

# Data Analysis and Presentation



Lauren DiBiase, MS, CIC  
Associate Director  
Public Health Epidemiologist  
Hospital Epidemiology  
UNC Hospitals

## Types of Data

- **Discrete data** – counted in whole units (e.g., ventilator days)
- **Continuous data** – measurement of things with an infinite number of possible values between the minimum and maximum (e.g., temperature)

Counted data vs. measured data

2

## Scales of Measurement



3

## Nominal Scale

- Simplest level of measure
  - Use of categories – mutually exclusive groups
  - No order among classifications
- Example: Handwashing observations-compliant or non-compliant*

4

## Ordinal Scale

- Each category is distinct
  - Each category has a relationship to each other
- Example: Cancer staging: 1, 2, 3

5

## Equal Interval Scale

- Ordinal data
  - Exact distance between any 2 points on the scale is known
- Example: Blood pressure

6

## Ratio Scale

- Equal interval measurements that have a true zero point

Example: Distance



7

## Question

- The ICP fills out a survey after an educational program. After having learned about the product XYZ, how likely are you to consider implementing it in your hospital?

Extremely unlikely 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5 Extremely likely

What type of scale is this?

- A. Nominal
- B. Equal Interval
- C. Continuous



8

## Measures

- Absolute
  - Simplest type of measurement
  - Also known as counts or frequencies
  - e.g. there were 160 cases of *C. difficile* last year
- Relative
  - Includes a denominator
  - Useful for comparisons
  - e.g. there were 160 cases of *C. difficile* out of 120,000 patient days last year

## What Makes a Rate?

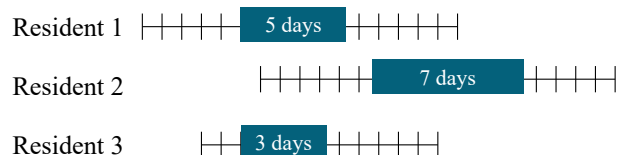
THERE IS A FINE LINE BETWEEN  
NUMERATOR  
AND  
DENOMINATOR

- Numerator (top number)
  - e.g., number of infections
- Denominator (bottom number)
  - Represent the population at risk of becoming part of the numerator
  - Ideally, should incorporate time and can account for risk factors such as device use (e.g., device-days), length of stay (e.g., resident-days)
    - e.g., number of residents [proportion]
    - e.g., number of resident-days, number of device-days [incidence density/rate]
- Time Frame
  - e.g., day, week, month

## Denominators

- Represent the population *at risk* of becoming part of the numerator
- Often, the most difficult data to obtain, but essential for comparisons
- Ideally, should incorporate time and can account for risk factors such as device use (e.g., device-days), length of stay (e.g., resident-days)

## What is a Resident/Device-Day?

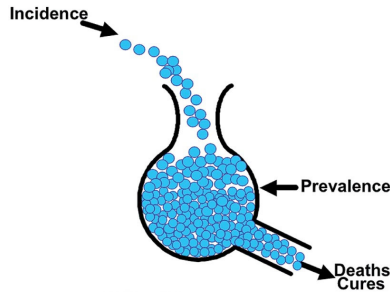


=15 resident-days, device-days, etc.

- More informative than simply saying "3 residents"

## Rate Measures

- Prevalence
- Incidence
- Attack Rate



## Prevalence

- Prevalence: the total number of cases of disease existing in a population at a point in time.
  - e.g., # of MRSA cases per population on March 8

$$\frac{\text{Count of existing cases}}{\text{Number of people at risk}} \times \text{constant (e.g., 100 or 1000)} =$$

## Incidence

- Incidence: the number of new cases of disease in a population over a period of time.
  - e.g., # of new MRSA cases per population during March

$$\frac{\text{Count of new cases}}{\text{Number of people at risk}} \times \text{constant (e.g., 100 or 1000)} =$$

## Question

- On June 1st, there were 25 surgical patients in the hospital. Two of these were post-op SSIs identified in May. During the month 5 additional SSIs were admitted. A total of 60 surgeries were performed in June. What is the numerator for a June incidence rate?

