

APA Guidelines for Presenting Statistical Information

When reporting statistics in your writing, it's essential to provide sufficient detail for readers to grasp the nature and results of the study. The amount of information shared will vary depending on the study's complexity, but APA style provides consistent principles for presenting statistical data clearly and concisely.

Key guidelines include:

- Do not cite sources for statistics unless they are unusual, used in a nonstandard way, or are central to the topic of your paper.
- Avoid including formulas for commonly used statistics such as the mean or t test.
- Refrain from repeating descriptive statistics in the narrative if they are already displayed in a figure or table.
- Use terms such as “respectively” and “in order” when listing multiple statistics to indicate their corresponding relationships clearly.

Punctuation and Formatting Rules for Statistics

Follow these punctuation and formatting standards to maintain consistency:

- Use parentheses for statistical values: e.g., $(p = .42)$.
- Enclose degrees of freedom in parentheses: e.g., $t(45) = 4.35$ or $F(3, 87) = 2.11$.
- Use brackets for confidence intervals: e.g., 89% CIs $[3.45, 2.7]$, $[-6.0, 3.89]$, and $[-7.23, 1.89]$.

Text formatting conventions include:

- Greek letters, identifier subscripts, and abbreviations that do not represent variables should be written in standard (non-italicized, non-bold) typeface.
- Use boldface for matrices and vectors (e.g., V , Σ).
- Use italics for statistical symbols, except for matrices and vectors (e.g., t , F , N).
- Use an italic, uppercase “ N ” to represent the total population (e.g., $N = 328$).
- Use an italic, lowercase “ n ” to refer to a sample from the population (e.g., $n = 42$).