13. Analysing Quantitative Data

How to do your Social Research Project or Dissertation

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Publisher: Oxford University Press
DOI: 10.1093/hepl/9780198811060.001.0001
Print Publication Date: Oct 2019
Published online: Oct 2019
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Chapter: (p. 233) 13. Analysing Quantitative Data

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DOI: 10.1093/hepl/9780198811060.003.0013

This chapter discusses two approaches to analyse quantitative data: descriptive statistics and inferential statistics. Descriptive statistics allows the student to summarize and describe data, whereas inferential statistics enables him or her to infer answers from the data using hypotheses. Both approaches can be extremely useful. The chapter details some of the techniques associated with these approaches, and helps the student to choose which techniques are appropriate for the data collected. In showing how to present data appropriately, it also explores ways to discuss findings in an evidence-informed manner. By introducing some of the basic ideas involved in quantitative analysis, the chapter provides students with skills that can be employed in a quantitative dissertation.