2.2.1.8 [bsa89] Supplementary exercise - combining your saved files. [22 December 2010]

Exemplar: British Social Attitudes, 1989

Task: Combine previously saved files **mybsa89_1.sav** and **mybsa89_2.sav** into a single file: save the combined file as **mybsa89_3.sav**
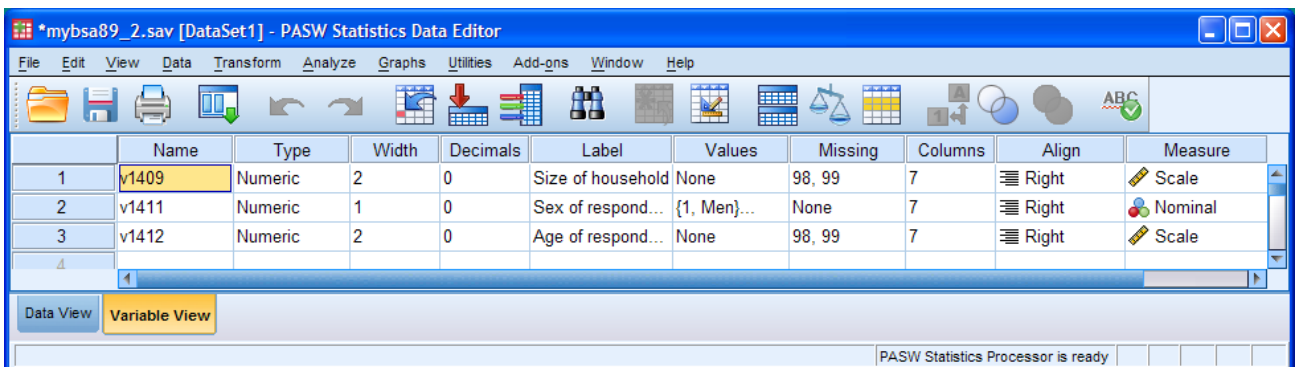
GUI menu: Data > Merge Files > Add Variables:

