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Standard deviation and variance have their differences but do share some similarities. One main similarity is they are both measures that reflect variability in a distribution. Standard deviation can be defined as the average amount of variability within a set of data. It provides information on how far each score lies from the mean in a data set. Variance, however, is more of a measure of dispersion. Instead of focusing on particular points like standard deviation, variance looks at the overall spread of the data points. Since variance is broader, it is expressed in much larger units compared to standard deviation. Standard deviation is usually expressed in the same units as the original values. This difference in units can also been seen in how variance and standard deviation are calculated. Variance is the standard deviation squared or vice versa, standard deviation is the square root of variance.