Getting Started with Jamovi

A Student-Friendly Guide for Chapter 3: Descriptive Research

# Welcome to Jamovi!

If you're new to statistical software, don't worry—you're in good company! Jamovi is designed to be friendly and intuitive, especially for students just getting started with data analysis. Think of it as your helpful assistant for making sense of numbers.

In this guide, we'll walk you through everything you need to know to analyze the Heinz Dilemma data from Chapter 3. By the end, you'll be able to open data files, run descriptive statistics, and create charts—all the same analyses covered in the textbook, but using Jamovi instead of SPSS.

# What is Jamovi?

Jamovi is a free, open-source statistical software package. That means two great things for you as a student:

* **It's completely free** — you can download it to your own computer and use it forever without paying a dime.
* **It's user-friendly** — it was specifically designed to be easier to learn than traditional statistical software like SPSS.

Jamovi runs on Windows, Mac, and even Chromebooks. You can download it from **www.jamovi.org**.

# Getting to Know the Jamovi Interface

When you first open Jamovi, you'll see a clean, modern interface that looks like this:

A screenshot of a computer

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

Let's break down what you're looking at.

## The Main Areas

### 1. The Data Spreadsheet (Left Side)

This is where your data lives. It looks a lot like Excel or Google Sheets. It contains rows and columns of numbers and text. Each **row** represents one participant in your study, and each **column** represents one variable (like age, gender, or responses to survey questions).

### 2. The Results Panel (Right Side)

This is where the results of your analysis appear. When you run a statistical test, tables and charts will pop up here. The cool thing about Jamovi is that results update automatically. If you change something in your analysis, the results update instantly!

### 3. The Menu Tabs (Top)

At the top of Jamovi, you'll see several tabs. Here are the ones you'll use most often:

* **Data:** For managing your data (opening files, adding variables, etc.)
* **Analyses:** This is where the magic happens! All your statistical tests are here.
* **Edit:** For copying results and other editing functions.

### 4. The Three-Line Menu (☰)

In the top-left corner, you'll see three horizontal lines (sometimes called a "hamburger menu"). Click this to open files, save your work, or export results. This is your main file menu.

## 💡 Pro Tip: Jamovi vs. SPSS

Even though your textbook uses SPSS, most things work similarly in Jamovi. Menus are organized a bit differently, but both programs can perform a variety of statistical analyses. The good news? Jamovi often requires fewer clicks to get the same results!

# Opening the Heinz Dilemma Data File

Let's get started with the data from Chapter 3. Here's how to open the Heinz Dilemma dataset in Jamovi:

## Step-by-Step: Opening Your Data

1. **Download the data file** from the OSF page (**https://osf.io/a8kev/**). Navigate to the "Ch. 3 – Descriptive Research" folder.
2. **Choose the right file format:** Download the **.csv file** (RITC\_DATA\_CH03\_HeinzDilemma.csv). Jamovi works great with CSV files! (Note: While Jamovi can also open SPSS .sav files, the CSV format is universal and works perfectly.)
3. **Open Jamovi** on your computer.
4. **Click the three-line menu (☰)** in the top-left corner.
5. **Select "Open"** and then navigate to where you saved the data file.
6. **Select the file** and click "Open."

Once the file opens, you should see the data appear in the spreadsheet on the left side. Each row represents one participant, and the columns include variables like their response to whether Heinz should steal the drug and how acceptable they found his actions. The file should look like this:

A screenshot of a computer

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

## Understanding Your Variables

Before we analyze the data, let's understand what we're working with. In this dataset, you'll see two important variables:

* **Steal:** This is the yes/no question asking whether Heinz should have stolen the drug. (Categorical/Nominal variable)
* **Acceptable:** This is the 1-7 scale rating of how morally acceptable Heinz's action was. (Continuous/Scale variable)

# Research Activity 3.2: Analyzing the Heinz Dilemma Data in Jamovi

Now for the fun part: let's analyze the data! We'll calculate frequencies for the yes/no question and get descriptive statistics for the acceptability rating.

## Analysis 1: Frequencies for the Yes/No Question

First, we want to know: How many people said Heinz should steal the drug versus how many said he shouldn't?

### Step-by-Step Instructions

1. **Click on the "Analyses" tab** at the top of Jamovi.
2. **Select "Exploration"** from the menu that appears.
3. **Click "Descriptives"** — this is Jamovi's all-in-one tool for basic data analysis.
4. **Find the "Steal" variable** in the list of variables on the left.
5. **Drag "Steal" to the "Variables" box** (or click the arrow after it is highlighted to move it).
6. **Check the "Frequency tables" option** — you'll find this in the lower right corner, beneath the “Split by” box.

After completing the steps above, your screen should look like the image below.

A screenshot of a computer

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

## 💡 Pro Tip: Labeling Data

When you import data from a CSV file, it contains just numbers or text. It is not neatly labeled. To label the values within any variable, navigate to the data view. Find the variable you want and double click the column header. A drop down menu will appear where you can edit the variable name, description, variable type, and value labels. Click on the values under the “Levels” header and type the text you want. The labels will automatically appear in your data view and in any analyses you run.

