

# Central Limit Theorem

Math 230: Introductory Statistics

## 1

### 1.1 Goals

#### Goals of this class meeting

- Learn about the behavior of statistics obtained from samples.
- Learn about the particular behavior of the sample mean, and the importance of the normal distribution.

## 2 Sampling distributions

### 2.1 Definition

#### Sampling distribution

- Imagine taking a sample of size 100 from a population and computing some kind of statistic.
- The statistic you compute can be anything, such as: mean, median, mode, standard deviation, variance, range, a weighted mean, or anything else you might imagine.
- Suppose you repeated this experiment over and over: take a sample of 100 and compute and record the statistic.
- A **sampling distribution** is the probability distribution *of the statistic*
  - Is this the same thing as the probability distribution of the population? **NO! They may coincidentally be the same though.**
  - The re-sampling experiment is assumed to be done *with replacement* to assure the samples are independent.

## 2.2 Desirable qualities

### Desirable qualities

What are some qualities you would like to see in a sampling distribution?

- The average of the sample statistics is equal to the true population parameter.

$$\mu_{\bar{x}} = \mu$$

- Want the variance *of the sampling distribution* to be as small as possible. Why?
- Want the *sampling distribution* to be normal, regardless of the distribution of the population.

## 3 Central Limit Theorem

### Central Limit Theorem

- Given:
  - Suppose a RV  $x$  has a distribution (it need not be normal) with mean  $\mu$  and standard deviation  $\sigma$ .
  - Suppose a sample mean is computed from a sample of size  $n$ .
- Then, if  $n$  is sufficiently large, the sampling distribution of  $\bar{x}$  will have the following properties:
  - The sampling distribution of  $\bar{x}$  will be normal.
  - The mean of the sampling distribution will equal the mean of the population (consistent):

$$\mu_{\bar{x}} = \mu$$

- The standard deviation of the sampling distribution will decrease with larger sample sizes, and is given by:

$$\sigma_{\bar{x}} = \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}}$$

### Central Limit Theorem: Small samples

If  $n$  is small (rule of thumb:  $n < 30$ )

- The sample mean is still consistent.
- Sampling distribution will be normal if the distribution of the population is normal.

## 4 Examples

### 4.1 Example 1

#### Example 1

Suppose average birth weight is  $\mu = 7lbs$ , and the standard deviation is  $\sigma = 0.8lbs$ .

What is the probability that a sample of size  $n = 30$  will have a mean of  $7.3lbs$  or greater?

$$z = \frac{\bar{x} - \mu_{\bar{x}}}{\sigma_{\bar{x}}} = \frac{\bar{x} - \mu}{\sigma/\sqrt{n}}$$
$$z = \frac{7.3 - 7}{0.8/\sqrt{30}} = 2.05$$

The probability the sample mean is greater than  $7.3lbs$  is:

$$P(\bar{x} > 7.3) = P(z > 2.05) = 0.0202$$

### 4.2 Example 2

#### Example 2

Suppose average birth weight is  $\mu = 7lbs$ , and the standard deviation is  $\sigma = 0.8lbs$ .

What is the probability that a randomly selected baby will have a weight of  $7.3lbs$ ? What do you need to assume to answer this question? Must assume the population is normally distributed. Why?

$$z = \frac{\bar{x} - \mu}{\sigma} = \frac{7.3 - 7}{0.8} = 0.38$$

The probability that a baby is greater than  $7.3lbs$  is:

$$P(x > 7.3) = P(z > 0.38) = 0.352$$

### 4.3 Example 3

#### Example 3

- Suppose average birth weight of all babies is  $\mu = 7lbs$ , and the standard deviation is  $\sigma = 0.8lbs$ .
- Suppose you collect a sample of 30 newborn babies whose mothers used illegal drugs during pregnancy.

- Suppose you obtained a sample mean  $\bar{x} = 5.5lbs$ . If you assume the mean birth weight of babies whose mothers used illegal drugs has the same sampling distribution as the rest of the population, what is the probability of getting a sample mean this low or lower?

**Example 3 continued**

$$z = \frac{\bar{x} - \mu_{\bar{x}}}{\sigma_{\bar{x}}} = \frac{\bar{x} - \mu}{\sigma/\sqrt{n}}$$
$$z = \frac{5.5 - 7}{0.8/\sqrt{30}} = -10.27$$

The probability the sample mean is less than or equal to 5.5lbs is:

$$P(\bar{x} < 7) = P(z < -10.27) = 0.0000$$

This is an extremely unlikely event if the assumption is true. Therefore it is likely the assumption is not true.

## 5

### Homework

- Section 6-5: Problems 5 through 13 odd.
- All answers are in the back.
- The even problems will make for useful practice when studying for a future exam.