SAVING SAS GRAPH OUTPUT

While SAS/GRAPH can quickly and accurately produce a wide variety of graphs, they are not always "publication quality". SAS does have methods available for cleaning up graphs, but these are not easy to use and better alternatives exist.

The first step for saving SAS/GRAPH output requires getting the graph to a file. Graphics file formats are of two basic types - Bitmap and Vector. The bitmap format is commonly used by paint programs and is easily presented in documents or WEB pages. Common file formats for bitmap images are GIF, TIF, JPG, BMP, and PBM. SAS can export to any of these types using the FILE-EXPORT menu. Bitmap images, however, can only be modified by adding items, such as writing text, drawing lines etc. More advanced modifications, e.g. changes in fonts, line size, etc., are not possible. Also the resolution of this image type may be limited. For these reasons, bitmap images are not usually good choices for high quality printing such as journal publications.

Vector images provide more flexibility. When graphs are produced using Windows, a good choice for vector graphic format is the Windows Metafile or WMF. This type of graphic file can also be produced from the FILE-EXPORT menu. Once the file has been created, it can be imported to presentation software like MS PowerPoint or AXUM. This type of program allows you to change font type and size, resize line thickness, change line colors, etc. Additions to the image such as text or lines can also be made. At this point the graph can be saved for import into a wordprocessor or used directly for presentation (overhead or slide).

Many options exist for saving graphs, but this is the procedure we recommend:

1) Create the basic graph is SAS.

2) Save the graph to WMF file format.

3) Open WMF file in PowerPoint.

4) Make desired changes.

5) Resave the graph as a WMF file as well as a PowerPoint file.

6) Import the new WMF file into a wordprocessor (e.g. Word or WordPerfect).