Stat 257.01 Fall 2004 Assignment #2 (Selected) Solutions

(3.2) Since the forester wants to estimate the total number of trees on a tree farm, and since a map of the farm is available, we can assume that the population consists of all trees grown at this tree farm. There are two possible approaches that I see here. The first would say that it is unreasonable to compile a listing of every single tree on the farm to use as a frame. Instead, therefore, we can use the map of the farm to divide the land into approximately rectangular subareas of say 16 square yards and label those plots in order from 1 to N. In this case, our sampling units are the subplots (which may consist of one tree, no trees, or more than one tree), and our frame is exactly this listing of the sampling units that we've created. Randomly select n of the N plots to sample, and count the proportion of trees in those n plots whose diameter exceeds 12 inches. An alternative view might argue that since this is a *tree farm*, the trees are systematically planted in rows with a fixed spacing between trees, and a fixed number of trees in each row. If this is the case, then the map of the tree farm might indeed list each and every tree planted on the farm. Hence, we could then take as our sampling units the individual trees, and use the tree farm map as our frame.

(3.14) As noted on page 69, a pretest is important because it allows the investigator to field-test the questionnaire or other measurement device, to screen and correct interviewers, and to check the management of field operations. Essentially, the pretest is a trial-run of the whole survey, except that it is conducted on a smaller scale, and might not include the necessary randomness. For example, consider a survey which is conducted via door-to-door personal interviewers. If the goal is to test questions, and train the interviewer, then it is both more costly and more time-consuming to randomly select houses all over the city. Instead, it is easier and cheaper to simply ask the households located on the streets near the survey headquarters.

(3.23) (a) Since the *rating* for a program is the percentage of *sampled* households that have their TV set turned on and tuned to that program, and since their are 4000 households sampled, we see that 1 rating point is equivalent to 1% of sampled households, or 40 households.

(b) One share is going to be larger than one rating. Since one share for a program means that 1% of viewing households are tuned to the program, and since there are approximately 92.1 million viewing households, we conclude that one share (1% of 92.1 million) is larger than one rating (1% of 4000).

(c) Since 60 Minutes had a rating of 21.7, that means that 21.7% of sampled households, or 868 sampled households, were tuned to 60 Minutes.

(d) One bias that immediately springs to mind is that if a household is selected as one of the 4000, then that household *knows* it has been selected because the people in the household are asked to record their TV viewing. This may mean that individuals are more likely to watch TV when they otherwise would not be, or they may intentionally distort their viewing (or recording) in an attempt to raise the rating of a particular favourite show.

(3.29) (a) The total that never smoked is 7213 + 2482 + 744 + 1878 = 12317. Hence, the proportion of those who never smoked that think their peers care a lot about staying away from marijuana is $7213/12317 \approx 0.59$.

(b) The total of current smokers is 857 + 1102 + 298 + 1312 = 3569. Hence, the proportion of current smokers who think their peers care a lot about staying away from marijuana is $857/3569 \approx 0.24$.

(c) The total that care a lot is 7213 + 2693 + 75 + 857 = 10838. Hence, the proportion of those who think their peers care a lot about staying away from marijuana that have never smoked is $7213/10838 \approx 0.67$.

(d) The total that don't care is 1878 + 1550 + 119 + 1312 = 4859. Hence, the proportion of those who think their peers don't care about staying away from marijuana that have never smoked is $1878/4859 \approx 0.39$.

(Note that these are the type of proportions that need to be computed when carrying out a Chi-squared (χ^2) test.)

(e) Non smokers care more about staying away from marijuana than current smokers (59%, 24%, respectively). Also from (a) and (b), among those who care a lot about staying away from marijuana, 59% were non smokers while 24% were current smokers.