

Glossary

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. Systematic Random Sampling

A method of probability sampling in which the defined target population is ordered and the sample is selected according to position using a skip interval

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