- A. 25
- B. 5
- C. 7
- D. 8.3



16

## Attack Rate

- Attack Rate: the number of new cases of disease out of the population at risk.
  - Related to incidence but always uses 100 as the constant, so it is always expressed as a percentage.
  - Often used for outbreaks or clusters that occur over a short period of time
  - e.g., % of residents with MRSA during outbreak in LTC A in March

$$\frac{\text{Count of new cases}}{\text{Number of people at risk}} \times 100 =$$

## Question

- 15 persons were infected with Salmonella at a picnic where 75 ate potato salad. What was the attack rate of salmonella among those who ate potato salad?

- A. 15%
- B. 0.20
- C. 18%
- D. 20%



18

## Mortality Rates

- Crude Mortality Rate:

$$\frac{\text{\# persons dying}}{\text{Population at risk}} \times k$$

- Cause-Specific Mortality Rate

$$\frac{\text{\# persons dying from a specific cause}}{\text{Population at risk}} \times k$$

- Case Fatality Rate

$$\frac{\text{\# persons dying from a specific disease}}{\text{\# of persons with the disease}} \times k$$

Constant "K" is usually 1000 or 100,000

19

## Question

- During the winter of 2017, 645 persons died from influenza related illness in Columbus. The population of Columbus was 1.2 million. What was the crude mortality rate?

- A. 54 per 100,000
- B. 5.3 %
- C. 54%
- D. 0.005%
- E. Unknown



20

## Question

- During the winter of 2017, 645 persons died from influenza related illness in Columbus. The population of Columbus was 1.2 million. What was the cause-specific mortality rate?

- A. 54 per 100,000
- B. 5.3 %
- C. 54%
- D. 0.005%
- E. Unknown



21

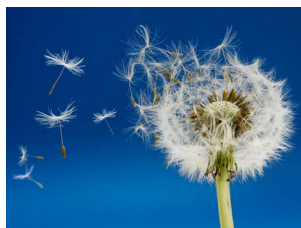
## Measures of Central Tendency

- Mean: average of a group of numbers
- Median: middle number in an ordered group of numbers; also defined as the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile
- Mode: most common value in a group of numbers

Hey diddle diddle,  
the median's the middle;  
YOU ADD AND DIVIDE FOR THE MEAN.  
The mode is the one that appears the most,  
and the range is the difference between.

## Measures of Dispersion

- Range: the largest value minus the smallest value
- Standard deviation: describes the variability or dispersion in the data set



## Question

- What is the range for the following numbers?

2,3,4,5,8, 9, 10, 12, 14

Range = 14 - 2 = 12

- What is the mean?

Mean = 67/9 = 7.44

- What is the median?

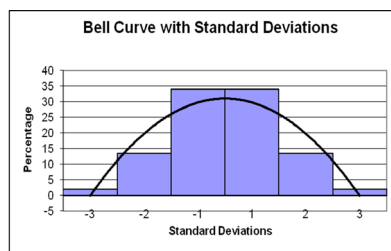
Median = 8



24

## Standard Deviation

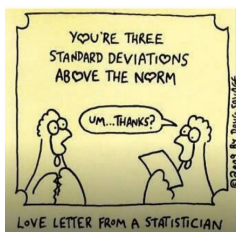
- In a normally distributed data set, the spread of values is even on both sides of the mean



