

Throughout the course of statistics for the social sciences I have learned and expanded my knowledge on a variety of topics. I learned how to use R and SPSS. R has allowed me to expand on knowledge I have learned in previous semesters and get more experience understanding programming language and to better understand statistical computing. Thus, allowing me to be able to interpret the data I was analyzing. SPSS is a software program that allowed me to be able to run a variety of tests in relation to topics I was learning such as T-tests, ANOVA, Chi-Squared, and Pearson's Correlation. This allowed me to learn how to quantify and analyze complex data.

Statistics for the social sciences also taught me how to recode data in R and SPSS as well as how to do a variety of tests by hand. When learning to recode data we did it in R where we recoded race into "Black", "White", and "All Else" and we also recoded education into "less than college", "some college", and "college or more." When recoding in SPSS I learned about old and new values, how to group variables, and even how to compare variables. This was just the basis of everything else I would learn throughout the semester. In statistics I also learned how to do measures of central tendency, measures of variability, Z-scores and probability, standard error and confidence intervals, t-tests, analysis of variance, chi-squared, and correlation by hand as well as in R and SPSS. My professor for statistics of the social sciences believed we should know where our numbers were coming from for R and SPSS, so she taught us every test by hand and how to interpret those numbers.

What I learned in statistics for the social sciences is important for numerous reasons. One reason what I learned in R and SPSS is important is that I am now capable of taking data I have collected and can run tests to understand the significance of my data. I also learned how to interpret my data and my outputs of tests I have run. This allows me and others to be able to

identify what my data was used for and can be applied to the real world. This is important as it allows for trends and patterns in data to be identified and helps to draw conclusions that relate to the research hypothesis.

What I learned is also important for a larger context. I now have knowledge of how to do a variety of statistical tests by hand and on multiple programs. Statistics is vital for society as it allows people to give meaning and understanding to numbers and data sets. This allows people to be able to make informed decisions as statistics are important for governments, researchers, doctors, businesses, and even organizations. After learning about statistics and numerous tests I can offer my assistance as I now have knowledge of a complex topic which serves the betterment of society. Statistics is also important because it provides information to people and can educate them on how things work. People can use it for research, to predict and evaluate outcomes, and even help critical thinking. Therefore, statistics serves numerous topics for a variety of reasons, and I am proud to say I can aid in providing answers to societies' questions or concerns.

Now that I have completed the course on statistics for social sciences, I believe I can use my knowledge in the future as well as for the rest of my life. One way I will use my knowledge of statistics is in my future career. I have a basic understanding of a handful of statistical tests which can be built upon and focused on the direction of my career. I believe having this skillset will open new doors for me and allow a wider range of career opportunities. I can also use what I have learned in statistics if I decide to do more research as I will already have a foundation that can just be expanded on. I plan on finding a job where I can utilize my wide range of knowledge in this topic as well as learning more about statistics and perhaps diving deeper into this field. I want to be able to use my knowledge to provide aid and or guidance that will provide others with a better outcome.