

Stats lab

Week 2

Example of writing up descriptives

Scores on the ATSPPH measure have a potential range of 0–3, with higher scores indicating a pro–help-seeking direction. This sample had scores ranging from 0.50 to 2.90 ($M = 1.73$, $SD = 0.47$) for parents' attitudes and 0.10 to 3.00 ($M = 1.97$, $SD = 0.49$) for child-related attitudes. Parents' attitude scores were consistent with the normative sample ($M = 1.75$, $SD = 0.60$), which were generally normally distributed but slightly positively skewed (Fischer & Farina, 1995). On the Barriers to Treatment Utilization measure, scores have a range of 0–3, with higher scores indicating more perceived barriers to treatment utilization. The current sample had scores ranging from 0.00 to 1.89 ($M = 0.98$, $SD = 0.46$) for parents' barriers and 0.00 to 1.91 ($M = 0.91$, $SD = 0.43$) for child-related barriers. The three most frequently endorsed parents'

Your write up

- ▶ The point is to DESCRIBE the variables
- ▶ What did most people say or do?
- ▶ How did people, on average, respond?
- ▶ Was there a lot of variability or a little?

- ▶ Gives an overview of the data
- ▶ Always the first thing you present

Portrait of a good descriptive

- ▶ Tells what the variable is specifically
 - E.g., the question asked; “how much do you like parties?”
- ▶ Indicates what the variable means broadly
 - E.g., higher scores mean more extraversion
 - May not be needed if it’s obvious – more females simply means more females
- ▶ Gives a central tendency statistic
 - Whichever is best given the portrait of the data (see lecture notes)
 - And interprets that information
- ▶ Gives a dispersion statistic
 - Can be more than one, depending on measure
 - Interprets that information

How to tell...

- ▶ Ask yourself:
 - What would you want to know about this variable?
 - It's always better to include more information