

17.801, Political Science Lab
Fall 2001
Problem set # 1: Using STATA

Handed out: February 15, 2001
Due back: February 27, 2001

Using STATA

1. Using a text editor such as EMACS, type the text from Exhibit 1 in the document “How to Use the *STATA* **infile** and **infix** Commands” into Athena and save it in a file named scores.dat on your home directory. Write a “do” file that will create a STATA data set from this raw data and save it as a file called “scores.dta”. Turn in a “log” file that documents the STATA commands you issued to read in the data and save it.
2. Find two tables that interest you in the *Statistical Abstract of the United States* which meet the following criteria: (1) they have between 25 and 52 observations and (2) they have the same units of analysis (e.g., states, years, nations).
 - a. Call these two tables Table A and Table B. Create a STATA data set that contains one variable, plus the identifying variable (like state or year), from Table A. Save it. Create a STATA data set that consists of one variable, plus the identifying variable (like state or year), from Table B. Save it. Merge the two data sets. Save the merged data set.
 - b. Turn in the following:
 - i. The "do file" that shows how you created the data sets and merged them.
 - ii. A printout of the data.
 - iii. A short (one paragraph, 2 or 3 sentence) description of the tables you got your data from.
3. Do the following Review Exercises in Freedman, at the end of Chapter 6, beginning on 0. 104. When you write your explanations, use complete, well-constructed sentences and paragraphs.

Review Exercises: 1, 2, 3,
Special Review Exercises: 13, 15
4. Arguing in favor of pay raises for the judiciary, Warren E. Burger testified that more judges left the bench in his tenure as chief justice “than from the beginning of the Constitution in 1789 up to 1969.” (*New York Times*, December 9, 1988.) Even chief justices make statistical blunders. What is wrong with Burger’s argument? (From Freedman, 2nd ed.):

4. In the 2000 presidential election, George W. (Quincy) Bush received 47.9% of the popular vote cast in the United States. The following reports the final “horse race” results from the various polls taken right before the election: (All of these results were reported the day before the election)

CBS: 44%

CNN/Gallup: 48%

IBD: 48%

Reuters: 46%

Voter.com: 50%

What accounts for these differences?