

Math 2311

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Office Hours: MW 11am to 12:45pm in 639 PGH

Online Thursdays 4-5:30pm

And by appointment

Class webpage: <http://www.math.uh.edu/~bekki/Math2311.html>

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1. What is the difference between a population and a sample?

6.1 – Sampling

Terms:

Population – each element (or person) from the set of observations that can be made

Sample – a subset of the population

Census – systematically getting information about an entire population

Sampling – studying a part (a sample) in order to gain information about an entire group

Sampling Frame – the list of individuals from which a sample is actually selected

Types of Sampling –

Voluntary Response sample – people who choose themselves by responding to a general appeal (over represents people with strong opinions)

A simple random sample (SRS) consists of individuals from the population chosen in such a way that every set of individuals has an equal chance to be the sample actually selected.

A probability sample gives each member of the population a known chance to be selected.

A stratified sample divides the population into groups of similar individuals, called strata, and chooses a SRS in each stratum and combines these to form the full sample.

In multistage sample design samples are taken from various subsets of the population until a manageable number of samples to interview are arrived upon.

Convenience sampling is a non-probability type of sample where the sample is chose based on their convenient accessibility and proximity.

---- Activity---

Jelly Blubbers!

To open Jelly Blubber Activity: <http://www.math.uh.edu/~bekki/2311/notes/jellyblubbers%20activity.pdf>

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2. What is a census?

3. A voluntary response sample is

A table of random digits is a long string of the digits 0 – 9 where each entry in the table is equally likely to be any of the 10 digits and the entries are independent of each other.

Experiment – actively impose some treatment in order to observe the response

Observational study – investigators observe subjects and measure variables of interest without assigning treatments to the subjects.

Two elements are confounded when their effects on a response variable cannot be distinguished from one another.

Statistical inference provides ways to answer specific questions from data with some guarantee that the answers are good ones. In inference we must think about how to produce data as well as analyze data.

The design of sample refers to the method used to choose the sample from the whole population.
* Voluntary response and convenience sampling are examples of bad sample design.

The design of a study is biased if it systematically favors certain outcomes.

Under-coverage occurs when some groups in the population are left out of the process of choosing the sample.

Nonresponse occurs when an individual chosen for the sample can't be contacted or refuses to cooperate.

Things to watch out for in interviewing technique:

Response Bias – when an interviewer's attitude suggests that some answers are more desirable than others gives the interviewer specific answers more often

Wording of Questions – confusing or misleading questions can introduce strong bias

Examples:

1. Identify the population and the sample then describe the sampling method that was used.

To conduct a pre-election opinion poll on a proposed city ordinance, a random sample of telephone numbers from the city phone book were chosen and called. (Assume all who were called answered).

2. Determine if the study is an experiment or an observational study. Give a reason for your answer.

a. A personnel director at a large company studied the eating habits of employees by watching the movements of a selected group of employees at lunchtime. The purpose of the study was to determine the proportion of employees who buy lunch in the cafeteria, bring their own lunches, or go out to lunch.

b. A pharmacy student would like to know if there is a difference in results from a specific brand of drug and its equivalent generic prescription. She randomly selects 50 people who take the drug and has them complete a questionnaire regarding their symptoms and improvements after taking the specific brand or generic equivalent.

3. It is believed that 75% of all apartment dwellers in a large city deadbolt their doors in addition to locking them as an added precaution against burglary. Describe how you would select an SRS of 20 apartment dwellers to survey if there are 50 complexes in the city and each complex has 250 residents. (Use the random digit table)

4. Bias is present in each of the following sample designs in the situations below. In each case, describe the type of bias involved and state whether you think the sampling frequency obtained is lower or higher than the actual population parameter.

a. A political pollster seeks information about the proportion of American adults that oppose gun control. He asks a SRS of 1000 American adults, "Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: Americans should preserve their constitutional right to keep and bear arms." A total of 910 or 91% agreed.

b. A restaurant chain wants to know what percentage of American families go out to eat for dinner at least 3 nights per week. They call a SRS of 1000 households between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. and talk to 400 people. 300 of those 400 said they do not eat out 3 or more times a week.

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4. Under-coverage

5. Two elements are _____ when their effects on a response variable cannot be distinguished from one another.