**SPSS command:**   **MATCH FILES**   [not used as GUI is quicker]

In previous exercises, using the questionnaire as documentation, we created two separate SPSS ***.sav** files: the first was **mybsa89_1.sav** for the nominal variable **v1408** (Marital status of respondent) and the ordinal variable **V751** (Satisfaction with the way the NHS runs); the second was **mybsa89_2.sav** for interval variables **v1409** (Size of household) and **v1412** (Age of respondent last birthday) and the dichotomous variable **V1411** (Sex of respondent). In both cases we used the **DATA LIST** command to read the data into SPSS from the raw data file **bsa89.txt**. If you have followed the exercises, these files, together with their associated SPSS ***.sps** syntax files are stored in sub-folder **mybsa89** of desktop folder **mybsa**.
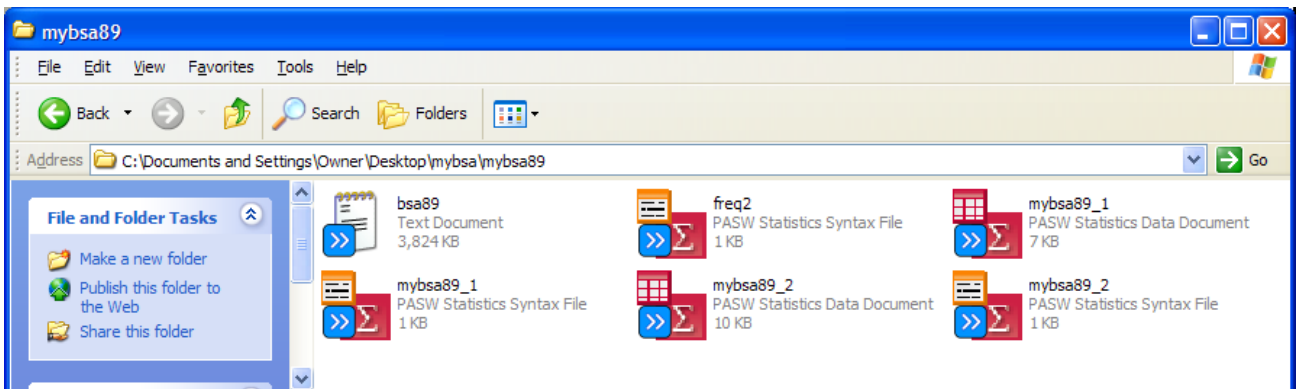
If we want to do analysis using variables from both exercises, we can always start from scratch with **DATA LIST** and the raw data, but since we have already done all the work, including specifying missing values, variable labels and value labels, it's much easier if we can merge the two files together into a single file. Both files have the same 3025 cases, but different variables. If you have SPSS 15 or later, open both files (starting with **mybsa89_2.sav**). Opening them in reverse order ensures that **mybsa89_1.sav** is the active file when you combine them.
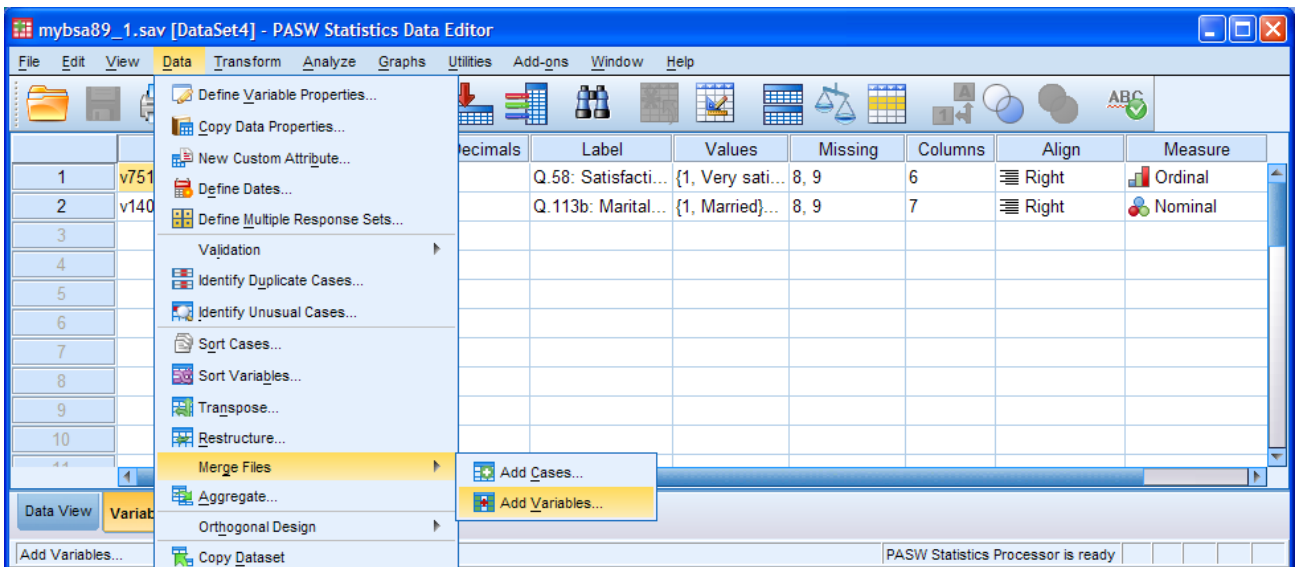

