

Display descriptive statistics of the data

The descriptive statistics of the data are created and stored by default in a **STS** file under the same directory as the raw data files. It can be checked while making the MDM file from the raw data. To do so, click on the **Check Stats** button in the **Make MDM** dialog box. The **STS** file will be open.

The screenshot shows the 'Make MDM HLM2' dialog box. The title bar reads 'Make MDM HLM2'. The dialog is organized into several sections:

- MDM template file:** File Name: C:\HLM\Examples\Chapter2\hsb.mdm1. Buttons: Open mdm1 file, Save mdm1 file, Edit mdm1 file.
- MDM File Name (Use .mdm suffix):** hsb.mdm. Input File Type: SPSS Windows (dropdown).
- Needing of input data:** persons within groups, measures within persons.
- Level-1 Specification:** Browse button, Level-1 File Name: C:\HLM\Examples\Chapter2\HSB1.SAV, Choose Variables button.
- Missing Data?:** No, Yes. Delete missing data when: making mdm, running analyses.
- Level-2 Specification:** Browse button, Level-2 File Name: C:\HLM\Examples\Chapter2\HSB2.SAV, Choose Variables button.
- Bottom row:** Make MDM, Check Stats, Done buttons.

Pay particular attention to the N column. It is not an uncommon mistake to forget to sort by the ID variable, which can lead to a lot (or most) of the data not being processed. Close the Notepad window when done. Use the **Save As** option to give it a new name if later use of this file is anticipated.

The screenshot shows a Notepad window with the following content:

```

LEVEL-1 DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS
VARIABLE NAME      N      MEAN      SD      MINIMUM      MAXIMUM
MINORITY           7185     0.27     0.45       0.00       1.00
FEMALE             7185     0.53     0.50       0.00       1.00
SES                 7185     0.00     0.78      -3.76       2.69
MATHACH            7185    12.75     6.88      -2.83      24.99

LEVEL-2 DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS
VARIABLE NAME      N      MEAN      SD      MINIMUM      MAXIMUM
SIZE                160   1097.83   629.51    100.00     2713.00
SECTOR              160     0.44     0.50       0.00       1.00
PRACAD              160     0.51     0.26       0.00       1.00
DISCLIM             160    -0.02     0.98      -2.42       2.76
HIMINTY             160     0.28     0.45       0.00       1.00
MEANSES             160    -0.00     0.41      -1.19       0.83

```

An alternative way of displaying the descriptive statistics is to browse for the **STS** file (e.g., **hlm2mdm.sts** for the **HLM2** model), and then open it.