

How to report statistics in medicine

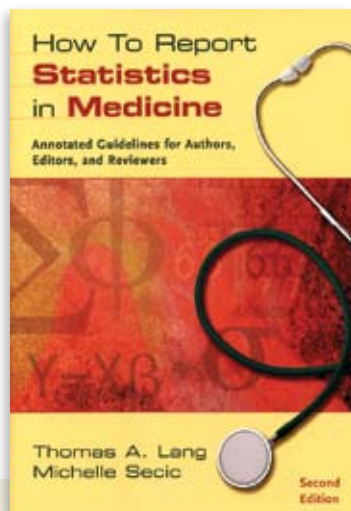
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PUBLISHER American College of Physicians, 190 N Independence Mall W, Philadelphia, PA 19106-1572, USA;

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PUBLISHED 2006/490 pp/\$54.95 (US)



OVERALL RATING Excellent

STRENGTHS Comprehensive; successfully explains complex statistical concepts; well organized

WEAKNESSES None

AUDIENCE Health practitioners, especially family physicians

Written for health care providers in a language that is neither condescending nor full of jargon, *How to Report Statistics in Medicine* is a very comprehensive book about statistics. The authors accurately explain complex statistical concepts without overwhelming readers with how to obtain the results.

The book helps readers to properly report and understand research findings; it does not attempt to teach how each technique is applied to the data.

The authors emphasize the importance of comprehending the assumptions from various statistical techniques used to analyze data and present the strengths and limitations of each technique with reasons that are easy to understand.

The book's introduction is a great navigational tool for readers, as it helps them quickly find the chapters relevant to their needs. The introduction is followed by a section called Differences Between Clinical and Statistical Significance, an area usually neglected by textbooks despite its importance in understanding research results.

The book is divided into 6 parts, which include chapters within them. Chapters contain many examples that illustrate the main points, and each chapter has its own list of references. There is also an extensive list of general references provided for the reader with an appetite for more details.

Statistical terms are boldfaced throughout the book, making readers more comfortable with the jargon. Guidelines are numbered for easy reference, and icons are used to indicate special features of the guidelines.

I highly recommend this book to all health practitioners. The breadth of topics covered in the book is particularly useful to family physicians, as their practices cover a range of clinical areas.

—Edmee E. Franssen MSc PStat

Ms Franssen is a Lecturer in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto in Ontario and is a Consultant Statistician for GlaxoSmithKline.

Living with diabetes: a practical guide to managing your health

AUTHORS Rosemary Walker, Jill Rodgers, Canadian Diabetes Association

PUBLISHER Dorling Kindersley Ltd, 662 King St W, Ste 304, Toronto, ON M5V 1M7;

TELEPHONE 416 469-4008;

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PUBLISHED 2005/224 pp/\$30.00

OVERALL RATING Excellent

STRENGTHS Readable; solution focused; very good question-and-answer vignettes included in most chapters; contains many practical tips

WEAKNESSES None

AUDIENCE Canadians living with diabetes and their support networks

Living with Diabetes aims to present a practical and comprehensive guide to Canadians living with diabetes. Guides targeted at patient populations, rather than at health care professionals, should present solid evidence in a manner that can be easily understood by the range of people suffering from the illness. Guides should also contain helpful advice and provide solutions to the day-to-day issues that might reasonably be experienced. This book, published in cooperation with the Canadian Diabetes Association, certainly meets these criteria.