mybsa89_2.sav
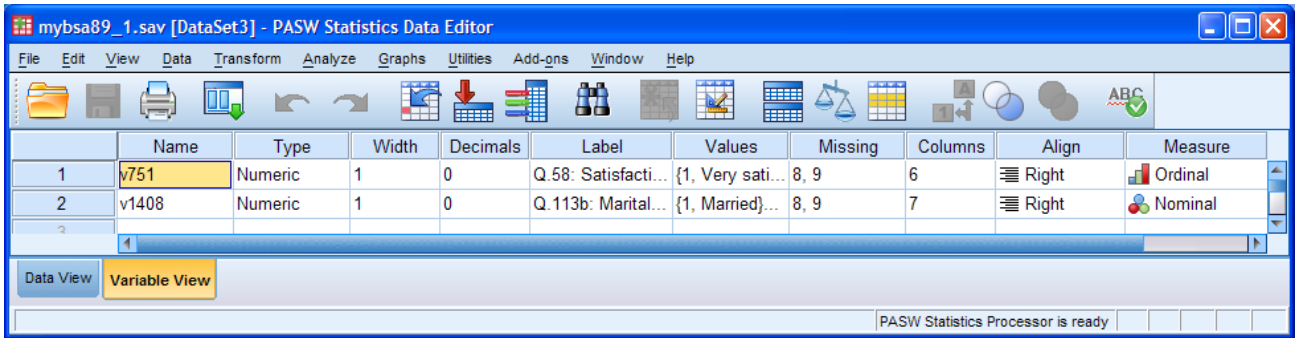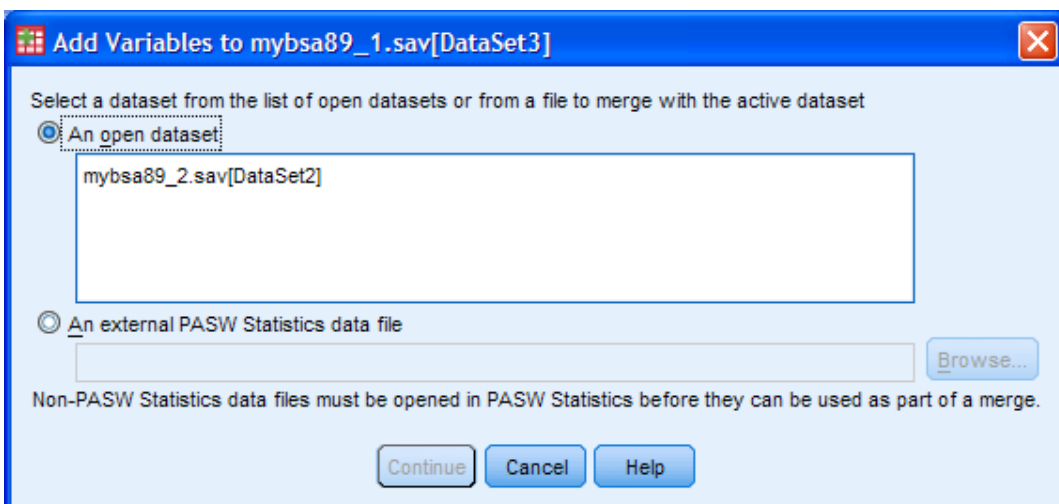
mybsa89_1.sav

```
GET
  FILE='C:\Documents and Settings\Owner\Desktop\mybsa\mybsa89\mybsa89_2.sav'.

GET
  FILE='C:\Documents and Settings\Owner\Desktop\mybsa\mybsa89\mybsa89_1.sav'.
```

Make sure you are in **mybsa89_1.sav**. and click on:
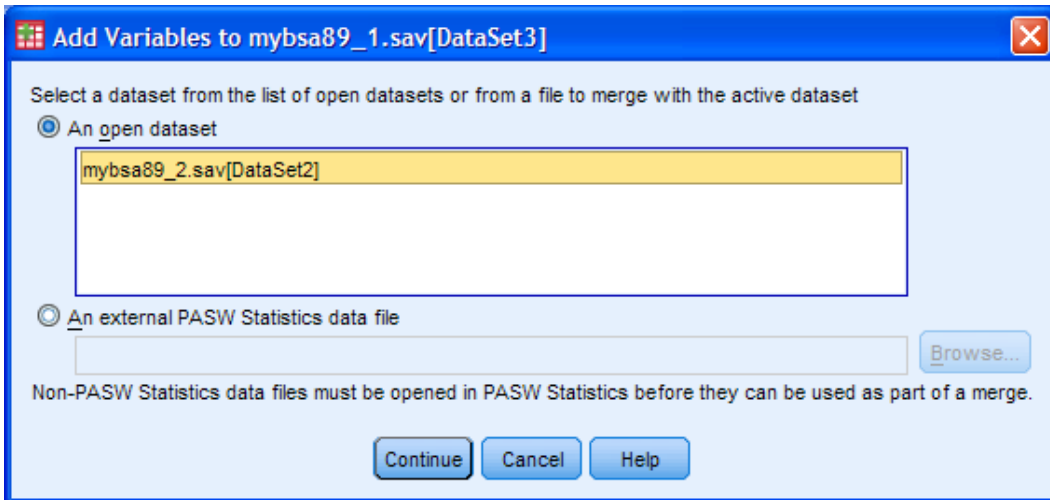Data > Merge Files > Add Variables:

