**Lab 5, Assignment #4**

**Dr. Josh Curtis**

**Due Friday October 29th 2021**

**Total Marks: 50**

\*\*\*\* ***Be sure to include ALL syntax used to generate each command in the questions below or full marks will not be awarded \*\*\*\****

This lab assignment is going to incorporate more of a written component than our previous labs. The goal for this lab assignment is for you to start thinking more “sociologically” about the variables in the MIDUS dataset. In “lab 5- Assignment 4” you will find a data set with 10 variables. Each of these variables can be seen as the “focus” of a potential research project. Quantitative research usually starts with large, “big picture” topics of discussion, like the ones listed below. *The purpose of this assignment is to get you to start thinking about how you might measure and study very complex social issues with pre written survey questions from large datasets*.

To do this, I would like you to first choose from one of the topics below: *homelessness, adoption, emotional disorders, alcohol/drug problems, happiness, drugs to treat depression, financial satisfaction, life happiness, feeling helplessness, and incarceration/institutionalization.* Each of these topics can be measured by one of the variables below in the MIDUS dataset:

**A1PE2 –** homelessness, **A1PCA5** – adopted at birth, **A1SA9T** – emotional disorder, **A1SA9U** – alcohol or drug problems, **A1SA15C**– feel extremely happy, **A1SA40E** – drugs to treat depression used,  **A1SE10** – financial level now, **A1SF1B** – pleased with my life, **A1SF1T** – feel helpless dealing w problems, and **A1PE1**– lived in prison (or another institution).

Step 1: Statistics and analytics **(26 points)**

First, choose your topic from the variable list above. Then:

1. Begin by running a frequency distribution of this variable (2 points)
2. Next, recode this variable as you see fit (i.e., choose the appropriate categories for your recoded variable) and be sure to delete all missing cases as needed (3 points).
3. Label each category of the recoded variable and label the variable overall (3 points).
4. Using the tab1 function compare the raw variable with your recode and indicate *how* you know that your recode has been done correctly (3 points).
5. Using Stata, create a histogram for your variable. Make sure there is a bar for each year in the data and proportion is on the Y-axis for the histogram. Also make sure to give the histogram a title and label the X and Y axes. Furthermore, make sure that the X-axis begins at the smallest response and ends at the highest response, with responses marked off on the X-axis by 5-year increments. Paste your syntax and histogram with your answer (5 points).
6. . Using STATA, find the median, mean, range, variance, and standard deviation. Be sure to *interpret* each statistics correctly (10 points).

Step 2: Written component **(24 points)**

*One-Two pages double spaced (max!).*

1. Introduce your topic. Why is this topic worth studying from a sociological perspective? (7 points).
2. What key theories, debates, or arguments have already been put forward by researchers in the past – here you might want to source two or three existing authors or studies (7 points).
3. What is your specific interest in this topic and why? (5 points).
4. Based on your (very brief) review of literature, do you think there are “gaps” in the field that might be useful in exploring? Why? (5 points).