

Chapter 1 Introduction to Statistics



- A) Overview
- B) Types of Data
- C) Critical Thinking
- D) Random Sampling

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Definitions



❖ Statistics

a collection of methods for planning experiments, obtaining data, and then organizing, summarizing, presenting, analyzing, interpreting, and drawing conclusions based on the data.

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❖ Data

observations (such as measurements, genders, survey responses) that have been collected.

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❖ Population

the complete collection of all elements (scores, people, measurements, and so on) to be studied. The collection is complete in the sense that it includes all subjects to be studied.

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❖ Census

the collection of data from **every** member of the population.

❖ Sample

a sub-collection of elements drawn from a population.

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Key Concepts



- ❖ Sample data must be collected in an appropriate way, such as through a process of **random** selection.
- ❖ If sample data are not collected in an appropriate way, the data may be so completely useless that no amount of statistical torturing can salvage them.

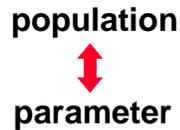
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Definitions



❖ Parameter

a numerical measurement describing some characteristic of a **population**



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❖ Statistic

a numerical measurement describing some characteristic of a **sample**.



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❖ Quantitative data

numbers representing counts or measurements.

Example: weights of supermodels.

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Working with Quantitative Data



Quantitative data can further be distinguished between **discrete** and **continuous** types.

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❖ Discrete

data result when the number of possible values is either a finite number or a 'countable' number of possible values.

0, 1, 2, 3, . . .

Example: The number of eggs that hens lay.

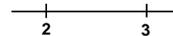
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Definitions



❖ Continuous

(numerical) data result from infinitely many possible values that correspond to some continuous scale that covers a range of values without gaps, interruptions, or jumps.



Example: The amount of milk that a cow produces; e.g. 2.343115 gallons per day.

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❖ Qualitative (or categorical or attribute) data

can be separated into different categories that are distinguished by some nonnumeric characteristics.

Example: genders (male/female) of professional athletes.

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Levels of Measurement



Another way to classify data is to use levels of measurement. Four of these levels are discussed in the following slides.

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❖ nominal level of measurement

characterized by data that consist of names, labels, or categories only. The data cannot be arranged in an ordering scheme (such as low to high)

Example: survey responses yes, no, undecided

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❖ ordinal level of measurement

involves data that may be arranged in some order, but differences between data values either cannot be determined or are meaningless

Example: Course grades A, B, C, D, or F

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❖ interval level of measurement

like the ordinal level, with the additional property that the difference between any two data values is meaningful. However, there is no natural zero starting point (where *none* of the quantity is present)

Example: Years 1000, 2000, 1776, and 1492

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❖ ratio level of measurement

the interval level modified to include the natural zero starting point (where zero indicates that *none* of the quantity is present). For values at this level, differences and ratios are meaningful.

Example: Prices of college textbooks (\$0 represents no cost)

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Summary - Levels of Measurement



- ❖ **Nominal** - categories only
- ❖ **Ordinal** - categories with some order
- ❖ **Interval** - differences but no natural starting point
- ❖ **Ratio** - differences and a natural starting point

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Success in Statistics



- ❖ Success in the introductory statistics course typically requires more **common sense** than mathematical expertise.
- ❖ This section is designed to illustrate how common sense is used when we think critically about data and statistics.

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Misuses of Statistics



- ❖ Bad Samples
- ❖ Small Samples
- ❖ Misleading Graphs
- ❖ Pictographs
- ❖ Distorted Percentages
- ❖ Loaded Questions
- ❖ Order of Questions
- ❖ Refusals
- ❖ Correlation & Causality
- ❖ Self Interest Study
- ❖ Precise Numbers
- ❖ Partial Pictures
- ❖ Deliberate Distortions

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- ❖ **Voluntary response sample**
(or self-selected survey)

one in which the respondents themselves decide whether to be included.

In this case, valid conclusions can be made only about the specific group of people who agree to participate.

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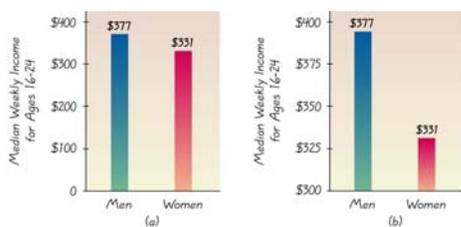


Figure 1-1

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To correctly interpret a graph, we should analyze the **numerical** information given in the graph instead of being misled by its general shape.

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Double the length, width, and height of a cube, and the volume increases by a factor of eight



Figure 1-2

97% yes: "Should the President have the line item veto to eliminate waste?"

57% yes: "Should the President have the line item veto, or not?"

Definitions

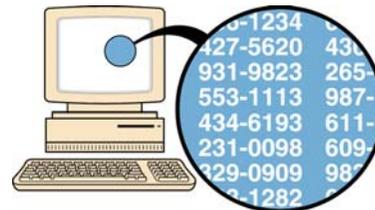
❖ Random Sample

members of the population are selected in such a way that each individual member has an **equal chance** of being selected

❖ Simple Random Sample (of size n)

subjects selected in such a way that every possible sample of the same size n has the same chance of being chosen

Random Sampling
selection so that each has an **equal chance** of being selected



Systematic Sampling
Select some starting point and then select every K th element in the population



Convenience Sampling
use results that are easy to get



Stratified Sampling

subdivide the population into at least two different subgroups that share the same characteristics, then draw a sample from each subgroup (or stratum)



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Cluster Sampling

divide the population into sections (or clusters); randomly select some of those clusters; choose **all** members from selected clusters



Interview all voters in shaded precincts.

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Definitions



- ❖ **Sampling Error**
the difference between a sample result and the true population result; such an error results from chance sample fluctuations
- ❖ **Nonsampling Error**
sample data that are incorrectly collected, recorded, or analyzed (such as by selecting a biased sample, using a defective instrument, or copying the data incorrectly)

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