CHAPTER 1

Why the Criminal Justice Researcher Uses Statistics

Chapter 1: Multiple Choice Questions

1. A hypothesis is a(n):

      a. fundamental unit of scientific observation.

      b. statement of the relationship between two or more variables.

      c. scientific fact or truth.

      d. observable and measurable variable.

Answer: b. statement of the relationship between two or more variables.

Objective: Factual

Page number: 2

Level: Basic

2. Which of the following is *not* true of the survey method?

      a. Surveys often seek to reconstruct influences after they have occurred.

      b. Surveys tend to be more representative than experiments.

      c. Surveys establish cause and effect better than experiments.

      d. Surveys usually measure but do not manipulate variables.

Answer: c. Surveys establish cause and effect better than experiments.

Objective: Factual

Page number: 5

Level: Basic

3. Which of the following is *not* a research strategy?

      a. An experiment

      b. A survey

      c. Participant observation

      d. Interval data

Answer: d. Interval data

Objective: Factual

Page number: 2-7

Level: Basic

4. Joining a radical environmentalist group to understand group dynamics and gather data over time is an example of which research strategy?

      a. An experiment

      b. A Meta-analysis

      c. Participant observation

      d. A survey

Answer: c. Participant observation

Objective: Conceptual

Page number: 7

Level: Intermediate

5. Which of the following is true of quasi-experiments?

      a. The research has no control group.

      b. Quasi-experiments are used more often than experiments.in criminal justice research

      c. Quasi-experiments are generally more ethically sound than true experiments.

      d. All of the above statements are true.

Answer: d. All of the above statements are true

Objective: Factual

Page number: 3-4

Level: Basic

6. The most common research strategy in criminology and criminal justice is:

        a. content analysis.

        b. experiments.

        c. surveys.

        d. participation observation.

Answer: c. surveys.

Objective: Factual

Page number: 5

Level: Basic

7. In which of the following research strategies is the independent variable manipulated?

        a. An experiment

        b. A survey

        c. Participant observation

        d. All of the above

Answer: a. An experiment

Objective: Factual

Page number: 2

Level: Basic

8. Studying newspapers and periodicals to investigate a hypothesis about reports of crime is an example of which method of investigation?

      a. Content analysis

      b. Survey method

      c. Quasi-experiment

      d. Participant observation

Answer: a. Content analysis

Objective: Conceptual

Page number: 6

Level: Intermediate

9. Which of the following is true of the survey method?

      a. The research is retrospective.

      b. Surveys can accommodate a large number of dependent variables.

      c. Surveys can be highly representative.

      d. All of the above statements are true.

Answer: d. All of the above statements are true

Objective: Factual

Page number: 7-8

Level: Basic

10. The experimental method investigates the effect of a(n) _____ on a(n) _____.

      a. assumed cause; dependent variable

      b. presumed cause; independent variable

      c. dependent variable; independent variable

      d. independent variable; dependent variable

Answer: d. independent variable; dependent variable

Objective: Factual

Page number: 2

Level: Basic

Instructions: Questions 11-14   refer to the following situation:

A researcher is interested in the influence of after-school supervision of juveniles on their at-risk behaviors. Fifty juveniles participated in an experiment in which twenty-five juveniles were supervised and twenty five were not supervised. A survey asked about their behaviors after school and the researcher recorded the total number of at-risk behaviors during a 2-week period.

11. The number of at-risk behaviors is the _____ variable.

a. independent

b. manipulated

c. random

d. dependent

Answer: d. dependent

Objective: Conceptual

Page number: 2

Level: Basic

12. The manipulation of the subjects, either "supervision" or "no supervision," represents the:

a. independent variable.

b. ordinal level.

c. random variable.

d. dependent variable.

Answer: a. independent variable

Objective: Conceptual

Page number: 2

Level: Basic

13. In this example, the group being supervised is the _____ group.

a. experimental

b. control

c. aggregate

d. hypothetical

Answer: a. experimental

Objective: Conceptual

Page number: 2

Level: Basic

14. In this example, the group that is not being supervised is the _____ group.

a. experimental

b. control

c. aggregate

d. hypothetical

Answer: b. control

Objective: Conceptual

Page number: 2

15. In an experiment, the group not subject to experimental manipulation is called the _____ group.

        a. treatment

        b. independent

        c. random

        d. control

Answer: d. control

Objective: Factual

Page number: 2

Level: Basic

16. Criminal justice researchers use measurement to:

        a. classify or categorize data.

        b. rank order data.

        c. assign a score.

        d. All of the above.

Answer: d. All of the above

Objective: Factual

Page number: 10

Level: Basic

17. Nominal measurement is used primarily to:

        a. classify or categorize data.

        b. rank order data.

c. assign a score.

d. All of the above

Answer: a. classify or categorize data.

