

Chapter 8: Sampling Distributions

Section 8.2: Distribution of the Sample Proportion

SAMPLE PROPORTION

We want to know the answer to the question:

Do you prefer taking your courses exclusively online instead of in person?

The answers are Yes or No, which are qualitative variables. We can make these quantitative by using **proportions**.

Poll: $n = 10$ Yes = $1/10$ No = $9/10$

EX1: According to a recent survey by GCC, 20% of students prefer taking courses exclusively online.

- (a) What is the proportion of students who prefer taking courses online? $p = 0.2$
(b) What is the proportion of students who prefer taking courses in-person? $1 - p = 0.8 = q$
(c) Take a poll in class:

how many prefer taking courses exclusively online: 1

how many prefer taking courses in-person: 9

proportion of people in today's class who prefer taking courses exclusively online: $1/10 = 0.1$

proportion of people in today's class who prefer taking courses in-person: $9/10 = 0.9$

Def The **sample proportion** is the proportion of individuals who share a characteristic obtained from a sample of the population. The **population proportion** is the proportion of all individuals who share a characteristic.

The sample proportion estimates the population proportion.

Notation:

Sample

\hat{p}

Population

sample size: n

of people in sample who share characteristic: x

sample proportion: \hat{p}

SAMPLING DISTRIBUTION OF THE PROPORTION

Given

- The random variable x has a distribution with proportion p .
(the distribution may or may not be normal)
- Simple random samples of size n are independent and selected from the population.

Conclusions

- The shape of the sampling distribution of all sample proportions \hat{p} is approx. normal provided that:

$$np(1 - p) \geq 10$$

σ need to check

- The mean of all sample proportions is the population proportion: $\mu_{\hat{p}} = p$

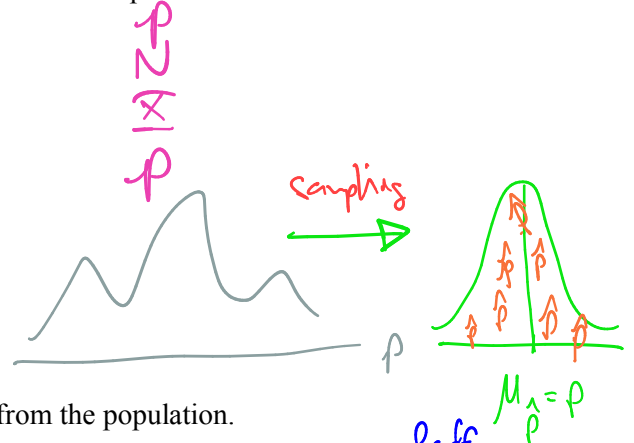
- The standard deviation of all sample proportions is given by $\sigma_{\hat{p}} = \sqrt{\frac{p(1-p)}{n}}$

Application of Result

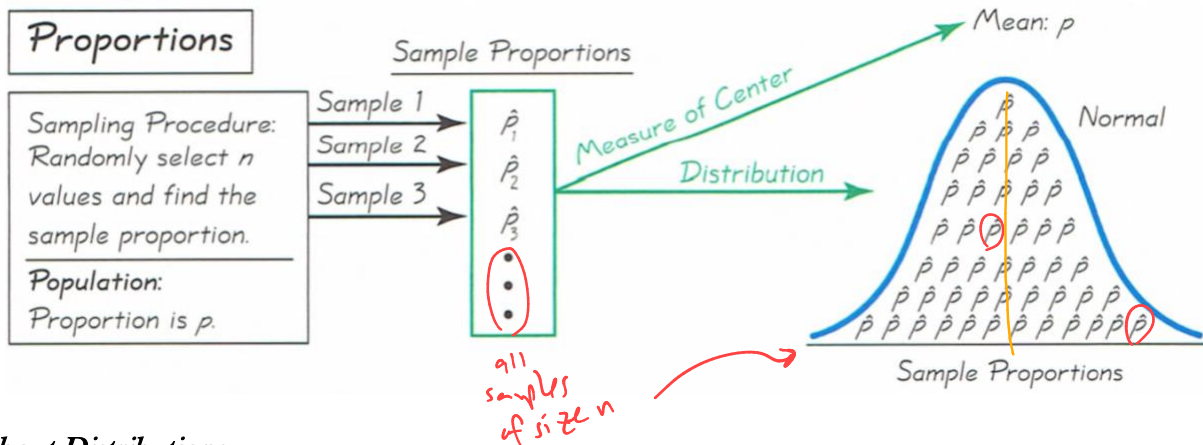
- The probability of a SRS of size n having a (sample) proportion between a and b is $P(a < \hat{p} < b)$.

