Glossary

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1. Sample
A portion drawn from a population, the study of which is intended to lead to statistical estimates of the attributes of the whole population

2. Population
The entire aggregation of items from which samples can be drawn

3. Survey
Statistical surveys are used to collect quantitative information about items in a population.

4. Sample Size
The sample size of a statistical sample is the number of observations that constitute it. It is typically denoted n, a positive integer (natural number).

5. Standard Deviation
In statistics and probability theory, standard deviation (represented by the symbol σ) shows how much variation or "dispersion" exists from the average (mean, or expected value).

6. Estimate
Estimation is the calculated approximation of a result which is usable even if input data may be incomplete or uncertain.

7. Variance
In probability theory and statistics, the variance is used as one of several descriptors of a distribution. It describes how far values lie from the mean.

8. Strata
A group into which members of a population are divided in stratified sampling

9. Simple Random Sample
A simple random sample is a subset of individuals (a sample) chosen from a larger set (a population).

10. Stratified Random Sampling
A method of sampling that involves the division of a population into smaller groups known as strata

11. Weighted analysis
Weighted analysis is essentially defined as the average of the squared deviations from the mean.

12. Optimum allocation
Sampling in which the sample sizes are allocated to the strata in such a manner as to minimize the standard error for overall survey results

13. Proportional Allocation
A study that is sampled with a proportion that is maintained between the sample and the size of the stratum and the size of the stratum compared to the size of the population.

14. Sampling error
Error in a statistical analysis arising from the un-representativeness of the sample taken

15. Bias
A systematic distortion of a statistical result due to a factor not allowed for in its derivation