

Medical Statistics – Answers lab 4

Part 1: Inference for categorical data

Question 1

Using the data provided in the table, calculate an approximate 95% confidence interval for the difference in proportions of post-surgical complications between smokers and non-smokers.

Answer question 1

- Step 1: Extract the data
 - Smokers with complications: $x_1 = 8$, Total smokers: $n_1 = 20$
 - Non-smokers with complications: $x_2 = 10$, Total non-smokers: $n_2 = 60$
- Step 2: Calculate the sample proportions
 - $p_1 = \frac{x_1}{n_1} = \frac{8}{20} = 0.4$
 - $p_2 = \frac{x_2}{n_2} = \frac{10}{60} \approx 0.167$
- Step 3: Compute the difference in proportions
 - Difference = $p_1 - p_2 = 0.4 - 0.167 \approx 0.233$
- Step 4: Calculate the standard error (SE) of the difference
 - $SE = \sqrt{\frac{p_1(1-p_1)}{n_1} + \frac{p_2(1-p_2)}{n_2}}$
 - $SE = \sqrt{\frac{0.4(1-0.4)}{20} + \frac{0.167(1-0.167)}{60}} \approx 0.120$
- Step 5: Determine the 95% confidence interval
 - $Z_{critical} = 1.96$
 - Lower bound = Difference $- Z_{critical} \times SE = 0.233 - 1.96 \times 0.120 \approx -0.001$
 - Upper bound = Difference $+ Z_{critical} \times SE = 0.233 + 1.96 \times 0.120 \approx 0.468$

- Step 6: Conclusion
 - The 95% confidence interval is approximately $(-0.001, 0.468)$

Question 2

Based on the 95% confidence interval, can we conclude that there is a statistically significant difference in the proportion of post-surgical complications between smokers and non-smokers?

Answer question 2

The 95% confidence interval for the difference in proportions is $(-0.001, 0.468)$. Since this interval includes zero, we cannot reject the null hypothesis that the two proportions are equal. Therefore, we do not have sufficient evidence to conclude that there is a statistically significant difference in the proportion of post-surgical complications between smokers and non-smokers.

Results of the two-sample test of proportions based on the normal approximation with continuity correction:

2-sample test for equality of proportions with continuity correction

```
data: complications
X-squared = 3.4409, df = 1, p-value = 0.0636
alternative hypothesis: two.sided
95 percent confidence interval:
-0.03449898  0.50116565
sample estimates:
prop 1    prop 2
0.4000000 0.1666667
```

Question 3

Based on the results of the test, can we conclude that there is a statistically significant difference in the proportion of post-surgical complications between smokers and non-smokers?

Answer question 3

The p-value from the two-sample test of proportions is 0.064. Since this p-value is greater than the significance level of 0.05, we do not have sufficient evidence to reject the null hypothesis. Therefore, we cannot conclude that there is a statistically significant difference in the proportion of post-surgical complications between smokers and non-smokers.

Question 4

In addition to the p-value, output of the `prop.test()` function also provides an approximate 95% confidence interval for the difference in proportions. How does this confidence interval compare to the one you calculated manually?

Answer question 4

The 95% confidence interval for the difference in proportions was $(-0.001, 0.468)$. This is an approximate interval without continuity correction. The confidence interval provided in the output above is slightly wider due to the continuity correction. Without continuity correction (`adjust = FALSE` in R), the confidence interval provided by the `prop.test()` function is the same as the one that was calculated manually. SPSS gave the same result as R.

Checking of assumptions

Exercise

Check this assumption by calculating the expected counts for each cell in the contingency table.

Question 5

Is it reasonable to use the normal approximation in this case?

Answer question 5

The expected counts for each cell in the contingency table are as follows:

	Complication	No Complication
Smokers	4.5	15.5
Non-smokers	13.5	46.5

One of the cells in the contingency table has an expected count just below 5, which

indicates that the two sample Z-test may not be fully accurate in this case.

Fisher's exact test

```
Fisher's Exact Test for Count Data

data: complications
p-value = 0.05967
alternative hypothesis: true odds ratio is not equal to 1
95 percent confidence interval:
0.9154957 11.7051187
sample estimates:
odds ratio
3.274581
```

Question 6

Based on the results of Fisher's exact test, can we conclude that there is a statistically significant difference in the proportion of post-surgical complications between smokers and non-smokers?

