

Handout 10

Fun with Numbers: Calculating Risk Ratios

Your assignment | Calculate the likelihood (risk ratio) of Hispanic/Latino students with disabilities (ages 6-21) being identified as having a specific learning disability in State ABC.

What we know about State ABC | Here are data reported by the state both publicly and to OSEP. You can use them to complete your assignment.

- Total # of Hispanic/Latino students enrolled in schools in State ABC: **176,000**
- # of Hispanic/Latino students identified as having a specific learning disability in State ABC: **7,000**

- Total # of enrolled students from all other racial/ethnic groups in State ABC: **902,414**
- # of students from all other ethnic groups identified as having a specific learning disability in State ABC: **23,417**

First, calculate the risk of being identified with a specific learning disability if you are an Hispanic/Latino student in this state.

How "Risk" is Calculated

$$\frac{\text{\# of children from "Y" racial or ethnic group (or groups) experiencing "X" outcome}}{\text{\# of children from "Y" racial or ethnic group (or groups) enrolled in the LEA}} \times 100 = \text{Risk}$$

Second, calculate the risk of being identified as having a specific learning disability if you're a student from any other racial/ethnic group (the comparison group).

How to calculate the risk of the comparison group

$$\frac{\text{\# of children from all other racial or ethnic groups experiencing "X" outcome}}{\text{\# of children from all other racial or ethnic groups enrolled in the LEA}} \times 100 = \text{Risk}$$

Finally, calculate the likelihood (risk ratio) of Hispanic/Latino students with disabilities (ages 6-21) being identified as having a specific learning disability in State ABC.

Risk of the racial/ethnic group in question

$$\frac{8}{6} = 1.3$$

Risk of the comparison group

The risk ratio

How You Read a Risk Ratio
Black students are 1.3 times more likely than their non-Black peers to be identified with intellectual disabilities

How would you describe your findings to others?