

SUMMARY: The Five Steps of the Chi-Squared Test of Independence

- 1. Assumptions:** Two categorical variables
Randomization, such as random sampling or a randomized experiment
Expected count ≥ 5 in all cells (otherwise, use small-sample test in Section 11.5)

2. Hypotheses:

H_0 : The two variables are independent.
 H_a : The two variables are dependent (associated).

3. Test statistic:

$$\chi^2 = \sum \frac{(\text{observed count} - \text{expected count})^2}{\text{expected count}},$$

where expected count = (row total \times column total)/total sample size

- 4. P-value:** Right-tail probability above observed χ^2 value, for the chi-squared distribution with $df = (r - 1) \times (c - 1)$
- 5. Conclusion:** Report P-value and interpret in context. If a decision is needed, reject H_0 when P-value \leq significance level (such as 0.05).

SUMMARY: Fisher's Exact Test of Independence for 2×2 Tables

1. Assumptions:

Two binary categorical variables
Randomization, such as random sampling or a randomized experiment

2. Hypotheses:

H_0 : The two variables are independent ($H_0: p_1 = p_2$)
 H_a : The two variables are associated

(Choose $H_a: p_1 \neq p_2$ or $H_a: p_1 > p_2$ or $H_a: p_1 < p_2$).

- 3. Test statistic:** First cell count (this determines the others, given the margin totals).
- 4. P-value:** Probability that the first cell count equals the observed value or a value even more extreme than observed in the direction predicted by H_a .
- 5. Conclusion:** Report P-value and interpret in context. If a decision is needed, reject H_0 when P-value \leq significance level (such as 0.05).

SUMMARY: Misuses of the Chi-Squared Test

The chi-squared test is often misused. Some common misuses are applying it

- When some of the expected frequencies are too small.
- When separate rows or columns are dependent samples,² such as when each row of the table has the same subjects.
- To data that do not result from a random sample or randomized experiment.
- To data by classifying quantitative variables into categories. This results in a loss of information. It is usually more appropriate to analyze the data with methods for quantitative variables, like those the next chapter presents.