

# Intro to Social Science Data Analysis

## Lecture 5: Descriptive Statistics

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- 1 Recap
- 2 Describing Data Overall
- 3 Describing Numerical Data
- 4 Describing Categorical Data

# Review Questions 1

- ▶ What is reproducible research?
- ▶ Why is it important?

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So far we have learned how to gather data  
and get it into R.

Today we will start to learn tools for  
**describing** our data.

We will learn **descriptive statistics**.

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Always look at the descriptive statistics  
before starting your data analysis.

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- ▶ The Variability (dispersion).

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# Central Tendency

The central value around which the data clusters.

Examples of descriptive statistics for the central tendency include: the mode, median, and mean (average).

**Variability** How the values vary around the central tendency.

Examples of descriptive statistics for the variability include: the range, interquartile range, standard deviation.

# Describing Numerical Data

# Measurement Level & Describing Numerical Data

Data that is at the **highest measurement level** (numerical continuous) can be described using **all** of the descriptive statistics.

# Populations, Samples, and Descriptive Statistics

Remember that our data is a **sample** of the **population**.

**Today** we are going to be describing **samples**.

From week 7 we will start to use statistics that help us **infer** things from our samples about the population.

# The Data

Most of the examples for this section use World Bank data for 2009 on:

- ▶ GDP per capita (current US\$)
- ▶ Mortality rate, infant (per 1,000 live births)

The sample includes 199 jurisdictions.

You can get the data set using the source code file at:  
`http://bit.ly/OTWEGS`

You can actually run this source code directly from R using the `source_url` command in the *devtools* package.

```
# Load package
library(devtools)

# Gather data using source code at:
# http://bit.ly/OTWEGS

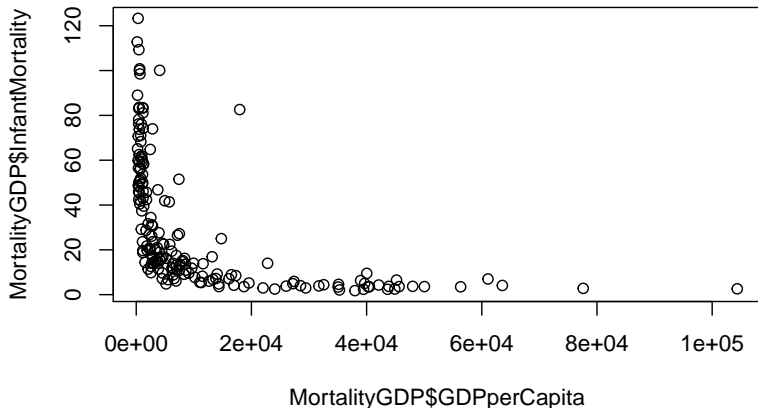
# Data is stored in a data frame: MortalityGDP
source_url("http://bit.ly/OTWEGS")

# See contents of MortalityGDP
names(MortalityGDP)

## [1] "country"          "GDPperCapita"
## [3] "InfantMortality" "region"
## [5] "income"
```



```
# Create scatterplot of GDP/Capita & Infant Mortality  
plot(MortalityGDP$GDPperCapita,  
      MortalityGDP$InfantMortality)
```



## Central Tendency 1: Mode

### Mode

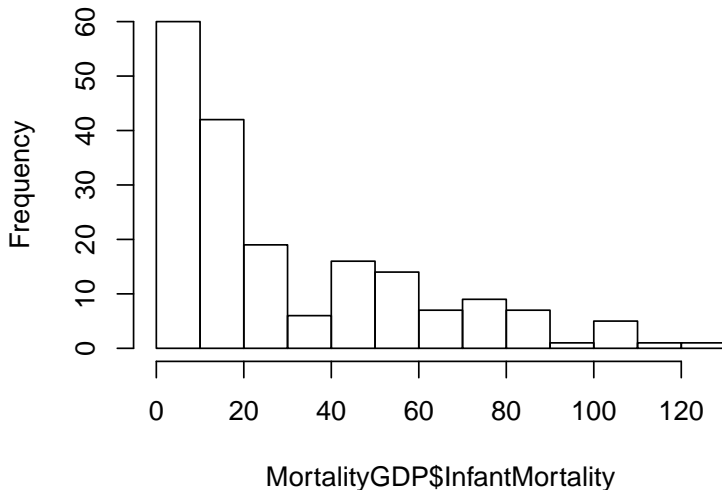
The most common value in a distribution.

