

# Data analysis and presentations: Examples from basic statistics

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Norman GR, Streiner DL Biostatistics, the bare essentials BC Decker, 4. edition, 2014



HOW TO USE MICE IN BEHAVIORAL NEUROSCIENCE



Wahlsten D Mouse Behavioral Testing Academic Press, 1. edition, 2011

### Population, sample and sampling error



- Due to sampling error, mean and standard deviation of samples always differ from the true population values, they are only estimates of the mean and standard deviation of the population
- If multiple samples are drawn from the same population, due to sampling error their means and standard deviations will always differ from each other

- Repeated estimates of mean and standard deviations converge on the true population values, provided that
  - *population data are normally distributedsampling is unbiased*
- Dispersion of estimates of mean and standard deviation decreases with increasing sample size:

$$SE = \frac{S}{\sqrt{n}} \qquad \begin{array}{c} standard \\ error of \\ the mean \end{array}$$

### Statistical comparison of two populations





#### Sampling error:

We may be correct or not when using the results of a statistical test as criterion to reject or retain the null hypothesis



#### Type-I error

- reject Ho when it is in fact true = false positive
- likelihood a estimated from experimental sample data by statistical tests
- *Ho rejected if estimate* ≤ *threshold, typically* **0.05**



#### Type-II error

- retain Ho when it is in fact false = false negative
- likelihood β determined by experimental design:
  - sample size
  - type-I error threshold
  - effect size
- Typically accepted  $\beta \leq 0.2$ , same as power  $1 - \beta \geq 0.8$

### t-test effect size and confidence interval

- *effect size for populations:*  $\delta = \Delta \mu / \sigma$
- effect size estimated from sample data: **Cohen's**  $d = \Delta M/S_{pooled}$
- confidence intervals (CI) for mean difference or effect size can be estimated from data as measure of dispersion (larger with low power)
- alternative to α for hypothesis testing: p<.05 when 95% CI excludes zero</li>
- criterion for equivalence:
  CI excludes ranges of relevant effects





Determining sample size:

- before experiment is done!
- depends on
  - type-I error threshold,
    typically α=0.05
  - expected effect size,

eg. **δ=1** 

- desired power, typically **1-β=0.8** 

#### Ho false Ho true **FPR** (false positive risk) 1-β α test P(Ho true | test positive) P(reject Ho | Ho false) P(reject Ho | Ho true) positive: PPV = 1 - FPR (positive predictive value) power = sensitivity Type I error reject Ho true positive false positive FPR = (1-β)•**R** + α β 1-α $\mathbf{R}$ = Ho false / Ho true test P(retain Ho | Ho false) P(retain Ho | Ho true) (pre-study odds) negative: Type II error specificity retain Ho false negative true negative prior probability = $\mathbf{R} / (\mathbf{R} + 1)$

#### FPR ≠ α !

NPV ≠ 1-α !



**NPV** (negative predictive value) P(Ho true | test negative)



- positive test outcome: type-I error p-value is not a measure of false positive risk
- false positive risk is typically larger than type-I error p-value, especially with
  - underpowered studies
  - low pre-study odds
- *Typically don't assume pre-study odds >1* 
  - pre-study odds <1 without prior data
  - <<1 for screening with poor or no hypotheses
  - ~ 1 with prior data (replication, phase III)
  - > 1 for reproduction of established effect in rescue experiment

- false positive risk may be  $\approx 0.05$  when - p<.003 for hypothesis without prior evidence
  - $p \approx .05$  for hypothesis with prior evidence
- negative test outcome: absence of evidence is not necessarily evidence of absence of an effect
- negative predictive value is low and result inconclusive with
  - underpowered studies
  - high pre-study odds
- absence of effect should be demonstrated using dedicated tests for equivalence