

### www.epilepsy.va.gov/Statistics

# Statistics in Evidence Based Medicine

**Lecture 3: Data Display Methods** 

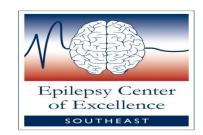
#### Rizwana Rehman, PhD

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- Tables
- Displaying continuous data
- Displaying categorical data
- Misleading graphs
- Appendix

### **Tables**

## Psychiatric Diagnosis of Seizure Patients at Durham VA Medical Center 1998-2010

	Eniloptic	<b>Epileptic</b>	Non	Non Epileptic
Psychiatric DX	Epileptic Seizures	Seizures	Epileptic	Seizures
Psychiatric DX		(Relative	Seizures	(Relative
	(Frequency)	Frequency %)	(Frequency)	Frequency %)
Depression	16	43.2	6	11.1
PTSD	2	5.4	14	25.9
Both Depression & PTSD	1	2.7	6	11.1
Somatoform	0	0.0	3	5.6
Anxiety	0	0.0	5	9.3
Bipolar	0	0.0	2	3.7
Unspecified	3	8.1	2	3.7
Conversion	0	0.0	3	5.6
Alcohol Dependence	1	2.7	0	0.0
Dysthymia	0	0.0	3	5.6
No Psyche Problem	14	37.8	10	18.5
Total	37	100.0	54	100.0

### **Tables**

Systematic Review Comparison of the Quality of Medical Care in Veterans Affairs and Non-Veterans Affairs Settings. Medical Care 2010

## Table may be long like the one shown below which consists of many pages.

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### **Communicating Information via Tables**

- A table should stand alone from the text
- Should be easy to read & understand
- Should have a clear title
- Proportions, rates and percentages should be distinguishable from each other
- Use present tense

### Don't use Past Tense with Tables

Table 1 Correlations between predictor variables and seizure outcome were shown

Predictor variable	P value
Age at onset	0.76
Duration of epilepsy	0.67
Age at surgery	0.94
Risk factors	0.59
Comorbidities	1
MRI –MTS	0.6
Interictal spike location	0.24
Lesion on path	0.002
(MTS/AVM/cancer/tumor)	

Pathological diagnosis was associated with good outcome (P = 0.002).

#### **Continuous data**



### **Stem & Leaf Plot**

### Table 1.2 Urinary concentration of lead in 15 children from housing area X (µmol/24hr)

0.6, 2.6, 0.1, 1.1, 0.4, 2.0, 0.8, 1.3, 1.2, 1.5, 3.2, 1.7, 1.9, 1.9, 2.2

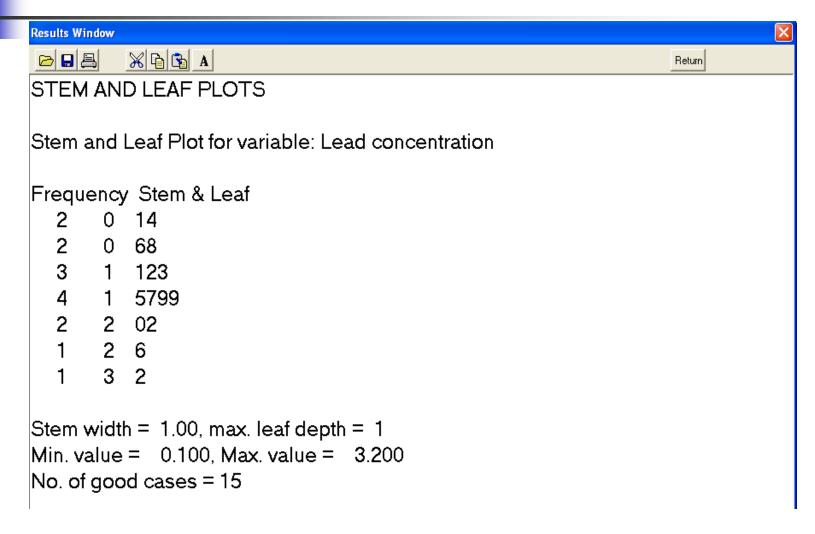
Figure 1.2	Ord	lered	sten	n and	leaf	plot	
Stem	Lea	af					
0	1	4	6	8			
1	1	2	3	5	7	9	9
2	0	2	6				
3	2						



### **Advantages of Stem and Leaf Plot**

- Good for exploring relationship between data
- Mean, Median, Mode & Range are easy to find
- Original data values can be recovered

## **Stem and Leaf Plot in Openstat**



### **Dot Plot for Two Tables**

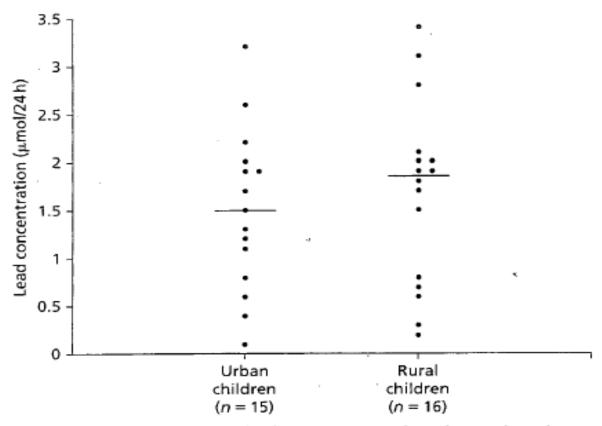
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0.6, 2.6, 0.1, 1.1, 0.4, 2.0, 0.8, 1.3, 1.2, 1.5, 3.2, 1.7, 1.9, 1.9, 2.2

Table 1.3 Urinary concentration of lead in 16 rural children (µmol/24hr)