If you can only have one data file open at a time, go to page 3. If you have both data sets open, the following window will open:
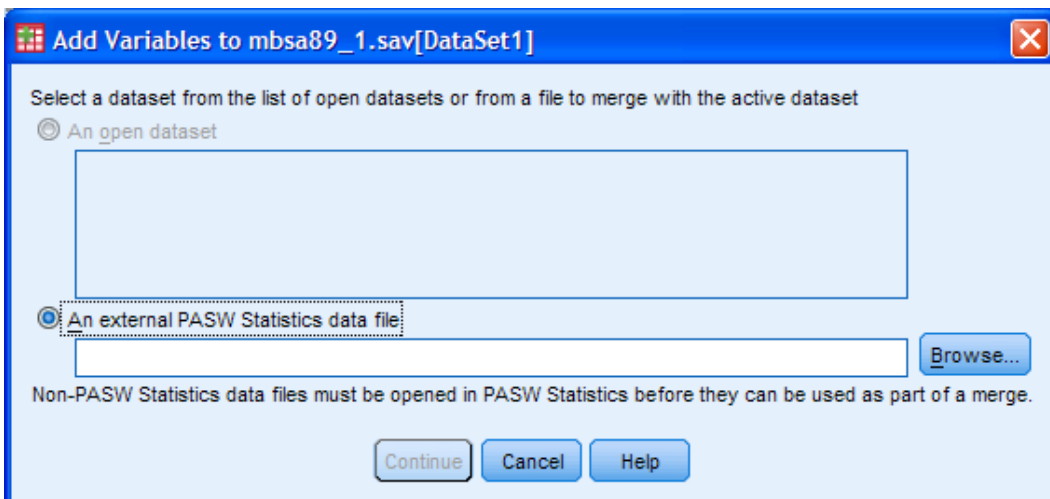
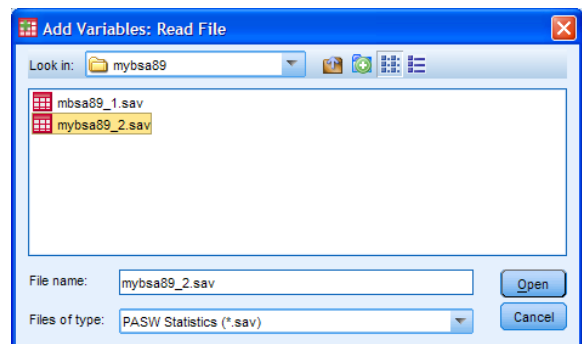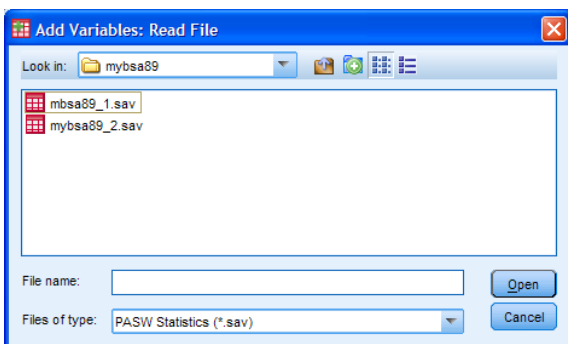[The Continue button is grayed out.]

Click on the filename to highlight it:

Add Variables to mybsa89_1.sav[DataSet3]

Select a dataset from the list of open datasets or from a file to merge with the active dataset

◉ An open dataset

    mybsa89_2.sav[DataSet2]

◯ An external PASW Statistics data file

    Browse...

Non-PASW Statistics data files must be opened in PASW Statistics before they can be used as part of a merge.

