

## Use of statistical symbols or mathematical expressions

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|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Use italics for letters used as statistical symbols or algebraic variables</b><br><i>M, SD, SE, Cohen's d, t, F, r, p, n, z, df, <math>x + y = z</math></i>                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>However, use standard (nonitalic) type for Greek letters</b><br>$\beta, \alpha, \chi^2, \lambda$                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Do not use italics for the nonstatistical subscripts to statistical symbols or mathematical expressions</b><br><i>F</i> <sub>max</sub> , <i>R</i> <sup>2</sup> , <i>b</i> <sub>i</sub> , <i>M</i> <sub>girls</sub>                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Put a zero before the decimal point when a number is less than 1 but the statistic can exceed 1</b><br>Cohen's <i>d</i> , <i>t</i> values, <i>F</i> value, <i>z</i> values                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Do not use a zero before a decimal when the statistic cannot be greater than 1</b><br>proportion, correlation, <i>p</i> values                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Do not define symbols or abbreviations that represent statistics and abbreviations or symbols composed of Greek letters</b><br><i>M, SD, F, t, df, p, N, n</i>                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Define other abbreviations</b><br>AIC, ANOVA, BIC, CFA, CI, NFI, RMSEA, SEM                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Put a space before and after a mathematical operator (e.g., minus, plus, greater than, less than)</b><br>$x = y + z, p < .001, M_{\text{girls}} = 3.45$<br><b>For a negative value, put a space only before the minus sign, not after it</b><br>The regression coefficient was significant ( $\beta = -.47, p < .05$ ).<br>The mean difference is $-2.23$ . |
| <b>Use the symbol or abbreviation for statistics with a mathematical operator</b><br>$M = 7.7$<br><b>Use the term, not the symbol, for statistics in the text</b><br>The means were...                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>In the text, <i>p</i> value, <i>F</i> test, and <i>t</i> test do not take a hyphen unless used as a modifier (<i>t</i>-test results)</b><br>The <i>p</i> value for the...<br><b>However, they do take a hyphen in table column heads (<i>p</i>-value)</b>                                                                                                   |

**Source:** The Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (7<sup>th</sup> Edition)