

# Applied Epidemiology I: Summary statistics, tables and interpreting results

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# Acknowledgements

This course material is based on my learning from Anastasia Lam's teachings in last year's Applied Epidemiology I lab sessions, and readings from *Epidemiology* by Gordis [1], *A First Course in Probability and Statistics* by Goldsman and Goldsman [2], *Principles of Biostatistics* by Pagano and Gauvreau [3], and *Biostatistics I* by Gabriel and Frumento [4]. I especially want to thank Marlene Stratmann for reviewing the slides and Prof. Paul Dickman for providing me with suggestions to improving the teaching.

## ① Summary statistics

Measures of Central Tendency:

mean, median, mode

Measures of Dispersion: range,  
IQR, variance, standard  
deviation

## ② Tables

Bad example

Basics of making tables

One-way tables

Two by two tables

Stata tool for Epidemiology

## ③ Basic Epidemiology terms

Rate vs. proportion

Risk, risk difference, risk ratio

Odds, odds ratio

## ④ Interpreting results

Principles

Ratio  $>$  or  $<$  1

More examples

## ⑤ Calculate ratios using Stata

Risk ratio

Odds ratio

Incidence rate ratio

## ⑥ References

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```
. tabstat age // will only give you mean
```

variable	mean
age	56.41176

```
. tabstat age, s(count mean median) // s stands for statistics
```

variable	N	mean	p50
age	34	56.41176	56

## Summary statistics: Measures of Dispersion: range, IQR, variance, standard deviation

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$$s^2 = \widehat{Var}(x) = \frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})^2$$

```
. tabstat age, s(count range min max iqr var sd)
```

variable	N	range	min	max
age	34	20	47	67

variable	iqr	variance	sd
age	10	36.12834	6.010686

# Tables: Bad example

What is the problem here?

**Table 5**  
*Simulation results for using full data, CRs only, and proposed method under four missing mechanisms*

Method	Bias <sup>a</sup>		Variance <sup>b</sup>		95% CI <sup>c</sup>	
	$(\hat{\beta}_W)$	$(\hat{\beta}_X)$	$(\hat{\beta}_W)$	$(\hat{\beta}_X)$	$(\hat{\beta}_W)$	$(\hat{\beta}_X)$
(M.1) $P(R = 1) = 0.66$						
Full	0.01346	0.02229	0.04008	0.03685	0.955	0.950
Comp	0.03062	-0.003561	0.1149	0.06732	0.960	0.955
Impu	0.01431	0.021	0.04088	0.05169	0.980	0.975
(M.2) $\text{logit } P(R = 1) = 2Y$						
Full	0.007908	-0.02116	0.03838	0.03624	0.975	0.925
Comp	0.01945	0.07096	0.107	0.06581	0.960	0.950
Impu	0.006966	0.01597	0.04227	0.05226	0.975	0.985
(M.3) $\text{logit } P(R = 1) = 2X$						
Full	0.007908	-0.02116	0.03838	0.03624	0.975	0.925
Comp	0.01225	0.0589	0.08856	0.06818	0.980	0.975
Impu	0.009563	-0.04699	0.03865	0.04923	0.985	0.970
(M.4) $\text{logit } P(R = 1) = X + Y$						
Full	0.01346	0.02229	0.04008	0.03685	0.955	0.950
Comp	0.02404	1.613	0.1102	0.08202	0.955	0.580
Impu	0.01814	0.08289	0.0578	0.06075	0.955	0.970

<sup>a</sup>Bias =  $(\hat{\beta} - \beta_0)/\beta_0$ .

<sup>b</sup>Simulation variance.

<sup>c</sup>Confidence interval using jackknife standard error.

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  - self-explanatory and informative
  - placed above the tables.
  - (Graph headings are placed below.)

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Table 1: Baseline characteristics of colon cancer patients diagnosed during 1981-1990, Sweden.

		<50	50-59	60-69	70-79	≥80	All
Colon cancer							
1981-1990	Patient size (n)	1 148	2 485	6 227	9 381	5 442	24 683
	Female (%)	51.74	52.43	50.09	51.61	59.28	53.01
	Proportion of censoring <sup>1</sup> (%)	34.41	15.69	3.12	0.22	0.09	4.07

# Tables: One-way tables

- We use cancer data still.  
sysuse cancer, clear  
keep if drug ==1 | drug == 2

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- We use cancer data still.  
sysuse cancer, clear  
keep if drug ==1 | drug == 2
- One-way table of frequencies with mean and sd of age  
. table died, contents(freq mean age sd age)

-----				
1 if				
patient				
died		Freq.	mean(age)	sd(age)
-----+-----				
0		9	55.1111	5.487359
1		25	56.88	6.227091
-----				

# Tables: One-way tables

- One-way table of frequencies

