Session 18: Assignment 2

In one state, 52% of the voters are Republicans, and 48% are Democrats. In a second

state, 47% of the voters are Republicans, and 53% are Democrats. Suppose a simple

random sample of 100 voters are surveyed from each state.

What is the probability that the survey will show a greater percentage of Republican

voters in the second state than in the first state?

Solution:

let PR1 = the proportion of Republican voters in the first state,

PR2 = the proportion of Republican voters in the second state,

PD1 = the proportion of Democratic voters in the sample from the first state,

PD2 = the proportion of Democratic voters in the sample from the second state.

The number of voters sampled from the first state (n1) = 100,

the number of voters sampled from the second state (n2) = 100.

Step#1 - Make sure the sample size is big enough to model differences with a normal population. Because n1PR1= 100 \* 0.52 = 52, n1(1 – PR1) = 100 \* 0.48 = 48,

n2PR2 = 100 \* 0.47 = 47, and n2(1 – PR2) = 100 \* 0.53 = 53 are each greater than 10, the sample size is large enough.

Step#2 - Find the mean of the difference in sample proportions: E(p1 - p2) = P1 - P2 = 0.52 - 0.47 = 0.05.  
Step#3 - Find the standard deviation of the difference.

σd = sqrt{ [ PR1(1 – PR1) / n1 ] + [ PR2(1 – PR2) / n2 ] }   
σd = sqrt{ [ (0.52)(0.48) / 100 ] + [ (0.47)(0.53) / 100 ] }   
σd = sqrt (0.002496 + 0.002491) = sqrt(0.004987) = 0.0706

Step#4 - Find the probability. This problem requires us to find the probability that p1 is less than p2. This is equivalent to finding the probability that p1 - p2 is less than zero. To find this probability, we need to transform the random variable (p1 - p2) into a z-score. That transformation appears below.

zp1 - p2 = (x - μp1 - p2 ) / σd = = (0 - 0.05)/0.0706 = -0.7082

Using Normal distribution calculator, we find that the probability of a z-score being -0.7082 or less is 0.24.

Therefore, the probability that the survey will show a greater percentage of Republican voters in the second state than in the first state is 0.24.