

Assignment 6

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QMB 3200 ~ Advanced Quantitative Methods

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“If I were to nitpick, I'd say work on the cover page a little.”

-- Christopher Willman, Oct 6 at 2:36pm

Executive Summary	2
Introduction and Background	2
Data	2
Table 1: Tabulation of Having a Cold by Gender and Supplement Use	2
Table 2: Tabulation of Days of Having a Cold by Gender and Supplement Use	2
Analysis and Discussion	3
Table 3: Proportion Test of Having a Cold by Supplement Use	3
Table 4: Proportion Test of Having a Cold by Supplement Use by Gender	3
Table 5: Proportion Test of Having a Cold by Gender	4
Table 6: Proportion Test of Having a Cold by Gender by Supplement Use	4
Table 7: T-test of Days with a Cold by Supplement Use	5
Table 8: T-test of Days with a Cold by Supplement Use by Gender	5
Table 9: T-test of Days with a Cold by Gender	6
Table 10: T-test of Days with a Cold by Gender by Supplement	6
Conclusion	6
Appendix	7
1 Summary statistics	7
2 Using prtest	7
3 t-test	8
Stata do-file	9

Executive Summary

This assignment explored data on the use of a dietary supplement to reduce susceptibility to a cold and to reduce the number of days with cold symptoms. By using proportion and t-tests on the data, we can see how effective the supplement is among the population. We found that the supplement is not always effective and does not appear to be very effective and recommend that it be further improved before being sent out to market.

Introduction and Background

Assignment 6 allows students in QMB 3200 ~ Advanced Quantitative Methods to take a deeper dive into using Stata and hypothesis testing in Stata. The data provided represents a study conducted where respondents may take a dietary supplement to test whether or not the supplement has any effect on the incidence and severity of colds over the course of two months.

Data

The data used was supplied by the professor of the class and is called “supplement.csv”. The file contains data for 60 participants, 30 male and 30 female, with data for the subject number, gender, whether or not they took the supplement, whether or not they had a cold, the number of days they had a cold, and their body weight in pounds. Where data is binary, 1 always matches the variable name while 0 is the opposite.

Table 1: Tabulation of Having a Cold by Gender and Supplement Use

```
tabulate female supplement, summarize(cold)
```

Means, Standard Deviations and Frequencies of Cold			
Female	Supplement		Total
	0	1	
0	.73333333 .45773771 15	.4 .50709255 15	.56666667 .50400693 30
1	.53333333 .51639778 15	.33333333 .48795004 15	.43333333 .50400693 30
Total	.63333333 .49013252 30	.36666667 .49013252 30	.5 .50421948 60

Table 2: Tabulation of Days of Having a Cold by Gender and Supplement Use

```
tabulate female supplement, summarize(days)
```

Means, Standard Deviations and Frequencies of Days			
Female	Supplement		Total
	0	1	
0	5.9333333 3.8446004 15	2.4666667 3.2263794 15	4.2 3.9075524 30
1	4.6666667 4.5617457 15	2.6666667 3.9761192 15	3.6666667 4.3258113 30
Total	5.3 4.1948244 30	2.5666667 3.5591876 30	3.9333333 4.0957467 60

Table 1 shows the mean number, standard deviation, and frequencies of colds by gender and supplement use. The table suggests that fewer women had colds than men did both with and without the supplement and that both genders taking the supplement saw fewer colds than those not taking it.

Table 5: Proportion Test of Having a Cold by Gender

Two-sample test of proportions					0: Number of obs = 30
					1: Number of obs = 30
Group	Mean	Std. Err.	z	P> z	[95% Conf. Interval]
0	.5666667	.090472			.3893448 .7439886
1	.4333333	.090472			.2560114 .6106552
diff	.1333333	.1279467			-.1174377 .3841044
	under Ho:	.1290994	1.03	0.302	
diff = prop(0) - prop(1)					z = 1.0328
Ho: diff = 0					
Ha: diff < 0					Ha: diff != 0
Pr(Z < z) = 0.8492					Pr(Z > z) = 0.3017
					Pr(Z > z) = 0.1508

Table 6: Proportion Test of Having a Cold by Gender by Supplement Use

. by supplement, sort : prtest cold, by(female)

-> supplement = 0

Two-sample test of proportions

					0: Number of obs =	15
					1: Number of obs =	15
Group	Mean	Std. Err.	z	P> z	[95% Conf. Interval]	
0	.7333333	.1141798			.5095449	.9571217
1	.5333333	.1288122			.2808666	.7858007
diff	.2	.1721326			-.1373737	.5373737
	under Ho:	.175963	1.14	0.256		
diff = prop(0) - prop(1)					z =	1.1366
Ho: diff = 0						
Ha: diff < 0					Ha: diff != 0	Ha: diff > 0
Pr(Z < z) = 0.8721					Pr(Z > z) = 0.2557	Pr(Z > z) = 0.1279

