

PAD 6250
Personal Data Project

Data Lab 2: Sample Study Results

For this lab, you will complete a sample study and write up the results. Remember that this should be fairly brief; you shouldn't write a full research paper and I don't want to grade one. Try to explain what you did and what you found in the most clear and succinct manner.

First, get your data into SPSS and briefly describe it. Each row should be a case/observation and each column should be a variable. If you're starting from a spreadsheet, then it's easy to import. If you've recorded your data with pen and paper, you'll probably need to type it in. Don't worry! It won't take as long as you think. But don't rush it and make mistakes in transcription. Very briefly explain this step. Note how many observations you have so far. Include a screenshot of your SPSS dataset (and probably a photo/screenshot of the original, if helpful).

Next, describe the distribution of your key variable(s). You aren't required to do this for all of them; you can just focus on the most important one or two. Choose what and how many based on your research question(s). You should include a frequency distribution if appropriate. Be sure to include an appropriate graphical representation. You should cover central tendency, dispersion, and a 95% confidence interval. If you write "The mode was 2, the mean was 3, the variance was 1, ..." I will not give you credit for the lab. Choose what is appropriate for your data and useful in *telling the story*. You can include any tables in the body that are helpful in telling the story; otherwise, you can paste them at the end of the document in a section titled Appendix.

NOTE: To complete this step, you may need to recode one or more of your variables into a new one. Remember that we only know how to build confidence intervals around means and proportions/percentages. If you're starting with a nominal variable, then you'll need to recode it into a dummy variable. If you're starting with an ordinal variable, you'll need to decide whether you should treat it as if it were interval or recode it into a dummy variable. While the former is more convenient, the latter is almost always more appropriate. You should very briefly explain any recoding you did.

Finally, briefly reflect on your results. Do they match your expectations after tracking the data? What about your expectations from the beginning of the project? Do you think your sample is representative? Include any other reflective thoughts here as well.

NOTE: We'll do more with your data later, so it's important to ***continue collecting data for your tracking project.***