

13. *Writing about Data and Methods*

SOLUTIONS

1. Information you would report in a data section for a scientific paper for the specified studies.
 - a. What were the demographic characteristics (when? where? who?) of those in the study? How were subjects recruited? What was the baseline response rate among recruits? What percentage of the initial sample was lost to follow-up and how? How did the sample compare demographically to all clients at that rehab center? How were “cure” and “relapse” defined and measured? By whom were these assessments made?
 - b. Again, the W’s. How were they recruited, what was the response rate, and how did the sample compare to all pregnant women? Were they asked specifically about calcium intake or to list foods? Were open- or closed-ended questions asked about food?
3. Loss to follow-up, how income data were collected (using what methods and data sources? total or by components? in what ranges? continuous or categorical?).
5. Information on each of the items used to comprise each of the six outcome measures (dependent variables) and the method of data collection. Information on the development, reliability, and validity of those items. For example, what was the wording of the three items included in the “danger” scale? How were they coded? From what sources were those items drawn? Are those three items the standard measure of danger in other related studies? If not, how were they developed? Were they pretested on similar populations?
7. With regard to the analysis of attrition in Carr’s study on widowhood:
 - a. $\text{Logit}(\text{attrition}) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \text{Age} + \beta_2 \text{Anxiety} + \beta_3 \text{Homeowner}$.
 - b. Whether those who participated at wave 2 were representative of the original wave 1 sample in terms of major sociodemographic and health characteristics.

- c. "An analysis of attrition showed that older respondents, those with higher anxiety, and those who did not own their homes were more likely to drop out between waves 1 and 2. As a consequence, these results about psychological adjustment to widowhood may not be generalizable to people in those groups because they were under-represented in the sample used in this analysis."