One way to find the mode of a numeric continuous variable is with a **histogram**.

In R you can use the `hist` command.

```
hist(MortalityGDP$InfantMortality)
```

## Histogram of MortalityGDP\$InfantMortality



# Uni, Bi, and Multi Modal Distributions

A distribution can have **multiple modes**.

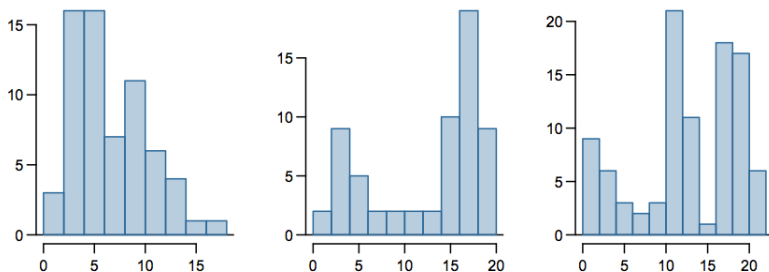


Figure 1.15: Counting only prominent peaks, the distributions are (left to right) unimodal, bimodal, and multimodal.

Diez (2011, 12)

## Central Tendency 2: Median

### Median

The middle value of a distribution.

You can find the median with the `median` command.

```
# Create data with no missing values of infant mortality
InfantNoMiss <- subset(MortalityGDP,
                       !is.na(InfantMortality))

# Find the median infant mortality rate
median(InfantNoMiss$InfantMortality)

## [1] 17.05
```

## Central Tendency 3: Mean

### Mean (average)

The sum of all data values ( $x$ ) divided by the number of data values ( $n$ ).

#### **Population Mean ( $\mu_x$ )**

$$\mu_x = \frac{\sum x}{n}$$

#### **Sample Mean ( $\bar{x}$ )**

$$\bar{x} = \frac{\sum x}{n}$$

You can find the mean with the `mean` command.

```
# Find the mean of InfantMortality  
mean(InfantNoMiss$InfantMortality)  
  
## [1] 30.1
```



# What is the Central Tendency of Infant Mortality?

What is the Central Tendency of Infant Mortality?

- ▶ **Mode:** 0-10
- ▶ **Median:** 17.05
- ▶ **Mean:** 30.1

The reason that these three measures of central tendency are **not the same** is that the distribution of Infant Mortality in the sample is **highly skewed**.

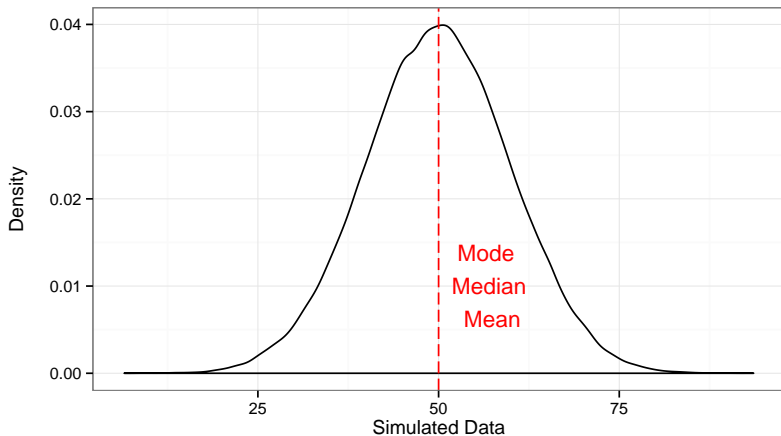
## Normally Distributed

Data that is **normally distributed** has the same mode, median, and mean.

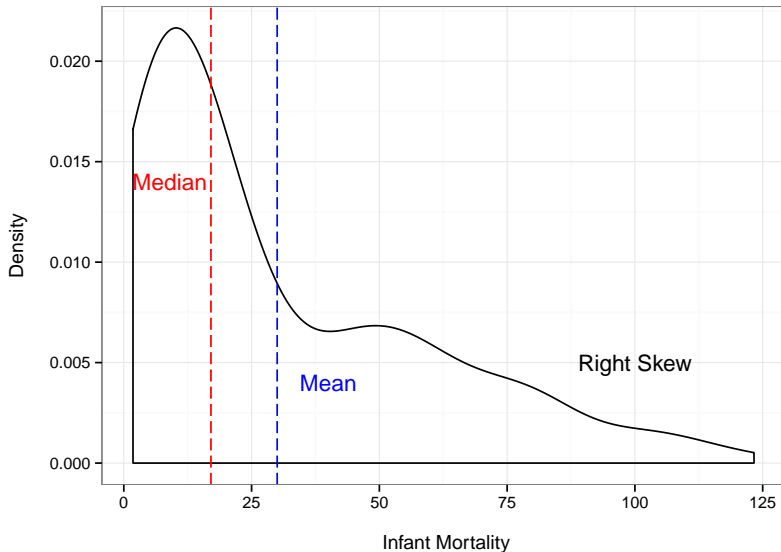
Normally distributed data also is **not skewed**. It has the same variance on the right and left of the central tendency.

```
# Simulate normally distributed data
```

```
Normal <- rnorm(1e+05, mean = 50, sd = 10)
```



