

Part II

Descriptive and Categorical Analysis

The first step in any epidemiological analysis should be describing your data. If you're working with existing data, you will uncover anomalies, errors, and idiosyncrasies that must be addressed early in your analysis. It is only after cleaning your data that you should turn to looking at potential patterns and associations. Much of epidemiology involves categorical outcomes like morbidity and mortality, so we turn to this task first. If, though, your main outcome of interest is continuous, you will want look at the material in Part III of this text.