Answer question 6

The p-value from Fisher's exact test is 0.060. Since this p-value is greater than the significance level of 0.05, we do not have sufficient evidence to reject the null hypothesis. Therefore, we cannot conclude that there is a statistically significant difference in the proportion of post-surgical complications between smokers and non-smokers.

Vaccine side effects across age groups

Chi-square test of homogeneity

	None	Mild	Severe
18-39	50	30	10
40-59	40	40	20
60+	30	50	40

Pearson's Chi-squared test

```
data: side_effects  
X-squared = 25.136, df = 4, p-value = 4.723e-05
```

Question 7

Based on the results of the chi-square test, can we conclude that the distribution of vaccine side effects is consistent across the three age groups?

Answer question 7

The p-value from the chi-square test of homogeneity is <0.0001. Since this p-value is less than the significance level of 0.05, we have sufficient evidence to reject the null hypothesis. Therefore, we can conclude that the distribution of vaccine side effects is not consistent across the three age groups.

Checking of assumptions

Question 8

Are the expected cell counts greater than 5 for the different cells in the contingency table?

Expected cell counts:

	None	Mild	Severe
18–39	34.83871	34.83871	20.32258
40–59	38.70968	38.70968	22.58065
60+	46.45161	46.45161	27.09677

Answer question 8

The expected counts in all cells are well above 5, which indicates that the normal approximation is appropriate in this case.

Post-hoc pairwise comparisons

Comparison of age groups 18–39 and 40–59

	None	Mild	Severe
18-39	50	30	10
40-59	40	40	20

Pearson's Chi-squared test

```
data: table_12
X-squared = 5.3616, df = 2, p-value = 0.06851
```

The Bonferroni-corrected p-value for this comparison is 0.206.

Exercise

Perform the pairwise comparison between the other two pairs of age groups (40–59 and 60+, 18–39 and 60+) using the same approach.

Comparison of age groups 18–39 and 60+

	None	Mild	Severe
18-39	50	30	10
60+	30	50	40

Pearson's Chi-squared test

```
data: table_13
X-squared = 24.208, df = 2, p-value = 5.536e-06
```

The Bonferroni-corrected p-value for this comparison is <0.0001.

Comparison of age groups 40–59 and 60+

	None	Mild	Severe
40-59	40	40	20
60+	30	50	40

Pearson's Chi-squared test

```
data: table_23
X-squared = 7.4497, df = 2, p-value = 0.02412
```

The Bonferroni-corrected p-value for this comparison is 0.072.

Question 9

Based on the results of the pairwise comparisons, which age groups have significantly different distributions of side effects?

Answer question 9

Based on the adjusted p-values from the pairwise comparisons, we can conclude that the distributions of side effects are significantly different between the age groups 18–39 and 60+ (Bonferroni-corrected p-value < 0.001). However, there were no significant differences between the age groups 40–59 and 60+ (Bonferroni-corrected p-value = 0.072) or between the age groups 18–39 and 40–59 (Bonferroni-corrected p-value = 0.206).

Part 2: Analysis of paired continuous data

Results of the paired t-test:

Paired t-test

```
data: pockets$pocket_depth_before and pockets$pocket_depth_after
t = 11.133, df = 95, p-value < 2.2e-16
alternative hypothesis: true mean difference is not equal to 0
95 percent confidence interval:
 0.09140772 0.13108091
sample estimates:
mean difference
 0.1112443
```

Question 10

Based on the results of the paired t-test, can we conclude that the intervention significantly reduces pocket depth?

