

# **BERD Center FAQs About Statistical Consulting**

Tufts Clinical and Translational Science Institute

#### What information will the statistician need before working on my study?

- A brief description of the project is extremely helpful to the statistician. Be prepared to tell the statistician what your study aims and hypotheses are, the study design, how the data were collected, and what analyses you're looking for.
- Sometimes it can be helpful to send your data to the statistician for review when you
  describe your study, but please make sure they know you will be sending it before you do
  so.
- If your study involves data from human subjects, we need confirmation that the study has approval from the Tufts Health Sciences Institutional Review Board (IRB) before we can work on your project. (If you are at another institution, we will need to submit some paperwork to the Tufts IRB.)
- Please de-identify all data before you send it to us. We cannot accept data that includes patient identifiers, including medical record numbers (MRNs).

## What format should my data be in?

Discuss this with your statistician. We often get datasets in Excel or SAS, but can read data in a number of formats.

## How long will it take the statistician to do the work and how much will it cost?

After the statistician understands what type of work you need, they will give you an estimate of the timeline for completing the project and the number of hours it should take. The cost will depend on the number of hours the statistician spends on the project and the type of work needed. Please contact us for our current rates.

#### If I pay for services, do I need to acknowledge the statistician in my publications?

Yes. If the statistician has substantially contributed to the project and final manuscript, they should be included as a co-author. Most journals have guidelines for authorship criteria. Discuss authorship directly with your statistician.

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