

DUMMY TABLES

1. Dummy tables are mock tables that you create PRIOR to the analysis
2. I prefer creating them BEFORE i create my data collection sheet and data entry sheet
3. Obviously, I can't create my dummy tables if i am not clear about my research question, the answers I am seeking and the variables I need to get my answers!
4. Each Dummy Table will have rows and columns that mimic a regular data table, except the table is not populated with data
5. I would think over my plan for analysis and then start creating the dummy tables.
6. There are two types of tables I create- a) an exploratory set of tables that I would create to explore the data in detail and which consequently leads to b) a set of tables that I will use to present my data

Example- 1 Table-: Socio demographic details of study respondents

Characteristic	Data
Age in years	Mean, Standard Deviation, Median, Range
Gender	Male- n, %, Female-n, %
Education	No schooling, Primary school, middle school, high school, intermediate, graduate/diploma, post graduate and above
Occupation	Homemaker, Self employed, Employed, Retired, Not employed

Example- 2 Table-Sociodemographicdetails of study respondents

Characteristic	Study Group-1	Study Group-2	Statistical significance (Test, P Value)
Mean age (SD)			
Males n, %			
Post graduates n,%			

No schooling n,%			
Homemakers, n,%			

Example-3 Measures of association of risk factors

Characteristic	Hypertension (n=)	Non Hypertension (n=)	Statistical Significance
Primary School or less			
Current or past smokers			
Diabetes			
Hypothyroid			
Obese			

Example-4 Effectiveness of a test

Test Characteristic	
Sensitivity (95% CI)	
Specificity	
PPV	
NPV	
Likelihood Ratio +	
Likelihood Ratio -	
Area under Curve	

These are just some examples of dummy tables

Why would I do my dummy tables BEFORE i create my data collection sheet?

Because it then helps to crystallize the structure of my variables.

Why would I do it before analysis?

Because it lets me know (even before i collect data) whether the plan of analysis will aid me in answering my research question

What is the other reason I love dummy tables? It often makes me feel like a dummy!