The Infant Mortality data is very right skewed.



# Describing Skewness

A distribution can be:

- ▶ Right skewed (positively skewed)
  - ▶ Right skewed data pulls the mean up.
- ▶ Left skewed (negatively skewed)
  - ▶ Left skewed data pulls the mean down.

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So, the central tendency does not adequately describe distributions by itself.

We also need descriptive statistics of the **variability**

## Variability 1: Range

### Range

The range is the simplest way to describe variability.

It is the lowest and highest value.

We can find the range with the `range` command.

```
range(InfantNoMiss$InfantMortality)
```

```
## [1] 1.8 123.3
```

### Problems with the Range

The range is highly influenced by **outliers**—extreme values.

It also **ignores** all of the data between the minimum and maximum values.

```
#### Find infant mortality outliers
# Reorder data based on infant mortality
OrderMort <- InfantNoMiss[
    order(InfantNoMiss$InfantMortality,
          decreasing = TRUE), ]
# Keep country & InfantMortality
OrderMort <- OrderMort[, c("country",
                           "InfantMortality")]

# Show high values
head(OrderMort)
```

##	country	InfantMortality
## 187	Sierra Leone	123.3
## 38	Congo, Dem. Rep.	112.8
## 39	Central African Republic	109.3
## 190	Somalia	108.3
## 134	Mali	100.8
## 12	Angola	100.1

### Interquartile Range

One way to deal with outliers is to look at the interquartile range.

The interquartile range is the difference between the upper and lower quartiles.

A quartile is 25% of the data.

The **lower quartile** is the point up to the lower 25% of the data.

The **upper quartile** is the point up to the upper 75% of the data.

```
# Find what the quartile points are  
summary(InfantNoMiss$InfantMortality)
```

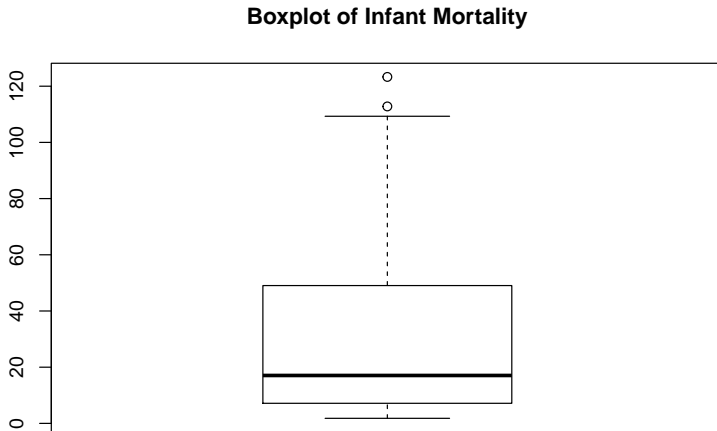
```
##      Min. 1st Qu.  Median    Mean 3rd Qu.    Max.  
##      1.80    7.18   17.00   30.10   48.90   123.00
```

$$48.92 - 7.175 =$$

```
# Find the interquartile range of InfantMortality  
IQR(InfantNoMiss$InfantMortality)
```

```
## [1] 41.75
```

```
# Boxplot showing interquartile range  
boxplot(InfantNoMiss$InfantMortality,  
        main = "Boxplot of Infant Mortality")
```





## More Information on Boxplots

See Diaz (2011, 16) for more boxplot details.

A bigger range means **more variability**.

Note: big in terms of the variable's scale.

## Variability 3: Standard Deviation

### Standard Deviation.

The interquartile range describes variation in terms of the median.

The standard deviation describes **variation in terms of the mean.**

## What is the Sample Standard Deviation? (1)

The standard deviation is made of the following parts.