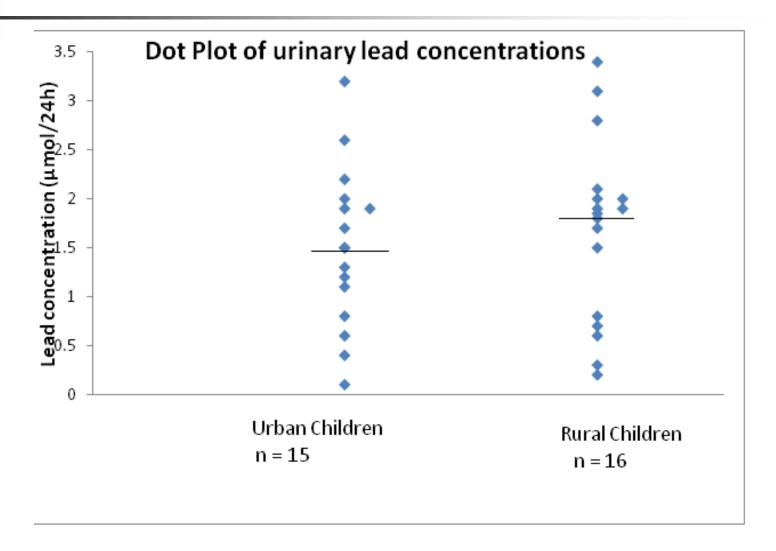
0.2, 0.3, 0.6, 0.7, 0.8, 1.5, 1.7, 1.8, 1.9, 1.9, 2.0, 2.0, 2.1, 2.8, 3.1, 3.4

### **Dot Plot**



**Figure 1.3** Dot plot of urinary lead concentrations for urban and rural children (with medians).

### **Dot Plot Generated in Excel**



### **Dot Plot for Paired Data**

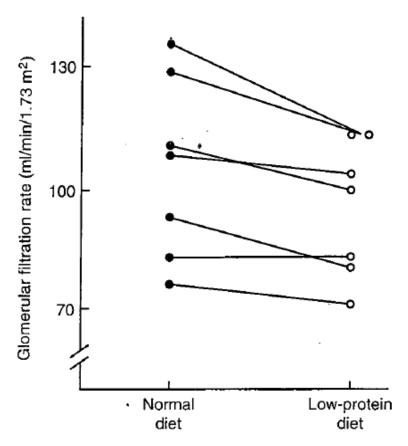


Figure 4.2 Glomerular filtration rate during normal and low-protein diets in insulin-dependent diabetics (after Cohen et al., 1987, with permission)



- In a dot plot each observation appears as a dot on the vertical axis.
- The median or mean of data is represented by a small horizontal line.



### **Advantages of a Dot Plot**

- Easy to eyeball a small data set
- Simplest way to show small data sets side by side
- Outliers can be detected
- Specially valuable if describing a paired data set

### **Error Bar Plot or Dynamite Plunger Plot**

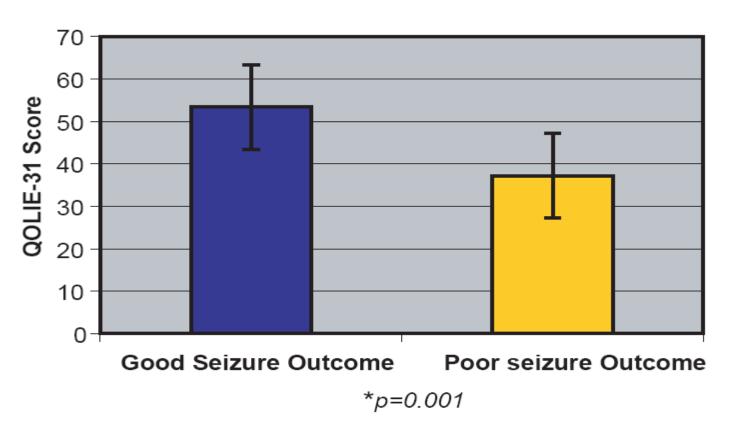


Fig. 1. Difference in quality of life scores between the group with good seizure outcome (Engel Class I) and those with poor seizure outcome (Engel Class II, III and IV).

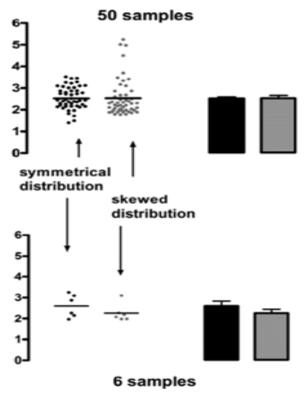


- An error bar plot illustrates mean with some measure of uncertainty.
  - Example Good Seizure outcome QOLIE 31
     score 53.66 10.6, Poor seizure outcome QOLIE
     31 score 37.13 13.40
- Standard Error of Mean (SEM), Confidence Interval and Standard Deviation (SD) are used to show uncertainty.

Dynamite Plunger Plots (mean with SD) are a waste of space for showing data distribution

## Don't use Dynamite Plunger Plots for displaying distributions

Figure 1. Comparison of a dot plot with a plunger plot A, two datasets, with the same mean value, displayed as either dot plots or plunger plots.



Drummond G B, Vowler S L Exp Physiol 2011;96:483-485



## **Error Bar Plots for Uncertainty in Population Mean**

- Help in visualizing likely mean of a population
- Help in evaluating statistically significant difference between means of two groups
- Using standard error and confidence intervals will have different interpretations

Error Bars what they tell you and what they don't

Show the data, don't conceal them

### **Continuous data**

### **Box-Whisker Plot**

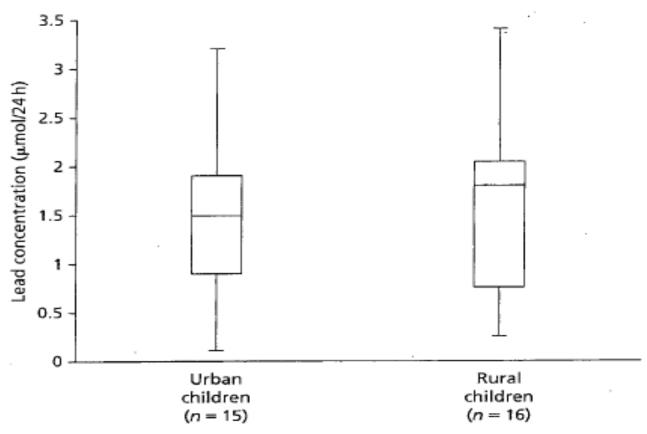


Figure 1.4 Box-whisker plot of data from Figure 1.3.

