

BIOST / STAT 579
Paper Assignment

Due: Saturday, December 10, 2011 12:00 midnight

Write up the results of your analysis of the pregnancy data on the class web pages. This report should look like a formal report to a statistically naive client (i.e., the researcher who brought you the data and/or involved you in the analysis) or an interested lay person. More formal suggestions of its format is given in the description on the class web pages.

GROUND RULES

You may not talk to anyone about this project except the instructor. This prohibition extends until December 20, 2011.

All writing in your report must be your own. Any plagiarism of documents you obtain from any source will cause failure on the project (and the course).

Grading

Written report

Your papers will be graded with respect to three major areas:

1. Scientific approach
 - a. Did you investigate problems in the sampling that might materially affect the results?
 - b. In addressing each of the questions, did you choose appropriate models to answer the scientific questions?
2. Statistical approach
 - a. Were the methods chosen appropriate for the data at hand? Were any key assumptions violate?
 - b. Were the methods chosen reasonably efficient?
3. Written report
 - a. Were your findings well documented in a succinct manner?
 - b. Was the report written at an appropriately low level?

Final Examination

Your final examination will be a 30 minute oral defense of your analysis and report. I reserve the right to question you on general issues related to statistical analysis, though they will generally be couched in terms of your analysis or alternative analyses of the data.

The format of this exam is to mimic that of the oral defense of the Ph.D. Applied Exam. In particular, you will be given an opportunity to correct any errors that you have discovered between handing in your report and the time of your oral defense.

As these sessions will be exams, you are expected to refrain from discussing any aspects of your oral exam with others until all students have completed their defenses.

Mutually agreeable times for the oral defense will be solicited via email.