

## Quantitative Assessment

(This can be administered on an exam if the instructor desires to again test students' understandings of quantitative concepts.)

**Multiple Choice. Circle the correct answer for each question.**

1. A \_\_\_\_\_ variable is the one that influences or causes a change in the other variable.
  - a. independent
  - b. control
  - c. dependent
  - d. spurious
  - e. mediating
2. A sociologist is studying whether gender influences Americans' likelihood of supporting the legalization of abortion. Which of the following is her dependent variable:
  - a. gender
  - b. whether one has ever received an abortion
  - c. Americans
  - d. support for the legalization of abortion
  - e. none of the above
3. Sociologists typically incorporate \_\_\_\_\_ variables into their analysis in order to ensure that the presence of outside factors isn't responsible for the relationship documented between an independent and dependent variable.
  - a. categorical
  - b. control
  - c. continuous
  - d. discrete
  - e. both b and d

**Short Answer.**

4. View the table below. Afterwards, answer the questions that follow.

Table 1. Poverty in America

PovLevel

Poverty	NearPoor	Middle	Comf
11.04%	8.19%	50.57%	30.2%
21,912,662	16,256,932	100,387,360	59,935,794

Source: American Community Survey, 2010.

a. What percentage of people are living in poverty?

b. What percentage of people are considered “comfortable?”

5. View the table below. Afterwards, describe the relationship between gender and poverty level. Your response should be roughly three sentences.

Table 2. Poverty Level by Gender

**Percent Down: PovLevel/Gender**

	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Poverty</b>	9.3%	12.6%	11%
<b>NearPoor</b>	7.4%	8.9%	8.2%
<b>Middle</b>	51.1%	50.1%	50.6%
<b>Comf</b>	32.1%	28.4%	30.2%
<b>Total</b>	100%	100%	100%

Source: American Community Survey, 2010.

6. Below, you'll see that we now control for educational level. Describe whether the findings (the story) changes after controlling for educational level. Be sure to provide numerical evidence to support your answer. You should take some notes over the patterns in the data prior to answering this question.

Table 3. Poverty Level by Gender among High School Graduates

Control: EducAll= HSGrad.

	Male	Female	Total
<b>Poverty</b>	10.7%	14.4%	12.7%
<b>NearPoor</b>	9%	11.1%	10.1%
<b>Middle</b>	60.4%	56.8%	58.5%
<b>Comf</b>	19.9%	17.6%	18.7%
<b>Total</b>	100%	100%	100%

Source: American Community Survey, 2010.

Table 4. Poverty Level by Gender among College Graduates

Control: EducAll= CollGrad.

	Male	Female	Total
<b>Poverty</b>	4.1%	4.9%	4.5%
<b>NearPoor</b>	3.1%	3.6%	3.4%
<b>Middle</b>	41.2%	44.5%	42.9%
<b>Comf</b>	51.7%	46.9%	49.2%
<b>Total</b>	100%	100%	100%

Source: American Community Survey, 2010.

Table 5. Poverty Level by Gender among Master's Degree holders

Control: EducAll= Masters.

	Male	Female	Total
<b>Poverty</b>	3%	3.4%	3.2%
<b>NearPoor</b>	2.1%	2.2%	2.1%
<b>Middle</b>	32%	35.1%	33.7%
<b>Comf</b>	62.9%	59.3%	60.9%
<b>Total</b>	100%	100%	100%

Source: American Community Survey, 2010.

Table 6. Poverty Level by Gender among PhD holders

Control: EducAll= PhD-Prof.

	Male	Female	Total
<b>Poverty</b>	2.6%	3.8%	3.1%
<b>NearPoor</b>	1.7%	2%	1.9%
<b>Middle</b>	23.4%	25.7%	24.2%
<b>Comf</b>	72.3%	68.5%	70.8%
<b>Total</b>	100%	100%	100%

Source: American Community Survey, 2010.

Provide your answer to question 6 here. Your response should be roughly 4-5 sentences.