PSCI4120 Public Opinion and Participation
Lab Session 4

Tetsuya Matsubayashi
University of North Texas

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Find a factor that affects mass political participation.

Test the relationship using a cross-tabulation table.
Example: Why do some people care about the campaign, while others do not?

Hypothesis: People’s gender makes a difference. Females are more likely to care about the campaign than males.

Examine the relationship between gender and interest in the campaign.
How do we proceed to test the hypothesis?

1. Separate cases into groups based on their values for the IV

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Care</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do not care</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(100%) (100%)

N=800
2. Compare the values of the dependent variable for those groups

3. Decide whether the values for the DV are different for the different groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Care</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(25%)</td>
<td>(80%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do not care</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(75%)</td>
<td>(20%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(100%)</td>
<td>(100%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N=800</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. Are females more likely to care about the campaign than males?
Let’s examine the relationship using public opinion data.

Use \texttt{v085001b} to measure interest in the election and \texttt{v081101} to measure gender.

First, let’s see a frequency distribution of these two variables.

Syntax commands

\begin{verbatim}
freq var v081101 v085001b.
\end{verbatim}
A Cross-Tabulation Table

- Syntax commands for a cross-tabulation table:
  crosstabs tables v085001b by v081101.
- The order of the variables is important: “attitude/behavior explained by a demographic factor.”
- For your paper, political participation explained by any factor you identify.
A Cross-Tabulation Table

- We use the percentages for interpreting the table.
- Add percentages to the table.
- Syntax commands
  
  crosstabs tables v085001b by v081101
  /cells count column.

- Do the data support hypothesis?
Example: Income and interest in the election.

Use v083249 to measure household income.

Make a cross-tabulation table.

```
crosstabs tables v085001b by v083249
/cells count column.
```

Too many columns!

Use the command **recode** and reduce the number of categories in the variables.
Syntax commands to produce a new income variable with a fewer categories
recode v083249 (1 thru 12=1)(13,14,15,16,17=2)(18 thru 25 =3) into income.
execute.

value labels income 1 ”Low” 2 ”Middle” 3 ”High”.

Make a cross-tabulation table with new variables
crosstabs tables v085001b by income
/cells count column.