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Quiz 2

Question 1: Describe the following three methods used on collecting data: surveys, observations, and archives/archival data.

-When collecting data there are a few measurement methods that are used to collect data. The following are:

Surveys: these involve asking people to report on their own attitudes and behaviors. Surveys can provide insight into how individuals see themselves and allow the researcher to obtain information about people's thoughts and feelings that cannot be directly observed.

Observations: these involve observing and recording the behavior of humans or animals. Observations can stand alone, or they may supplement other research methods. They focus on what people actually do, not what they say, do or intend to do.

Archives/Archival: these involve the analysis of existing data or records. This begins with a careful review of existing research followed by the development of testable hypothesis that build on research from the past.

Question 2: Explain the difference between probability and nonprobability sampling. In a perfect world, which of the two would researchers prefer to use and why?

-Probability sampling is any method of sampling that uses random selection. All members of a particular population or subpopulation have an equal chance of being selected. Nonprobability sampling is any method of sampling that does not rely on random selection. There is no set sample size that can be reached that gives confidence that a nonprobability sample will represent the population. In a perfect world, a researcher would prefer probability sampling.

Question 3: Chapter 5 talked about measures of central tendency and measures of variability. Compare and contrast each. How can each one be used to describe a sample of respondents to a survey?

- Measures of central tendency and measures of variability are both components of descriptive statistics and provide information about data sample scores. Measures of central tendency is a number that represents the central score, around which other scores cluster. Measures of variability describe how much scores differ in a sample. Central tendency can be used to describe a sample of respondents to a survey by the mean, median and mode. Measures of variability can be used to describe a sample of respondents to a survey by including min and max scores, range and standard deviation.

Question 4: Discuss one thing you learned in chapter 4 or 5 not covered in the questions above.

-One thing I learned from chapter five was choosing the appropriate descriptive statistics. Sometimes data can be all over the place and needs to be organized so that the delivery can be understood. The specific descriptive statistics used will depend on the type of measurement scale. Some statistics will be displayed in bar graphs, frequency charts or tables, etc. All which show different variables, numbers, etc. I was having issues with deciding what I will use to present my data and what will be my data consists of numerically. This section of chapter five was insightful.