**Deviation:** the distance of an observation  $x$  from the mean  $\bar{x}$ .

$$\text{Deviation} = x - \bar{x}$$

**Sum of Squares:** the sum of the squared deviations (they have to be squared or the sum will = 0)

$$\text{Sum of Squares} = \sum (x - \bar{x})$$

**Degrees of Freedom:** Sample size  $n$  minus the number of parameters. Today the number of parameters = 1. (See Crawley 2005, 36-37 for a good explanation.)

$$\text{df} = n - 1$$

## What is the Sample Standard Deviation? (2)

The standard deviation is made of the following parts.

**Variance ( $s^2$ ):** roughly the average deviation.

$$s^2 = \frac{\text{Sum of Squares}}{\text{Degrees of Freedom}} = \frac{\sum (x - \bar{x})^2}{n - 1}$$

**Standard Deviation ( $s$ ):** square root of the variance

$$s = \sqrt{s^2}$$

```
# Find the variance of InfantMortality
```

```
var(InfantNoMiss$InfantMortality)
```

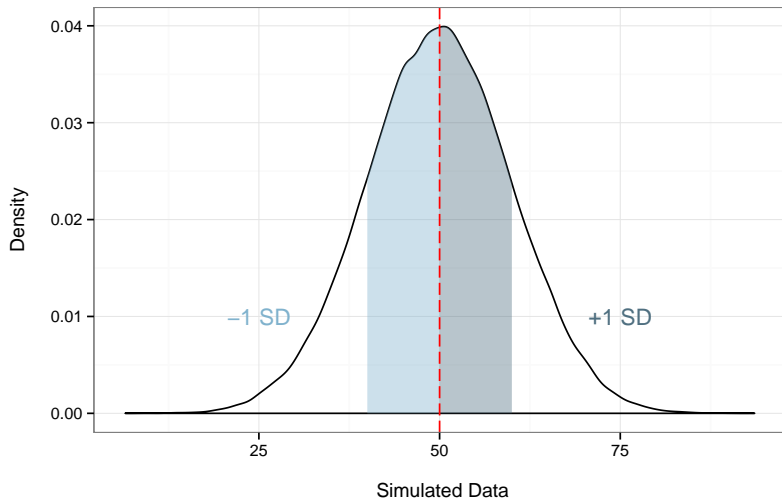
```
## [1] 826.4
```

```
# Find the standard deviation of InfantMortality
```

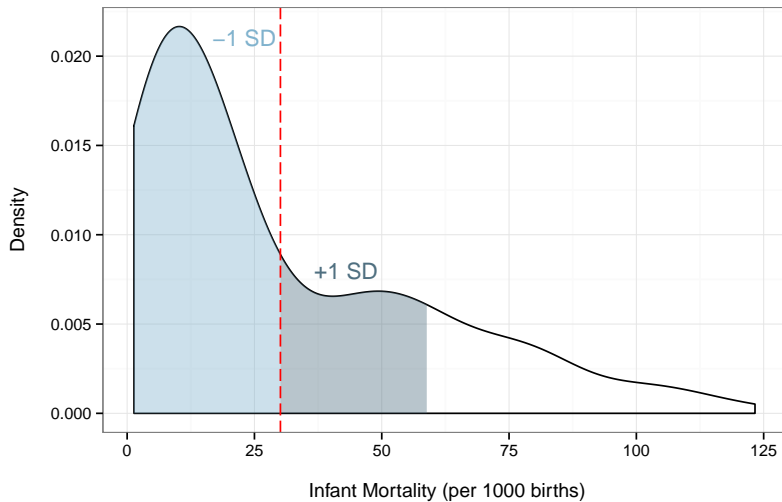
```
sd(InfantNoMiss$InfantMortality)
```

```
## [1] 28.75
```