Objective: Factual

Page number: 10

Level: Basic

18. Ordinal measurement is used primarily to:

a. classify or categorize data.

b. rank order data.

c. assign a score.

d. All of the above

Answer: b. rank order data.

Objective: Factual

Page number: 11

Level: Basic

19. Interval measurement is used primarily to:

a. classify or categorize data.

b. rank order data.

c. assign a score.

d. All of the above

Answer: c. assign a score.

Objective: Factual

Page number: 11

20. The concept of "mutually exclusive" means that:

   a. there is a category for every case that arises.

   b. there is an order to every set of numbers.

   c. there is one, and only one, category for every case.

   d. None of the above.

Answer: c. there is one, and only one, category for every case.

Objective: Factual

Page number: 10

Level: Basic

21. "Exhaustive" means that:.

   a. there is a category for every case that arises.

   b. there is an order to every set of numbers.

   c. there is one, and only one, category for every case.

   d. None of the above.

Answer: a. there is a category for every case that arises.

Objective: Factual

Page number: 10

Level: Basic

22. Which of the following is *not* a requirement of the nominal scale of measurement?

   a. The cases are mutually exclusive

b. The cases are mutually exhaustive

c. There are equal intervals between the cases

d. None of the above

Answer: c. There are equal intervals between the cases

Objective: Factual

Page number: 10

Level: Basic

23. Statistics are used for:

a. decision making.

b. description.

c. Both a. and b.

d. None of the above

Answer: c. Both a. and b.

Objective: Factual

Page number: 14

Level: Basic

Chapter 1: True-False Questions

1. The survey method is used to manipulate the independent variable.

a. True

b. False

Answer: b. False

Objective: Factual

Page number: 5

Level: Basic

2. The dependent variable affects the independent variable.

        a. True

        b. False

Answer: b. False

Objective: Conceptual

Page number: 2

Level: Basic

3. Variables measured at the nominal level only categorize or classify data.

        a. True

        b. False

Answer: a. True

Objective: Factual

Page number: 10

Level: Basic

4. In the experimental method, the independent variable(s) can be manipulated.

        a. True

        b. False

Answer: a. True

Objective: Factual

Page number: 2

Level: Basic

5. Variables measured at the interval level are assigned a score.

        a. True

        b. False

Answer: a. True

Objective: Factual

Page number: 11

Level: Basic

6. Variables measured at the interval level cannot be used to classify, categorize, or rank order data.

        a. True

        b. False

Answer: b. False

Objective: Factual

Page number: 11

Level: Basic

7. Variables measured at the ordinal level cannot be used to classify or categorize data.

        a. True

        b. False

Answer: b. False

Objective: Factual

Page number: 11

Level: Basic

8. Meta-analysis is the process of combining the results obtained in a number of previous studies and subjecting them all to a single significance test.

       a. True

       b. False

Answer: a. True

Objective: Factual

Page number: 6

Level: Basic

9. Data presented in the Uniform Crime Reports are summary measures.

       a. True

       b. False

Answer: a. True

Objective: Factual

Page number: 7

Level: Basic

10. The NCVS provides information on crimes reported to the police and crimes cleared by arrest

       a. True

       b. False

Answer: b. False

Objective: Factual

Page number: 7

Level: Basic

11. Ordinal level data may be treated as interval if the ordered categories are evenly spaced.

       a. True

       b. False

Answer: a. True

Objective: Factual

Page number: 13

Level: Basic

Chapter 1: Work Questions

Instructions: classify the measurement type in each of the following examples as:

       a. Nominal

       b. Ordinal

       c. Interval/ratio

1. Type of car stolen.

Answer: a. Nominal

Objective: Conceptual

Page number: 10-13

Level: Intermediate

2. Seriousness of offense.

Answer: b. Ordinal

Objective: Conceptual

Page number: 10-13

Level: Intermediate

3. Amount of money stolen in dollars.

Answer: c. Interval/ratio

Objective: Conceptual

Page number: 10-13

Level: Intermediate

4. Alphabetical listing of inmate names.

Answer: a. Nominal

Objective: Conceptual

Page number: 10-13

Level: Intermediate

5. Support for rehabilitation programs (total, some, none).

Answer: b. Ordinal

Objective: Conceptual

Page number: 10-13

Level: Intermediate

6. Racial categories.

Answer: a. Nominal

Objective: Conceptual

Page number: 10-13

Level: Intermediate

7. Fear of crime (a lot, some, none).

Answer: b. Ordinal

Objective: Conceptual

Page number: 10-13

Level: Intermediate

8. Sentence length (in years).

Answer: c. Interval/ratio

Objective: Conceptual

Page number: 10-13

Level: Intermediate

9. Number of stolen cars.

Answer: c. Interval/ratio

Objective: Conceptual

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Page number: 10-13

Level: Intermediate