

CHAPTER 1

Why the Criminal Justice Researcher Uses Statistics

Chapter 1: Multiple Choice Questions

1. A hypothesis is a(n):

- a. fundamental unit of scientific observation.
- b. statement of the relationship between two or more variables.
- c. scientific fact or truth.
- d. observable and measurable variable.

Answer: b. statement of the relationship between two or more variables.

Objective: Factual

Page number: 2

Level: Basic

2. Which of the following is *not* true of the survey method?

- a. Surveys often seek to reconstruct influences after they have occurred.
- b. Surveys tend to be more representative than experiments.
- c. Surveys establish cause and effect better than experiments.
- d. Surveys usually measure but do not manipulate variables.

Answer: c. Surveys establish cause and effect better than experiments.

Objective: Factual

Page number: 5

Level: Basic

3. Which of the following is *not* a research strategy?

- a. An experiment
- b. A survey
- c. Participant observation
- d. Interval data

Answer: d. Interval data

Objective: Factual

Page number: 2-7

Level: Basic

4. Joining a radical environmentalist group to understand group dynamics and gather data over time is an example of which research strategy?

- a. An experiment
- b. A Meta-analysis
- c. Participant observation
- d. A survey

Answer: c. Participant observation

Objective: Conceptual

Page number: 7

Level: Intermediate

5. Which of the following is true of quasi-experiments?

- a. The research has no control group.
- b. Quasi-experiments are used more often than experiments in criminal justice research.
- c. Quasi-experiments are generally more ethically sound than true experiments.
- d. All of the above statements are true.

Answer: d. All of the above statements are true

Objective: Factual

Page number: 3-4

Level: Basic

6. The most common research strategy in criminology and criminal justice is:

- a. content analysis.
- b. experiments.
- c. surveys.
- d. participation observation.

Answer: c. surveys.

Objective: Factual

Page number: 5

Level: Basic

7. In which of the following research strategies is the independent variable manipulated?

- a. An experiment
- b. A survey
- c. Participant observation
- d. All of the above

Answer: a. An experiment

Objective: Factual

Page number: 2

Level: Basic

8. Studying newspapers and periodicals to investigate a hypothesis about reports of crime is an example of which method of investigation?

- a. Content analysis
- b. Survey method
- c. Quasi-experiment
- d. Participant observation

Answer: a. Content analysis

Objective: Conceptual

Page number: 6

Level: Intermediate

9. Which of the following is true of the survey method?

- a. The research is retrospective.
- b. Surveys can accommodate a large number of dependent variables.
- c. Surveys can be highly representative.
- d. All of the above statements are true.

Answer: d. All of the above statements are true

Objective: Factual

Page number: 7-8

Level: Basic

10. The experimental method investigates the effect of a(n) _____ on a(n) _____.

- a. assumed cause; dependent variable
- b. presumed cause; independent variable
- c. dependent variable; independent variable
- d. independent variable; dependent variable

Answer: d. independent variable; dependent variable

Objective: Factual

Page number: 2

Level: Basic

Instructions: Questions 11-14 refer to the following situation:

A researcher is interested in the influence of after-school supervision of juveniles on their at-risk behaviors. Fifty juveniles participated in an experiment in which twenty-five juveniles were supervised and twenty five were not supervised. A survey asked about their behaviors after school and the researcher recorded the total number of at-risk behaviors during a 2-week period.

11. The number of at-risk behaviors is the _____ variable.

- a. independent
- b. manipulated
- c. random
- d. dependent

Answer: d. dependent

Objective: Conceptual

Page number: 2

Level: Basic

12. The manipulation of the subjects, either "supervision" or "no supervision," represents the:

- a. independent variable.
- b. ordinal level.

c. random variable.

d. dependent variable.

Answer: a. independent variable

Objective: Conceptual

Page number: 2

Level: Basic

13. In this example, the group being supervised is the _____ group.

a. experimental

b. control

c. aggregate

d. hypothetical

Answer: a. experimental

Objective: Conceptual

Page number: 2

Level: Basic

14. In this example, the group that is not being supervised is the _____ group.

a. experimental

b. control

c. aggregate

d. hypothetical

Answer: b. control

Objective: Conceptual

Page number: 2

Level: Basic

15. In an experiment, the group not subject to experimental manipulation is called the _____ group.

- a. treatment
- b. independent
- c. random
- d. control

Answer: d. control

Objective: Factual

Page number: 2

Level: Basic

16. Criminal justice researchers use measurement to:

- a. classify or categorize data.
- b. rank order data.
- c. assign a score.
- d. All of the above.

Answer: d. All of the above

Objective: Factual

Page number: 10

Level: Basic

17. Nominal measurement is used primarily to:

- a. classify or categorize data.
- b. rank order data.

- c. assign a score.
- d. All of the above

Answer: a. classify or categorize data.