68% of values  $\pm 1$  SD

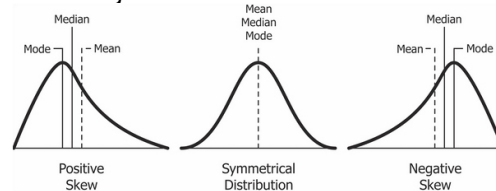
95% of values  $\pm 2$  SD

99% of values  $\pm 3$  SD

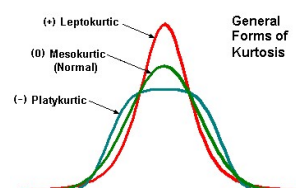


## Measures Frequency Distribution

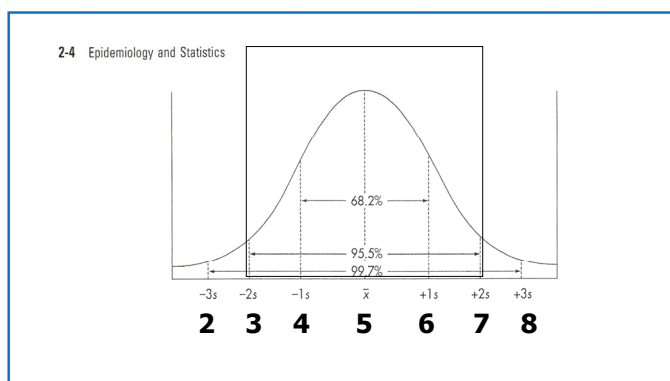
- Skewness – asymmetrical distribution



- Kurtosis – how flat or peaked a curve is



A study of the length of stay of patients with HAI showed an average excess stay of 5 days, with a standard deviation 1, what percentage of the patients had LOS between 3 and 7 days?



27

## Question

- What percentage of patients had LOS between days 3 and 7 days?

- A. 68.2%
- B. 95.5%
- C. 98.7%
- D. 67.5%



28

## Formulas

For Rates:

- # VAE/Vent Days X 1000
- # CLABSI/CL Days X 1000
- # CAUTI/Foley Catheter Days X 1000

For device utilization:

- # Device days/# Patient days

29

## Question

- Using a device associated infection formula, calculate the rate for 1000 vent days:

4 cases of VAE  
800 ventilator days



30



## Question

- Calculate the device utilization rate for a facility which has had 800 vent days and 4000 patient days.



31

## What Makes a Standardized Infection Ratio (SIR)?

1. Numerator (top number)  
=number of observed infections
  2. Denominator (bottom number)  
=number of expected or predicted infections
- Number of predicted infections =  
calculated based on your hospital's number of procedures, device days, risk factors, nursing units compared to a standard infection rate (e.g., historical data, state data, national data)

## Standardized Infection Ratio

- $SIR = \frac{\# \text{ observed infections}}{\# \text{ predicted infections}}$
- $SIR > 1.0 \rightarrow$  more infections than predicted
- $SIR < 1.0 \rightarrow$  fewer infections than predicted
- ~LOWER SIRs are BETTER~

## SIR Interpretations

- **SIR=1**
  - The number of infections is the same as the number of expected infections
  - No progress has been made in reducing infections since the baseline period or compared to another standard population (e.g., all NC, all US).

## SIR Interpretations

- If the **SIR is less than 1**
  - Fewer infections than predicted based on standard or baseline data
  - Infection reduction/prevention compared to standard or baseline data
  - 1 minus the SIR = percent reduction:  
For example, a SIR of 0.80 means that there was a 20 percent reduction from the standard population or baseline time period

## SIR Interpretations

- If the **SIR is greater than 1**
  - More infections than predicted based on standard or baseline data
  - Infections are increased compared to standard or baseline data
  - SIR minus 1 = percent increase:  
For example, a SIR of 1.25 means that there was a 25 percent increase from the standard population or baseline time period

## Question

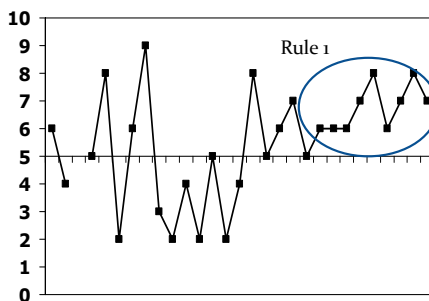
- CLABSI rate = 4 CLABSI/284 line days
- Predicted Infections = 0.50
- What is the SIR?
- How would you explain the SIR to your administrator?



## Determine the Significance-How?

- Practical Significance vs. Statistical Significance
- Make comparisons
  - For example: over time, to other areas of facility, to other facilities (NHSN data)
  - Remember to choose appropriate data for comparison (i.e., same denominator units)
- Apply a type of statistical test
  - e.g., control charts (for time trends)
  - P-values
  - 95% confidence intervals

## Run charts



Rules used to detect variation

- 7 or more consecutive points on either side of the median
- 5 or more points either decreasing or increasing
- 14 or more data points in a row going up or down