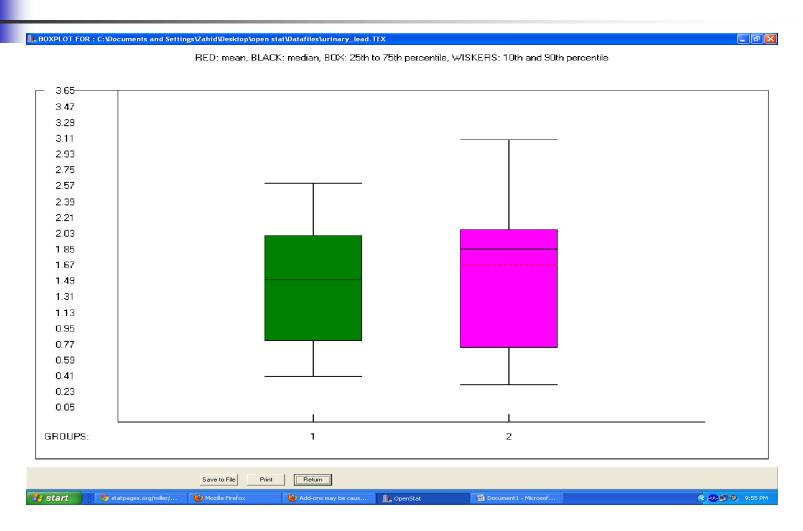


A box plot usually shows five summary Statistics; First & third quartile, median, maximum and minimum.

The box is marked by the first & third quartile with median marked inside the box; whiskers extend to the range.

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## **Box Plot in Openstat**



**Group 1: Urban Children; Group 2 Rural Children** 



## **Box Plot in Openstat**

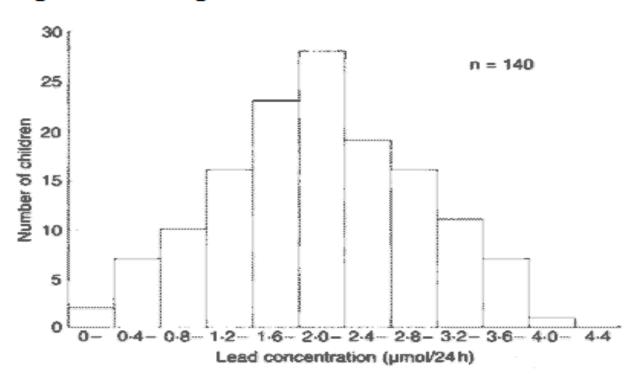
- Box plot in Openstat shows both median and mean
- Box represents 25<sup>th</sup> and 75<sup>th</sup> percentiles
- Whiskers are extended from 10<sup>th</sup> percentile to 90<sup>th</sup> percentile
  - Does not show outliers



- Alternative to dot plot for large data sets
- Covers more information; good for illustration of certain locations
- Length of the box is a visual representation of interquartile range
- Good to compare the shapes of distributions

## Histogram

Figure 1.5 Histogram of data from Table 1.4





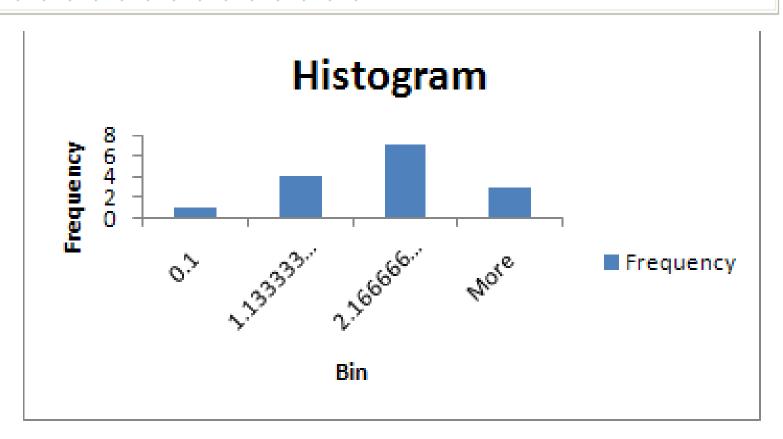
- A Histogram presents measures of interest along the X axis and the # or percentages of observations along the Y axis in form of adjacent vertical rectangles.
- Can be used to describe shape of distribution
- Only used for continuous data
  - Along the X axis we have classes or intervals
  - For equal classes the area & the height of the rectangles are proportional to the number of subjects in a class



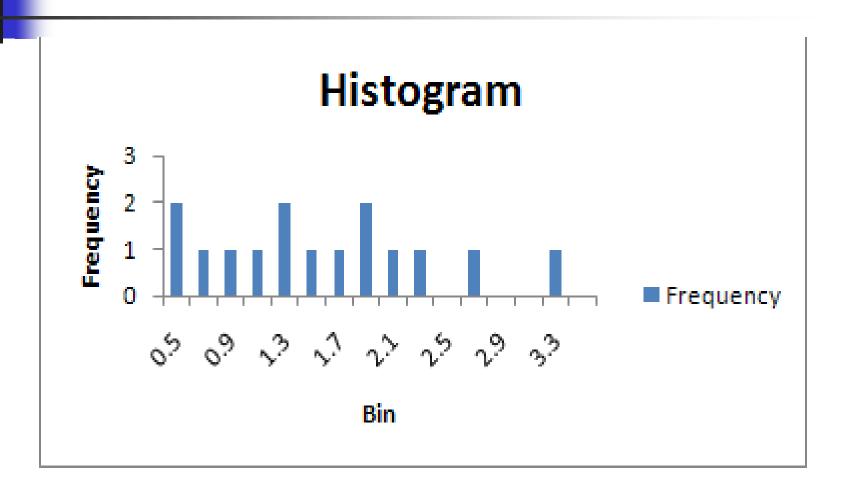
## **Excel Histogram (default) for the Shape of Distribution**

