# Data Collection and Tabulation

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# Objectives

- Understand the principles of how to randomize and take a random sample
- Understand how to tabulate data for future statistical analysis

## Randomization: Review

What are the major reasons for using randomization?

# Randomization

- 1.Eliminates selection bias
- 2.Avoids confounding
- 3.Balances group with respect to covariates:
  - Known
  - Unknown
- 4.Allows statistical assessment of causality

## How to Randomize?

How will you randomize your subjects?

## Randomization of Subjects

What are possible methods to randomize subjects?

## Randomization of Subjects

What are possible methods to randomize subjects?

- Flip a coin
- Random number lists
- Computer software
- Web based randomization
  - www.randomization.com
  - www.sealedenvelope.com

#### Randomization Methods

Method used will depend largely on the complexity of the randomization

## Randomization

# What are the basic types of randomization?

# Randomization

What are the basic types of randomization?

- Simple
- Block
- Stratified
- Covariate Adaptive

## Simple Randomizaton

- Equal probability of being randomized to any group
- Expect group sizes may be unequal
- Works well for large sample sizes and for ongoing studies where the sample size is unknown

## Simple Randomization

A researcher is studying the effect of prednisone on the duration of infectious rhinosinusitis among patients with a history of seasonal allergies. Over the next one year, all patients meeting the study criteria will be randomized to receive prednisone or to the control group.

# Coins

#### Obverse (National) = Prednisone

Reverse (Euro) = Control



#### Random Number Tables

Researcher will read down column 'A'. Odd numbers are control, even numbers are prednisone

	А	В	C
01	46947	71735	94246
02	47417	72361	22495
03	63764	31439	69853
04	69586	04651	54047
05	64466	44369	54621
06	03030	85073	47591
07	97556	80617	38868
08	08858	18891	23055
09	58167	83419	52426
10	64238	97862	29802
11	68969	49254	93327
12	83410	76140	24855
13	65000	99048	91260
14	71572	87436	04552
15	91120	54017	26108
16	62834	51303	44974
17	19877	19006	52479

## Block Randomization

- Used to randomize to equal size groups
- Must know size of sample at onset of experiment
- For small experiments maximizes the power by balancing group size

#### Block Randomization

A researcher is investigating the utility of helicopter versus snowmobile for backcountry rescue in winter. She has eight volunteer teams who will perform a simulated rescue. She wishes to assign 4 teams to the snowmobile group and 4 teams to the helicopter group.

## R: Programming Language



## www.randomization.com

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## www.randomization.com



## Stratified Randomization

- Balances a suspected covariate
- Must know the covariate at the outset of experiment
- Complicated if there are multiple covariates
- Should be considered when there are obvious significant covariates...especially if sample size is small

#### Stratified Randomization

Twenty students will be randomized to simulation training or no-training prior to a live exercise. The researchers will pick 4 students from each of the 5 years of the residency training, and wish to make sure that the groups are balanced but randomized.

## www.sealedenvelope.com

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## Covariate Adaptive Randomization

- New participants are assigned to a particular group depending on the characteristics of those in the study.
- Useful when the subjects are not known before the trial starts
- Usually reserved to complex trials

## Randomization

Questions?

# Data Collection

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## Data Collection

How can we tabulate our data for future analysis?

# Options

- How can we tabulate our data for future analysis?
  - Paper tables
  - Simple spreadsheets
    - Excel
  - Database
    - MySQL
  - Direct format for statistics software:
    - SAS
    - R
    - Others

#### Which to Choose?

Unless you are CERTAIN of what software will be used for the entire analysis, the best way to tabulate data is probably a spreadsheet.

Data will need to be read into a statistics software package

All common statistics software will be able to read the spreadsheet *if it is formatted properly*.

# Spreadsheets

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## Tips for Using Spreadsheet

- Best to use only one sheet per workbook
- Should be able to save in .csv
- Filename with no spaces, punctuation, or special characters
- Talk to the statistician in advance if you can

# Constructing the Data Table With Excel

- Use a very simple table structure:
  - First column is the response variable
  - Subsequent columns are factors
  - First row is factor names
    - The names are short and will be used for the analysis
    - no spaces
    - No !@#\$%^&\* except underscore (\_)
    - Factor names start with a letter
  - Each row is an observation

#### Entering Data in Spreadsheets

- Leave BLANK if data not available
  - Do not use '0' to mean not available
  - Do not use any words to mean blank
- Be very consistent with formatting:
  - 'Y' vs 'Yes'
  - 'True' vs 'TRUE' vs 'true'
- Don't use Codes
  - Such as '999' for 'too high to measure'
- Use letters (not numbers) for nominal categories if possible

# Example

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## Reading Data to Statistics Software

All popular software packages will be able to read your excel sheet if properly formatted!!

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## Tips for Using Statistics Software

- Write reusable code (either scripts or functions).
- Your code should read the data file each time.
- Avoid proprietary data formats
- Most Important: Software makes it very easy to use multitudes of tests, make sure you know the right ones, and how to apply them

## Data Tabulation

Questions?

# Objectives

- Understand the principles of how to randomize and take a random sample
- Understand how to tabulate data for future statistical analysis