-> supplement = 1

Two-sample test of proportions

					0: Number of obs =	15
					1: Number of obs =	15
Group	Mean	Std. Err.	z	P> z	[95% Conf. Interval]	
0	.4	.1264911			.152082	.647918
1	.3333333	.1217161			.0947741	.5718926
diff	.0666667	.1755415			-.2773883	.4107217
	under Ho:	.175963	0.38	0.705		
diff = prop(0) - prop(1)					z =	0.3789
Ho: diff = 0						
Ha: diff < 0					Ha: diff != 0	Ha: diff > 0
Pr(Z < z) = 0.6476					Pr(Z > z) = 0.7048	Pr(Z > z) = 0.3524

When running a proportion test to see if men and women caught a cold at a similar rate such as in Table 5, the p-value was .3017 which is higher than our critical value of .05. Thus we retain our null hypothesis that men and women caught a cold at a similar rate. When comparing rates between genders it is important to also isolate the supplement variable such as in Table 6. When this is done, the p-values for both those taking and not taking the supplement is over .05 which means we retain our null hypothesis that the supplement has no effect in susceptibility to catching a cold.

Rather than compare the sample is representative of the population, we can test subsets of the data against each other using a t-test.

Table 7: T-test of Days with a Cold by Supplement Use

```
. ttest days if cold==1, by(supplement)
```

Two-sample t test with equal variances						
Group	Obs	Mean	Std. Err.	Std. Dev.	[95% Conf. Interval]	
0	19	8.368421	.2560442	1.116071	7.830492	8.90635
1	11	7	.4861724	1.612452	5.91674	8.08326
combined	30	7.866667	.2658032	1.455864	7.323038	8.410295
diff		1.368421	.4982251		.3478532	2.380989
diff = mean(0) - mean(1)				t =	2.7466	
Ho: diff = 0				degrees of freedom =	28	
Ha: diff < 0		Ha: diff != 0		Ha: diff > 0		
Pr(T < t) = 0.9948		Pr(T > t) = 0.0104		Pr(T > t) = 0.0052		

Table 8: T-test of Days with a Cold by Supplement Use by Gender

. by female, sort : ttest days if cold==1, by(supplement)

-> female = 0

Two-sample t test with equal variances

Group	Obs	Mean	Std. Err.	Std. Dev.	[95% Conf. Interval]	
0	11	8.090909	.3681538	1.221028	7.270611	8.911207
1	6	6.166667	.5426274	1.32916	4.771799	7.561535
combined	17	7.411765	.3743506	1.543487	6.618177	8.205353
diff		1.924242	.6385125		.5632853	3.2852

diff = mean(0) - mean(1) t = 3.0136

Ho: diff = 0 degrees of freedom = 15

Ha: diff < 0 Ha: diff != 0 Ha: diff > 0

Pr(T < t) = 0.9956 Pr(|T| > |t|) = 0.0087 Pr(T > t) = 0.0044

-> female = 1

Two-sample t test with equal variances

Group	Obs	Mean	Std. Err.	Std. Dev.	[95% Conf. Interval]	
0	8	8.75	.3133916	.8864053	8.008947	9.491053
1	5	8	.6324555	1.414214	6.244022	9.755978
combined	13	8.461538	.312463	1.126601	7.78074	9.142337
diff		.75	.6315565		-.6400465	2.140047

diff = mean(0) - mean(1) t = 1.1875

Ho: diff = 0 degrees of freedom = 11

Ha: diff < 0 Ha: diff != 0 Ha: diff > 0

Pr(T < t) = 0.8700 Pr(|T| > |t|) = 0.2600 Pr(T > t) = 0.1300

Following a similar style of hypothesis test as before where the null is that the supplement has no effect and the alternative is that the supplement does have an effect, we can compare p-values for Tables 7 and 8. For Table 7 with both genders and the male portion of Table 8, the p-value is less than .05 which means that we reject our null hypothesis that the supplement had no effect and accept the alternative that the supplement makes a difference. For the female portion of Table 8, the p-value is greater than .05 and so we accept the null hypothesis that the supplement has no effect. Because supplement effectiveness appears to be influenced by gender, it is a good idea to test that specifically as well.