#### Table 1.2 Urinary concentration of lead in 15 children from housing area X (µmol/24hr)

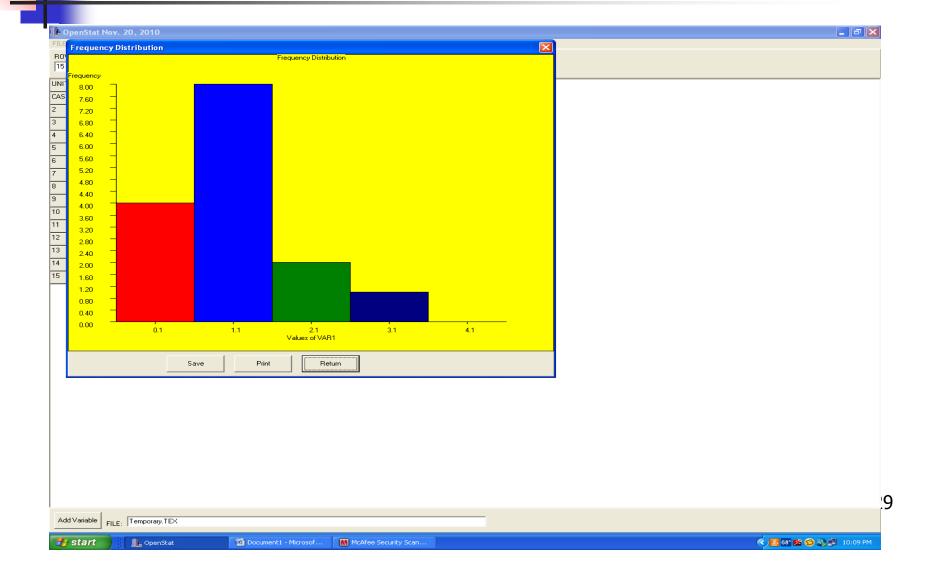
0.6, 2.6, 0.1, 1.1, 0.4, 2.0, 0.8, 1.3, 1.2, 1.5, 3.2, 1.7, 1.9, 1.9, 2.2



## Changing Class Intervals Affects the Shape of a Histogram



## **Histogram in Openstat**



#### **Continuous data**

### **Scatter Plot**

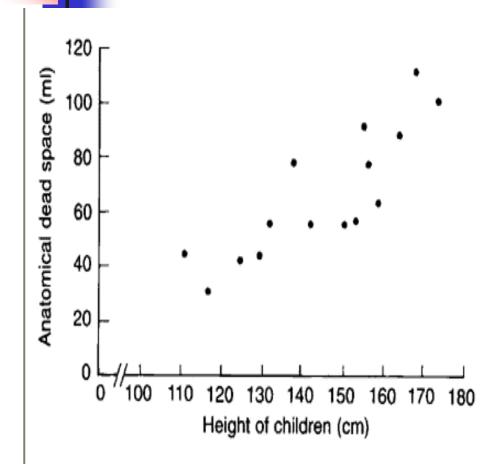


Figure 11.2 Scatter diagram of relation in 15 children between height and pulmonary anatomical dead space.

Statistics at Square One



- A scatter diagram shows the association between two variables.
  - If no causation then choice of axis is immaterial
  - If one variable x causes the other y, then plot x along horizontal axis and y along vertical axis

### **Bar Charts**

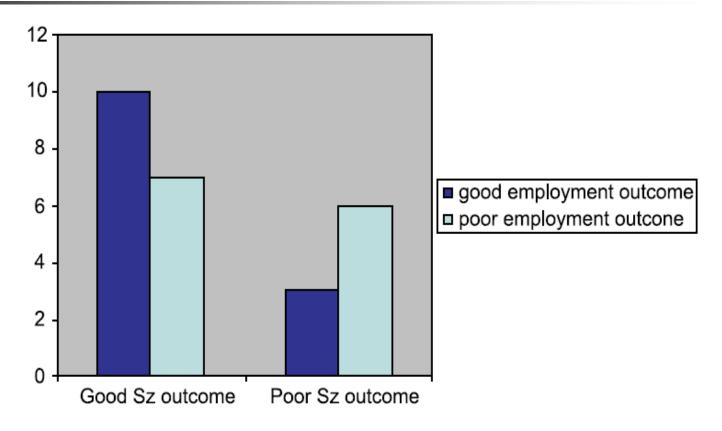


Fig. 2. Employment outcomes in the group with good seizure outcome and poor seizure outcome following ATL.

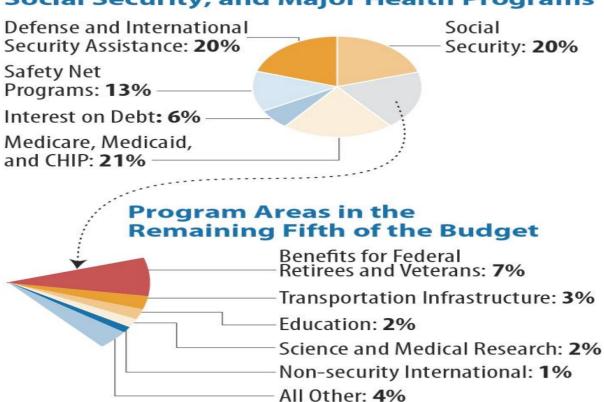


- A bar chart shows data in form of horizontal or vertical bars for mutually exclusive categories
- Bar charts show frequencies & relationships
- Used for comparisons among groups
- Can show changes over time

### **Pie Chart for Relative Frequencies**

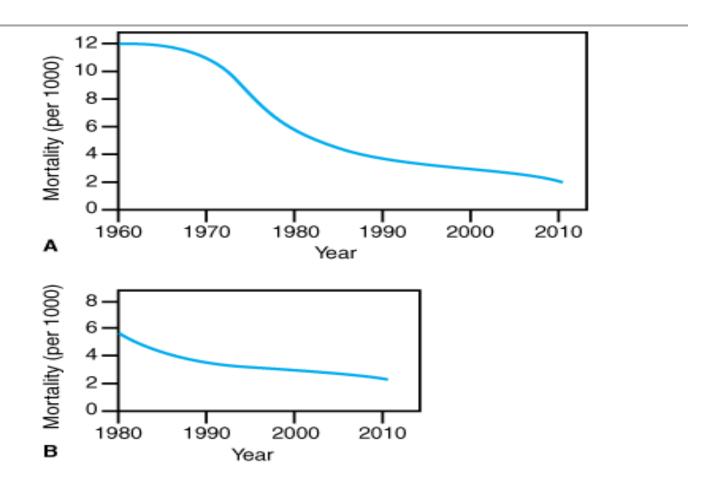
#### Where Do Our Federal Tax Dollars Go?