Continue   Cancel   Help

. . and click on Continue

If you can only have one data file open at a time (eg SPSS 11) you will get this:

Add Variables to mbsa89_1.sav[DataSet1]
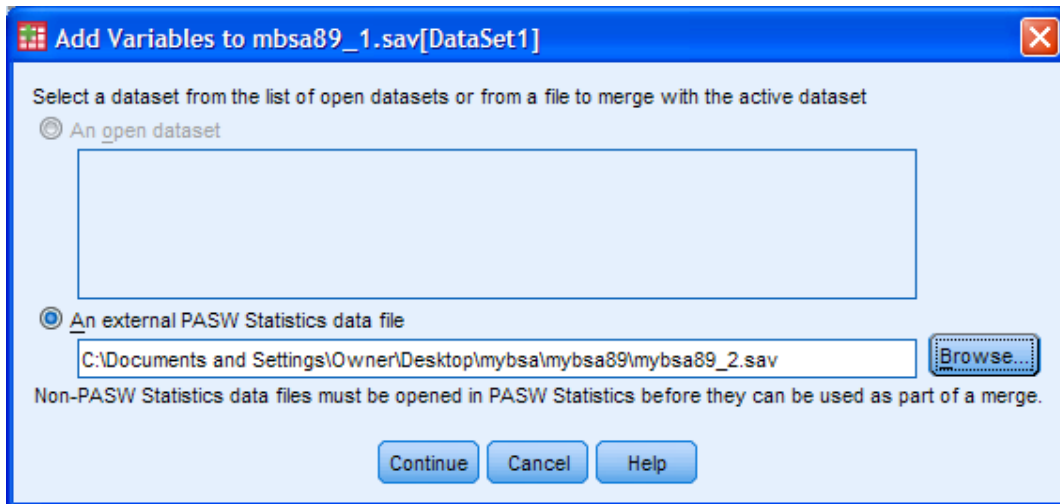
Select a dataset from the list of open datasets or from a file to merge with the active dataset

◯ An open dataset

◉ An external PASW Statistics data file

    Browse...

Non-PASW Statistics data files must be opened in PASW Statistics before they can be used as part of a merge.

Continue   Cancel   Help

Click on Browse , navigate to folder **mybsa89**   highlight filename **mybsa89_2.sav**