39

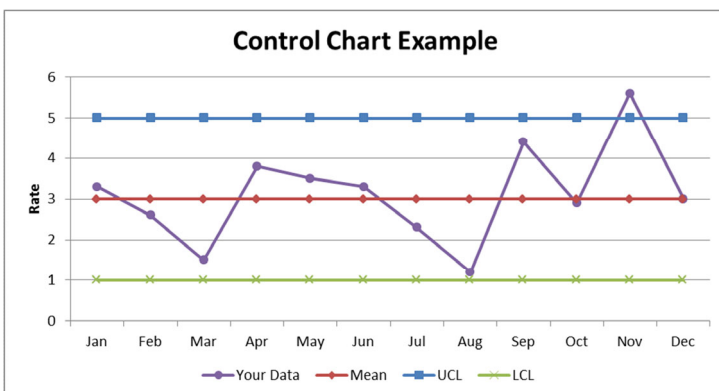
## Constructing a Statistical Process Chart

- Collect the data
- Calculate mean & SD
- Set up chart- draw horizontal line at:
  - Mean
  - UCL - 2 or 3 SD above mean
  - LCL - 2 or 3 SD below mean
- Enter data points
- Interpret data as "in control" or "out of control"

40

## Statistical Process Control Charts

Control Chart Example



## Question

- A Statistical Process Control Chart:
  - Analyzes the data for deviations from the pooled mean of the samples
  - Should be used only to display the data
  - Should be used only when a Pareto Chart is inconclusive
  - Should be used when data is discrete



42

## Statistical Inference

- Does NOT prove association
- Statistically significant – highly unlikely that results occurred by chance
- Not statistically significant – results could easily be attributed to chance alone

43

## Hypothesis Testing

- **Null hypothesis:** values are equal
- **Alternative hypothesis:** values differ
- These statements are mutually exclusive
  - They cover all possible outcomes
  - In the end, only one can be selected

**p=**value: The probability that the observed difference (or a more extreme one) was caused by random chance if the null hypothesis was true.

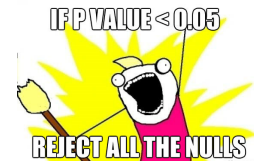
## Hypothesis Testing: Types of Errors

- $\alpha$  - Type I Error – Probability of rejecting a true null hypothesis (no difference)
- $\beta$  - Type II Error – Probability of not rejecting a false null hypothesis

45

## P Value

- Probability that the difference does not reflect a true difference and is only due to chance.
- e.g.,  $P=0.05$  means that 95 out of 100 times your estimate was truly significant (another way to think about it - there is a 1 in 20 chance of committing a Type 1 (alpha) error)
- Generally a level of  $P < 0.05$  is considered “statistically significant”



## Power

- The ability of a test to detect a specified difference
- The ability to reject the null hypothesis when it is false
- Influenced by sample size



47

## Question

- The probability of not rejecting a false null hypothesis is considered a(n):
  - A. Type I error
  - B. Type II error
  - C. Alternative hypothesis
  - D. Alpha error



48



## Question

What is the probability of committing a Type I error if the P-value is 0.10?

- A. 1 in 10
- B. 1 in 100
- C. 1 in 5
- D. 1 in 20



49

## Question

A pilot research study was conducted to compare the association between a new type of dressing and a unit's CLABSI rates. During the six month period prior to the intervention of the new dressing the unit's CLABSI rate was 2.06 per 1000 central line days. During the 6 months the dressing was trialed, the unit's CLABSI rate was 1.76 per 1000 central line days. The p-value was 0.03. What conclusion can be reached?

- A. The new dressing may be associated with statistically significant lower CLABSI rates
- B. The new dressing caused the decreased CLABSI rates
- C. The new dressing should not be used
- D. No significant statistical conclusions can be drawn from this pilot study



50

## 95% Confidence Intervals

- Means that you are 95% confident that the \*true\* average value lies within this interval.
- If spans the null value (1 for ratios), then not statistically significant
- Confidence interval size:
  - Wide: less confident with that estimate
  - Narrow: more confident with that estimate
- For comparisons:
  - Overlapping intervals suggest no significant difference
  - Non-overlapping intervals suggest significant differences

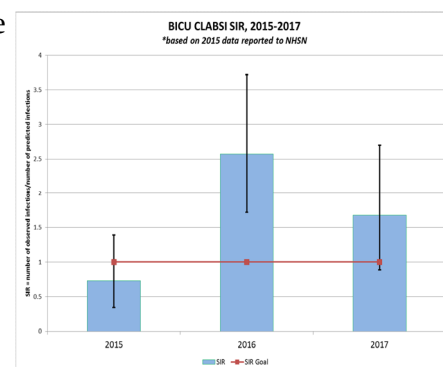


"I got the instructions from my Statistics Professor. He was 80% confident that the true location of the restaurant was in this neighborhood."

