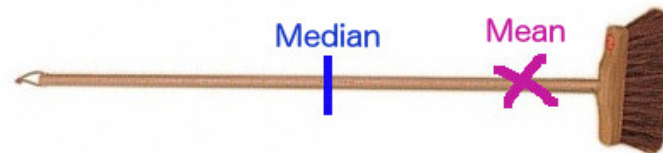




Mean and Median



Mean

To find the mean (or 'average') of some numbers, add them up and divide by the number of items.

- The mean is one dimensional. It does not tell you anything about the spread of the data.
- The mean is sensitive to outliers, therefore the mean might be a number that doesn't actually exist in the data.

Median

To get the median of some data, arrange it from smallest to largest and pick the number in the middle. So the median of 1, 5, 6, 8, and 10 is 6.

- The median is also a one dimensional measure of central tendency.
- The median of 1, 5, 6, 8, and 100,000 is also 6 because the median is insensitive to outliers
- Calculating the difference between the mean and median can tell you a lot about your data. If they are close or identical, the data is probably not affected by skew. If the mean is larger than the median, the data is right skewed.

For convenience, the results of many studies are reported in terms of mean or median

Never forget that summary statistics can provide a misleading picture, especially the mean

Good luck out there!!
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