Descriptive Statistics

Frequency Distribution	A listing of scores, usually from highest to lowest, along with the number of times each score appears
Histogram	The frequency distribution in the form of a graph.
Central Tendency	A number that provides information about the average, or typical, score in a set of data.
Mean	The average of the scores (X or M)
Median	The score that falls exactly in the middle of a distribution of scores after they have been arranged (or ranked) from highest to lowest.
Mode	The score that occurs most often

Measures of Variability

Range	The distance between the highest and lowest scores.
Standard Deviation	Is a measure of how much a set of scores varies around the mean of the scores.

Interpreting Test Results

Raw Score	The number of items the student answered correctly on the test.
Percentile-Rank Score	Reveals the percentage of the distribution that lies at or below the score.
Stanine Score	Describes a student's test performance on a 9-point scale ranging from 1 to 9.
Grade-Equivalent Score	Indicates a student's performance in relation to grade level & months of the school year, assuming a 10-month school year, to the norm group.
Standard Score (Standard Deviation)	Expressed as a deviation from the mean, which involves the concept of standard deviation.
Z-Score	Provides information about how many standard deviations a raw score is above or below the mean.

The small differences in test scores, especially percentile rank and grade-equivalent test scores, should be interpreted with caution.

Normal Distribution

When most of the scores cluster around the mean. A normal distribution also is called a normal curve, bell-shaped curve, or bell curve. In normal distribution, bell shape shows that the most common scores are near the middle. The normal distribution incorporates information about both the mean and the standard deviation.

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