#### Most of Budget Goes Toward Defense, Social Security, and Major Health Programs



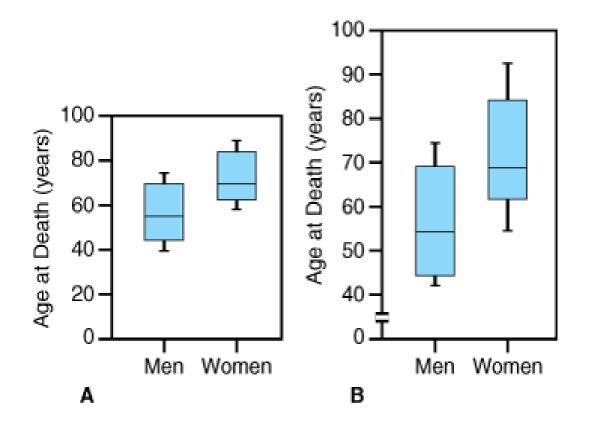
Note: Percentages do not add to 100 due to rounding. Source: 2011 figures from Office of Management and Budget, FY 2013 Historical Tables.

### **Starting Point of a Graph**



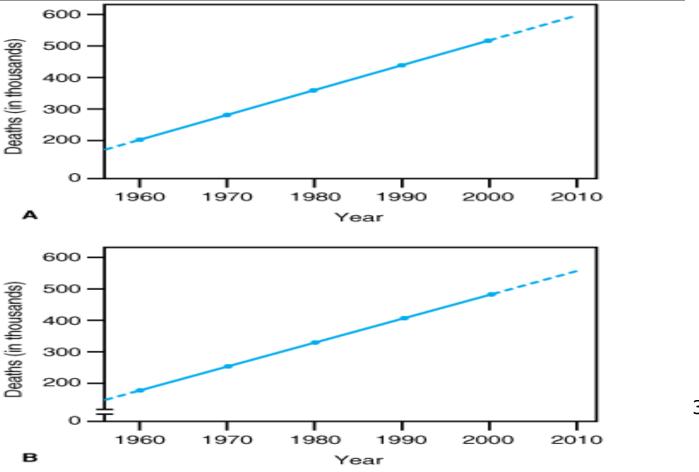
### Misleading graphs

### **Choice of Vertical Axis may Enhance or Minimize the Change**



Source: Dawson B, Trapp RG: *Basic & Clinical Biostatistics*, 4th Edition: http://www.accessmedicine.com

### Misunderstanding of the Scale



### Summary: Display Data, Don't Conceal Them!

- For a small data set a dot plot is better than a boxwhisker plot.
- Use a scatter plot for displaying the relationship between two quantitative variables. Don't categorize one or both variables.
- Use box-whisker plots side by side instead of histograms or error bar plots to compare distribution of data sets.
- When using error bar plot for uncertainty in computed mean clearly state if standard error or confidence interval is used.

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# Thank you!

#### **Questions/Comments**

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For more information, program materials, and to complete evaluation for CME credit visit

www.epilepsy.va.gov/Statistics



### **APPENDIX**

### **Download Openstat**

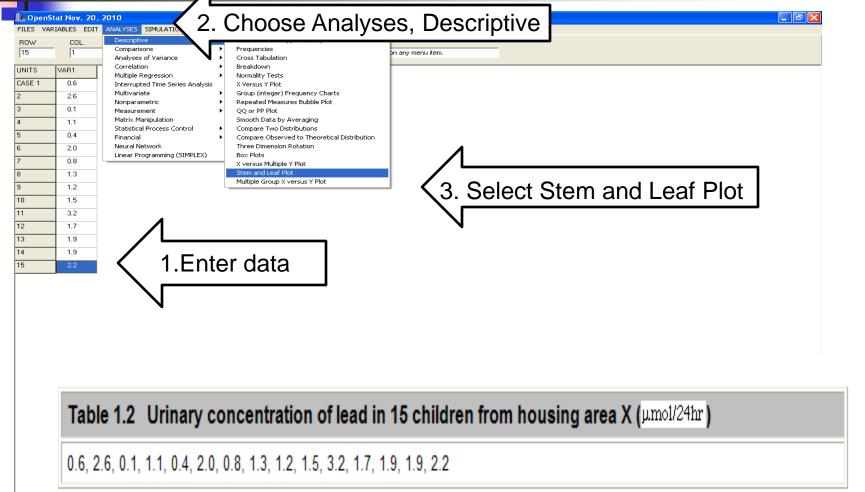
http://www.statprograms4u.com/

#### **Draw Stem and Leaf Plot**

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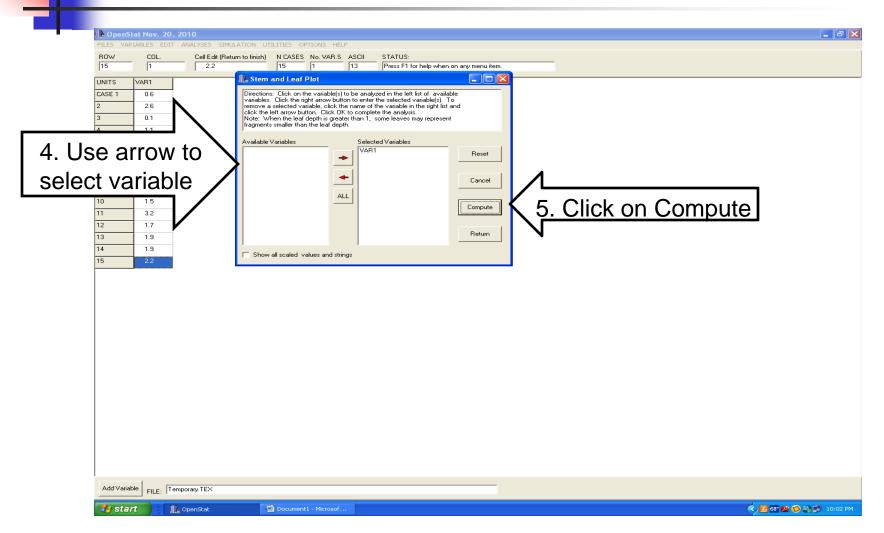
OpenStat