## Question

- What year was the CLABSI SIR statistically significantly different from 1?

- A. 2015
- B. 2016
- C. 2017



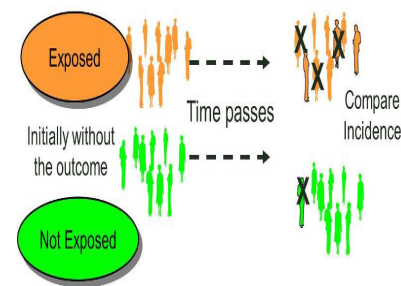
## Common Study Designs

- Observational Studies
  - Descriptive –time, person, place
  - Analytic
    - Cohort
    - Case control
    - Cross sectional – Prevalence
- Experimental Studies
  - Natural
  - Planned -Clinical trials

53

## Cohort Studies

1. Population free of disease
2. Follow for exposure to risk factors
3. Measure risk factor exposures over time
4. Look for correlations between
  - a. presence and absence of disease
  - b. presence and absence of exposure



54

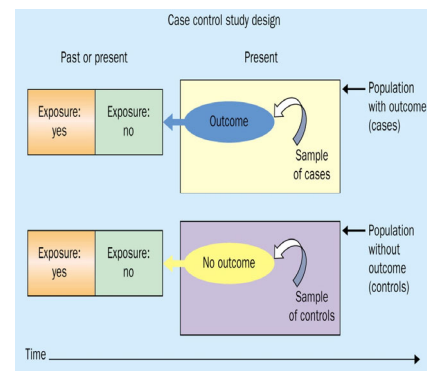
## Cohort Studies

- Advantages
  - Clarify to temporal sequence
  - Facilitates study of rare exposures
  - Allow examination of multiple effects of single exposure
- Disadvantages
  - Large number of subjects
  - Time (think Framingham)
  - Expensive
  - Loss to follow-up

55

## Case-Control Studies

- Retrospective
- Start with case of disease
- Match non-disease controls
- Look for differences in exposure levels



56

## Case-Control Studies

- Advantages:
  - Less expensive
  - Quicker
  - Good for studying rare outcomes
- Disadvantages:
  - Limited **power**
  - Matches may be hard to find
  - Limited data available, especially as relates to exposure levels (recall bias)

57

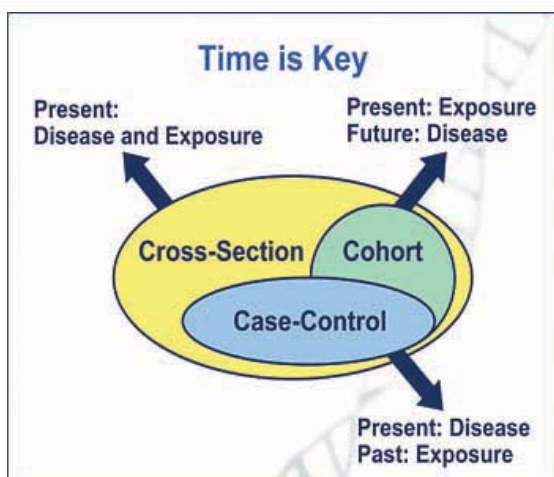
## Cross sectional – Prevalence

- Point Prevalence
- Period Prevalence



58

### Time is Key



59

## Question

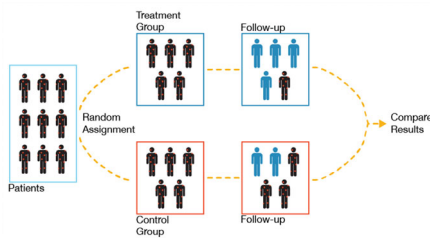
- A hundred college freshmen were monitored for colds during the winter. 55 are smokers. 75% of the smokers had 2 or more colds. 20% of the non-smokers had 2 or more colds. What type of study was this?
  - A. Case-control
  - B. Cohort
  - C. Cross-sectional
  - D. Period prevalence



