<u>SPSS Chapter 1 Example 3 – Normal Distribution Probability Calculations</u>

The Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children (WISC) is normally distributed with $\mu = 100$ and $\sigma = 15$. We would like to know what percent of this population have WISC scores a) below 100? b) Below 80? c) Above 140? and d) Between 100 and 120?

Five variables have been created (i.e., x1, x2, x3, x4, x5). The data have been entered into SPSS and look like the following:

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Follow these steps to perform these calculations:

1. Click Transform and click Compute. The following window will appear.

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- 2. In the box entitled *Target Variable*, type in "prop" (short-form for proportion).
- 3. In the box entitled *Functions*, click the vert button until the function entitled *CDF.NORMAL(q, mean, stddev)* appears in the box. Double click on **CDF.NORMAL(q, mean, stddev)** to move this function into the box entitled *Numeric Expression*.

Note: The CDF.NORMAL(q, mean, stddev) function stands for the cumulative distribution function for the normal distribution, and it calculates the area to the left of q under the normal curve.

4. The stddev) function will CDF.NORMAL(q, mean, appear as CDF.NORMAL(?, ?, ?) in the Numeric Expression box. The variable "x1" replaces the q, and the population mean and standard deviation are 100 and 15, Numeric Expression respectively. Thus the should appear as "CDF.NORMAL(x1, 100, 15)".



5. Click **OK**.

The proportion of population with WISC scores below 100 will appear in the SPSS Data Editor window in the variable entitled *prop*:

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To answer the remaining questions, repeat steps 1-5, but with the following modifications:

The proportion of WISC scores less than 80 will be entered in the *Numeric Expression* box as "CDF.NORMAL(x2, 100, 15)". (Remember that x2=80.)

The proportion of WISC scores above 140 will be entered in the *Numeric Expression* box as "1 - **CDF.NORMAL(x3, 100, 15)**". (Remember that x3=140.)

The proportion of WISC scores between 100 and 120 will be entered in the *Numeric Expression* box as "CDF.NORMAL(x5, 100, 15) - CDF.NORMAL(x4, 100, 15)". (Remember that x4=100 and x5=120.)

The proportions of the population will always appear in the SPSS Data Editor window in the variable entitled *prop*.