

# Statistical Consulting Services

# Biostat/Statistics Service

## What we offer:

- Free program offered by graduate students (with faculty supervision) in Biostatistics and Statistics
- Provide assistance with:
  - > Design
  - > Data collection strategies
  - > Data summary and display
  - > Analysis advice (occasional help with actual analysis)

# What we don't offer:

- ◉ Tutorials on use of statistical packages
- ◉ Consultants have familiarity with some standard packages (Stata, SPSS, SAS), and may be able to help trouble shoot code

# Making an Appointment

- ◉ <http://www.stat.washington.edu/consulting/>
- ◉ Calendar of available times
- ◉ Submission of Problem Description
  - > Describe scientific question
  - > Provide references or detail as appropriate
  - > Indicate type of help desired
  - > Send questionnaires (if appropriate)

# For your appointment

- Come prepared to discuss the scientific problem (we can't help if we don't understand the science)
- Have a clear understanding of the goals of your study
- If possible, bring summaries of your data (plots, frequencies, etc)
- If you have run analyses, bring the output

# Examples of Projects That Come to Consulting

- Chart review with small numbers of variables; analysis required more technical skill than student could do on own
- Questions of design/power. Student returned a following quarter for guidance on analysis
- Help with interpretation of analyses

# Examples of Projects That Come to Consulting

- Large data set with many collection problems and many questions. While we could help, ultimately the number of requests for analysis were too much for us and we had to limit access
- Literature review (not appropriate for us, though advisor had told student to come)
- A 'Virtual study'; student was to design a trial, wanted us to write stats/do design.

# Examples of Projects That Come to Consulting

- Large data set; student had no focused goals and wanted us to tell him/her what questions to ask
- Existing data set; student told to ask for a 'power' calculation



# Advice about picking a project

- Consider time limitations (if you have to wait months to get access to a data set, you may run out of time)
- Be sure you are clear on the scientific question
- Consider whether the question can be answered (e.g. comparison of treatments from a registry)
- If you are going to need to collect/extract data, get advice first