

FAQ 36: What are some good approaches to analysing quantitative data?

What's the issue?

The same general principles apply to the analysis of quantitative data in all studies, no matter whether they

- f* Do not oversimplify things.
- f* Do not make claims that are outside the scope of your data.

A researcher's experience

Sometimes research is conducted under time pressure and that increases significantly the possibility of errors in the findings. One example of how time pressure and undue caution can lead to mistakes is when I was working on a database which included amongst other things, information on children's leisure activities. When making a variable which was supposed to classify the kids into two groups those active in sports and those who were not active I failed to remember that many children engage in more than one sport, and thus classified those who participated in two or three sports activities as being not active instead of active. This error was then discovered two years later when the data was looked at again in