

Gov 50: 16. Sampling

Matthew Blackwell

Harvard University

Roadmap

1. Sampling exercise
2. Sampling framework
3. Polls

1/ Sampling exercise

Data on class years enrolled in Gov 50

```
library(gov50data)  
class_years
```

```
## # A tibble: 122 x 1  
##   year  
##   <chr>  
## 1 Senior  
## 2 Junior  
## 3 Sophomore  
## 4 Junior  
## 5 Graduate Year 2  
## 6 Sophomore  
## 7 Professional Year 2  
## 8 First-Year  
## 9 Sophomore  
## 10 Junior  
## # ... with 112 more rows
```

What proportion of the class is first years?

```
class_years |>
  count(year) |>
  mutate(prop = n / nrow(class_years))
```

```
## # A tibble: 9 x 3
##   year                n    prop
##   <chr>             <int>  <dbl>
## 1 First-Year         25 0.205
## 2 Graduate Year 1     2 0.0164
## 3 Graduate Year 2     1 0.00820
## 4 Junior            31 0.254
## 5 Not Set             3 0.0246
## 6 Professional Year 2  2 0.0164
## 7 Senior            14 0.115
## 8 Sophomore          43 0.352
## 9 Year 1, Semester 1  1 0.00820
```

Let's take some samples!

We can use the `slice_sample()` function to take a random sample of rows of a tibble:

```
class_years |>
  slice_sample(n = 5)
```

```
## # A tibble: 5 x 1
##   year
##   <chr>
## 1 Sophomore
## 2 Junior
## 3 Junior
## 4 Sophomore
## 5 Sophomore
```

Another sample

```
class_years |>  
  slice_sample(n = 5)
```

```
## # A tibble: 5 x 1  
##   year  
##   <chr>  
## 1 Junior  
## 2 Not Set  
## 3 First-Year  
## 4 First-Year  
## 5 Sophomore
```

Sample proportion of first-years

```
class_years |>  
  slice_sample(n = 20) |>  
  summarize(fy_prop = mean(year == "First-Year"))
```

```
## # A tibble: 1 x 1  
##   fy_prop  
##   <dbl>  
## 1     0.15
```


Repeated sampling

We sometimes want to draw multiple samples from a tibble. For this we can use `rep_slice_sample()` from the `infer` package:

```
library(infer)
class_years |>
  rep_slice_sample(n = 5, reps = 2)
```

```
## # A tibble: 10 x 2
## # Groups:   replicate [2]
##   replicate year
##   <int> <chr>
## 1       1 1 First-Year
## 2       1 1 Sophomore
## 3       1 1 First-Year
## 4       1 1 Sophomore
## 5       1 1 First-Year
## 6       2 2 Junior
## 7       2 2 First-Year
## 8       2 2 Sophomore
## 9       2 2 First-Year
## 10      2 2 Sophomore
```

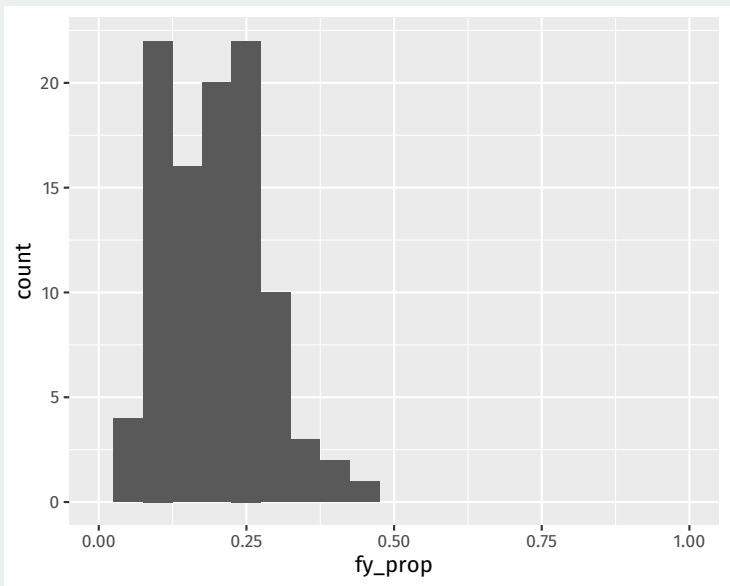
Simulate many separate studies being done

```
samples_n20 <- class_years |>
  rep_slice_sample(n = 20, reps = 100) |>
  group_by(replicate) |>
  summarize(fy_prop = mean(year == "First-Year"))
samples_n20
```

```
## # A tibble: 100 x 2
##   replicate fy_prop
##       <int>   <dbl>
## 1         1     0.25
## 2         2     0.4
## 3         3     0.3
## 4         4     0.4
## 5         5     0.2
## 6         6     0.25
## 7         7     0.1
## 8         8     0.25
## 9         9     0.35
## 10        10     0.1
## # ... with 90 more rows
```

