

Binary Outcomes: Comparisons of Proportions or Odds Example

Douglas Kondro: March 8th

i) Parameters and Statistics for a Binary Response Variable

Y	A binary response variable for the population of interest
π	The parameter population proportion or $\sum Y/n$
π_1	The parameter population proportion of population 1
π_o	The anticipated population proportion for normal distribution test
$\hat{\pi}_1$	statistic for the sampled population proportion of population 1
$\hat{\pi}_c$	statistic for the population proportion of the combined populations
n_1	The total number of samples from population 1
$\hat{\omega}_1$	The odds for population 1 or = $\hat{\pi}_1 / (1 - \hat{\pi}_1)$
ϕ	The odds ratio between two populations or = $\hat{\omega}_2 / \hat{\omega}_1$

ii) Confidence Intervals and Equality Tests

Statistic Comparison	Hypothesis	Standard Error (Confidence Interval)	Standard Error (z score equality test)
Proportion	$H_o : \hat{\pi}_2 - \hat{\pi}_1 = 0$	$\sqrt{\frac{\hat{\pi}_1(1-\hat{\pi}_1)}{n_1} + \frac{\hat{\pi}_2(1-\hat{\pi}_2)}{n_2}}$	$\sqrt{\frac{\hat{\pi}_c(1-\hat{\pi}_c)}{n_1} + \frac{\hat{\pi}_c(1-\hat{\pi}_c)}{n_2}}$
Log odds ratio	$H_o : \log \frac{\hat{\omega}_1}{\hat{\omega}_2} = 0$	$\sqrt{\frac{1}{n_1 \hat{\pi}_1 (1-\hat{\pi}_1)} + \frac{1}{n_2 \hat{\pi}_2 (1-\hat{\pi}_2)}}$	$\sqrt{\frac{1}{n_1 \hat{\pi}_c (1-\hat{\pi}_c)} + \frac{1}{n_2 \hat{\pi}_c (1-\hat{\pi}_c)}}$

Normal distribution check for a binomially distributed binary response variable:

- 1: $n\pi_o > 5$ Do we have more than five occurrences of Y=1?
- 2: $n(1 - \pi_o) > 5$ Do we have more than five occurrences of Y=0?

iii) Odds ratio as the Only Appropriate Parameter If the Sampling is Retrospective

Odds ratio is independent of what group is selected the the response (output) or the explanatory (input) variables.

Example: Does Vitamin C work?

We want to know if vitamin C helps prevent the common cold. We look at a study conducted in Canada using 818 volunteers during a winter period. The study population is divided randomly into two groups: One that receives 1000 mg of vitamin C per day and the other that receives placebo pills. At the end of the time period all subjects were interviewed by a doctor who determined if they caught a cold during the period.

	Cold	No Cold	Total
Vitamin C (Group 1)	303	105	407
Placebo (Group 2)	335	76	411
Totals	637	181	818

- a) What is the confidence interval of the proportion of subjects that caught a common cold that received a placebo?

Statistic Comparison	Statistic	Standard Error (Confidence Interval)
Proportion	$\hat{\pi}$	$\sqrt{\frac{\hat{\pi}_1(1-\hat{\pi}_1)}{n_1}}$
Example work	$\hat{\pi} = 335/411$ $\hat{\pi} = 0.815$	$SE(C.I.) = \sqrt{0.815(1 - 0.815)/411}$ $SE(C.I.) = 0.019$

1. We check that our statistic follows the normal distribution:

$$n\pi_o > 5 \text{ and } n(1 - \pi_o) > 5 \rightarrow 411(0.815) > 5 \text{ and } 411(0.185) > 5$$

We have at least 5 occurrences of each binary output!

2. We know our confidence interval is:

$$\hat{\pi} \pm SE(C.I.)$$

The proportion of the population that got a common cold while receiving a placebo was **0.815 +/- 0.019**.

- b) What is the 95% confidence interval and equality for the difference in the two populations proportion: vitamin C and placebo? How can we interpret this?

Statistic Comparison	Hypothesis	Standard Error (Confidence Interval)	Standard Error (z score equality test)
Proportion	$H_o : \hat{\pi}_2 - \hat{\pi}_1 = 0$	$\sqrt{\frac{\hat{\pi}_1(1-\hat{\pi}_1)}{n_1} + \frac{\hat{\pi}_2(1-\hat{\pi}_2)}{n_2}}$	$\sqrt{\frac{\hat{\pi}_c(1-\hat{\pi}_c)}{n_1} + \frac{\hat{\pi}_c(1-\hat{\pi}_c)}{n_2}}$
Example work	$\hat{\pi}_1 = 303/407 = \mathbf{0.742}$ $\hat{\pi}_2 = 335/411 = \mathbf{0.815}$ $\hat{\pi}_2 - \hat{\pi}_1 = \mathbf{0.073}$ (Passes Normal approx check)	$\sqrt{\frac{0.742(1-0.742)}{407} + \frac{0.815(1-0.815)}{411}}$ SE(C.I.) = 0.029	$\hat{\pi}_c = (303+335)/(407+411)$ $\hat{\pi}_c = \mathbf{0.780}$ $\sqrt{\frac{0.78(1-0.78)}{407} + \frac{0.78(1-0.78)}{411}}$ SE(Z.S.) = 0.029

