

APPLIED INSTRUCTION SHEET

SELECTING A SAMPLE IN SPSS

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Preparation for Sampling

In order to take a random sample, you may need to prepare in advance by getting the valid number of observations for the variable or group of variables that you are using. This can be done by selecting all the variables using the **Explore** command, selecting observations to keep, or filtering out observations to be removed.

Select Cases Command

The **Select Cases** command provides a simple way to create a sample.

- The procedure is **Data>Select Cases**.
- In the dialog box, select **Random sample of cases**.
- Click on **Sample**. Choose between a random sample based on the percent of cases or a specific number of observations. If you pick a specific number of cases from the data set, the first number of cases is the number of valid observations determined in the preparation.
- Return to the main menu and run the procedure of interest.