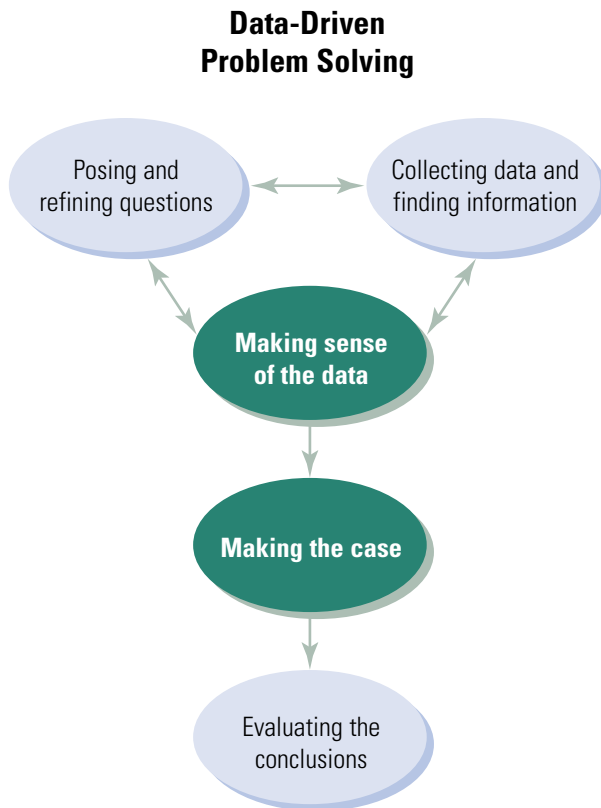


3 Tools for Analyzing Data



Descriptive statistics is the branch of mathematics that describes a data set using visual displays such as graphs and numbers. It is often useful to summarize large data sets in order to make comparisons upon which decisions will be based. For naturally occurring data, you may want to determine how one piece of data compares to the rest.

While many of the measures you will investigate will be familiar to you, this chapter will deepen your understanding of these measures and make them applicable to your course project.

In this chapter, you will

- create histograms and bar graphs for quantitative information
- determine and interpret the measures of central tendency, deviation, and indices based on a data set
- use normal distribution to describe a population and to make comparisons between one value and the rest of the normal distribution