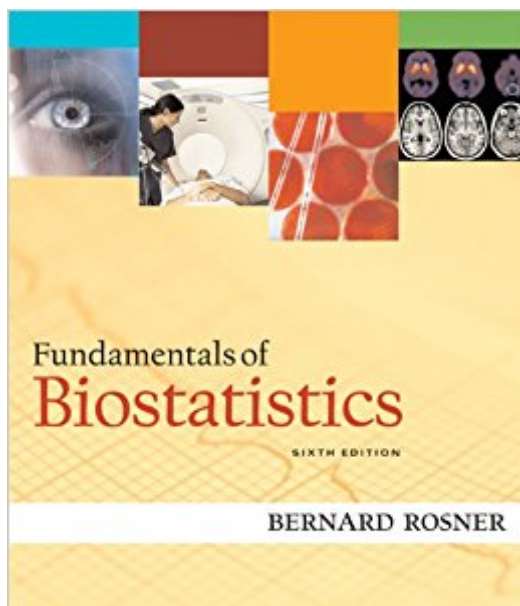


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Fundamentals Of Biostatistics (with CD-ROM)



Synopsis

Bernard Rosner's FUNDAMENTALS OF BIOSTATISTICS is a practical introduction to the methods, techniques, and computation of statistics with human subjects. It prepares students for their future courses and careers by introducing the statistical methods most often used in medical literature. Rosner minimizes the amount of mathematical formulation (algebra-based) while still giving complete explanations of all the important concepts. As in previous editions, a major strength of this book is that every new concept is developed systematically through completely worked out examples from current medical research problems.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Bernard Rosner is Professor in the Department of Medicine, Harvard Medical School, and the Department of Biostatistics at the Harvard School of Public Health. Dr. Rosner's research activities currently include longitudinal data analysis, analysis of clustered continuous, binary and ordinal data, methods for the adjustment of regression models for measurement error, and modeling of cancer incidence data.

My nickname for the book is Rotten Rosner. He makes almost everything confusing and his selected examples to demonstrate statistical applications are usually awful. The medical studies he uses generally are not logical, ignore confounders, and often do not answer their initial research question. His use of symbols (from where?) needlessly complicates poorly presented topics, making

his presentations difficult or impossible to understand. A typical example is the z-table which is labelled x, A, B, C, D. A good textbook helps you understand the material. A bad textbook renders the subject harder to understand. This is an awful textbook.

Dr. Rosner's book tends to be excessively wordy and somewhat of an enigma of explanations when a simple step by step explanation of multiple derivatives of the same calculation would be much more helpful to students. The book tends to give a perspective on one specific means of deriving a problem as an example, instead of issue multiple different avenues of problems involving the same equation. The upside to the issue is that the book does contain answers to many of the chapter questions (answers located in the back). (NOTE: Unfortunately, his book is of very little, if any, help if you are taking his class, so consider ordering an additional guide to help you through it.)

This is a great text for an introductory class. Problems in the book are similar to the examples so that students can easily figure out what they are doing. The CD included with the text is a good resource for users of the text and even provides chapter notes and more sample problems along with the solutions to those problems. The only thing that I did not like is the text focuses mainly on using Excel where most students are taught to use SAS or SPSS. The text in most cases tell how to work things out in Excel, the basically states well you can figure this out in SAS if needed. It would be nice if there was at least some Supplement on the CD to tell how to work things out in SAS or SPSS.

Unless this book is a requirement for your class, don't waste your money. I was having difficulty comprehending my lectures in Biostatistics so I turned to this book as a resource since it was a recommended text. It has proven completely useless. I turned to this book seeking clarification on several concepts introduced in class. Most of the basic definitions were simply given as equations with little or no explanation. Also missing is any practical application of the information provided. Unless you are very comfortable using equations as definitions and sole explanations of concepts, bypass this book.

I really am not a fan of this book. The text is so dense that it's incredibly hard to get any sort of clear grasp on what the author is trying to say. I know of several intro stat books that I think do a much better job.

I was in a sense forced to purchase this text as it was the official text for my class. Unfortunately, if you are a researcher just trying to obtain a basic understanding of the field of statistics, this is not the book for you. There is very little that is understandable to a beginner or even to someone with some basic knowledge in the field. This book is purely meant for the statistician. Norman and Streiner's text on biostatistics and Andy Field's text on Statistics and SPSS are written in plain language. They are easy to understand and get the concepts across with only the bare minimum of formulas thrown around. This book's primary usefulness is its comprehensiveness, but that only goes so far when the text is just unintelligible to most of us mere mortals.

I too had to purchase this as the official text for my course. I found it very difficult to follow concepts in this book and I had just finished a college intro to statistics course. In the end, I had to rely completely on my professor's explanations.

Big book, but very nicely laid out easy to find terms and sections, definitely love the structure of this book

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