Add Variables: Read File

Look in: mybsa89

mbsa89_1.sav
mybsa89_2.sav

File name: Open

Files of type: PASW Statistics (*.sav)   Cancel

Add Variables: Read File

Look in: mybsa89

mbsa89_1.sav
mybsa89_2.sav

File name: mybsa89_2.sav   Open

Files of type: PASW Statistics (*.sav)   Cancel

. . click on Open
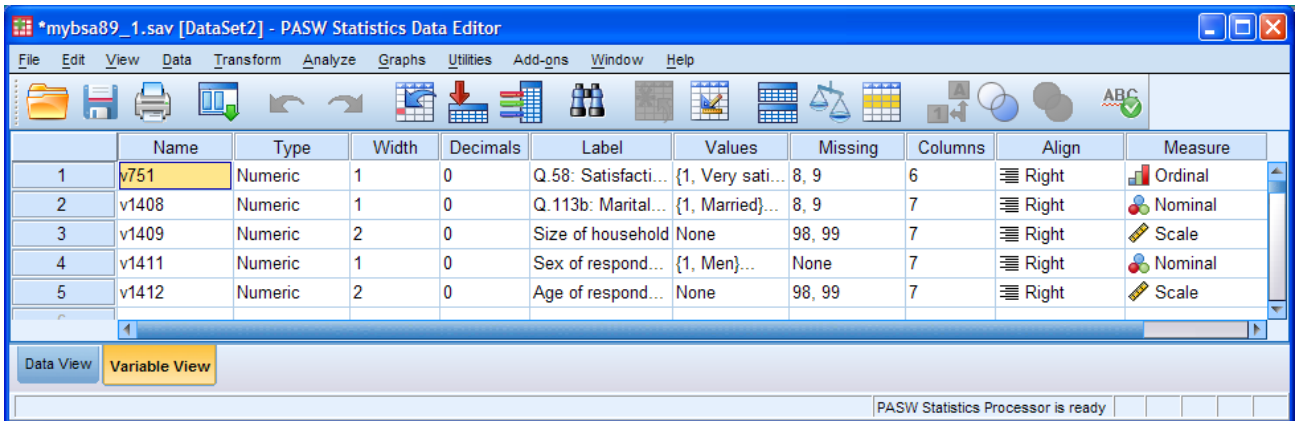
. . and click on Continue
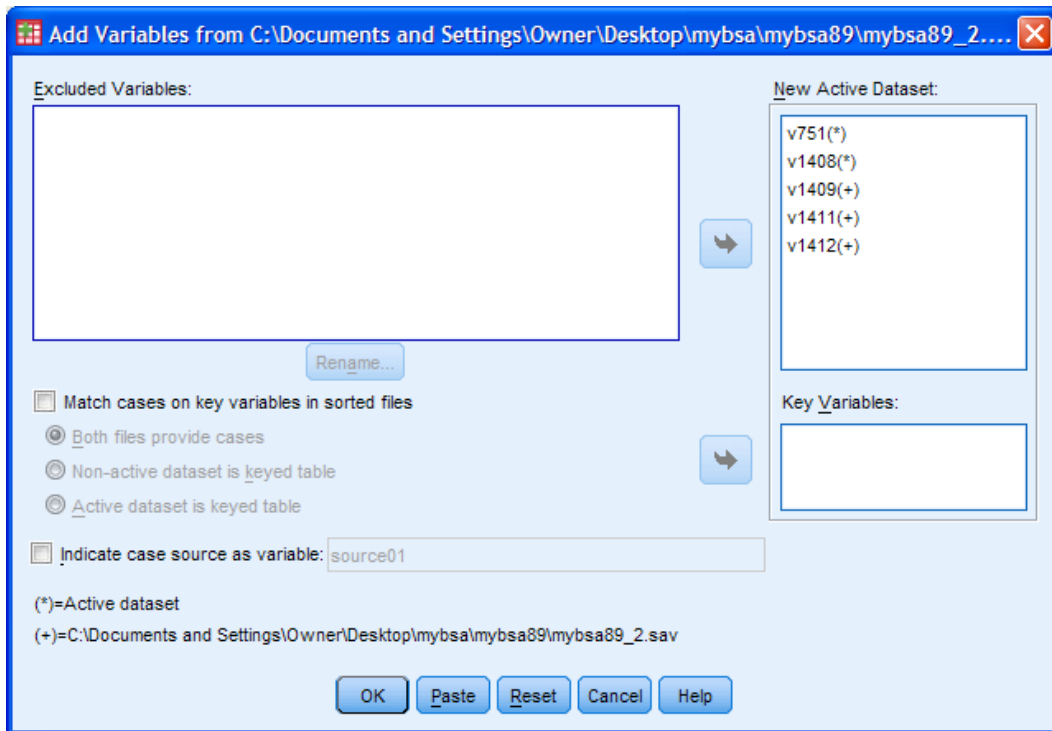
The variables to be included in the new active file are listed in the pane at top right.

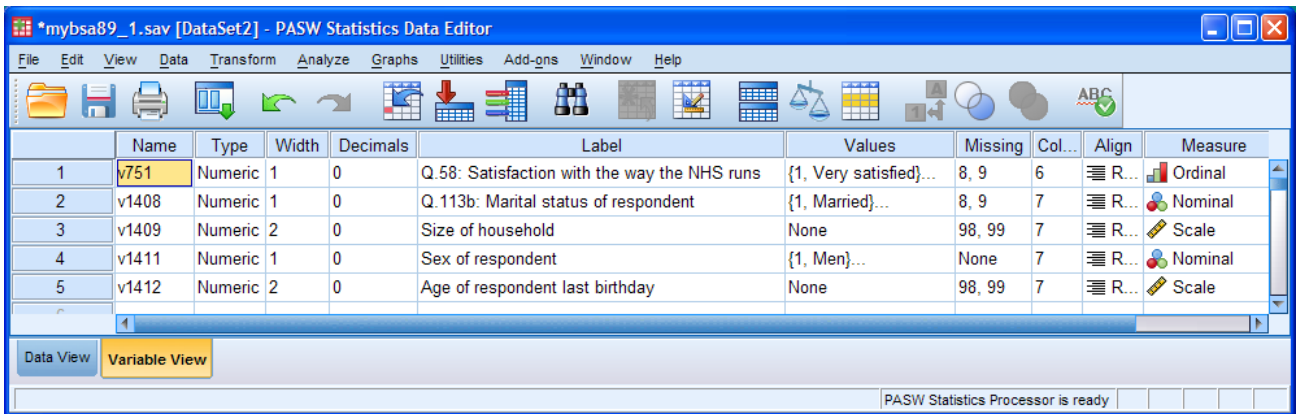SPSS automatically generates the following syntax:

```
MATCH FILES /FILE=*
  /FILE='C:\Documents and Settings\Owner\Desktop\mybsa\mybsa89\mybsa89_2.sav'.
EXECUTE.
```

. . where * indicates the currently active file **mybsa89_1.sav**.

