

Count Occurrences within Cases

Tech Tips – IBM SPSS Statistics

Tech Tips – Count Occurrences within Cases

- ***Did you know that you can count occurrences within cases?***
- ***You might have a satisfaction survey that contains a lot of questions with the same scale.***
 - ***You can use this procedure to calculate the total number of 'Very Satisfied' responses respondent gave across a number of questions.***
- ***Or, you might have a survey that contains a list of magazines where each magazine is a variable in your data and each respondent indicates Yes or No for each magazine.***
 - ***You can use this procedure to calculate the total number of magazines each person reads.***

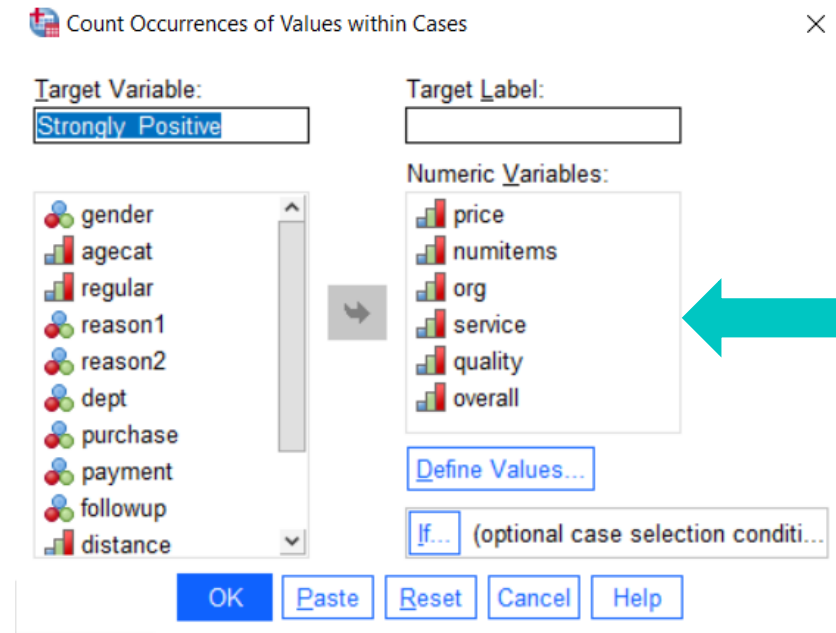
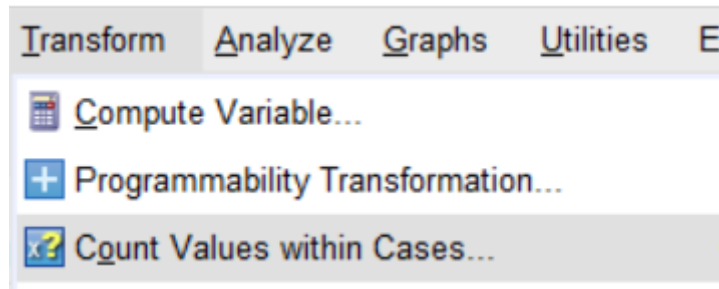
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- We will use the file `satisf.sav` – this file is located in the installation folder of SPSS in a file called `Samples/`
- The last six questions in this data file are **price**, **numitems**, **org**, **service**, **quality**, and **overall**. These questions have the same response scale. The scale is shown below:
 - 1 = Strongly Negative
 - 2 = Somewhat Negative
 - 3 = Neutral
 - 4 = Somewhat Positive
 - 5 = Strongly Positive

13	price	Numeric	4	0	Price satisfaction	{1, Strongly Negative}...	!
14	numitems	Numeric	4	0	Variety satisfac...	{1, Strongly Negative}...	!
15	org	Numeric	4	0	Organization sa...	{1, Strongly Negative}...	!
16	service	Numeric	4	0	Service satisfac...	{1, Strongly Negative}...	!
17	quality	Numeric	4	0	Item quality sat...	{1, Strongly Negative}...	!
18	overall	Numeric	4	0	Overall satisfac...	{1, Strongly Negative}...	!