A screenshot of a computer

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

### Creating a Bar Chart

To visualize your results with a bar chart, follow these steps:

1. **In the same Descriptives window, look for "Plots"** (you may need to expand this section).
2. **Check the box for "Bar plot."**

That's it! Your frequency table and bar chart will appear in the Results panel on the right.

### What You Should See

The frequency table will show you:

* How many people answered "Yes" and how many answered "No"

A screenshot of a graph

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

**💡 Expected Result:** Based on the textbook, you should find that about 47% of participants said Heinz should steal the drug, while 53% said he shouldn't.

Jamovi doesn’t offer a general “graph editor” so you cannot add data labels or other features to the figure. To edit the image, you can copy and paste it into a program like PowerPoint and then add data labels.

## Analysis 2: Descriptive Statistics for the Acceptability Rating

Now let's look at how morally acceptable people found Heinz's actions on a scale from 1 (not at all acceptable) to 7 (entirely acceptable).

### Step-by-Step Instructions

1. **Click on "Analyses" → "Exploration" → "Descriptives"** (or if you still have the previous analysis open, you can add to it).
2. **Find the "Acceptable" variable** and drag it to the "Variables" box.
3. **Expand the "Statistics" section** to see all available options.

A screenshot of a computer

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

1. **Check the boxes for:**

* Mean
* Std. deviation (Standard Deviation)
* Minimum
* Maximum
* Median (optional but helpful)
* Mode (optional but helpful)

### Creating a Histogram

To create a visual display of the acceptability ratings (like Figure 3.15 in the textbook):

1. **In the "Plots" section, check "Histogram."**
2. **Also check "Frequency tables"** to see exactly how many people chose each rating.

### What You Should See

Your results should show:

* **Mean:** approximately 4.39
* **Standard Deviation:** approximately 2.17
* **Mode:** 7 (the most common response!)
* **Range:** 1 to 7

**💡 Key Finding:** The mean of 4.39 is above the midpoint (4), suggesting people leaned toward finding Heinz's action morally acceptable, even though most said he shouldn't have done it!

# Quick Reference: SPSS to Jamovi Translation

If your textbook mentions SPSS, here's how to find the same features in Jamovi:

| **SPSS Action** | **Jamovi Equivalent** | **Notes** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| File → Open → Data | ☰ → Open | *Same function!* |
| Analyze → Descriptive Statistics → Frequencies | Analyses → Exploration → Descriptives → Frequency tables | *Check the box!* |
| Analyze → Descriptive Statistics → Descriptives | Analyses → Exploration → Descriptives | *All in one place* |
| Charts button in Frequencies | Plots section → Bar plot | *More visual options* |
| Options → Mean, Std Dev, etc. | Statistics section checkboxes | *Just check what you need* |
| Variable View | Data → Setup | *Edit variable properties* |

# Saving Your Work and Exporting Results

## Saving Your Jamovi File

1. Click the three-line menu (☰) in the top-left corner.
2. Select "Save As."
3. Name your file something descriptive like "Ch3\_HeinzDilemma\_Analysis.omv"

*Note:* The .omv file format is Jamovi's native format. It saves both your data AND your analyses, so you can pick up right where you left off! You can also share your analyses with your teacher.

## Exporting Results for Your Portfolio

To copy your results for your Research Portfolio:

1. **Right-click on any result** (table or figure) in the Results panel.
2. **Select "Copy"** to copy it to your clipboard.
3. **Paste into Word, Google Docs, or your portfolio document.**

You can also export all your results at once by going to ☰ → Export and choosing your preferred format (PDF, HTML, etc.).

# Troubleshooting Common Issues

## "My data file won't open!"

* Make sure you downloaded the .csv file (or .sav file if available)
* Check that the file isn't corrupted by opening it in Excel/Sheets first
* Try using "Import" instead of "Open" from the ☰ menu

## "I can't find a variable!"

* Variable names might be slightly different—look for similar names
* Scroll through the variable list; sometimes they're in a different order
* Check if you're looking in the right column of your data

## "My results look different from the textbook!"

* Small differences in means or percentages may occur due to rounding
* Check that you're analyzing the correct variable
* Make sure you haven't accidentally filtered out any data

## "I accidentally deleted something!"

* Use Ctrl+Z (or Cmd+Z on Mac) to undo
* If you saved over your original file, re-download it from OSF
* In Jamovi, deleting an analysis just removes it from the results—your data stays safe!

# Summary

Congratulations! You've learned how to:

* Navigate the Jamovi interface
* Open data files (.csv or .sav)
* Run frequency analyses for categorical variables
* Calculate descriptive statistics (mean, standard deviation, etc.)
* Create bar charts and histograms
* Save your work and export results

These same skills will carry forward through the rest of the book. As you learn more advanced analyses in later chapters, you'll find that Jamovi follows the same basic pattern: select your analysis, choose your variables, and customize your output. You've got this!

**📚 Need More Help?** Jamovi has excellent built-in documentation. Just click the "?" icon in any analysis window to learn more about that specific feature. You can also visit the Jamovi user guide at **www.jamovi.org/user-manual.html**