Minitab allows calculation of descriptive statistics commonly reported in publications. For example, one can calculate means, variance, standard deviation, median, quartiles for interval or ratio scaled variables (Minitab 17 Statistical Software, 2016). For nominal or ordinal variables frequencies and percentages can be computed. It is easy to select in Minitab which specific properties to compute by placing appropriate checkmarks. For the dataset provided, descriptive statistics was computed for all variables as shown below. From this table, it can be seen that, for example, the minimum age was 23 and the maximum was 59. The average age was 36.2 and standard deviations was 11.23.The full analysis document is attached.

|  |
| --- |
| **Descriptive Statistics: Age, Cringe, Uneasy, Afraid, Worried, Understand**    Variable     N   Mean  SE Mean  StDev  Minimum     Q1  Median     Q3  Maximum  Age         20  36.20     2.51  11.23    23.00  27.25   33.50  46.50    59.00  Cringe      20  3.250    0.307  1.372    1.000  2.000   3.500  4.000    5.000  Uneasy      20  3.700    0.291  1.302    1.000  2.250   4.000  5.000    5.000  Afraid      20  3.550    0.256  1.146    1.000  3.000   3.500  4.750    5.000  Worried     20  2.600    0.266  1.188    1.000  2.000   2.500  3.750    5.000  Understand  20  3.050    0.303  1.356    1.000  2.000   3.000  4.000    5.000 |

At this time, I do not have plans to actively use Minitab because many things that it does can also be done in Excel. It is always easier for me to use a single package. However, I will keep Minitab in mind. Should in my future research a situation when Minitab’s capabilities be needed, I will certainly consider it. Histograms for all six variables are shown below.

What I liked is that generating histograms in Minitab was straightforward.  Histograms are much more difficult to generate in Excel. Histograms for all variables are shown in the Appendix A. I am sure that Minitab is a useful and easy to use software package that I may be able to use in my future research. The package can generate descriptive statistics, nice looking publication quality data display and more advanced statistical procedures (Minitab 17 Statistical Software, 2016). The todays exercise shown that Minitab’s learning curve is very smooth. A well-thought interface ensures that anyone can start using the program within an hour.

References

Minitab 17 Statistical Software (2016). [Computer software]. State College, PA: Minitab, Inc. (www.minitab.com)