

Post-Break Review Questions

1. What does *statistically significant* mean?

The result is not likely to be due to chance.

2. What is the difference between a *population* and a *sample*?

A population is the entire group of interest. A sample is a subset of the population small enough to be studied.

3. What is the difference between a *parameter* and a *statistic*?

A parameter is a variable defined for a population. A statistic is a variable defined for a sample.

We often use a statistic value as an estimate for a parameter value. For example, we might estimate the mean weight of all adults in the U.S. by determining the mean weight for a sample of 1000 adults in the U.S. The statistical inference methods we will soon study give us ways to describe the quality of a statistical estimate.

4. Here's a random phenomenon and a random variable:

- Start with a population having many items/individuals with a proportion p of these being "successes".
- Draw a simple random sample of size n .
- Count the number X of items/individuals in this sample that are "successes".
- Compute the sample proportion $\hat{p} = \frac{X}{n}$.

(a) What is the mean for \hat{p} ? $\mu_{\hat{p}} = p$

(b) What is the standard deviation for \hat{p} ? $\sigma_{\hat{p}} = \sqrt{\frac{p(1-p)}{n}}$

- (c) What does the result for (a) tell us about using a specific value of \hat{p} as an estimate for p ?

The sample proportion is an unbiased estimate of the population proportion.

- (d) What does the result for (b) tell us about using a specific value of \hat{p} as an estimate for p ?

We can reduce the variability in the distribution for \hat{p} by increasing the sample size.