Stata Help and Resources

*, Prepared by Bernie Black for 2013 “Main” Workshop on Research Design for Causal Inference*

Reminder on accessing materials on the Causal Inference Workshop website:

https://share.law.northwestern.edu/faculty/ciw.

Please use:

username: law\ciwxx [where xx is a number from 1 to 50, password (case sensitive): CIWxx [for example, username ciw7, password CIW7]

[Note: you need to use the “law” domain]

Once in, select “all readings” along the left hand margin.

**Getting Stata 12**

We will provide a temporary license for Stata 12. If you have an earlier version on your computer, that is fine.

**Stata texts and resources for learning it**

In increasing order of complexity, I recommend:

  * Stata, *Getting Started with Stata for Windows* (most recent edition)
  * A. Colin Cameron and Pravin Trivedi, *Microeconometrics Using Stata* (2d ed. 2010)

Note: This is a different book than Cameron and Trivedi, *Microeconometrics: Methods and Applications* (2005)

See also the introductory notes prepared by my coauthor, Woochan Kim (these should still work with Stata 12): *How to Use Stata 11* (included on the readings “page”)

The UCLA computing center has prepared a series of primers on Stata: http://www.ats.ucla.edu/stat/stata/

Princeton provides an online Stata tutorial:  http://data.princeton.edu/stata/

The Stata review sessions on Monday will be divided into “basic” and “advanced” sessions. The basic session will provide an introduction to some of the basics of using Stata.

A recurring question is how to export results from Stata log files to word or Excel. For some guidance, see Mathew McCubbins, *How to Make Publishable Tables* (prepared 2012, included on the readings page)

You can also try a web search, using a very specific query about what you want to do, and see what comes up.

If others efforts have failed, a detailed email to stata@stata.com, that says [here is what I want to do, here is my dataset, here is what I have tried] can work wonders. They won’t respond
instantly, but will respond, usually reasonably promptly, and in my experience are often very helpful.

**Installing Stata “ado” files**

Stata is self-contained for many things, but users have developed a number of “plugins”, known as “ado” files, that you can download and install. Some useful plugins:

- *dlogit2*: produces marginal effects for logit and probit in a single step
- *tab3way* [varlist]: allows 3-way tabulation [Stata: tabulate provides two-way tabulation]
- *nnmatch.ado* [matching program developed by Alberto Abadie and Guido Imbens]

To generate tables in Excel and word:

- *outreg2.ado*
- *estout.ado*

To directly get a count of missing values

- *mdesc.ado*
  
  `mdesc` -- gives the number of missing values for all variables in the data set
  
  `mdesc var1 var2` will do this for the indicated variables.

- *xtoverid.ado*
  
  Allows Hausman test for fixed v random effects to allow for clustered standard errors

- *ivreg29.ado*
  
  Update to Stata’s ivreg command. Needed to run xtoverid

- *xtgraph.ado*
  
  Helpful for graphing panel data

An overview on how to find and install .ado files:


  But a quick way for most commands: in Stata command line:

  `findit commandname`

  For example: `findit nnmatch`

Direct installation for the ado files housed in the extensive library at Boston University:

- `ssc install adofilename` [you don’t need.ado at the end]