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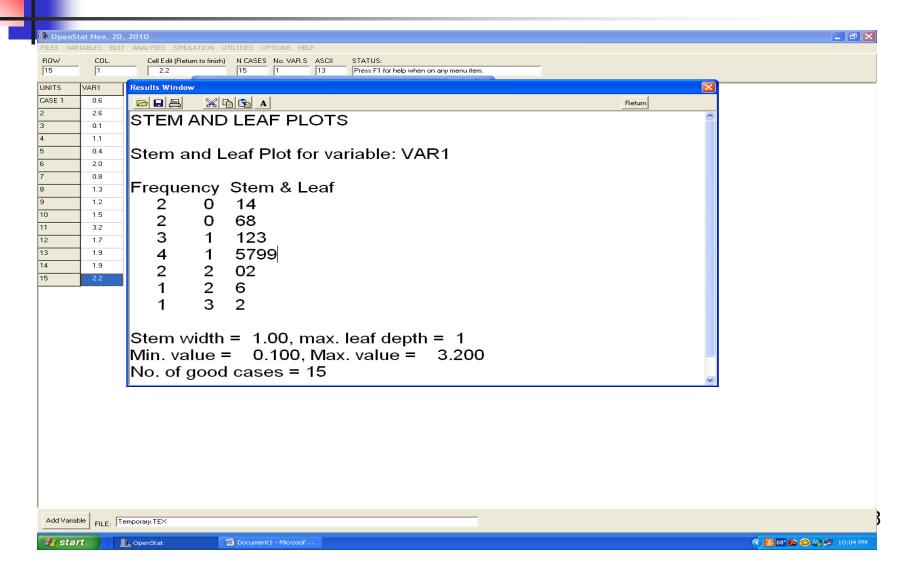


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#### **Draw Stem and Leaf Plot**



