

The Binomial Distribution

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Q1: If a random 100 such tax returns are audited what is the probability that exactly 5 fraudulent returns will be uncovered?

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Q1: If a random 100 such tax returns are audited what is the probability that exactly 5 fraudulent returns will be uncovered?

Ans1: $n = 100$, $p = 0.05$

$$\begin{aligned} P(\text{Fraud} = 5) &= \text{BINOM.DIST}(5, 100, 0.05, \text{FALSE}) \\ &= 0.1800 \end{aligned}$$

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Q2: If a random 250 high net worth tax returns are audited, what is the probability that the IRS will uncover at least 15 fraudulent returns?

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Q2: If a random 250 high net worth tax returns are audited, what is the probability that the IRS will uncover at least 15 fraudulent returns?

Ans2: $n = 250$, $p = 0.05$

$$\begin{aligned} P(\text{Fraud} \geq 15) &= 1 - P(\text{Fraud} \leq 14) \\ &= 1 - \text{BINOM.DIST}(14, 250, 0.05, \text{TRUE}) \\ &= 0.2712 \end{aligned}$$

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Q3: If a random 250 high net worth tax returns are audited, what is the probability that the IRS will uncover at least 15 fraudulent returns but at most 20 fraudulent returns?

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Q3: If a random 250 high net worth tax returns are audited, what is the probability that the IRS will uncover at least 15 fraudulent returns but at most 20 fraudulent returns?

Ans3: $n = 250$, $p = 0.05$

$$\begin{aligned} P(15 \leq \text{Fraud} \leq 20) &= P(\text{Fraud} \leq 20) - P(\text{Fraud} \leq 14) \\ &= \text{BINOM.DIST}(20, 250, 0.05, \text{TRUE}) - \\ &\quad \text{BINOM.DIST}(14, 250, 0.05, \text{TRUE}) \\ &= 0.2563 \end{aligned}$$

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Q4: What is the probability that out of the 250 randomly selected high net worth tax returns no fraudulent return is uncovered?

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Q4: What is the probability that out of the 250 randomly selected high net worth tax returns no fraudulent return is uncovered?

Ans4: $n = 250$, $p = 0.05$

$$\begin{aligned} P(\text{Fraud} = 0) &= \text{BINOM.DIST}(0, 250, 0.05, \text{FALSE}) \\ &= 2.69 \times 10^{-6} \text{ (a very small number)} \end{aligned}$$



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=BINOM.DIST(x, n, p, FALSE / TRUE)



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Mean of the Binomial Distribution = $n \times p = np$

Standard Deviation of the Binomial Distribution = $\sqrt{np(1-p)}$

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In our IRS example...

Mean number of fraudulent returns likely to be uncovered
when IRS randomly audits 250 high net worth returns?

= $np = 250 \times 0.05 = 12.5$ returns