

LAB NOTES: INPUTTING DATA INTO PRELIS

There are two principal ways of reading data into PRELIS 2. You can either read in raw data in each PRELIS run command file or you can first IMPORT the data into PRELIS and create and save a PRELIS SYSTEM FILE (*.psf) for use in future PRELIS and LISREL runs. The latter will allow you to “see” the data file in a spreadsheet format. I usually create a *.psf file so that I can be sure that data are being correctly read. PRELIS 2 can read in system data files from SAS, SPSS, Stata, and LIMDEP, and also read Excel and Access files. For an example of reading an SPSS save file, see “Lab Notes: Importing an SPSS File into LISREL” on the course webpage.

- I. Reading data into PRELIS 2 from an SPSS save file (SPSS *.sav file), a raw data file with blanks between variables (ASCII *.dat file), and a raw comma-delimited data file (ASCII *.csv file).
 - a. SPSS SAVE FILE: See handout “Lab Notes: Importing an SPSS file into PRELIS” on course webpage: (1) open LISREL; (2) click on FILE, select IMPORT DATA, choose SPSS DATA FILE (*.SAV) from the menu; (3) browse until you find your SPSS file and double click it. When prompted, give a name for the PRELIS system file (*.PSF) and directory in which you want to save it. You can now work with the .PSF file in PRELIS and LISREL.
 - b. RAW ASCII FILE (*.DAT): (1) open LISREL; (2) click on FILE, select IMPORT DATA, choose FREE FORMAT DATA (*.DAT) from the menu; (3) browse until you find your raw ASCII data file and double click on it. When prompted, give a name for the PRELIS system file (*.PSF) and directory in which you want to save it. You can now work with the .PSF file in PRELIS and LISREL.
 - c. COMMA DELIMITED ASCII FILE (*.CSV): (1) open LISREL; (2) click on FILE, select IMPORT DATA, choose COMMA DELIMITED DATA (*.DAT) from the menu; (3) browse until you find your raw ASCII comma delimited data file and double click on it. When prompted, give a name for the PRELIS system file (*.PSF) and directory in which you want to save it. You can now work with the .PSF file in PRELIS and LISREL.
 - d. Then, in your PRELIS run stream, specify the PRELIS *.psf data file under the SYSTEM command (SY). In the above example, when prompted for the filename for the new *.psf file, I browsed until I opened the file folder H:\529lab2\data, and named the file INFORMAL.PSF. Therefore, I can read the file back into PRELIS using the following:

```
SY=H:\529LAB2\INFORMAL.PSF
```

- II. Reading in a raw or comma-delimited data file into PRELIS by specifying the filename in the PRELIS run stream (note: you will NOT “see” the data file in a spreadsheet format. Use the RA command (RAW):

```
RA=H:\529LAB2\INFORMAL.DAT or
```

```
RA=H:\529LAB2\INFORMAL.CSV
```

Note that LISREL 8.8 uses the file extensions .ls8 for LISREL, .pr2 for PRELIS 2, and .psf for system files. LISREL 9.3 can still read these file extensions, but now uses .lis for LISREL, .prl for PRELIS, and .lsf for system files.