

5.6 Sampling Distributions for Differences in Sample Proportions

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 8 marks

KEY WORDS sampling distribution 抽样分布

Objective

Build the skills to answer exam questions on **the sampling distribution of a difference in sample proportions**.

You must be able to:

- use the mean $\mu_{\hat{p}_1 - \hat{p}_2} = p_1 - p_2$
- use the standard deviation $\sqrt{\frac{p_1(1-p_1)}{n_1} + \frac{p_2(1-p_2)}{n_2}}$

1 Worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a question type used later.

■ Difference in proportions

To compare two groups, use $\hat{p}_1 - \hat{p}_2$:

$$\mu_{\hat{p}_1 - \hat{p}_2} = p_1 - p_2, \quad \sigma = \sqrt{\frac{p_1(1-p_1)}{n_1} + \frac{p_2(1-p_2)}{n_2}}.$$

Notice the two variances **add** under the square root (the samples are independent).

■ A worked value

Two machines have defect rates $p_1 = 0.10$ ($n_1 = 100$) and $p_2 = 0.06$ ($n_2 = 150$). Then

$$\mu = 0.10 - 0.06 = 0.04, \quad \sigma = \sqrt{\frac{0.10(0.90)}{100} + \frac{0.06(0.94)}{150}} \approx \sqrt{0.001276} \approx 0.036.$$

2 Practice

2.1 Write the mean of the sampling distribution of $\hat{p}_1 - \hat{p}_2$. [1]

2.2 For $p_1 = 0.5$, $n_1 = 50$, $p_2 = 0.4$, $n_2 = 50$, find the standard deviation. [2]

2.3 State what this sampling distribution is used to compare. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 The mean of $\hat{p}_1 - \hat{p}_2$ is [1]

A	B
C	D

A $p_1 \cdot p_2$

B $p_1 - p_2$

C $p_1 + p_2$

D 0

3.2 The standard deviation of $\hat{p}_1 - \hat{p}_2$ combines the two variances by [1]

A	B
C	D

A subtracting them

B adding them

C multiplying them

D dividing them

3.3 $p_1 = 0.6$, $n_1 = 100$, $p_2 = 0.5$, $n_2 = 100$.

(a) Find the mean of $\hat{p}_1 - \hat{p}_2$. [1]

(b) Write the formula for its standard deviation. [1]