Objective: Factual

Page number: 10

Level: Basic

18. Ordinal measurement is used primarily to:

- a. classify or categorize data.
- b. rank order data.
- c. assign a score.
- d. All of the above

Answer: b. rank order data.

Objective: Factual

Page number: 11

Level: Basic

19. Interval measurement is used primarily to:

- a. classify or categorize data.
- b. rank order data.
- c. assign a score.
- d. All of the above

Answer: c. assign a score.

Objective: Factual

Page number: 11

Level: Basic

20. The concept of "mutually exclusive" means that:

- a. there is a category for every case that arises.
- b. there is an order to every set of numbers.
- c. there is one, and only one, category for every case.
- d. None of the above.

Answer: c. there is one, and only one, category for every case.

Objective: Factual

Page number: 10

Level: Basic

21. "Exhaustive" means that:.

- a. there is a category for every case that arises.
- b. there is an order to every set of numbers.
- c. there is one, and only one, category for every case.
- d. None of the above.

Answer: a. there is a category for every case that arises.

Objective: Factual

Page number: 10

Level: Basic

22. Which of the following is *not* a requirement of the nominal scale of measurement?

- a. The cases are mutually exclusive

- b. The cases are mutually exhaustive
- c. There are equal intervals between the cases
- d. None of the above

Answer: c. There are equal intervals between the cases

Objective: Factual

Page number: 10

Level: Basic

23. Statistics are used for:

- a. decision making.
- b. description.
- c. Both a. and b.
- d. None of the above

Answer: c. Both a. and b.

Objective: Factual

Page number: 14

Level: Basic

Chapter 1: True-False Questions

1. The survey method is used to manipulate the independent variable.

- a. True
- b. False

Answer: b. False

Objective: Factual

Page number: 5

Level: Basic

2. The dependent variable affects the independent variable.

a. True

b. False

Answer: b. False

Objective: Conceptual

Page number: 2

Level: Basic

3. Variables measured at the nominal level only categorize or classify data.

a. True

b. False

Answer: a. True

Objective: Factual

Page number: 10

Level: Basic

4. In the experimental method, the independent variable(s) can be manipulated.

a. True

b. False

Answer: a. True

Objective: Factual

Page number: 2

Level: Basic

5. Variables measured at the interval level are assigned a score.

a. True

b. False

Answer: a. True

Objective: Factual

Page number: 11

Level: Basic

6. Variables measured at the interval level cannot be used to classify, categorize, or rank order data.

a. True

b. False

Answer: b. False

Objective: Factual

Page number: 11

Level: Basic

7. Variables measured at the ordinal level cannot be used to classify or categorize data.

a. True

b. False

Answer: b. False

Objective: Factual

Page number: 11

Level: Basic

8. Meta-analysis is the process of combining the results obtained in a number of previous studies and subjecting them all to a single significance test.

a. True

b. False

Answer: a. True

Objective: Factual

Page number: 6

Level: Basic

9. Data presented in the Uniform Crime Reports are summary measures.

a. True

b. False

Answer: a. True

Objective: Factual

Page number: 7

Level: Basic

10. The NCVS provides information on crimes reported to the police and crimes cleared by arrest

a. True

b. False

Answer: b. False

Objective: Factual

Page number: 7

Level: Basic

11. Ordinal level data may be treated as interval if the ordered categories are evenly spaced.

a. True

b. False

Answer: a. True

Objective: Factual

Page number: 13

Level: Basic

Chapter 1: Work Questions

Instructions: classify the measurement type in each of the following examples as:

a. Nominal

b. Ordinal

c. Interval/ratio

1. Type of car stolen.

Answer: a. Nominal

Objective: Conceptual

Page number: 10-13

Level: Intermediate

2. Seriousness of offense.

Answer: b. Ordinal

Objective: Conceptual

Page number: 10-13

Level: Intermediate

3. Amount of money stolen in dollars.

Answer: c. Interval/ratio

Objective: Conceptual

Page number: 10-13

Level: Intermediate

4. Alphabetical listing of inmate names.

Answer: a. Nominal

Objective: Conceptual

Page number: 10-13

Level: Intermediate

5. Support for rehabilitation programs (total, some, none).

Answer: b. Ordinal

Objective: Conceptual

Page number: 10-13

Level: Intermediate

6. Racial categories.

Answer: a. Nominal

Objective: Conceptual

Page number: 10-13

Level: Intermediate

7. Fear of crime (a lot, some, none).

Answer: b. Ordinal

Objective: Conceptual

Page number: 10-13

Level: Intermediate

8. Sentence length (in years).

Answer: c. Interval/ratio

Objective: Conceptual

Page number: 10-13

Level: Intermediate

9. Number of stolen cars.

Answer: c. Interval/ratio

Objective: Conceptual

Page number: 10-13

Level: Intermediate