Click on OK

Variables **v1409**, **v1411** and **v1412** have been added to the active file. Adjust column widths to check the variable labels, value labels and missing values:
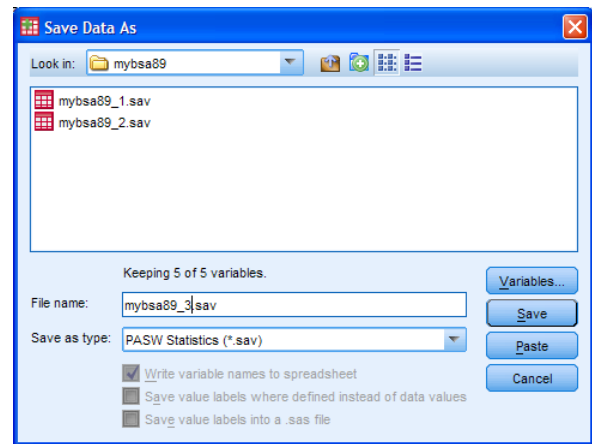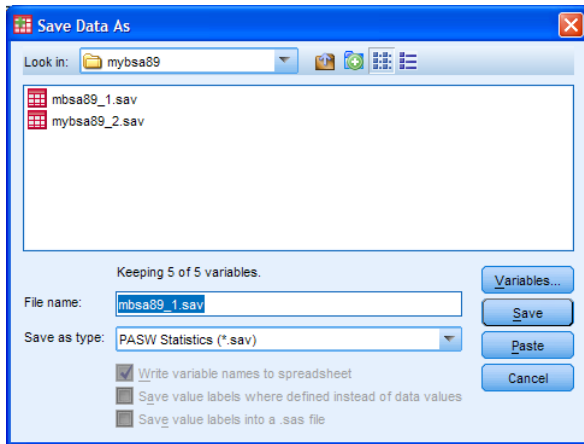

