

Formulae for Reliability Studies

1. Spearman-Brown

$$r^1 = \frac{Lr}{1+(L-1)r}$$

This is used to estimate the reliability of a test if it were of a different length (L).

L of the original test is 1

$$r^1 = \frac{2r}{1+(2-1)r}$$

To estimate the reliability of a full-length test from a split-half reliability r, L should have a value of two (or twice as long).

Split-half tests show reliability of a test half as long as the original.

2. Flanagan's Formula

$$r = 2\left(1 - \frac{S_a^2 + S_b^2}{S^2}\right)$$

Flanagan's formula yields a more accurate split-half reliability by taking the variances of the two parts into account.

S_a^2 is the variance of part a

S_b^2 is the variance of part b

S^2 is the variance of total scores

3. Kuder-Richardson

$$r_{KR20} = \frac{k}{k-1} \left(1 - \frac{\sum pq}{S^2}\right)$$

Use Kuder-Richardson formula to compute for internal consistency of test items.

p is the proportion passing a given item

q is the proportion not passing a given item

$$q = 1 - p$$

S^2 is the variance of the total scores

k is the number of test items

Formula KR21 is easier to use but is less accurate, here $\bar{p} = \bar{X}/k$, assuming the test items are of equal difficulty

$$r_{KR21} = \frac{k}{k-1} \left(1 - \frac{k\bar{p}\bar{q}}{S^2}\right)$$

4. Cronbach Alpha

$$r_{\alpha} = \frac{I}{I-1} \left(1 - \frac{\sum S_i^2}{S^2}\right)$$

Use this for tests having several parts

I is the number of parts

S_i^2 is the variance of scores of part i

5. Standard Error of Measurement

$$SE_m = 43\sqrt{k}$$

Use this to estimate SE_m in terms of raw scores

$$SE_m = \frac{43}{\sqrt{k}}$$

Use this to estimate SE_m in terms of percent scores (as in a poll $\bar{o} \pm 3\%$)