

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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**Graphics Standards.** I very much enjoy the practical applications of statistics presented in *The Annals of Applied Statistics*. However, I was disappointed to see that axis labels were omitted from one or more graphs in 10 of the 14 articles with graphs in Volume 2, Number 3 of the journal. Omission of axis labels makes graphs harder for readers to understand. (Sensible exceptions exist to the general rule that axes must be labeled.)

One might argue that it is enough to give an axis label in the caption of a graph. However, that places an unnecessary extra burden on the reader, who must link the words in the caption with one of the axes of the graph.

I recommend that the journal encourage excellence in statistical graphics by publishing and enforcing standards for graphics in submitted papers, including the standard that all axes must be properly labeled.

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