Distribution of these proportions

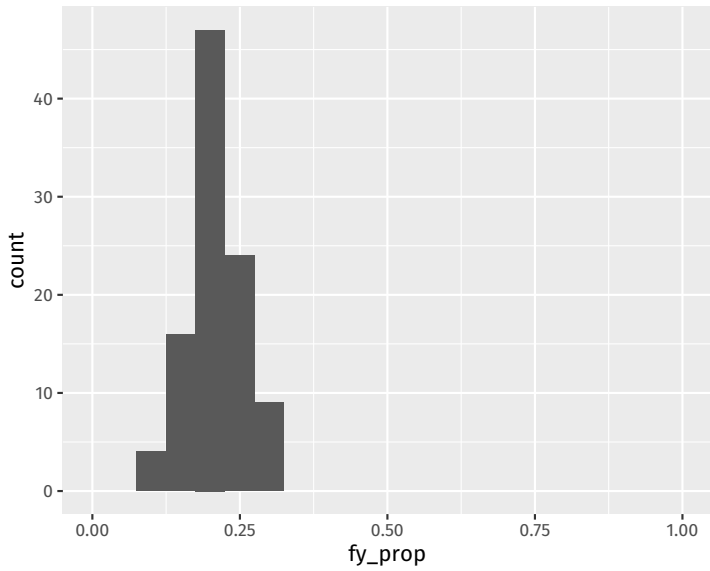
```
samples_n20 |>  
  ggplot(mapping = aes(x = fy_prop)) +  
  geom_histogram(binwidth=0.05) +  
  lims(x = c(0, 1))
```



What if the sample sizes are bigger?

```
samples_n50 <- class_years |>
  rep_slice_sample(n = 50, reps = 100) |>
  group_by(replicate) |>
  summarize(fy_prop = mean(year == "First-Year"))

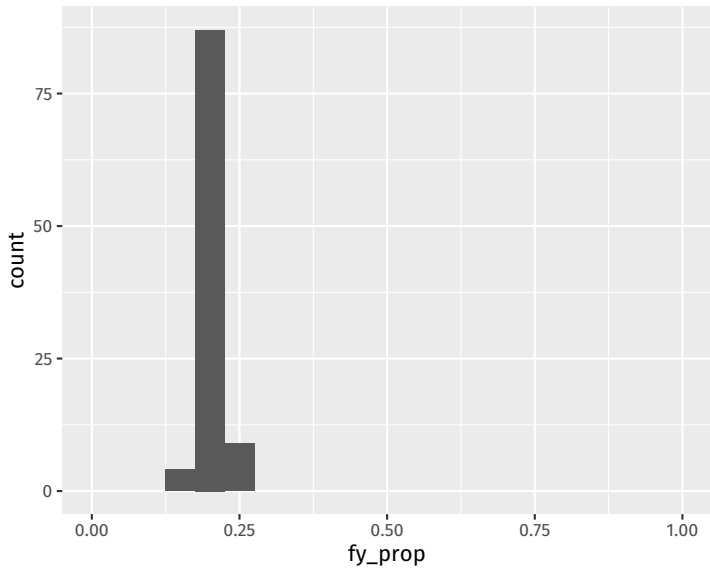
samples_n50 |>
  ggplot(mapping = aes(x = fy_prop)) +
  geom_histogram(binwidth=0.05) +
  lims(x = c(0, 1))
```



What if the sample sizes are bigger?

```
samples_n100 <- class_years |>
  rep_slice_sample(n = 100, reps = 100) |>
  group_by(replicate) |>
  summarize(fy_prop = mean(year == "First-Year"))

samples_n100 |>
  ggplot(mapping = aes(x = fy_prop)) +
  geom_histogram(binwidth=0.05) +
  lims(x = c(0, 1))
```



Sample size and variability across samples

```
samples_n20 |>  
  summarize(sd(fy_prop)) |> pull()
```

```
## [1] 0.0849
```

```
samples_n50 |>  
  summarize(prop_sd = sd(fy_prop)) |> pull()
```

```
## [1] 0.0427
```

```
samples_n100 |>  
  summarize(prop_sd = sd(fy_prop)) |> pull()
```

```
## [1] 0.0147
```

2/ Sampling framework

Populations

Population: group of units/people we want to learn about.

Population parameter: some numerical summary of the population we would like to know. - population mean/proportion, population standard deviation.

