Histograms on Excel 2011 for Mac using StatPlus

Unfortunately Excel itself is not equipped to generate histograms. Do not be confused by the COLUMN chart types that appear in the Chart tab. A histogram is a very special type of column chart that requires counting and sorting into bins. Luckily there is a free software program called StatPlus that works on your Mac hand in hand with Excel. StatPlus has a built in feature that allows you to create histograms without too much difficulty. Before reading the instructions below, it is important that you first download and install the free version of StatPlus called StatPlusLE (see the document Downloading and Installing Free Version of StatPlusLE on Mac.pdf for instructions).

1. Open StatPlus. If you do not already have Excel open, a new Excel workbook will also open upon opening StatPlus.  
   • Note that StatPlus has no special window of its own. It operates alongside Excel. To identify whether Excel or StatPlus is active, you can look at the ribbon across the top of your screen.

2. Now you have numerical data that you wish to display in a histogram. You need to create the bins into which you wish to sort the data. In an empty area on your spreadsheet, enter your desired bin ranges. For example 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100. The actual bins you choose depend on the values of the data in your set. Enter the bin values in your Excel worksheet BEFORE using StatPlus to create your histogram.

3. Once you have your data and your bins entered, click on the StatPlus icon in your dock, and from the StatPlus ribbon, select Statistics/Basic Statistics/Histogram... (see below).
4. A new window will appear where you enter the location of the data and the bin ranges.
   a. From the Variables/Columns section on the left side of the window, select the column where the data you want to sort into bins is located. Then click on the arrow icon to the left of empty space below Continuous Variables.
   b. From the Variables/Columns section on the left side of the window, select the column where you entered the desired cutoffs for your bins. Then click on the arrow icon to the left of empty space below Bin Range.
   c. Do not enter anything in the Frequency Variable or the Layer/Break) Variable boxes.
   d. Depending on whether or not you have a label in first row of the column that contains the data, check or uncheck the Labels in First Row option.
   e. Uncheck both the options Pareto (sorted histogram) and Hide empty bins.
   f. Finally click OK. See the figure below for an example where the data values are located in column A, the bin range values are entered in column C, and there is no label for the data.
5. This will create a new workbook with your histogram; however, the chart that is created will have spaces between the bars. **Histograms should not have spaces between successive bins**, so we need to remove these gaps:
   a. Click on one of the bars (the rest should be highlighted) in your histogram.
   b. Right click (or control click) while the bars are selected and choose Format Data Series from the options in the Right Click menu.
   c. Click on the Options tab on the left and change the Gap width (circled in red below) to 0 and click OK.
   d. The gaps in your histogram should now disappear. Note other formatting options can be changed from the Format Data Series dialogue box such as the color and

![Format Data Series](image)