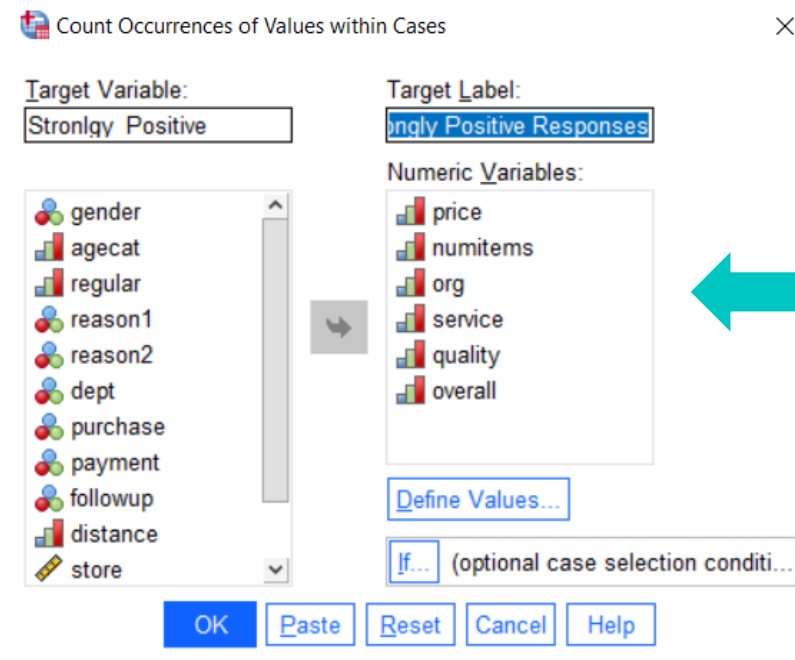
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- Let's count the number of 'Strongly Positive' responses across the variables.
- To do this, go to the **Transform** menu and select **Count values within cases**.



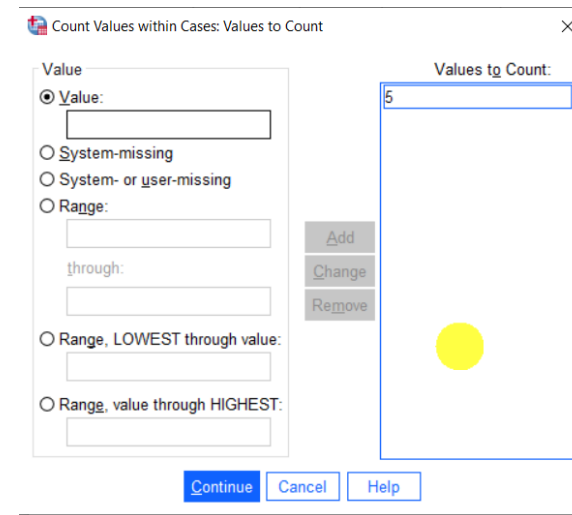
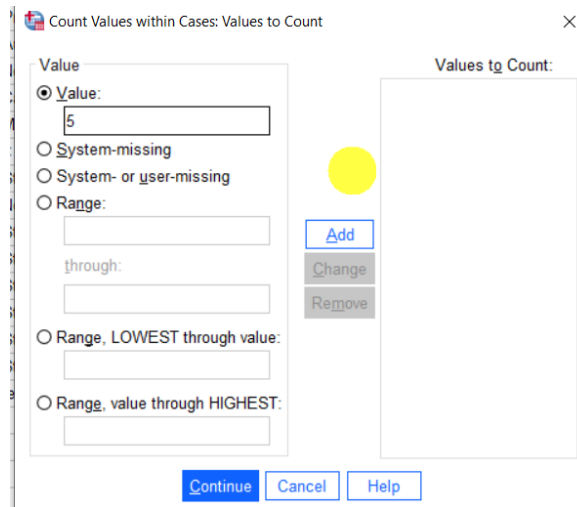
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- In **Target Variable** box type 'Strongly_Positive'.
- In the **Target Label** box type 'Count of Strongly Positive Responses+'.
- Select the six questions and move them to the **Numeric Variables** box.
- Click on **Define Values**.








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- As we want to count occurrences of 'Strongly Positive' select the **Value** button and type '5'.
- Click on **Add** to Values to Count box.
- Other options include specifying a range of values or specifying missing values as the value to count.
- Select **Continue** and **OK** in the main dialog box.



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- Now you have a new variable in your data which counts 'Strongly Positive'.

 org	 service	 quality	 overall	 Strongly_Positive	var
Strongl...	Somewh...	Somewh...	Strongly ...	1.00	
Somew...	Strongly ...	Somewh...	Somewh...	1.00	
Somew...	Somewh...	Neutral	Neutral	.00	
Somew...	Strongly ...	Neutral	Somewh...	.00	
Neutral	Somewh...	Somewh...	Somewh...	.00	
Somew...	Somewh...	Strongly ...	Neutral	.00	
Neutral	Neutral	Somewh...	Somewh...	.00	
Strongl...	Somewh...	Somewh...	Somewh...	3.00	
Neutral	Somewh...	Somewh...	Somewh...	.00	
Somew...	Strongly ...	Strongly ...	Somewh...	2.00	
Strongl...	Strongly ...	Somewh...	Somewh...	3.00	
Neutral	Strongly ...	Neutral	Strongly ...	4.00	
Neutral	Strongly ...	Strongly ...	Strongly00	
Neutral	Strongly ...	Neutral	Somewh...	.00	

Tech Tips – Count Occurrences within Cases

- The **If** cases dialog box allows you to count occurrences of values for a subset of cases using conditional expressions
 - If the result of a conditional expression is *true*, the case is included in the selected subset
 - If the results of a conditional expression *false* or *missing*, the case is not included in the selected subset



Thank You

For more information
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