing then print the whole output and turn that in.
Now take the measures of central tendency and put them in a table. You can follow the model. If you would like you can put all the measures for all the variables on the same table just be sure the title of the table reflects that.

Table 1. Measures of Central Tendency for Age of Respondents (age) and Political Party Affiliation (partyid)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>Median</th>
<th>Mean</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>45.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partyid</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2.91</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

n=2812
Source: 2004 General Social Survey
When you are finished this is what you should turn in (in this order):

1. A cover page with your name, the date, and the honor statement
2. A report where you discuss:
   • What measures of central tendency are, what they are used for, and how these measures are calculated.
   • How the measures of central tendency are calculated using SPSS
3. Analysis of the table you created to display your data. This includes:
   • Selecting the measure that is most appropriate given the variable, explaining why it is the most appropriate, and analysis of what the measure means
4. A table with all of the measures of central tendency
5. A copy of the output including your code
6. Submit your report in this order: cover page with honor statement, report, tables, output