```
. tabulate died
```

1 if			
patient			
died	Freq.	Percent	Cum.
-----+-----			
0	9	26.47	26.47
1	25	73.53	100.00
-----+-----			
Total	34	100.00	

# Tables: One-way tables

- Create table I of baseline characteristics using `table1_mc`
- This command is useful. Play it on your own!
- See `help table1_mc`

```
. ssc install table1_mc, replace  
. table1_mc, vars(age conts)
```

-----+-----	
	Total
-----+-----	
	N=34
-----+-----	
Patient's age at start of exp.	56 (51-61)
-----+-----	

Data are presented as median (IQR).

# Tables: Two by two tables

- 2 by 2 table for drug and died with relative frequency by column or row

```
. tabulate died drug, col row
```

1 if		Drug type (1=placebo)		
patient	died	0	1	Total
-----+-----+-----				
0		8	1	9
		88.89	11.11	100.00
		57.14	5.00	26.47
-----+-----+-----				
1		6	19	25
		24.00	76.00	100.00
		42.86	95.00	73.53
-----+-----+-----				
Total		14	20	34
		41.18	58.82	100.00
		100.00	100.00	100.00

# Tables: Two by two tables

- 2 by 2 table with chi-square test and fisher's exact test

```
. tabulate died drug, col row chi2 exact
1 if |
patient | Drug type (1=placebo)
died |      0      1 |      Total
-----+-----+-----
0 |      8      1 |      9
  |    88.89    11.11 |    100.00
  |    57.14     5.00 |    26.47
-----+-----+-----
1 |      6     19 |     25
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Total |     14     20 |     34
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  |   100.00   100.00 |   100.00

Pearson chi2(1) = 11.5039   Pr = 0.001
Fisher's exact =           0.001
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- How to interpret the results?

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-----+-----+-----
1 |      6     19 |     25
  |  24.00  76.00 |  100.00
  |  42.86  95.00 |  73.53
-----+-----+-----
Total |     14     20 |     34
  |  41.18  58.82 |  100.00
  | 100.00 100.00 |  100.00
```

```
Pearson chi2(1) = 11.5039   Pr = 0.001
Fisher's exact =           0.001
```

- How to interpret the results?
- Chi-square test: testing the association between two binary variables.
- Using placebo has association with that the patients died or not.

# Tables: Two by two tables

- 2 by 2 tables stratified by sex

```
. bysort sex: tab died drug, col row chi2
```

```
-> sex = 0
```

1 if   patient	Drug type (1=placebo)		
died	0	1	Total
-----			
0	6	1	7
	85.71	14.29	100.00
	75.00	9.09	36.84
-----			
1	2	10	12
	16.67	83.33	100.00
	25.00	90.91	63.16
-----			
Total	8	11	19
	42.11	57.89	100.00
	100.00	100.00	100.00

