

Descriptive Statistics

Psychology

Choosing the right measure of central tendency and spread.

Level of measurement against the appropriate statistic.

Level	Example	Use
Nominal	Categories	Mode only
Ordinal	Ranks, Likert	Median, range
Interval	Temperature, IQ	Mean, SD
Ratio	Time, weight	Mean, SD, ratios

The mean is inappropriate for ordinal data, though it is used constantly for Likert scales. Know why that is contested.