

PSYC 60 – Statistics
Spring 2012
Notes #6

Book: Chapter 1 - Introduction

Types of Values

Variable - a characteristic or property that takes on values

Parameter - a property of a population

Statistic - a summary calculation of a sample

Measurement Scales

Discrete

Continuous

Variable Types:

Nominal

Ordinal

Interval

Ratio

Intervals: The difference between 130 - 140 lbs represents an amount that is equivalent to the difference between 2010 - 2020 lbs. The difference between 1st and 2nd place may not be comparable to the difference between 712th and 713th place.

Experiment Variables

Independent Variable (IV) - the variable manipulated by experimenter for comparison

Dependent Variable (DV) - the measured value that depends on the IV

Confounding Variable - an uncontrolled factor that compromises interpretation of a study

Experimental Design

Observation

Manipulation

Key characteristics of an experiment

Manipulation

If you don't do this right, your described effect/difference could be due to _____ :

Control

Random Assignment