60

## Experimental Studies

- Manipulate one or more factors
- Monitor outcomes of manipulated and non-manipulated
- True experiments – random
- Double blind – neither researcher or subject know which treatment group the subject is assigned



61

## Types of Statistics

### • Descriptive

Techniques used to numerically describe the characteristics of a population or sample

### • Inferential

Techniques used to draw conclusions about a population based on a sample taken from the population

62

## Two-by-Two Table

	Exposed	Not Exposed	Total
Disease	A	B	A + B
No Disease	C	D	C + D
Total	A + C	B + D	N

63

## Measures of Association

- **Relative risk**- measures the strength of the association (Artificial, Indirect, or Causal)

Incidence rate of disease in exposed divided ( $\div$ ) by incidence of disease in unexposed

64

## Measures of Association- Relative Risk

	Exposed	Not Exp.	Total
ill	4	1	5
well	10	10	20
	14	11	25

### Incidence Rates:

4/14      1/11  
 0.29      0.09  
 RR = 0.29 / 0.09 = 3.2

65

## Measures of Association

- **Odds Ratio**- probability of having a particular risk factor if a condition or disease is present, divided by the probability of having the risk factor if the disease or condition is not present.

Probability of risk factor if disease present divided ( $\div$ ) by probability of risk factor if disease not present

66

## Measures of Association- Odds Ratio

	Smoke	No Smoke	Total
COPD	14 a	3 b	17
No COPD	12 c	18 d	30
	26	21	47

Odds Ratio:

14/3      12/18

4.66      0.67

OR = 4.66 / .67 = 7

OR= ad/bc

67

## Causal Association

- **Strength**-disease rates higher with factor
- **Consistency**-reproducibility
- **Specificity**-association specific to one factor & one disease
- **Time Relationship**-exposure precedes onset of disease
- **Biological Gradient**-dose response: increased factor, increased disease

68

## Causal Association

- **Plausibility**-should be biologically plausible
- **Coherence**-should be in accordance with other factors of disease, natural history
- **Experiment**-associations derived from experiments carry more weight
- **Analogy**-if similar association shown to be causal, assoc. more likely

Statistics suggest that an association exists

69

## Types of Statistical Tests

- Parametric Tests
  - Population fits standard "bell" curve
  - Usually continuous, interval data
- Non-parametric Tests
  - Can be Nominal or Ordinal data
  - Population not required to fit "bell" curve

70

## Parametric Tests

- Z-test
  - Used to test difference between the means
  - Sample size greater than 30
  - Population parameters known (S.D.)
- T-test
  - Used to test difference between means
  - Sample size is less than 30
  - Population parameters unknown

71

## One Tailed vs. Two Tailed

- **One Tailed test** – concern is with difference in one direction from the mean (e.g., Do people with foleys have greater number of UTI's)?
- **Two Tailed test** –concern is with difference in any direction (e.g., cancer drug therapy)

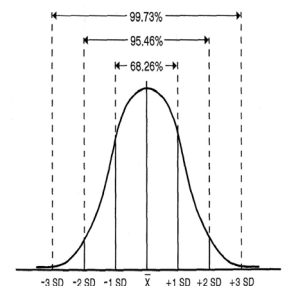


FIGURE 5.5. The normal distribution.

72

## Non-Parametric Tests

- Used to determine if there are non-random associations between two categorical variables
- 2 X 2 contingency table
- Used to determine the P-value
- Does not require normal distribution

Chi-square Test  
Fisher's Exact Test

73

## Chi-square Test

Start with 2 X 2 table with cells a, b, c, d

$$\text{Chi-square} = \frac{N[|ad-bc| - N/2]^2}{(a+b)(c+d)(a+c)(b+d)}$$

Alternatively,

$$\chi^2 = \sum (O_i - E_i)^2 / E_i$$

Take result to chi-square table to look up the P value: **If the resultant P-value is less than 0.05, then there is a statistically significant difference between the two classifications**

74

## Fisher's Exact Test

- Use to evaluate 2 X 2 table – variant of the chi-square
- Use if any value is below 30
- Fisher's exact can be used when numbers in cells are imbalanced (i.e., 5 in one cell and 100 in another), can even have 0 in one cell
- Calculates the P-value directly

75

## Question

- You have decided to compare your CLABSI rate to the published NHSN rate. What test will you use to compare?

