Reflection on Statistics

Before this research I had a little background in statistics in taking a few statistics courses. What was learned in these courses was statistical calculations using a calculator. In these classes also it was more of a concern of getting the statistical mathematic numbers right rather than the interpretation and analysis of the data. In taking Sociology 346 it is a concern to have both the statistical mathematic numbers correct as well as the interpretation of the results. I also learned way more in depth of how to interpret these results and what they actually mean.

Before Sociology 346 , I had only known how to do the calculations of T-test, Chi-squared, and ANOVA using a scientific calculator. In this course I learned how to do them all by hand which sounds tedious but is beneficial and I will tell you why. Plugging numbers in a scientific calculator can find the end result but is more about just getting the right numerical data correct and giving you less of an understanding of where these numbers come from and what they mean. Doing all the calculations by hand gives the researcher a better idea of not only where the numbers come from but when writing the analysis of the calculations, they have a full understanding of why this is the outcome. This is important in research because if the researcher does not fully understand where the numerical data comes from it is much harder to interpret results.

I will be able to take this knowledge now and apply it to the real-world in different scenarios. First, the world is surrounded by statistical data and information that is circuital to understand the real meaning of it. Any statistical evidence that is presented to me weather it is through a research study or the media I will now have a better idea of where this information came from. This helps me realize that not everything on the news is opinion based but it is backed up by statistical evidence.

Secondly, what I can apply from this class outside of the class is the process of how this information was concluded. I will have a better understanding of surveys and why they are presented. Also I will have a better understanding of what a researcher will do with this survey information and the process they will go through. I am also less likely to turn down a survey as my attitude towards them has changed a bit. Before this class my opinion on them was they were kind of pointless and a waste of time. Now that I have an understanding of how surveys can be very beneficial in many ways.

I also learned about statistical software researchers use. SPSS and R are two of the statistical softwares I learned how to navigate. These can be important outside the classroom because not only can I add it to my skillset I can understand why these programs are used.