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Question 3

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3.1

1/1 point (graded)
Data shows that people with high incomes tend to be healthier than average. What kind of relationship can we infer? Select all that apply.

☐ Causality

☒ Prediction

☒ Correlation

☐ No relationship is implied



Explanation
Without further information or assumptions, we can only interpret this relationship as a correlation. Correlations are useful for making predictions about things that are associated, but not about cause and effect.

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3.2

1/1 point (graded)
Which of the following could be reasons why the observation that people with high incomes tend to be healthier than average is not a causal relationship? Please select all that apply.

☒ Being healthier allows people to make a high income.

☐ Having a high income leads to better health.

☒ Better education leads to both high income and better health.



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3.3

1/1 point (graded)
Why are causal questions harder to answer than correlational questions? Select all that apply.

☐ Because it is impossible to find causal effects in the real world.

☐ It is actually harder to answer correlation questions than causal questions.

☒ Because causal questions intrinsically concern a counterfactual state which cannot be observed.

☒ Because causal effects can never be measured directly.



Explanation
Causal questions are harder to answer than correlational questions because of the fundamental problem that we cannot observe the factual and the counterfactual simultaneously. They can only be measured indirectly through randomized controlled trials or quasi-experiments.

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