3/16/2021

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Dear Editor,

I am pleased to submit my article titled "A Beginner's Guide to GIS Mapping in Stata" for consideration for publication in the Stata Journal. About a year ago, I decided to learn how to generate choropleth maps using Stata for my dissertation. I found the available online resources somewhat limited and lacking in detail, particularly with respect to information about how to get data into a format that allows data to be merged with the .dta files generated by the "shp2dta" command so that they they can be used with the "spmap" command, as well as the details of what the "shp2dta" actually does (i.e., what .dta files it actually makes and how are they subsequently used). These shortcomings made it very time consuming to figure out how to actually generate choropleth maps using these two commands. In light of these shortcomings, I decided to make a guide for beginners who might be interested in detailed step-by-step instructions for how to generate choropleth maps in Stata. I also provide sample code and data that can be used by others who can follow along as they read through the guide. I hope you will find that this resource is valuable enough to publish in the Stata journal. If you do not feel it has enough value to be published in the Stata journal, I would appreciate it if you could suggest another outlet for it, as I believe it is a resource that many Stata users will find useful.

Sincerely,

Zachariah Rutledge