

# MEASURES OF DATA

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# Measures of data

- Measures of central value/tendency
- Measures of variance/dispersion

# Measures of central tendency

- Concept that has to do with the centre of a distribution
  - Mode
  - Median
  - Mean

# measures of central tendency

12, 0, 5, 13, 0, 0, 5, 10, 5, 1, 5, 6, 7, 5, 7, 8, 10, 5, 11, 14

- arrange in order

0, 0, 0, 1, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 6, 7, 7, 8, 10, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14

- Mode is most frequently occurring number
  - mode rarely used
- Median is value that divides data in half

# measures of central tendency

12, 0, 5, 13, 0, 0, 5, 10, 5, 1, 5, 6, 7, 5, 7, 8, 10, 5, 11, 14

- Mean

- sum of all observations divided by number of observations

$$xi/n$$

# library books illustrations

- Students borrow and return books from a university library regularly

14, 13, 12, 11, 17, 20, 14, 16, 12, 12, 11, 9, 18, 21

- One student borrows a book and forgets to return it
- They re-discover the book 1 year later when moving out of the student accommodation and decide to return the book

14, 13, 12, 11, 17, 20, 14, 16, 12, 12, 11, 9, 18, 21, 365

- What do you think will happen to the mean and median of a data set on borrowing periods?

# library books illustration

- The mean is the preferred measure of central tendency when describing a data that do not have outliers.
- A major disadvantage is that it is affected by outliers (i.e. single observations which are very extreme compared with most observations and whose inclusion or exclusion changes results noticeably). -In the presence of outliers, the median is the preferred measure of central tendency

- Calculation of the median does not involve the use of all available data and is therefore has less power than the mean.



- MEASURES OF DISPERSION

- Dispersion = variation

# Measures of dispersion

- They give us an idea of the variation or spread of values around the central one.
  - Variance and standard deviation
  - Range
  - Interquartile range

# Variance

- Can be defined in terms of how close the scores are to the middle of the distribution(mean)
- This variability or variance can be measured in terms of how far observations are from the mean on average i.e. how far, on average, each observation deviates from the mean.
- variance = by dividing the sum of squares of these deviations by (n-1).
- The formula for the variance is:

$$(xi - x)^2/(n - 1)$$

### Variance

| $X_i$ | $X_i - x$ (mean=33) | $(x_i - x)^2$ |
|-------|---------------------|---------------|
| 10    | -23                 | 529           |
| 20    | -13                 | 169           |
| 20    | -13                 | 169           |
| 20    | -13                 | 169           |
| 30    | 3                   | 9             |
| 30    | 3                   | 9             |
| 40    | 7                   | 49            |
| 50    | 17                  | 289           |
| 50    | 17                  | 289           |
| 60    | 27                  | 729           |
| Total |                     | 2,410         |

$$\text{Variance} = \frac{\sum (x_i - x)^2}{(n-1)}$$

$$2410/9 = 267.77 = 268$$

Variance is in square units  
then this variance is 268  
square cm.....kinda weird  
to talk of square cm

Not connected - Connections are available

# Standard deviation

- Standard Deviation (SD): A measure of the average spread of values about the mean.
- It is usually more convenient to express the variation in terms of the original, unsquared units (e.g. grams), i.e. to take the square root of the variance.
- This is then called the standard deviation (SD).
- A small standard deviation indicates that most values lie very close to the mean

# variance to standard deviation

## Variance to standard deviation

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$$\text{Variance} = \frac{\sum (x_i - x)^2}{(n-1)}$$

$$2410/9 = 267.77 = 268$$

Variance is in square units  
, then this variance is 268 square cm

Standard deviation is  $\sqrt{268} = 16.4$  cm

**Often data summarised as**

**Mean  $\pm$  standard deviation**

**In this case it's  $33 \pm 16.4$**

Not connected - Connections are available

## Measures of dispersion: Range

- The interval between the largest and smallest

0, 0, 0, 1, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 6, 7, 7, 8, 10, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14

- Range is
- based on only two observations and gives no idea of how the observations are arranged between these two.

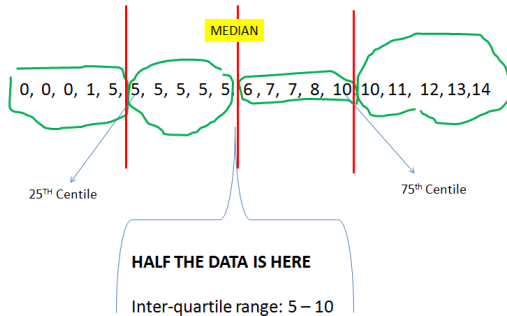
# Measures of dispersion: Inter-Quartile Range

- Shows spread of the middle 50% of the distribution

0, 0, 0, 1, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 6, 7, 7, 8, 10, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14



## THINK IN QUARTERS

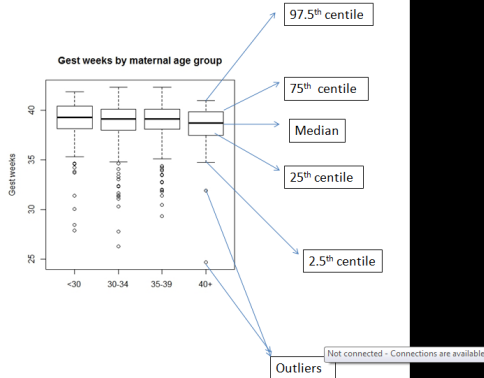


Not connected - Connections are available

# graphically showing variability

- Box and whisker plots for median and Interquartile range
- Can compare several groups

Box-and-whisker plot



# graphically showing variability

- Histograms
- Frequency polygons
- Stem and leaf diagrams

# Categorical data

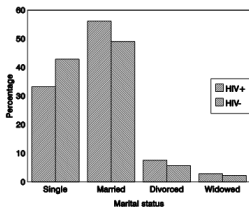
- Marital status
- Blood group
- etc

-Calculating percentages enables one to make comparisons between different groups.

- The frequency distribution of a categorical variable can be presented in a table or graph

## Example: marital status of 105 HIV positive TB patients

**Bar chart**



**Frequency distribution**

| Marital status | Number HIV +ve patients | %     |
|----------------|-------------------------|-------|
| Single         | 35                      | 33.3% |
| Married        | 59                      | 56.2% |
| Divorced       | 8                       | 7.6%  |
| Widow          | 3                       | 2.9%  |
| Total          | 105                     | 100%  |

Not connected - Connections are available

THANK YOU