

Reliability of Measures

- Reliability refers to the consistency or stability of a measure. A good measure of a variable should be reliable.
- Any observed score on a measure of a variable reflects a true score on the variable plus measurement error.
- A reliable measure has little measurement error. Thus, the observed score on the measure reflects the true score on the variable.
- A measure of a variable that is unreliable cannot be used to study the variable.
- Reliability is often assessed by measuring the same people more than once. A reliable measure will yield the same or almost the same score each time.