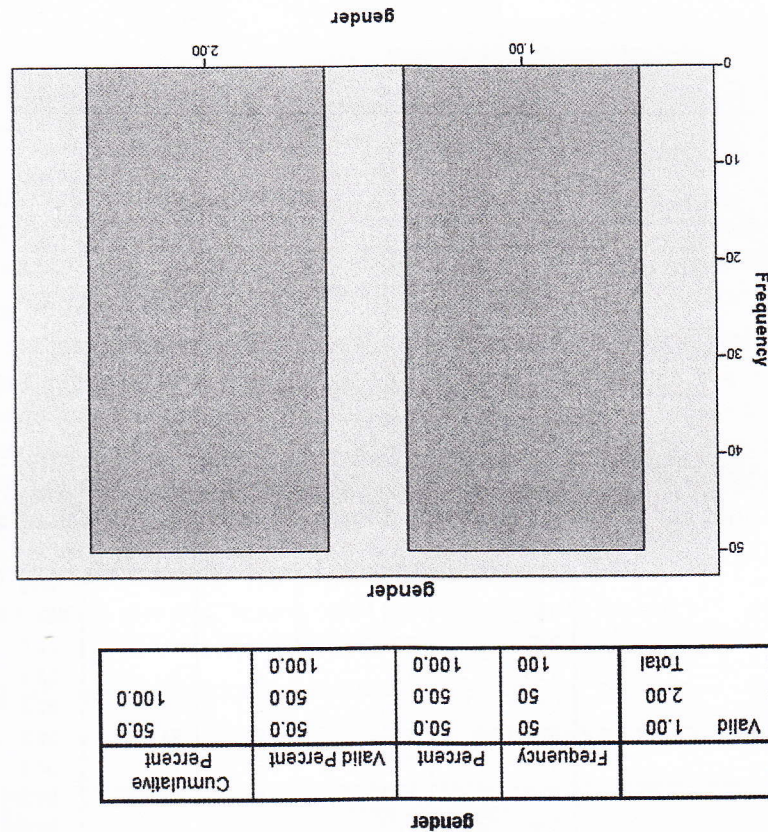


The Descriptives command

It is also possible to obtain certain measures of central tendency and variability through the **Descriptives** command. In addition, this command allows you to save standardised values as variables. These standardised or Z-scores are useful for further analysis (e.g. interaction terms in multiple regression) or in comparing samples from different populations. Furthermore, inspection of Z-scores will allow identification of outlying cases, which is useful in data screening. Z-scores greater than +3 and less than -3 are considered to be outliers.



To obtain the appropriate output for a categorical variable

- 1 Select the **Analyze** menu.
- 2 Click on **Descriptive Statistics** and then on **Frequencies...** to open the **Frequencies** dialogue box.
- 3 Select the variable(s) you require (i.e. *gender*) and click on the **▢** button to move the variable into the **Variable(s):** box.
- 4 Click on the **Statistics...** command pushbutton to open the **Frequencies: Statistics** subdialogue box.
- 5 In the **Central Tendency** box, click on the **Mode** check box.
- 6 Click on **Continue**.
- 7 Click on the **Charts...** command pushbutton to open the **Frequencies: Charts** subdialogue box.
- 8 Select the **Bar chart(s)** radio button.
- 9 Click on **Continue** and then **OK**.