Iris Eekhout

After finishing a master in Clinical Psychology and a master in Methodology and Statistics at Leiden University, Iris Eekhout worked as a PhD student at the EMGO Institute for Health and Care Research and the department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics of the VU University medical center in Amsterdam on a project about handling missing questionnaire items and total scores.

In research, missing data occur when a data value is unavailable. Many empirical studies encounter missing data. Missing data can occur in many stages of research due to many different causes in many different forms. For example, missing data can take place on one or more of the measured variables that are used as a predictor, covariate or outcome. Missing data can also occur on a multi-item questionnaire due to questions that have not been filled-out by the participant. In that case some items can be missing, or the entire questionnaire might not be filled out. These different forms of missing data can have different underlying causes and might require different solutions. The performance of missing data methods depends on several aspects of the study and the missing data. These are the analysis method that is applied to analyze the dataset (i.e., longitudinal analysis or not), the location of the missings in the analysis model (i.e., predictor/ covariate or outcome), the missing data mechanism (i.e, MCAR, MAR, MNAR), the overall percentage of subjects with missing data, and the level of missing data in the questionnaire (i.e., item score or total score missings). This dissertation aims to help researchers find an advised solution to their specific missing data problem.

www.missingdata.nl

Don't Miss Out! Incomplete data can contain valuable information

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