Density Plot for Simulated Data



Density Plot for Infant Mortality





# Transforming Data

## Transforming Data

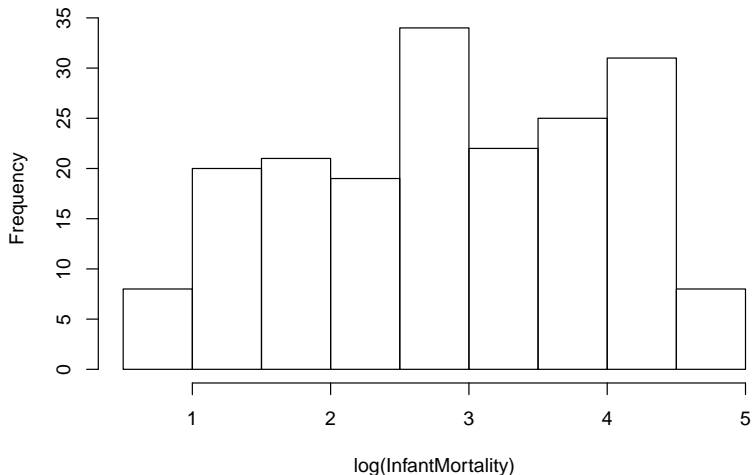
Transforming data can make **highly skewed** data easier to work with.

Transforming data just means to **rescale** the data using some function.

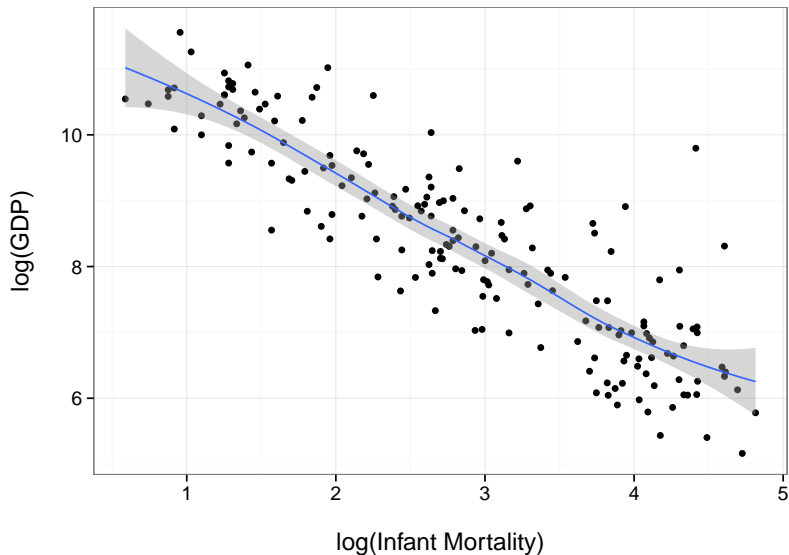
For example, we can **log-transform** our Infant Mortality data to see the relationship between the two variables better.

```
# Log Transform InfantMortality
```

```
InfantNoMiss$logInf <- log(  
    InfantNoMiss$InfantMortality)
```



# Preview!



# Describing Categorical Data

What descriptive statistics can you use for:

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- ▶ Categorical data

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- ▶ Ordinal data
- ▶ Categorical data

## You can use

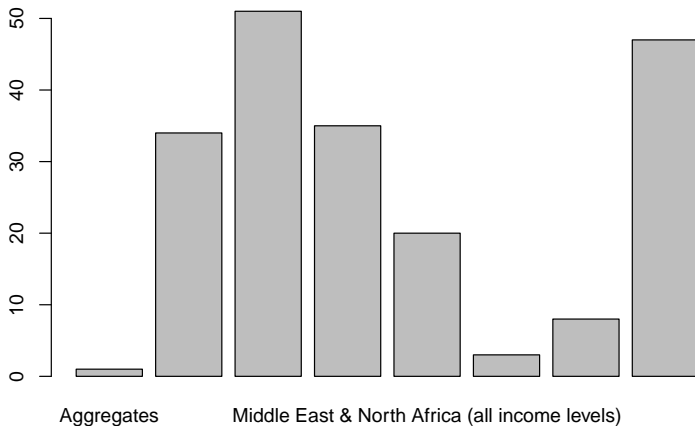
- ▶ Ordinal data; mode, median, range, interquartile range
- ▶ Categorical data: mode, frequency tables/barplots

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- ▶ Ordinal data; mode, median, range, interquartile range
- ▶ Categorical data: mode, frequency tables/barplots



```
# Use cars data, loaded in R by default Create  
# bar plot  
plot(MortalityGDP$region)
```



## Scatterplot-like

You can use **contingency tables** and **mosaic plots** like scatter plots when you have categorical data.

# References I

Crawley, Michael J. 2005. Statistics: An Introduction Using R. Chichester: John Wiley Sons. Ltd.

Diaz, David M., Christopher D. Barr, and Mine Çetinkaya-Rundel. OpenIntro Statistics. 1st ed.

<http://www.openintro.org/stat/downloads.php>.