

Preface to the fifth edition

This fifth edition updates the fourth edition to reflect the changes in Stata 14, released in 2015; Stata 15, released in 2017; Stata 16, released in 2019; and Stata 17, released in 2021.

Since the fourth edition of the book, many nice things have happened with Stata, and many of these changes are also reflected in the book. In several ways, Stata has become more user-friendly, for example, with an improved Do-file Editor.

Stata now has commands for working with both the 9th and the 10th releases of the International Classification of Diseases, and we have included them in the book. We also included a chapter on the much-improved commands for power, precision, and sample-size analysis. With release 14, Stata introduced Unicode, giving the opportunity to use a wealth of characters beyond the Latin alphabet, and the consequences of that affect several sections in the book. With release 17, Stata introduced tools to tailor publication-ready tables, and we wrote an introduction to these tools. Finally, we made a complete revision of the important (we think) chapter 9, *Taking good care of your data*.

This is an introductory book aimed at people working in health research, and we had to make several decisions about what to include and what to omit. If you miss something that is not described in the book, it does not necessarily mean that Stata cannot do it. Use the `help` command and the PDF manuals to learn more.

During the process, Bill Rising and Kristin MacDonald at StataCorp gave several useful suggestions to improve the quality of the book, and Lisa Gilmore coordinated everything.

User reactions are welcome and can be good inspiration for further improvements, so please feel free to send comments to sj@ph.au.dk or mfstat@mollerfryd.dk.

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