

Frequency Distributions and Percentile Ranks

1. Raw score, ungrouped Frequencies

- Scores/Values
- Frequencies/Counts
- Percent vs. Valid Percent (Relative Frequency)
- Cumulative Percent (Cumulative Relative Frequency)
- Ranked vs. Unranked Data (Test Scores vs. Student Sex)

2. Reading the Table

- Percent or Probability Scores Equal X: $P(X) = N(X) / N(\text{Total Number of Scores})$
- Percent or Probability Scores Below X
- Percent or Probability Scores Between X and Y: $X \leq P(\text{score}) \leq Y$ vs. $X < P(\text{score}) < Y$

3. Grouped Frequencies

- Combine Test Scores into Common Groups, e.g., Letter Grades (A = 100 to 90, B = 89.9 to 80, etc.)
- Grouped Frequencies Convenient for Recognizing Common Patterns for Data (Letter Grades vs. Percent Correct)

4. Percentile Rank

- Only for ranked data, i.e. yes for test scores, no for student sex
- Percentile Rank Defined = Percent of scores at or below a given score (most common definition), an alternative definition is the Percent of scores below a given score (less commonly used)
- Use Cumulative Relative Frequency (Cumulative Percent; assumes ascending order)