- A. 2 X 2 table
- B. Chi-square
- C. Fisher's exact
- D. You need more information



76

## Testing for Reliability

- Any test will give you one of 4 options as a result:
  - True positive (those who test positive and DO have disease)
  - True negative (those who test negative and do NOT have disease)
  - False positive (those who test positive and do NOT have disease)
  - False negative (those who test negative and who DO have disease)
- Sensitivity and specificity are common statistical measures used to describe the properties of diagnostic tests

## Sensitivity

*If a person has a disease, how often will the test be positive (true positive rate)? (accuracy of a positive result)*

$$\text{Sensitivity Rate} = \frac{\text{\# of true positives}}{(\text{\# of true positives} + \text{\# false negatives})} \times 100$$

78



## Specificity

If a person does not have the disease how often will the test be negative (true negative rate)? (accuracy of negative result)

Specificity Rate:

$$\frac{\text{\# of true negatives}}{(\text{\# true negatives} + \text{\# false positives})} \times 100$$

79

		Disease	
		Positive	Negative
Test	Positive	A	B
	Negative	C	D

A= True positive  
B= False positive  
C= False negative  
D= True negative

Specificity =  $D/D+B$   
Sensitivity =  $A/A+C$   
PPV =  $A/A+B$   
NPV =  $D/D+C$

Note that when you are assessing predictive value, this is across the table ( $\leftrightarrow$ ), sensitivity and specificity are assessed up and down the table ( $\updownarrow$ )

## Question

Calculate the Sensitivity and Specificity for these data:



	Has Condition	
	YES	NO
Positive Test	40	30
Negative Test	10	70
Total	50	100

Sens =  $40/50 = 80\%$       PPV =  $40/70 = 57\%$

Spec =  $70/100 = 70\%$       NPV =  $70/80 = 88\%$

81

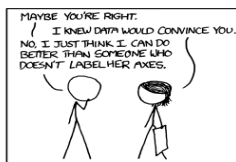
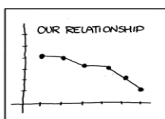
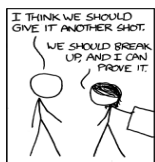
## Graph Types

- Bar Charts – often used to display discrete data
  - Comparison between categories
- Pie Charts
  - To show a percentage of a whole
- Line Graphs – often used to display continuous data
  - To show trends over time
- Histogram
  - Used to show a measurement of same variable over time
  - most often used in outbreak situations

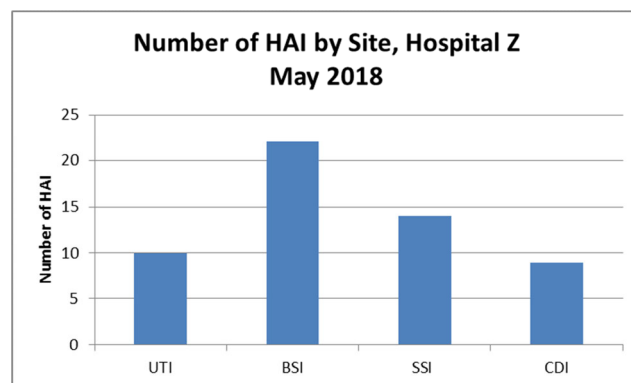
## Features of Graphs and Tables

Graphs and tables should be self-explanatory!

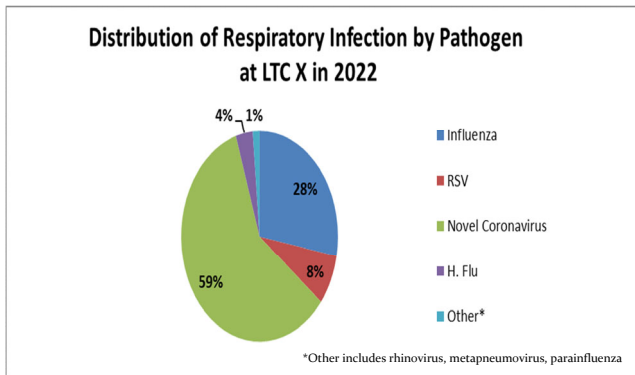
- Clear, concise title: describes person, place, time
- Informative labels: axes, rows, columns
- Appropriate intervals for axes
- Coded and labeled legends or keys
- Use footnotes to:
  - Explain codes, abbreviations, and symbols
  - Note exclusions
  - Note data source