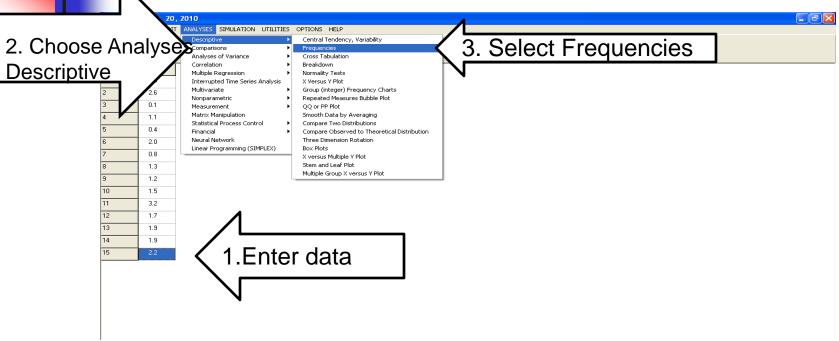
#### **Stem and Leaf Plot**

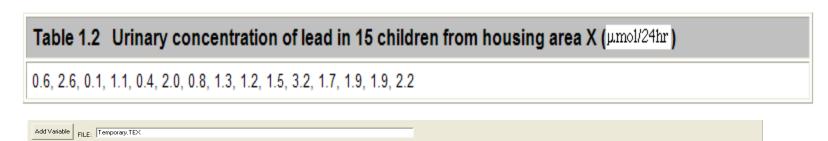


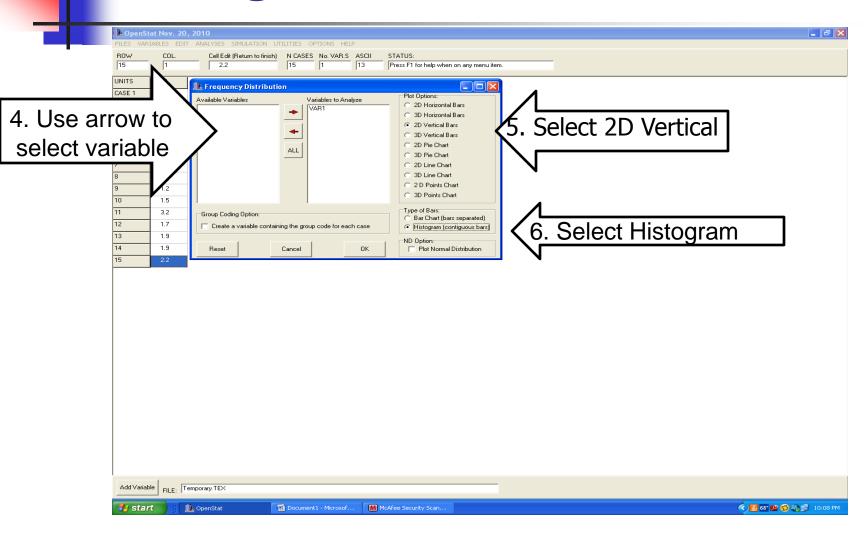
# **Praw Histogram**

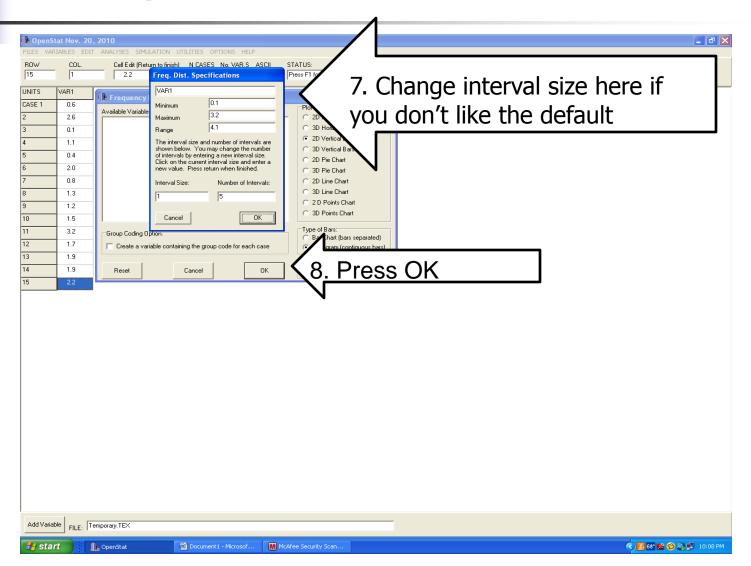
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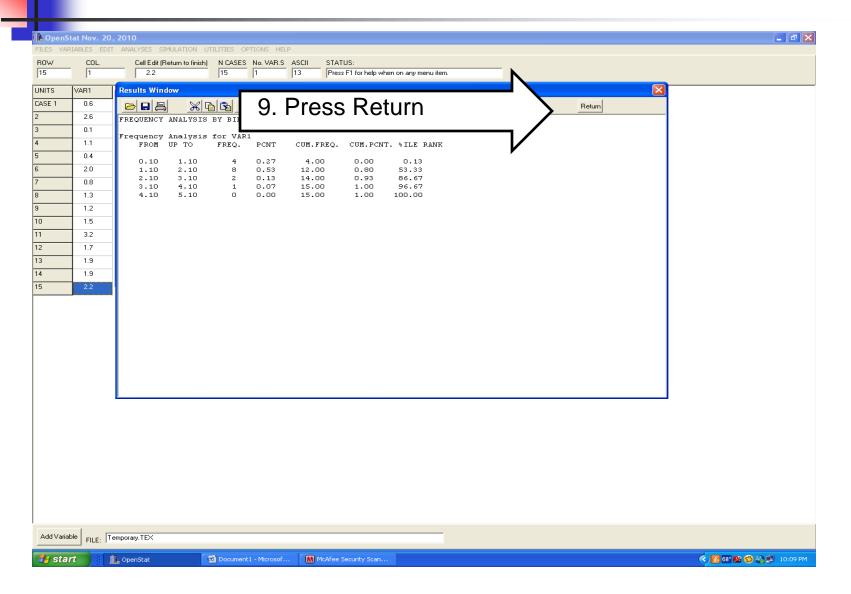
OpenStat

