SDA
Some Quick Notes

SDA@Chass provides access to Canadian microdata (including DLI surveys), to aggregated census data, and to various other collections of data (opinion polls, international data, etc.). Users can analyze datasets online, download data, or consult relevant documentation.

- Datasets can be analyzed online which is a lot of fun!
- Data can be downloaded in several formats: SAS, SPSS, STATA, DDI (XML) and SDA (DDL).

- It’s possible to search for variable-level information among all datasets, but results are not aggregated. This means that a survey will appear several times in the list of results if it has more than one variable that fit the search parameters.

- Some surveys are ordered in chronological order, others are ordered in inverse chronological order.


Exercise #1

You absolutely love Dalhousie University, and you’re not alone! Many happy people seem to study and work here. It’s great!

But you suddenly find yourself wondering if people from other provinces are HAPPIER than you are. Is that even possible? You decide to investigate this extremely important question with the help of SDA.

1. Open SDA.
   → From on campus, go to [http://sda.chass.utoronto.ca/](http://sda.chass.utoronto.ca/)
   → Or search Google for « SDA Chass ».

2. Find the Canadian Community Health Surveys and explore data from the CCHS 2011-2012 cycle.

   - Select the « geogprv » variable in the « Geography variables » module. Place it in the row field for the table we’re going to create.
→ Search for the terms « Satisfaction » and « life » (1). Click on « View » to better understand the difference between the two results (2-3). Select variable « gengswl » by clicking on it (4) then come back to the original page in order to place it in the table’s columns (5).

→ Click on « Run the table » at the bottom of the right hand portion of the screen in order to get SDA to work its magic. Wow! We’ve cross-tabulated two variables!

→ But how should these results be interpreted? Are Ontarians happier than other Canadians? There seems to be a lot more of them in every single category...
→ Click on « Row » in the « Table Options » menu and run the table again (by clicking on « Run the table »). It’s now much easier to identify which province has the higher percentage of people that stated they were « very satisfied ».

3. Let’s keep going by cross-tabulating life satisfaction with the highest level of education achieved by the respondent, and seeing if the situation varies depending on the province.

→ Place variable « edudr04 » on the table’s rows. Leave variable « gengswl » in the columns. Add variable « geogprv » to the « Control » field. Run the table. If you take 100 very satisfied people and check their degrees, how many have a post-secondary degree?

4. Let’s analyze the situation for a specific age group. Click on « View » for variable « dhhgage » to see its coding. Select an age group. Click on « Filter » and then enter the right code for the selected age group. Run the table and admire the results. Congratulations on a job well done!!!
Exercise #2

You’ve just received a phone call from Peter Parker, a journalist in the United States. He’s working on an article about stress in North America, and he would love to compare Canadian data with US data.

It turns out that Professor Barbara Gordon is a big fan of his work and knows that you’re getting pretty good at finding statistics. She thought you might help him extract a dataset from SDA. This is normally an unauthorized use of the DLI license, but after a few emails, you receive special permission from Statistics Canada.

1. Open SDA.
   → From on campus, go to http://sda.chass.utoronto.ca/
   → Or search Google for « SDA Chass ».

2. Find the General Social Surveys and explore data from cycle 24: General social survey on time-stress and well-being.
   → Click on « Download » and then « Customized subset ».

    Selected Study: General Social Survey, Cycle 24
    Download | Codebooks | Search
    Customized Subset
    Visit this site to access additional options

   → Click on « SPSS » and then select one or two of the variable groups.

    Data file
    ➤ Text file with no extra blanks
    ➤ Text file with a blank between variables
    ➤ CSV file (Comma Separated Values with header record)
    ✓ Codebook for subset data (ASCII)
    Data definitions for:
    ➤ SAS  GP SPSS ○ STATA ○ DDI (XML) ○ SDA (DDL)

   → Click on « Continue » and then « Create files ». The text files you’ve just created will contain documentation, data, and SPSS syntax. Consider renaming them in order to avoid confusion.
   → And now you’re ready to send everything to Parker! Excellent! Good job!