You can save the active file by clicking the save icon , but it's better to save the file with a new name in case you want to repeat the exercise, otherwise **mybsa89_1.sav** will be overwritten and will already include the variables from **mybsa89_2.sav**. For now, let's call it **mybsa89_3.sav**.
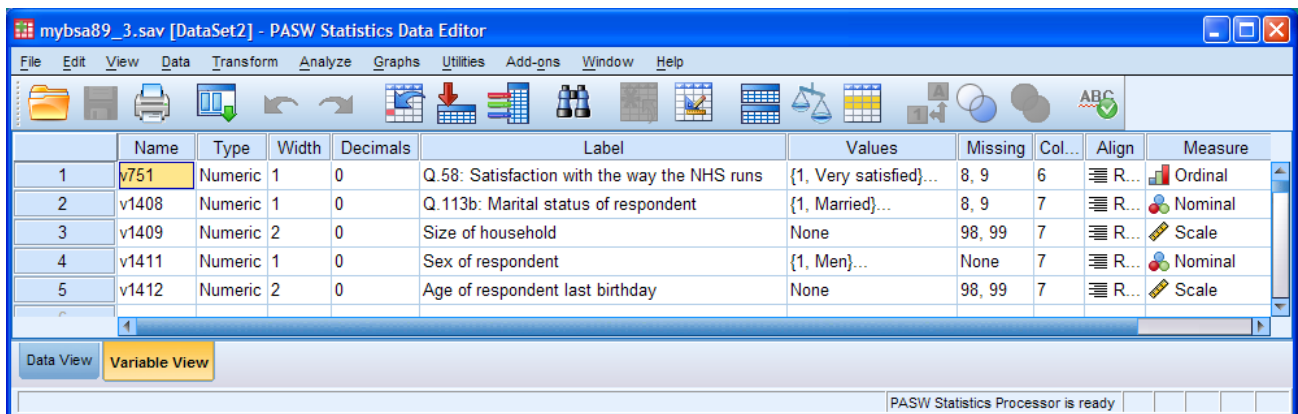
Click on File > Save As . . .
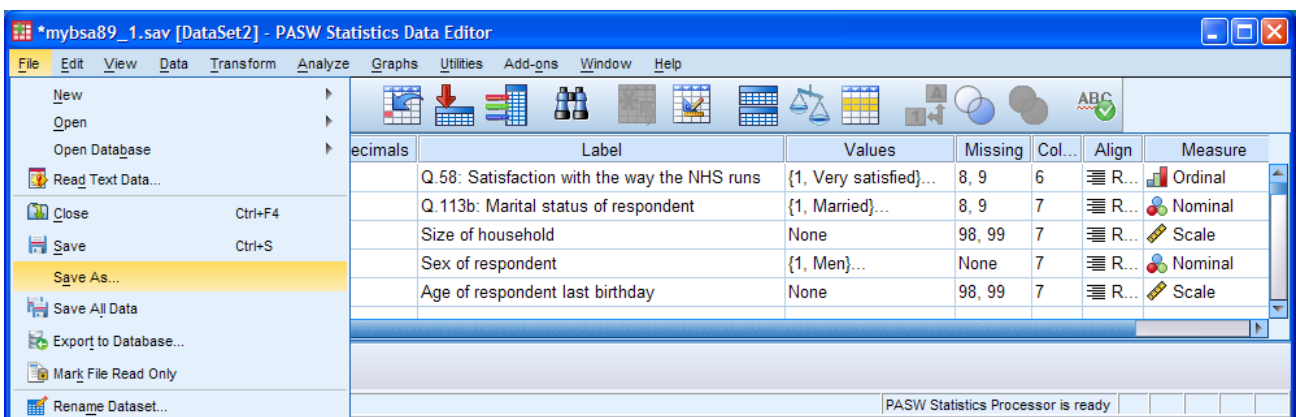
Change **1** to **3** in the filename. .

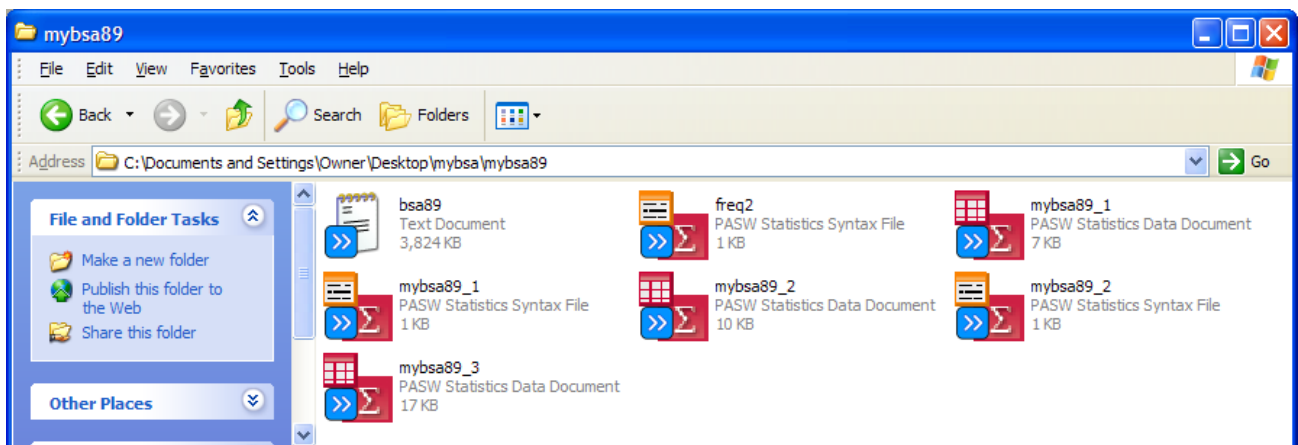. . and click on Save :

mybsa89_3.sav

File **mybsa89_3.sav** has been saved in folder **mybsa89**:

End of section 2.2

Next section: **2.3 Data transformations**

[Back to Block 2 menu]

6