1. First let's check if our normal approximation is appropriate:

$$n\pi_1 > 5 \text{ and } n(1 - \pi_1) > 5 \rightarrow 407(0.742) > 5 \text{ and } 407(0.258) > 5$$

$$n\pi_2 > 5 \text{ and } n(1 - \pi_2) > 5 \rightarrow 411(0.815) > 5 \text{ and } 411(0.185) > 5$$

Both populations have more than 5 occurrences of each binary output!

2. We find our confidence interval by using our z multiplier at 95% which is 1.96:

$$\hat{\pi}_2 - \hat{\pi}_1 \pm z(0.975)SE(C.I.) = (1.96)(0.029) \rightarrow 0.073 \pm 0.057$$

3. Next we use our z score to find our p value using a two tailed test given our hypothesis:

$$z = \frac{\hat{\pi}_2 - \hat{\pi}_1}{SE(Z.S.)} = \frac{0.073}{0.029} = 2.52 \rightarrow 0.0117$$

The probability of catching a cold after placebo exceeds the probability of catching a cold after vitamin C by 0.073 (95% C.I.: **0.016 to 0.130**) (**p = 0.012**).

- c) What is the confidence interval and equality for the difference in the two populations odds ratio: vitamin C and placebo?

Statistic Comparison	Hypothesis	Standard Error (Confidence Interval)	Standard Error (z score equality test)
Log odds ratio	$H_o : \log \frac{\hat{\omega}_1}{\hat{\omega}_2} = 0$	$\sqrt{\frac{1}{n_1 \hat{\pi}_1 (1 - \hat{\pi}_1)} + \frac{1}{n_2 \hat{\pi}_2 (1 - \hat{\pi}_2)}}$	$\sqrt{\frac{1}{n_1 \hat{\pi}_c (1 - \hat{\pi}_c)} + \frac{1}{n_2 \hat{\pi}_c (1 - \hat{\pi}_c)}}$
Example work	$\hat{\pi}_1 = 303/407 = \mathbf{0.742}$ $\hat{\pi}_2 = 335/411 = \mathbf{0.815}$ $\hat{\omega}_1 = \frac{\hat{\pi}_1}{1 - \hat{\pi}_1}$ $\hat{\omega}_1 = 302/105 = \mathbf{2.876}$ $\hat{\omega}_2 = \frac{\hat{\pi}_2}{1 - \hat{\pi}_2}$ $\hat{\omega}_2 = 335/76 = \mathbf{4.408}$ $\phi = 4.408/2.876$ $\phi = \mathbf{1.53}$ $\log \phi = \mathbf{0.427}$	$\sqrt{\frac{1}{407 \times 0.742 (1 - 0.742)} + \frac{1}{411 \times 0.815 (1 - 0.815)}}$ $SE(C.I) = \mathbf{0.170}$	$\hat{\pi}_c = (303 + 335)/(407 + 411)$ $\hat{\pi}_c = \mathbf{0.780}$ $\sqrt{\frac{1}{407 \times 0.78 (1 - 0.78)} + \frac{1}{411 \times 0.78 (1 - 0.78)}}$ $SE(Z.S) = \mathbf{0.170}$

1. First let's check if our normal approximation is appropriate:

$$n\pi_1 > 5 \text{ and } n(1 - \pi_1) > 5 \rightarrow 407(0.742) > 5 \text{ and } 407(0.258) > 5$$

$$n\pi_2 > 5 \text{ and } n(1 - \pi_2) > 5 \rightarrow 411(0.815) > 5 \text{ and } 411(0.185) > 5$$

Both populations have more than 5 occurrences of each binary output!

2. We find our confidence interval by using our z multiplier at 95% which is 1.96:

$$\log \phi \pm z(0.975)SE(C.I) = (1.96)(0.170) \rightarrow 0.073 \pm 0.057 \rightarrow 0.094 - 0.760$$

3. We convert our log using an exponential

$$e^{0.094} - e^{0.760} \rightarrow 1.10 - 2.14$$

4. Next we use our z score to find our p value using a two-tailed test given our hypothesis

$$z = \frac{\log \phi}{SE(Z.S)} = \frac{0.427}{0.170} = 2.51 \rightarrow 0.0121$$

The odds of catching a cold for the placebo group are estimated to be 1.53 times the odds of a cold for the vitamin C group (95% C.I: **1.10-2.14**) (**p = 0.012**). In other words your odds of getting a cold while taking the placebo was 53% more than if you took vitamin C.