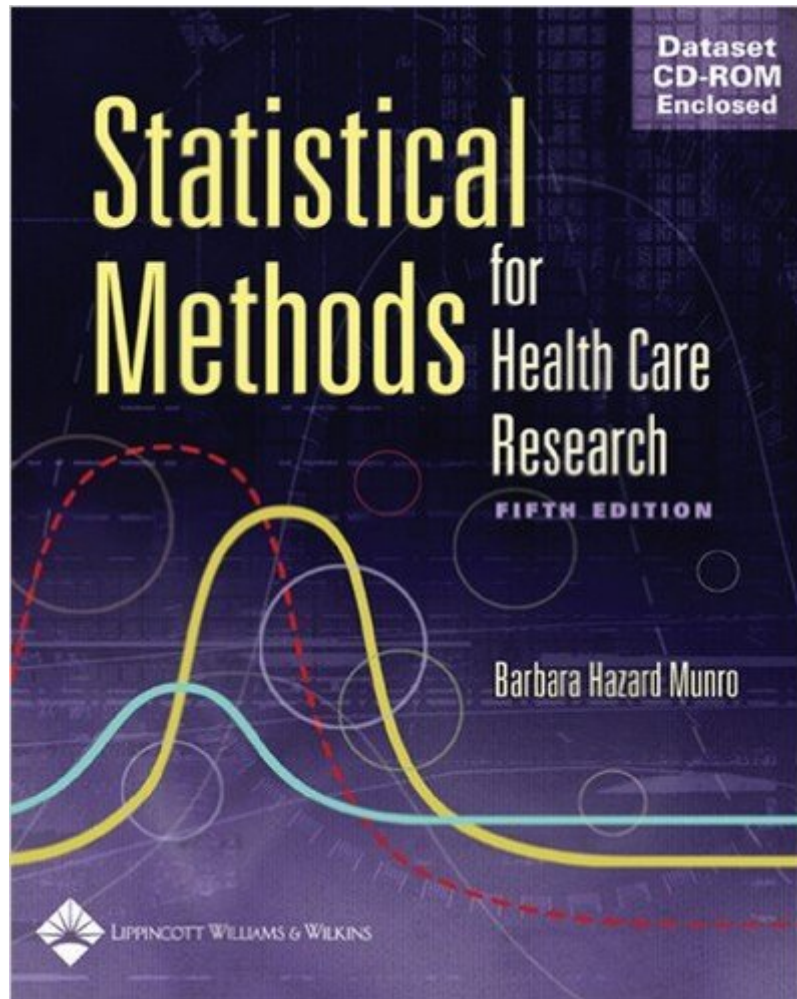


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# Statistical Methods For Health Care Research



## Synopsis

Focusing on the statistical methods most frequently used in the health care literature and featuring numerous charts, graphs, and up-to-date examples from the literature, this text provides a thorough foundation for the statistics portion of nursing and all health care research courses. All Fifth Edition chapters include new examples and new computer printouts using the latest software, SPSS for Windows, Version 12. New material on regression diagnostics has been added.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

An excellent beginning reference book for anyone in need of understanding or interpreting univariate and multivariate statistics. Geared toward health care research, with many examples. A data set is provided with the book for students to use with different analyses. Reading audience is upper division undergraduate or graduate student.

A very well-written and helpful statistics book. It was required reading for a course in Quantitative Nursing Research last semester. Overall, the concepts such as t-tests, correlation and regression were explained in relatively simple terms. Examples with answers were found at the end of each chapter and the book came with a data disk. This was the most user-friendly statistics book that I have used so far!

I questioned reviewing this for two reasons ... first, it's a textbook, and most buyers probably don't have a choice about which Statistics textbook to buy. Secondly, I'm new to statistics, and I'm learning it as a person would learn a foreign language ... from the ground up. That being said, I decided to go forward with it in case it matters in some way with revisions, or if someone out there is looking for a book to use to teach themselves statistics. The book is well laid out, and seems to take things in a logical sequence. I have liked the healthcare-related examples to drive home what they are trying to explain. My issue with this book is that it contains what I suspect are typing errors. As an example... on page 71, the equation is given to calculate z-scores as  $z = (x - \mu) / \sigma \times (3-18)$ . (sorry ... don't know how to type the special symbols, but you get the idea). I worked for quite some time to try to figure out where the (3-18) came from that I was supposed to multiply by, only to conclude that this was a typing error since the formulas are all referenced with chapter number and a sequence of numbers. This one is #3-16, so I think maybe it was type-set with a 3-18 looking like part of the actual formula. Another example is in the chapter review for chapter 2. Question 8 is supposed to (according to the answer key) read: "Standard deviation is best described by which of the following statements? c) It is the variance squared". I spent quite a bit of time trying to figure out why I got this one wrong - but all sources I found reiterate that SD is the square root of the variance, not the variance squared. One final example - on page 67, there is a sample problem concerning probability that states: "the probability of flipping a tail on a coin is .5" ... but when it demonstrates the calculation, it changes the .5 to .05. When you do the math, however, they have the correct answer - so again, just a typing error with it written as:  $.17 \times .05 = .085$ . My point in all this is that it has given me reason to be somewhat suspicious as I move through the book. One could argue that the heightened awareness is helping me learn the material and stay engaged ... I would agree ... but there are enough issues that would make me think twice before recommending this book to others.

UPDATE - In continuing with my study using this textbook, I've discovered an even more significant issue... the z-table (pp. 519-520). In chapter 3 (p. 71) there was a problem using the existing z-table that seems to work out given the numbers in the problem and table, but when I got to chapter 4 (page 87), the numbers that it cites from the z-table aren't on there - anywhere. The z-score is 1.67, and the corresponding value from the table was 24.86. The text walks you through how to look up the value, but then says, "The number that is located at the intersection of the row and column is the area under the curve at and before the z-value; in this case the value is 0.9525." I ended up going online and downloading a z-table, and the numbers do not correlate. Could this be some table that represents something I haven't learned about? Absolutely...but it's the only z-table in the appendix. As a newbie to statistics, they're sending me on LOTS of research trips to find out

how to solve these discrepancies. So either the book is error-filled or extremely confusing for a newcomer. I changed my mind ... I'd go 2 stars.

This book is written for PhD level students. It is not an easy read, even for someone who has had statistics before. I would not recommend this text to anyone except experienced statistics students.

I had to buy this for a graduate class. Math/statistics (in any form or variety) is NOT my strong point. The book did a really good job explaining concepts. I actually got a A in the course (I'm still in shock over that!).

Even though I read a lot of books, I do not often write book reviews - this is only my second review. If you are looking for an excellent book about statistical methods in the health sciences, this is the best book on the subject! It is very professional, and yet as clear as statistics can possibly be. Highly recommended for teaching both undergraduate and graduate students!

Although it is a used book, it's in good condition including the CD. To the content, it's very suitable for readers who are multivariate statistics beginners, no matter which major you study. All chapters are easy to understand with great instruction. And the price is very cheap for this second hand book!

This book is well written and provides clear and concise description regarding basic to advanced statistical techniques. The book provides excellent examples applicable to the health care industry. Good selection.

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