

Preface to the third edition

This third edition updates the second edition to reflect the changes in Stata 11, which was released in July 2009. Among the important new elements that we include in this book are factor variables. We also point to the great advantage that you can access the manuals directly on your computer.

We changed the book's structure from the previous editions, dividing it into five parts: the basics, data management, analysis, graphs, and advanced topics. Hopefully, this makes it easier for you, as a reader, to find your way through the book.

The chapters on regression analysis and on incidence and survival have been modified substantially. As in the second edition, the book includes several exercises intended to assist your learning the basics of Stata; see appendix B. Suggested solutions to the exercises are not included in the book but are available at the book's web site, <http://www.stata-press.com/books/ishr3.html>.

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

Bill Rising at StataCorp gave many useful suggestions and has been helpful in the production of this book.

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