

Descriptive Study Designs

Case Report
A report of one individual which descriptive research is written.

Case Series
A small group of people who have similar diagnosis

Cross sectional Surveys
A survey that is done in a short period of time and its focus is an individual

Ecologic study
Comparing variables when the unit of analysis is aggregated data

This qualitative information is in chronological order

The Descriptive information about research on the groups

Rare conditions are difficult to survey and could be response bias

Possibility of confounding factors

There is information on only one person

The information is only about the small group

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6371702/>

Types of data

Nominal data
The order is not intrinsic and the difference between level is meaningless

Ordinal data
There is an order made among categories

Continuous data
In a range there can be any value

Discrete data
The values are integers with fixed amounts

gender, race, ethnicity

ages, stage of cancer

age, weight, temperature

number of meals eaten in three days

<https://www.cdc.gov/csels/dsepd/ss1978/lesson4/section1.html>

Tables and Charts

The most simple table is frequency distribution is a summary of frequencies. Relative frequency is dividing the number of people in each group by total number of people.

Bar charts

spot map

box plot

histogram

two way scatterplot

line graph

stem and leaf plot

area map

Ratios and Rates (cont)

Incidence rate= new cases occurring/population at risk *10^z

Point-Prevalence rate= existing cases at point in time/total study population at point in time *10^z

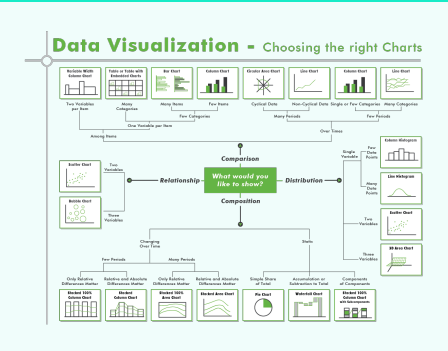
Attack rate= new cases occurring during short time/population at risk at start of short time *10^z

Measures of Association

A contingency table is when every entry of data is classified by variables. The independent variable is an exposure and the dependent variable is the health related event. Correlation coefficient measures the strength of association between two variables. The geometric mean compares to the arithmetic mean on a logarithmic scale. Standard deviation is used in epidemiological studies.

<https://www.cdc.gov/csels/dsepd/ss1978/lesson2/summary.html#:~:text=The%20geometric%20mean%20is%20comparable,smallest%20to%20the%20largest%20value.>

Tables and Charts



Ratios and Rates

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A ratio is two values that are compared and it is calculated by dividing the numerator and denominator then multiplying 10^z (0,1,2,3,4,5 which equals 1,10,100,1,000,-10,000,100,000). Rate is a measure of frequency in which a health related outcome occurs in a short period of time. Incidence rate is the number of new cases occurring in a given time. Prevalence rate is the frequency of existing cases at a given period of time. Point-prevalence is the proportion of a health related outcome at a point in time. An attack rate is when new cases occur during an outbreak. Person-time incidence rate is the frequency at which new health related cases start to occur in the population. Crude rate is an outcome calculated not including restrictions such as age or gender.



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