We call $\sigma_{\hat{p}}$ the **standard error of the proportion**.

population proportion = $\frac{X}{N}$ $\hat{p} = \text{sample proportion} = \frac{x}{n}$
proportions are 0 & 1.



use normal cdf



Notes About Distributions

One needs to check independence or use the 5% Guideline for independence (i.e. the sample size n is less than 5% of the population size N , i.e. $n \leq 0.05 N$)

STEPS to Use Sampling Distribution for \hat{p}

Step 0: Are you selecting n people with $n > 1$? If yes, continue:

1st: Check if SRS are independent AND $np(1-p) \geq 10$

2nd: Find $\mu_{\hat{p}}$ and $\sigma_{\hat{p}}$

3rd: Use normalcdf for the rest... just don't forget to use information from step 2!!

IMPORTANT DISTINCTION: WHEN DO YOU USE A SAMPLING DISTRIBUTION?

We use the sampling distribution to compute probabilities of random samples of size $n > 1$.

Ex2: According to a recent article, 32% of drivers had driven drowsy in the past month¹.

Law enforcement officials are planning a survey of 1000 drivers to determine what proportion are driving drowsy.

(a) Is whether a driver has driven drowsy in the past month qualitative or quantitative?

This is qualitative ("yes" or "no") \rightarrow convert to QN using a proportion.

(b) Describe the sampling distribution of \hat{p} , the sample proportion of drivers who exceed the speed limit.

• Sampling distribution will be approximately normal if:

* SRS? Yes, as long as survey is done right.

* Independent? Yes, use 5% guideline

* $npq \geq 10$?

$$n = 1000$$

$$p = 0.32$$

$$q = 1 - 0.32 = 0.68$$

$$1000 * 0.32 * 0.68 = 217.6 \geq 10$$

• mean of sampling dist is $\mu_{\hat{p}} = p = 0.32$

st dev.

$$\sigma_{\hat{p}} = \sqrt{\frac{pq}{n}} = \sqrt{\frac{0.32 * 0.68}{1000}} = 0.0148$$

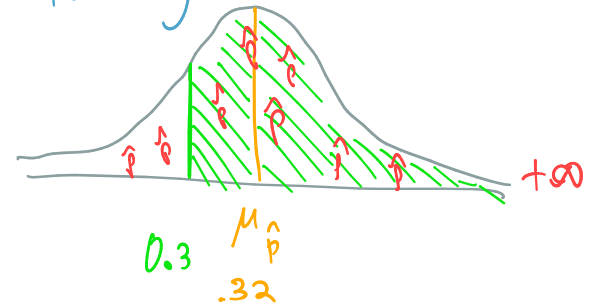
¹ Source: thenationshealth.aphapublications.org/content/41/10/E52.full

(c) In a random sample of 1000 drivers, what is the probability that more than 30% of drivers will have driven drowsy in the last month? $n=1000$

↪ sampling

$$P(\hat{p} > 0.3) = \text{normalcdf}(0.3, 1.599, 0.32, \sqrt{\frac{0.32 * 0.68}{1000}})$$

$$= 0.912$$

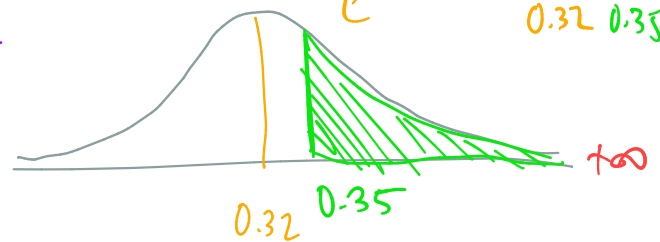
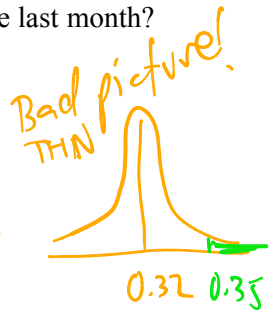


(d) Would it be unusual if in a random sample of 1000 drivers, 35% or more were driving drowsy in the last month?

↪ prob ≤ 0.05 ↪ sampling

$$P(\hat{p} > 0.35) = \text{normalcdf}(0.35, 1.599, 0.32, \sqrt{\frac{0.32 * 0.68}{1000}})$$

$$= 0.0210 \leq 0.05 \text{ yes!}$$



This is unusual!

(e) What is the minimum number of drivers that must be sampled to be sure that \hat{p} is approximately normal?

trickier Q sample size n
need: $n \cdot p \cdot q \geq 10$

$$\frac{n * 0.32 * 0.68}{0.32 * 0.68} \geq 10$$

$$n \geq \frac{10}{0.32 * 0.68}$$

= 45.955..... always round up

$$n \geq 46$$

"The minimum number of drivers that must be sampled to be sure that \hat{p} is approximately normal."

Answers to Ex2:

(a) Qualitative

(b) Approximately normal with mean 0.32 and standard deviation 0.0148

(c) 0.912

(d) Yes, since the probability that 35% or more would have driven drowsy in the last month is 0.0209, or 2.09%.

(e) 46