Writing the Results of a Statistical Analysis

In this tutorial, you will learn how to write the results of a statistical analysis conducted in SPSS. The example below pertains to analyzing measures of central tendency and dispersion.

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**General Format for Statistical Write-up**

**Step 1:** In the opening sentence, describe which dataset was used for the analysis, and specify the variables of interest to the analysis.

Example:

One continuous variable selected from the "demo.sav" SPSS dataset is age, and one nominal variable selected from the dataset is marital status. An analysis of the mean, median, mode, minimum, maximum, range, and standard deviation of the variables was conducted using SPSS version 21.

**Step 2:** Describe which statistical procedures were performed, and provide a brief description of those statistical procedures.

Example:

Common measures of central tendency that can be used to describe the continuous age variable include the mean and the median. Another measure of central tendency known as the mode, which describes the most frequently occurring value in the distribution, can be used to describe both the continuous age variable and the nominal marital status variable. The continuous age variable can also be described using common measures of dispersion such as the range, minimum, maximum, and standard deviation.

**Step 3:** Report the results of the analysis, specifying the values generated from SPSS.

Example:

Results of analyzing the continuous age variable revealed that the mean age was 42.1 years and the median age was 41 years, with a mode of 39 years. The range for age was determined to be 59, which means that the minimum age and the maximum age differed by 59 years. The minimum age was 18 and the maximum age was 77, which verifies the age range of 59 (i.e., 77-18=59). Finally, the standard deviation for age was found to be 12.3 years, which represents the average deviation of all ages from the mean age. Results of analyzing the marital status variable showed that the mode for marital status was "Unmarried," which means that more people identified as unmarried than any other marital status.
Step 4. (required only if you include a visual representation of the data analysis):

A bar chart depicting the distribution of age is shown in Figure 1. The chart confirms that 39 was the mode of the distribution, as it is the highest bar in the chart. The chart also depicts 18 and 77 as the minimum and maximum ages, respectively.

Example:

![Bar Chart](image)

*Figure 1. Age distribution of survey respondents in the “demo.sav” SPSS dataset.*

**Finish:** After following the above steps, you have successfully created a write-up of the results of an SPSS statistical analysis.