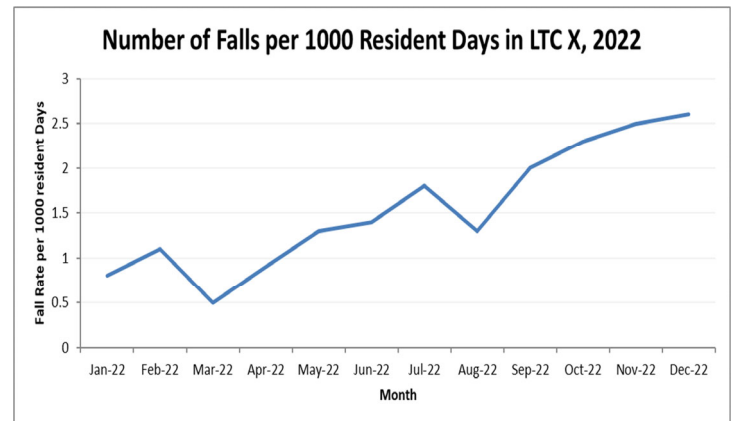
## Bar Chart



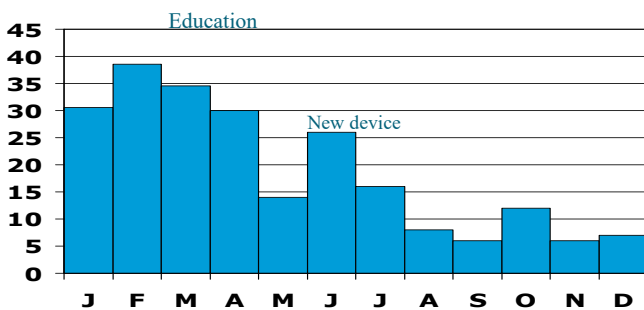
## Pie Chart



## Line Graph

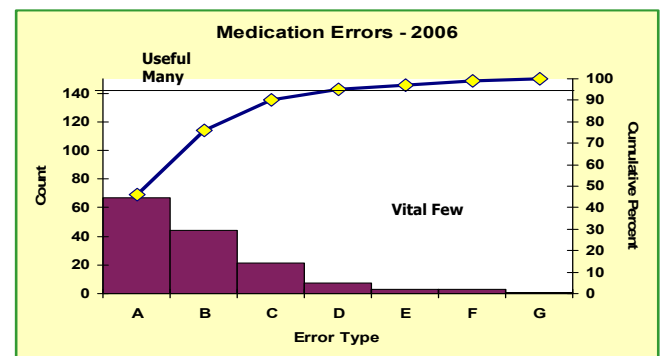


## Histogram



87

## Pareto Chart



What 20% of the errors are causing 80% of the problems (80/20 rule)?

88

## Question

- What type of chart/graph could you use to BEST display discrete causes of medication errors and the cumulative percentage of all errors?

- Bar chart
- Line graph
- Pareto chart
- Pie chart



89

## Epidemic Curve

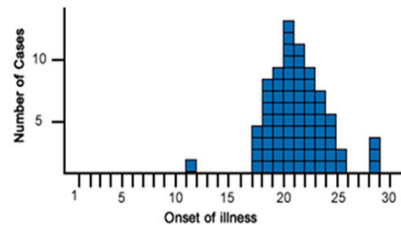
- Useful visualization of onset of illness among cases associated with an outbreak
  - Distribution of cases over time
  - Magnitude
  - Pattern of spread
  - Likely time of exposure
  - Outliers

## Epidemic Curve

- Point Source Outbreak – persons exposed over brief time to same source (e.g. single meal or event) – number of cases rise rapidly and fall gradually
- Continuous Common Source – persons exposed to same source but exposure is prolonged over period of days, weeks or longer – curve rises gradually and may plateau
- Propagated Outbreak – no common source, spread person-to-person – curve has progressively taller peaks

## Question

Based on the epidemic curve, what is the most *likely* source of this outbreak?



- A. Widespread contamination of a food product
- B. An item served during catered lunch
- C. An ill healthcare worker with norovirus

92

*Thank you!*



Any  
Questions?