

Exercise 5D.1

In the general population, the gestational length of uncomplicated pregnancies varies according to a normal distribution with mean 39 weeks and (known) standard deviation 2 weeks. An investigator wishes to test whether gestational ages of African American women have a different mean length, and believes that the true mean for these women is 38.5 weeks. How large a sample would be needed to detect a difference in gestational lengths of this size with 80% power for a two-sided test with level $\alpha = 0.05$?

$$\mu_0 = 39, \mu_a = 38.5$$

$$\sigma = 2$$

$$\text{type I error} = \alpha = 0.05, \text{ two-sided test, } \rightarrow z_{\alpha/2}^* = 1.96$$

$$\text{power} = 80\% \rightarrow 1 - \beta = 0.8 \rightarrow \beta = 0.2 \rightarrow z_{\beta}^* = 0.84$$

$$n = \frac{\sigma^2 \left(z_{\alpha/2}^* + z_{\beta}^* \right)^2}{(\mu_a - \mu_0)^2} = \frac{2^2 (1.96 + 0.84)^2}{(38.5 - 39)^2} = 125.44$$

Round up: Need 126 women in the study.

Stata code to confirm answer:

power onemean 39 38.5, power(0.8) alpha(0.05) sd(2) knownsd

Exercise 5D.2

How large a sample is needed for a one-sided z-test with 90% power and $\alpha = 0.05$, if the null hypothesis assumes $\mu = 170$, we want to detect a difference of +20, and the standard deviation is known to be 40?

$$\mu_a - \mu_0 = 20$$

$$\sigma = 40$$

$$\text{type I error} = \alpha = 0.05, \text{ one-sided test, } \rightarrow z_{\alpha}^* = 1.645$$

$$\text{power} = 90\% \rightarrow 1 - \beta = 0.9 \rightarrow \beta = 0.1 \rightarrow z_{\beta}^* = 1.28$$

$$n = \frac{\sigma^2 (z_{\alpha}^* + z_{\beta}^*)^2}{(\mu_a - \mu_0)^2} = \frac{40^2 (1.645 + 1.28)^2}{20^2} = 34.2$$

Round up: Need sample size of 35.

Stata code to confirm answer:

power onemean 170 190, power(0.9) alpha(0.05) sd(40) knownsd onesided

Exercise 5D.3

The Ohio Department of Education is planning a study of SAT math scores of Ohio high school seniors. They will randomly give the exam to 500 students. Assume that the population standard deviation is known to be $\sigma = 100$. The hypotheses are:

$$H_0 : \mu = 450$$

$$H_a : \mu > 450$$

Is this test sufficiently powerful to detect an increase of 12 points in the population mean SAT score?

Answer this question by calculating the power of the Z-test at $\alpha = 0.01$ against the alternative $\mu = 462$.

(1) Hypotheses stated in problem ($\mu_0 = 450$)

(2) Specific alternative to detect: $\mu_a = 462$

(3) Find rejection region:

one-sided z-test with $\alpha = 0.01 \rightarrow$ all 0.01 in upper tail \rightarrow critical value is $z^* = 2.33$

reject H_0 if $z > z^*$ (matches direction of alternative hypothesis)

$$z = \frac{\bar{x} - \mu_0}{\sigma/\sqrt{n}} = \frac{\bar{x} - 450}{100/\sqrt{500}} > 2.33 \rightarrow \bar{x} > 450 + 2.33 \times \frac{100}{\sqrt{500}} = 460.41$$

reject H_0 if $\bar{x} > 460.41$

(4) Power = Probability of being in rejection region given H_a is true

$$P(\bar{X} > 460.41 | \mu_a = 462) = P\left(Z > \frac{460.41 - 462}{100/\sqrt{500}}\right) = P(Z > -0.36) = 0.6406$$

Study has 64.1% power

Stata code to confirm answer:

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power onemean 450 462, n(500) alpha(0.01) sd(100) knownsd onesided
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