An Introduction to Stata for Health Researchers, 3rd ed.:

Information to users of Stata release 12.

An Introduction to Stata for Health Researchers, 3rd edition (ISHR3) was written for Stata release 11. This edition, with a few exceptions, is also valid for Stata 12. Thus we are not currently planning a new edition of the book.

In the following, we point to the most important changes from Stata 11 to Stata 12. To see all changes from release 11 to 12, type
   . help whatsnew11to12

Changes from Stata 11 to Stata 12

Changed file format.
The file format changed from Stata 11 to Stata 12 due to the introduction of business calendar date formats. The final update to Stata 11, released in September 2011, allows Stata 11 to read Stata 12 datasets. Older versions of Stata, however, cannot directly read Stata 12 datasets.

To save a dataset from Stata 12 that can be read by Stata releases 8 to 10, use the **saveold** command.

Technical note:
   Stata 12's **saveold** command saves the data in the format used by Stata 8 and 9, which can also be read by Stata 10. However, this dataset format does not support datetime formats that were introduced in Stata 10. If a datetime-formatted variable is saved from Stata 12 with **saveold** and is then read into Stata 10, the datetime format can be applied to it with the **format** *varlist* **%tc** command.

The following table describes the dataset formats created by **save** and **saveold** in various Stata versions:

Stata version	**save** generates data with the format of	**saveold** generates data with the format of
Stata 12	Stata 12	Stata 8/9
Stata 10 or 11	Stata 10/11	Stata 8/9
Stata 8 or 9	Stata 8/9	Stata 7

Stat/Transfer users:
Stat/Transfer version 11 will read Stata 12 datasets, but Stat/Transfer version 10 will not.

Other changes

The information is organized by the structure of ISHR3. In the Stata 12 column, we show changes from the description in ISHR3.

ISHR3 Section	Stata 12	Stata 11
1.4	New organization of windows, including a new Properties window. The default layout fits a wide screen; if you prefer a narrower layout, select **Edit > Preferences > Load Preference Set > Combined Layout**	
1.4	Paste a variable name from the Variables window to the Command window with a double-click.	Paste a variable name from the Variables window to the Command window with a single-click.
1.4	Improved Data Editor. In the Variables window, you can do quite a few things, including hiding and reordering variables.	
5.8	Stata 12 automatically calculates the memory needs, and the **set memory** command is no longer needed.	**set memory** allocates Stata memory.

6.4	Stata 12 now imports and exports Excel datasets and SAS XPORT datasets directly. See
	    . **help import excel**
	    . **help import sasxport**
		Import and export SAS XPORT datasets using the **fdause** and **fdasave** commands.

9.2	New, flexible **rename group** command. See . **help rename group**	
13.3	The **contrast** command may be used as a handy replacement for **testparm**. See . **help contrast**	
13.3	The output from regression commands (including **regress**, **logistic**, **stcox**, and **poisson**) with factor variables will always display base levels if you, just once, type the following command: . **set showbaselevels on, permanently** We recommend doing this to enhance transparency.	By default, base levels are omitted from the output. The **set showbaselevels** facility was introduced in Stata 11.1, June 2010.

13.5 14.7	Baseline odds, risk, and rate estimates are displayed by **eform** commands, such as
	    . **logistic** and **logit, or**
	    . **binreg, rr**
	    . **poisson, irr**
		Baseline odds, risk, and rate estimates are not displayed by **logistic** or any other **eform** command.

17.12	You can export a graph to a PDF file. See . **help graph export**	

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