```
Pearson chi2(1) = 8.6466 Pr = 0.003
```

```
-> sex = 1
```

1 if   patient	Drug type (1=placebo)		
died	0	1	Total
-----			
0	2	0	2
	100.00	0.00	100.00
	33.33	0.00	13.33
-----			
1	4	9	13
	30.77	69.23	100.00
	66.67	100.00	86.67
-----			
Total	6	9	15
	40.00	60.00	100.00
	100.00	100.00	100.00

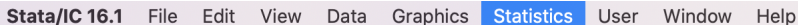
```
Pearson chi2(1) = 3.4615 Pr = 0.063
```

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- Statistics - Epidemiology and related - Tables for epidemiologists

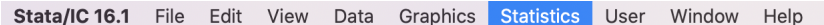


The image shows a horizontal menu bar from the Stata software interface. The menu items are: Stata/IC 16.1, File, Edit, View, Data, Graphics, Statistics, User, Window, and Help. The 'Statistics' menu item is highlighted with a blue background, while the others have a light gray background.

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---------------	------	------	------	------	----------	------------	------	--------	------

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- But before demonstrating how this works, a recapture on basic epi terms!

# Basic Epidemiology terms: Rate vs. proportion

**Rate**

**Proportion**



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- Hazard (rate): in survival analysis, hazard is often defined as mortality rate.

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- Survival (proportion/probability) ~~rate~~:  
$$\frac{\text{no. of alive persons (since diagnosis)}}{\text{no. of initially disease-free persons (since diagnosis)}}$$

# Basic Epidemiology terms: Rate vs. proportion

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  - Fatality: over a time period,  $\frac{\text{no. of deaths of the disease}}{\text{no. of persons with the disease}}$
3. Is risk a rate or a proportion?

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- **Caution!** Relative risk could be either risk ratio or rate ratio!

# Basic Epidemiology terms: Risk, risk difference, risk ratio

	Female (Exposed)	Male (Unexposed)	Total
shiba (Case)	2	2	4
guinea pig (Noncase)	2	1	3
Total	4	3	7

Epidemiologists love two by two tables!

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- Interpretation: Females have 16.67 % lower risk of having shiba than males.

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- Interpretation: Females have 16.67 % lower risk of having shiba than males.
- Risk ratio between females having shiba and males having shiba  
$$= \widehat{p}_F \div \widehat{p}_M = 2/4 \div 2/3 = 0.75.$$
- Interpretation: The risk of females having shiba is 0.75 times than males having shiba.

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- Why is there no odds difference?

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- The odds of having shiba among females is

$$\begin{aligned}\widehat{odds}_F &= \frac{p(\text{having shiba}|\text{female})}{p(\text{having guinea pig}|\text{female})} \\ &= \frac{(2/4)}{(2/4)} = 1\end{aligned}$$

- The odds of having shiba among males is 2 (calculation ignored).

# Basic Epidemiology terms: Odds, odds ratio

	Female (Exposed)	Male (Unexposed)	Total
shiba (Case)	2	2	4
guinea pig (Noncase)	2	1	3
Total	4	3	7

- OR of having shiba (females to males)
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- OR of having shiba (females to males)
- $OR = \frac{Odds_f}{Odds_m} = \frac{1}{2}$
- Interpretation: there is a 50% decrease in the odds of having shiba among females compared to males. Higher odds of shiba ownership among males than females!
- It seems that females instead love guinea pigs more.

# Interpreting results: Principles

- When describing a ratio, it can ideally be illustrated by
  1. Exposed group
  2. Ratio (exact value, higher or lower percentage)
  3. Outcome
  4. Unexposed

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- Example:
  1. Females have a risk ratio of 0.75 having shiba compared to males.
  2. Females have a 50% decrease in the odds of having shiba compared to males.

# Interpreting results: Ratio $>$ or $<$ 1

Ratio

# Interpreting results: Ratio $>$ or $<$ 1

## Ratio

- As ratio  $<$  1,
  - $(1 - \text{RR/OR}) \times 100\%$
  - E.g.,  $\text{RR} = 0.75$ ,  $(1 - 0.75) \times 100\% = 25\%$
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  - E.g.,  $\text{RR} = 0.75$ ,  $(1 - 0.75) \times 100\% = 25\%$
  - 25% lower risk
- As ratio  $>$  1,
  - $(\text{RR/OR} - 1) \times 100\%$
  - E.g.,  $\text{OR} = 2.05$ ,  $(2.05 - 1) \times 100\% = 105\%$
  - 105% higher odds
  - The odds is 2 times higher.
  - Twice the odds

# Interpreting results: More examples

## Diabetes Is a Risk Factor for Pulmonary Tuberculosis: A Case-Control Study from Mwanza, Tanzania (Faurholt-Jepsen, 2011)

	OR (95% C.I.)	OR (95% C.I.)	OR (95% C.I.)
		Model 1	Model 2
	Unadjusted	Adjusted for age, sex, socio-demography <sup>2</sup>	Model 1 + AGP <sup>3</sup>
HIV negative (n = 770)			
Glucose intolerance status <sup>1</sup>			
normal glucose tolerance	ref.	ref.	ref.
IFG/IGT	2.26 (1.50;3.41)	2.34 (1.52;3.61)	2.65 (1.00;7.06)
diabetes	2.15 (1.35;3.42)	2.14 (1.32;3.46)	4.23 (1.54;11.57)

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1. People with diabetes had a higher odds of TB (OR 2.15, 95% CI: 1.35-3.42) relative to people without diabetes.
2. Having diabetes was associated with more than a 2-fold increase (OR: 2.15, 95% CI: 1.35; 3.42) in the odds of TB compared to not having diabetes.

# Interpreting results: More examples

## Bidirectional association between physical activity and symptoms of anxiety and depression: the Whitehall II study (Azevedo Da Silva, 2012)

**Table 3** Cross-sectional associations between physical activity at recommended levels and anxiety and/or depression symptoms at phase 1 (1985–1988) (N = 9,309)

	OR (CI 95 %)	<i>P</i> value
<i>Anxiety symptoms</i>		
Model 1		
Physical activity		
Yes	0.71 (0.54, 0.91)	0.01
No	1 (reference)	
Model 2		
Physical activity		
Yes	0.71 (0.55, 0.93)	0.01
No	1 (reference)	
<i>Depression symptoms</i>		
Model 1		
Physical activity		
Yes	0.63 (0.48, 0.81)	<0.001
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Model 2		
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1. Patients who conducted recommended levels of physical activity had a 29% lower odds of anxiety (OR: 0.71, 95% CI: 0.54–0.91) and a 37% lower odds of depression (OR: 0.63, 95% CI: 0.48–0.81) relative to those who did not.

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1. Patients who conducted recommended levels of physical activity had a 29% lower odds of anxiety (OR: 0.71, 95% CI: 0.54-0.91) and a 37% lower odds of depression (OR: 0.63, 95% CI: 0.48-0.81) relative to those who did not.
2. Our results showed that individuals who practiced recommended levels of physical activity were less likely to have anxiety (OR: 0.71, 95% CI: 0.54-0.91) and depression (OR: 0.63, 95% CI: 0.48-0.81) in comparison with those who did not.

# Calculate ratios using Stata: Risk ratio

- Finally we come back to Stata again!

# Calculate ratios using Stata: Risk ratio

- Finally we come back to Stata again!
- cs case exposed

