

Creating a Histogram Overlay

A histogram overlay from multiple populations can be created using a number of techniques. This quick start guide describes a way to overlay histograms using Word and PowerPoint. A similar technique will work with other third party software including Paint and Photoshop but some of the specific options will vary. It is possible to create overlaid histograms in IDEAS by merging the two data files, opening that merged file in IDEAS, and creating a histogram using two or more populations, but this method will be less labor intensive.

To Overlay Histograms in PowerPoint or Word

- 1.) In **IDEAS** format the two histograms to a identical X,Y scales.
- 2.) Select **contrasting colors** for the two histograms.
 - A.) Go to analysis drop down menu.
 - B.) Select populations.
 - C.) Change the white mode colors.
- 3.) Select **white mode** in IDEAS using the  button in the workspace tool bar.
- 4.) Copy the graph without statistics to the clipboard.
- 5.) Paste the graph into Word or PowerPoint.
- 6.) Follow steps 2 through 5 for the second histogram.
- 7.) In Word **set the transparent color** to white.
 - A.) Select the top histogram.
 - B.) Open the "picture tools" tab.
 - C.) Select the Colors or Recolor option  Color ▾
 - D.) Chose "set transparent color".
 - E.) Using the selection tool, click on the white area of the top histogram (anything white should now be transparent).
 - F.) If you have difficulty doing this, cut and paste the histogram back into the document using paste special and choosing picture.
- 8.) **Align** the two histograms on top of each other.
 - A.) Control select both histograms.
 - B.) Go to the picture tools tab.
 - C.) Select the alignment tool  ▾
 - D.) Chose align center.
 - E.) Then align middle
 - F.) Use Group to keep the image together (the two histograms should be precisely aligned and both visible).