Table 9: T-test of Days with a Cold by Gender

```
. ttest days if cold==1, by(female)
```

Two-sample t test with equal variances						
Group	Obs	Mean	Std. Err.	Std. Dev.	[95% Conf. Interval]	
0	17	7.411765	.3743506	1.543487	6.618177	8.205353
1	13	8.461538	.312463	1.126601	7.78074	9.142337
combined	30	7.866667	.2658032	1.455864	7.323038	8.410295
diff		-1.049774	.5085647		-2.091521	-.0080261
diff = mean(0) - mean(1)				t = -2.0642		
Ho: diff = 0				degrees of freedom = 28		
Ha: diff < 0		Ha: diff != 0		Ha: diff > 0		
Pr(T < t) = 0.0242		Pr(T > t) = 0.0484		Pr(T > t) = 0.9758		

Table 10: T-test of Days with a Cold by Gender by Supplement

```
. by supplement, sort : ttest days if cold==1, by(female)
```

Two-sample t test with equal variances						
Group	Obs	Mean	Std. Err.	Std. Dev.	[95% Conf. Interval]	
0	11	8.090909	.3681538	1.221028	7.270611	8.911207
1	8	8.75	.3133916	.8864053	8.008947	9.491053
combined	19	8.368421	.2560442	1.116071	7.830492	8.90635
diff		-.6590909	.5091231		-1.733247	.415065
diff = mean(0) - mean(1)				t = -1.2946		
Ho: diff = 0				degrees of freedom = 17		
Ha: diff < 0		Ha: diff != 0		Ha: diff > 0		
Pr(T < t) = 0.1064		Pr(T > t) = 0.2128		Pr(T > t) = 0.8936		


```
--> supplement = 1
```

Two-sample t test with equal variances						
Group	Obs	Mean	Std. Err.	Std. Dev.	[95% Conf. Interval]	
0	6	6.166667	.5426274	1.32916	4.771799	7.561535
1	5	8	.6324555	1.414214	6.244022	9.755978
combined	11	7	.4861724	1.612452	5.91674	8.08326
diff		-1.833333	.8281319		-3.706698	.0400312
diff = mean(0) - mean(1)				t = -2.2138		
Ho: diff = 0				degrees of freedom = 9		
Ha: diff < 0		Ha: diff != 0		Ha: diff > 0		
Pr(T < t) = 0.0271		Pr(T > t) = 0.0541		Pr(T > t) = 0.9729		

For those that got a cold, the t-test in Table 9 shows that the average number of days with symptoms is influenced by gender because it has a p-value less than .05 which means we accept the alternative that they are different. While in Table 10 both p-values are above .05 and would indicate that males and females had similar length colds with and without the supplement, the p-value for those taking the supplement is very close to being less than .05. This suggests that it could be that for those taking the supplement, the number of days with a cold is different for men and women.

Conclusion

This assignment helped students come to terms with Stata's awful interface, command structure, and everything else while also providing a cool exploration into the data itself. By using proportion tests to get a feel for the data, we knew where to look and how to examine the data with t-tests to learn whether or not the supplement was effective. We found that while the supplement is effective, it is not very effective in all cases. The supplement should be improved before being sent to market so it is more effective for everyone.

Appendix

1 Summary statistics

Means, Standard Deviations and Frequencies of Cold			
Female	Supplement 0	1	Total
0	.73333333 .45773771 15	.4 .50709255 15	.56666667 .50400693 30
1	.53333333 .51639778 15	.33333333 .48795004 15	.43333333 .50400693 30
Total	.63333333 .49013252 30	.36666667 .49013252 30	.5 .50421948 60

Means, Standard Deviations and Frequencies of Days			
Female	Supplement 0	1	Total
0	5.9333333 3.8446004 15	2.4666667 3.2263794 15	4.2 3.9075524 30
1	4.6666667 4.5617457 15	2.6666667 3.9761192 15	3.6666667 4.3258113 30
Total	5.3 4.1948244 30	2.5666667 3.5591876 30	3.9333333 4.0957467 60

2 Using prtest

Two-sample test of proportions					
Group		Mean	Std. Err.	z	P> z
0		.6333333	.0879815		.4608928
1		.3666667	.0879815		.1942261
diff		.2666667	.1244246		.0227989
under Ho:		.1290994		2.07	0.039
diff = prop(0) - prop(1)					
Ho: diff = 0					
Ha: diff < 0					
Ha: diff != 0					
Ha: diff > 0					
Pr(Z < z) = 0.9806					
Pr(Z > z) = 0.0389					
Pr(Z > z) = 0.0194					

Two-sample test of proportions					
Group		Mean	Std. Err.	z	P> z
0		.5666667	.090472		.3893448
1		.4333333	.090472		.2560114
diff		.1333333	.1279467		-.1174377
under Ho:		.1290994		1.03	0.302
diff = prop(0) - prop(1)					
Ho: diff = 0					
Ha: diff < 0					
Ha: diff != 0					
Ha: diff > 0					
Pr(Z < z) = 0.8492					
Pr(Z > z) = 0.3017					
Pr(Z > z) = 0.1508					


```
*3a
ttest days if cold==1, by(supplement)
*3b
by female, sort : ttest days if cold==1, by(supplement)
*3c
ttest days if cold==1, by(female)
*3d
by supplement, sort : ttest days if cold==1, by(female)

log close
```