



Biostatistics: The Bare Essentials with SPSS

Geoffrey R. Norman, PhD, David Streiner

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This new edition of *Biostatistics: The Bare Essentials* continues the tradition of translating biostatistics in the health sciences literature with clarity and irreverence. Students and practitioners alike applaud *Biostatistics* as a practical guide that exposes them to every statistical test they are likely to encounter, with careful conceptual explanations and a minimum of algebra.

The previous edition of *Bare Essentials* presented hierarchical linear modeling, which first appeared in psychology journals and has only recently been described in the medical literature. The 3rd edition also introduced a chapter on testing for equivalence and non-inferiority as well as a chapter with information for getting started with the computer statistics program SPSS.

A very positive review of the 3rd edition of the book by Dr. Naomi Vaisrub appeared in JAMA which praised the book but recommended covering topics in epidemiology, so in the 4th edition the authors took her up on it. They have also included an entirely new chapter, called "Measures of Impact," in which they discuss how to measure incidence and prevalence, risk, morbidity and fatality rates, and the number needed to treat. They also delve into the Poisson distribution for doing regressions on count data. Likewise, the reader will find new sections on robust estimators of the mean, the problems of multiple hypothesis testing, bootstrapping and resampling, as well as an expanded section on nonparametric stats.

Another recommendation the authors have incorporated into the 4th edition is to offer suggestions for how results should be reported in spite of the fact that this can get a bit tricky, since various journals especially in different disciplines report statistics in diverse ways.

Free of calculations and jargon, Bare Essentials speaks so plainly that you will not need a technical dictionary. The focus is on the concepts, not the math. The objective is to enable you to determine whether the research results are applicable to your own patients.

Throughout, you will find highlights of areas in which researchers misuse or misinterpret statistical tests. The authors have labeled these C.R.A.P. Detectors (Convoluting Reasoning and Anti-Intellectual Pomposity), and they help you identify faulty methodology and misuse of statistics.

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