```
. cs died drug
```

	Drug type [1=placebo]		
	Exposed	Unexposed	Total
Cases	19	6	25
Noncases	1	8	9
Total	20	14	34
Risk	.95	.4285714	.7352941
	Point estimate		[95% Conf. Interval]
Risk difference	.5214286		.245166 .7976911
Risk ratio	2.216667		1.200631 4.092525
Attr. frac. ex.	.5488722		.1671043 .7556521
Attr. frac. pop	.4171429		
+-----			
chi2(1) = 11.50 Pr>chi2 = 0.0007			

# Calculate ratios using Stata: Odds ratio

- cs case exposed, or  
. cs died drug, or

	Drug type [1=placebo]			
	Exposed	Unexposed	Total	
Cases	19	6	25	
Noncases	1	8	9	
Total	20	14	34	
Risk	.95	.4285714	.7352941	
	Point estimate		[95% Conf. Interval]	
Risk difference	.5214286		.245166	.7976911
Risk ratio	2.216667		1.200631	4.092525
Attr. frac. ex.	.5488722		.1671043	.7556521
Attr. frac. pop	.4171429			
Odds ratio	25.33333		3.189793	. (Cornfield
+-----				
chi2(1) = 11.50 Pr>chi2 = 0.0007				

# Calculate ratios using Stata: Incidence rate ratio

- ir case exposed studytime

```
. ir died drug studytime
```

```
Incidence-rate comparison
```

	Drug type [1=placebo]			
	Exposed	Unexposed	Total	
1 if patient die	19	6	25	
Months to death	180	209	389	
Incidence rate	.1055556	.0287081	.0642674	
	Point estimate		[95% Conf. Interval]	
Inc. rate diff.	.0768474		.0241182	.1295766
Inc. rate ratio	3.676852		1.411772	11.24864 (exact)
Attr. frac. ex.	.7280282		.2916701	.9111003 (exact)
Attr. frac. pop	.5533014			

```
Mid p-values for tests of incidence-rate difference:
```

```
Adj Pr(Exposed 1 if patient die <= 19) = 0.9985 (lower one-sided)
```

```
Adj Pr(Exposed 1 if patient die >= 19) = 0.0015 (upper one-sided)
```

```
Two-sided p-value = 0.0031
```

# References

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