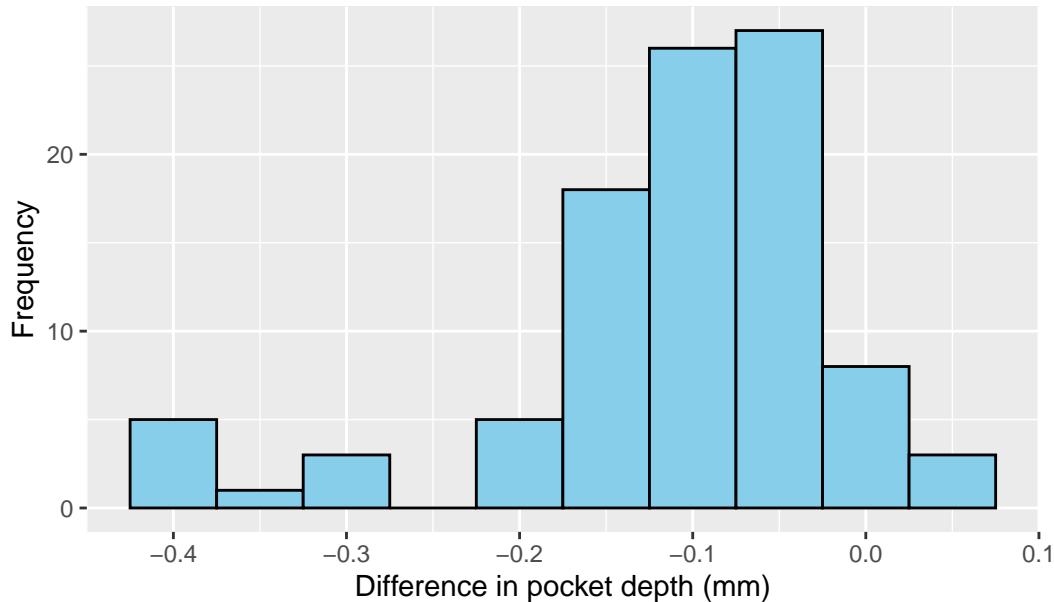
Answer question 10

The p-value from the paired t-test is <0.0001, which is less than the significance level of 0.05. Therefore, we have sufficient evidence to reject the null hypothesis and conclude

that the intervention significantly reduces pocket depth.

Checking of assumptions

Distribution of differences in pocket depth



Question 11

Based on the histogram, do the differences in pocket depth appear to be approximately normally distributed?

Answer question 11

The histogram of the differences in pocket depth is left-skewed, indicating that the distribution is not normal and that we may therefore be better off using a sign test.

Sign test

Exact binomial test

```
data: 7 and 96  
number of successes = 7, number of trials = 96, p-value < 2.2e-16
```

```
alternative hypothesis: true probability of success is not equal to 0.5
95 percent confidence interval:
 0.02981784 0.14447971
sample estimates:
probability of success
 0.07291667
```

Question 12

Based on the results of the sign test, can we conclude that the intervention significantly reduces pocket depth?

Answer question 12

The p-value from the sign test is <0.0001 , which is less than the significance level of 0.05. Therefore, we have sufficient evidence to reject the null hypothesis and conclude that the intervention significantly reduces pocket depth.

Wilcoxon signed-rank test

Wilcoxon signed rank test with continuity correction

```
data: pockets$pocket_depth_before and pockets$pocket_depth_after
V = 4572, p-value = 2.435e-16
alternative hypothesis: true location shift is not equal to 0
```

Question 13

Based on the results of the Wilcoxon signed-rank test, can we conclude that the intervention significantly reduces pocket depth?

Answer question 13

The p-value from the Wilcoxon signed-rank test is <0.0001 , which is less than the significance level of 0.05. Therefore, we have sufficient evidence to reject the null hypothesis and conclude that the intervention significantly reduces pocket depth.

Part 3: Analysis of paired dichotomous data

	DNCB +ve	DNCB -ve
Croton Oil +ve	81	23
Croton Oil -ve	48	21

Results of the McNemar test:

```
McNemar's Chi-squared test with continuity correction  
data: skin_response_table  
McNemar's chi-squared = 8.1127, df = 1, p-value = 0.004396
```

Question 14

Based on the results of the McNemar test, can we conclude that there is a significant difference in the proportions of patients with a negative response to DNCB and croton oil? If so, can you determine which substance is associated with a higher proportion of negative responses?

Answer question 14

The p-value from the McNemar test is 0.0044, which is less than the significance level of 0.05. Therefore, we have sufficient evidence to reject the null hypothesis and conclude that there is a significant difference in the proportions of patients with a negative response to DNCB and croton oil. The test does not provide information on which substance is associated with a higher proportion of negative responses. To address this question, we can calculate the estimated proportion of negative responses for each substance, which is $44/173 = 0.25$ for DNCB and $69/173 = 0.40$ for croton oil. Therefore, croton oil is associated with a higher proportion of negative responses.