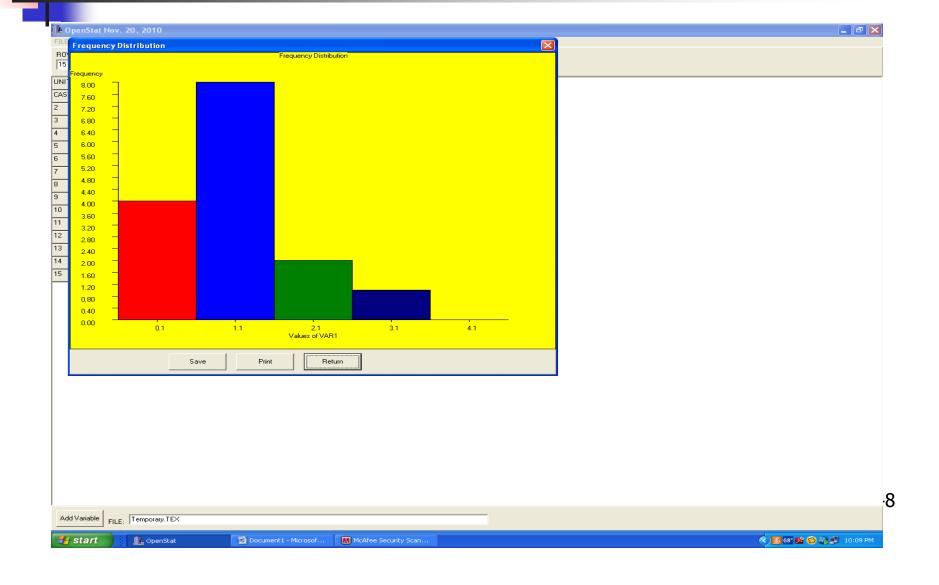












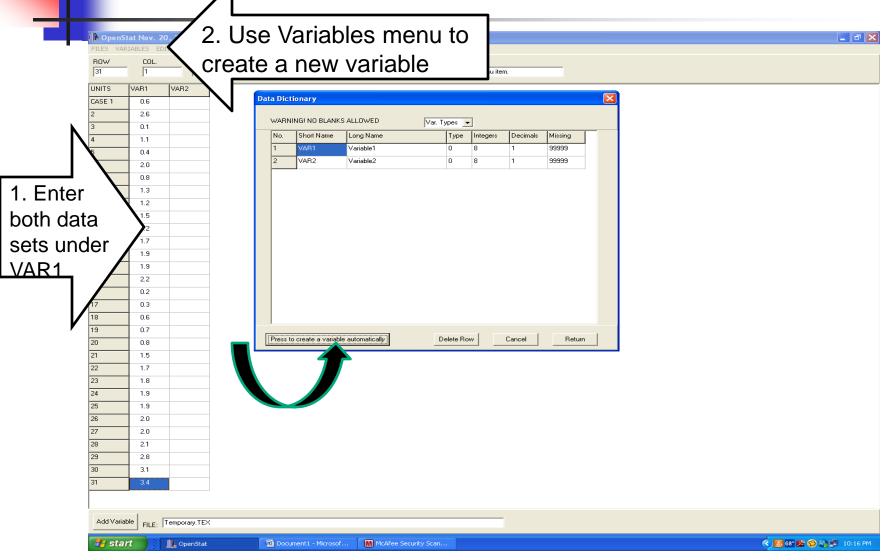
### **Data for Box Plot**

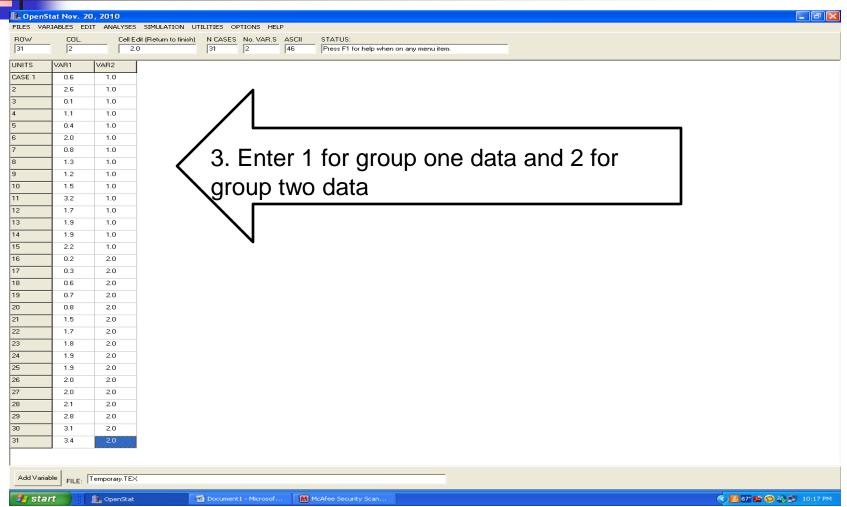
Table 1.2 Urinary concentration of lead in 15 children from housing area X (µmol/24hr)

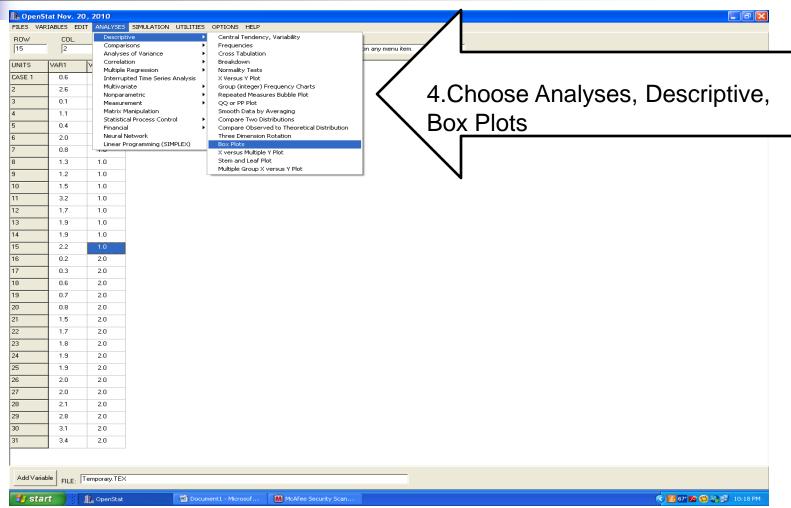
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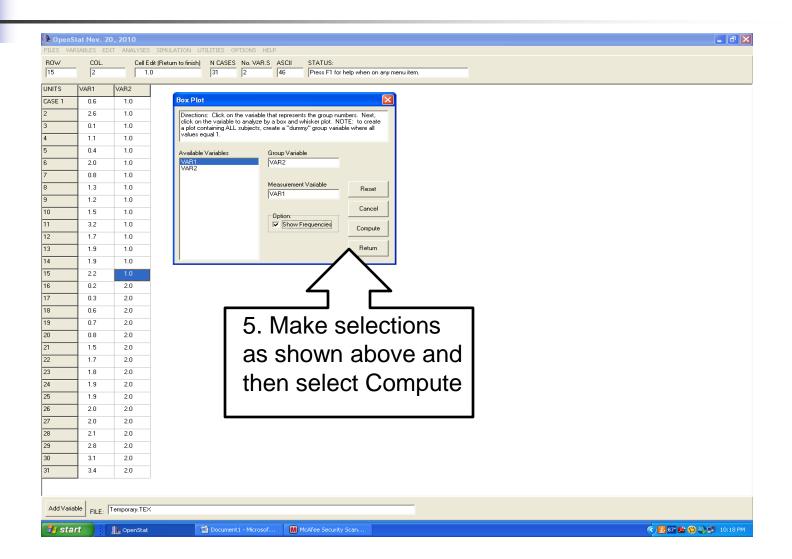
Table 1.3 Urinary concentration of lead in 16 rural children (µmol/24hr)

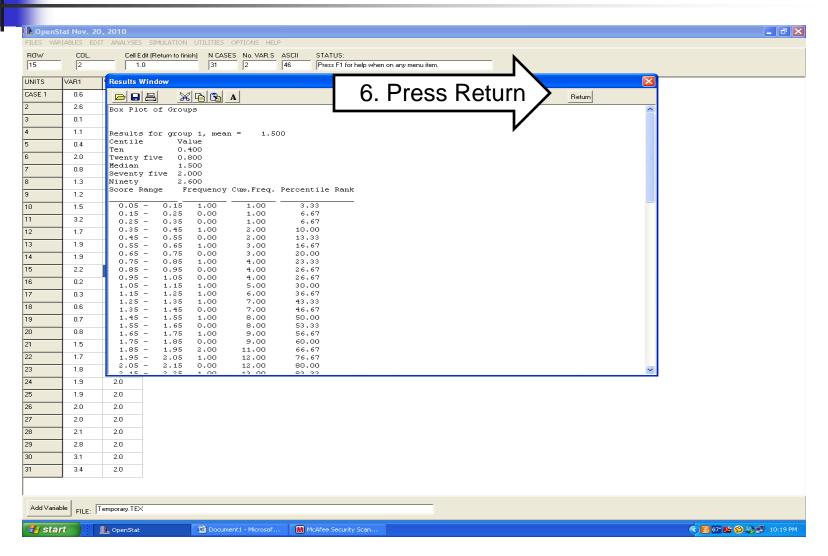
0.2, 0.3, 0.6, 0.7, 0.8, 1.5, 1.7, 1.8, 1.9, 1.9, 2.0, 2.0, 2.1, 2.8, 3.1, 3.4











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n OpenStat

Document1 - Microsof...

**№** BOXPLOT FOR : Temporary.TEX RED: mean, BLACK: median, BOX: 25th to 75th percentile, WISKERS: 10th and 90th percentile 3.65-3.47 3.29 3.11 2.93 2.75 2.57 2.39 2.21 2.03 1.85 1.67 1.49 1.31 1.13 0.95 0.77 0.59 0.41 0.23 0.05 GROUPS: 1 2 Save to File Return