JOHNS HOPKINS BLOOMBERG SCHOOL of PUBLIC HEALTH

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Section G

Estimating Confidence Intervals for the Proportion of a Population Based on a Single Sample of Size *n*: Some Examples

Estimating a 95% Confidence Interval

- In last section we defined a 95% confidence interval for the population proportion *p*
- Interval given by $\hat{p} \pm 2SE(\hat{p}) : \hat{p} \pm 2 * \sqrt{\frac{p \times (1 - p)}{n}}$
- Problem: we don't know *p*
  - Can estimate with $\hat{p}$, such that our estimated SE is
  - $S\hat{E}(\hat{p}) = \sqrt{\frac{\hat{p} \times (1 - \hat{p})}{n}}$
- Estimated 95% CI for based on a single sample of size *n*
  - $\hat{p} \pm 2 \times \sqrt{\frac{\hat{p} \times (1 - \hat{p})}{n}}$

Example 1

- Proportion of dialysis patients with national insurance in 12 countries (only six shown . . .)

EXHIBIT 1
Descriptive Measures Of The Prevalent Cross-Sectional Patient Sample, Dialysis Patients In Twelve Countries, 2002–2004

	A/NZ (n = 561)	BEL (n = 468)	CAN (n = 503	FRA (n = 481)	GER (n = 524)	ITA (n = 540)
Mean age (years)	59.9 (14.7)	66.2 (13.4)	62.1 (14.7)	64.1 (14.5)	61.7 (14.1)	64 (13.7)
Minority[a]	21.5%	5.3%	18.7%	7.1%	0.4%	0.4%
Income ($US)						
<$20,000	85.0%	73.4%	71.8%	67.0%	59.7%	78.3%
$20,000–$39,000	9.1	17.5	20.8	21.8	27.1	17.4
≥$40,000	5.9	9.1	7.4	11.2	13.1	4.2
Insurance type						
National only	69.8%	74.1%	79.6%	45.5%	95.4%	99.6%
Private only	5.4	0.4	0.2	0.2	2.9	0.0
Mean number of comorbid conditions[b]	3.7 (2)	3.9 (2.1)	4.1 (2.1)	3.1 (1.9)	3.4 (2.1)	2.7 (1.9)
Mean number of prescribed medications	8.7 (3.6)	9.9 (4.1)	12.6 (4.8)	7.7 (3.5)	9.7 (3.5)	6.4 (3.6)

- Example, France: $\hat{p} = \frac{219}{481} = .46$

Example 1

- Estimated confidence interval

$$\hat{p} \pm 2 \times \sqrt{\frac{\hat{p} \times (1 - \hat{p})}{n}}$$

$$.46 \pm 2 \times \sqrt{\frac{.46 \times (1 - .46)}{481}}$$

$$.46 \pm 2 \times .023$$

$$.46 \pm .046$$

$$(.414,.505) \approx (.41,.51)$$

$\rightarrow$ *41% to 51%*

Example 1 in Stata

- Can use *cii* command for binary outcomes to get CIs for *p*

- Syntax: *cii n y*
  - Where *n* is the total sample size, *y* is number of "yes" outcomes

- National health insurance in France

```
. cii 481 219, bin

                                                         -- Binomial Exact  --
    Variable |        Obs        Mean    Std. Err.       [95% Conf. Interval]
-------------+---------------------------------------------------------------
             |        481    .4553015    .0227068        .4101514    .5010042
```

Example 2

- Maternal/infant transmission of HIV
  - HIV-infection status was known for 363 births (180 in the zidovudine (AZT) group and 183 in the placebo group)
  - Thirteen infants in the zidovudine group and 40 in the placebo group were HIV-infected

$$\hat{p}_{AZT} = \frac{13}{180} = 0.07 = 7\%$$

$$\hat{p}_{PLAC} = \frac{40}{183} = 0.22 = 22\%$$

Example 2

- Estimated confidence interval for tranmission percentage in the placebo group

$$\hat{p} \pm 2 \times \sqrt{\frac{\hat{p} \times (1-\hat{p})}{n}}$$

$$.22 \pm 2 \times \sqrt{\frac{.22 \times (1-.22)}{183}}$$

$$.22 \pm 2 \times .031$$

$$.46 \pm .062$$

$$(.158,.282) \approx (.16,.28)$$

$$\rightarrow \textit{16\% to 28\%}$$

Example 2 in Stata

- Results from *cii* command

```
. cii 183 40

                                                         -- Binomial Exact   --
    Variable |        Obs        Mean    Std. Err.       [95% Conf. Interval]
-------------+---------------------------------------------------------------
             |        183    .2185792    .0305507         .160984    .2855248
```

Notes on 95% Confidence Interval for Proportion

- Sometimes ± 2 SE($\hat{p}$) is called
  - 95% error bound
  - Margin of error