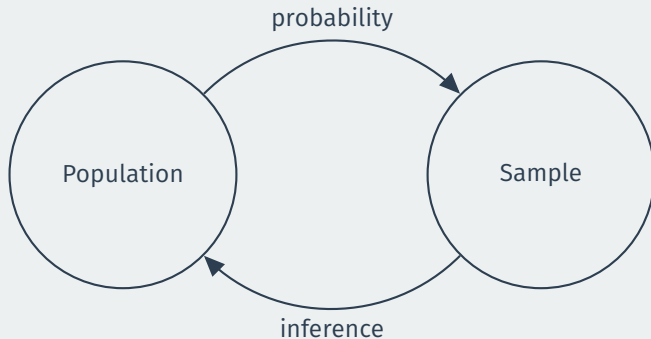
Census: complete recording of data on the entire population.

Samples

Sample: subset of the population taken in some way (hopefully randomly).

Estimator or sample statistic: numerical summary of the sample that is our “best guess” for the unknown population parameter.

Sampling framework



Sampling at random

Random sample: units selected into sample from population with a non-zero probability.

Simple random sample: all units have the same probability of being selected into the sample.

Our sampling exercise

- **Population:** all students enrolled in Gov 50.
- **Population parameter:** population proportion of first-years enrolled in Gov 50
 - Population proportions often denoted p
- **Sample:** simple random sample of different sizes.
- **Sample statistic/estimator:** sample proportion of first-years
 - Estimators often denoted with a hat: \hat{p}
 - We saw the \hat{p} varies with the random sample taken.

Expected value

The **expected value** of a sample statistic, $\mathbb{E}[\hat{p}]$, is the average value of the statistic across repeated samples.

```
samples_n100 |>  
  summarize(mean(fy_prop)) |> pull()
```

```
## [1] 0.205
```

The **expected value** of a sample proportion from a simple random sample is equal to the population proportion, $\mathbb{E}[\hat{p}] = p$

Standard error

The **standard error** is the standard deviation of the sample statistic across repeated samples.

```
samples_n100 |>  
  summarize(sd(fy_prop)) |> pull()
```

```
## [1] 0.0147
```

Tells us how far away, on average, the sample proportion will be from the population proportion.

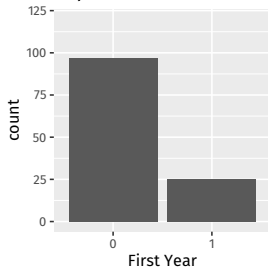
Standard error vs population standard deviation

The **standard error** is the SD of the statistic across repeated samples.

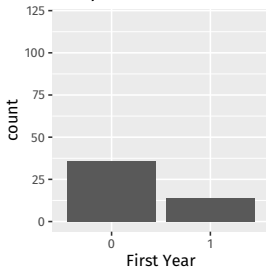
Should not be confused with the population standard deviation or sample standard deviation, both of which measure how far **units** are away from a mean.

The three distributions

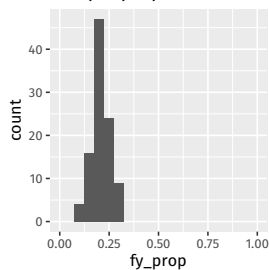
Population distribution



Sample distribution



Sample proportion dist.



3/ Polls

How popular is Joe Biden?

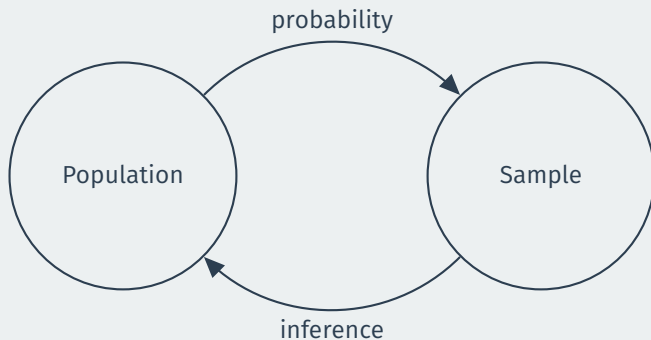


- What proportion of the public approves of Biden's job as president?
- Latest Gallup poll:
 - Sept 1st-16th
 - 812 adult Americans
 - Telephone interviews
 - Approve (42%), Disapprove (56%)

Poll in our framework

- **Population:** adults 18+ living in 50 US states and DC.
- **Population parameter:** population proportion of all US adults that approve of Biden.
 - Census: not possible.
- **Sample:** random digit dialing phone numbers (cell and landline).
- **Point estimate:** sample proportion that approve of Biden

Where are we going?



We only get 1 sample. Can we learn about the population from that sample?