Tutorial: Graphing in Stata

All of the graph options in Stata are located in the *Graphics* menu.

- Create a **box plot** for `sysbp1`, the systolic blood pressure of study participants at exam 1.
    - `graph box sysbp1`
- Create a **histogram** for `sysbp1`.
    - `histogram sysbp1`
    - Would you describe the distribution of `sysbp1` as skewed or symmetric?
- Change the **number of bins** on the histogram.
    - `histogram sysbp1, bin(20)`

      `histogram sysbp1, bin(50)`
- Create **separate histograms** of `sysbp1` for males and females. How do the histograms differ between the two genders?
    - `histogram sysbp1, by(sex1)`
- Create a **scatterplot** of systolic blood pressure at exam 1 versus systolic blood pressure at exam 2 (`sysbp1` and `sysbp2`). Is there a relationship between systolic blood pressure at the two exams?
    - `scatter sysbp1 sysbp2`

Stata Graph Editor

In recent versions of Stata, the Graph Editor was introduced, allowing you to interactively edit graphs. In the *Graph* window, go to *File/Start Graph Editor*.

- **Add a title** to the scatterplot you just made using the interactive graph editor. Then, **change the spacing** on the axes of the scatterplot.
- Spend some time editing your graphs and familiarizing yourself with the Graph editor.

Saving Graphs

A nice Stata feature is that you can save your graphs as *.gph* files. These are Stata graph files (which can only be opened in Stata and therefore can't be used in publications, etc.). It is good practice to save your final graph as something useable (e.g. *.png*) and as a Stata *.gph* file, so that you can make minor changes to your graph at a later date (change the title, axes, font, etc.) without having to redo the whole graph.

You can also copy and paste graphs to word processing programs by choosing *Copy Graph* from the *Edit* menu while the graph window is active and then pasting it into a Word document, for example.