

AP Statistics: Collecting Data
Mr. Murphy

- 1) Alzheimer's disease results in a loss of cognitive ability beyond what is expected with typical aging. A local newspaper published an article with the following headline.

Study Finds Strong Association Between Smoking and Alzheimer's

The article reported that a study tracked the medical histories of 21,123 men and women for 23 years. The article stated that, for those who smoked at least two packs of cigarettes a day, the risk of developing Alzheimer's disease was 2.57 times the risk for those who did not smoke.

- (a) Identify the explanatory and response variables in the study.

Explanatory variable:

Response variable:

- (b) Is the study described in the article an observational study or an experiment? Explain.
- (c) Exercise status (regular weekly exercise versus no regular weekly exercise) was mentioned in the article as a possible confounding variable. Explain how exercise status could be a confounding variable in the study.

- 2) To compare success rates for treating allergies at two clinics that specialize in treating allergy sufferers, researchers selected random samples of patient records from the two clinics. The following table summarizes the data.

	Clinic A	Clinic B	Total
Unsuccessful treatment	51	33	84
Successful treatment	88	35	123
Total	139	68	207

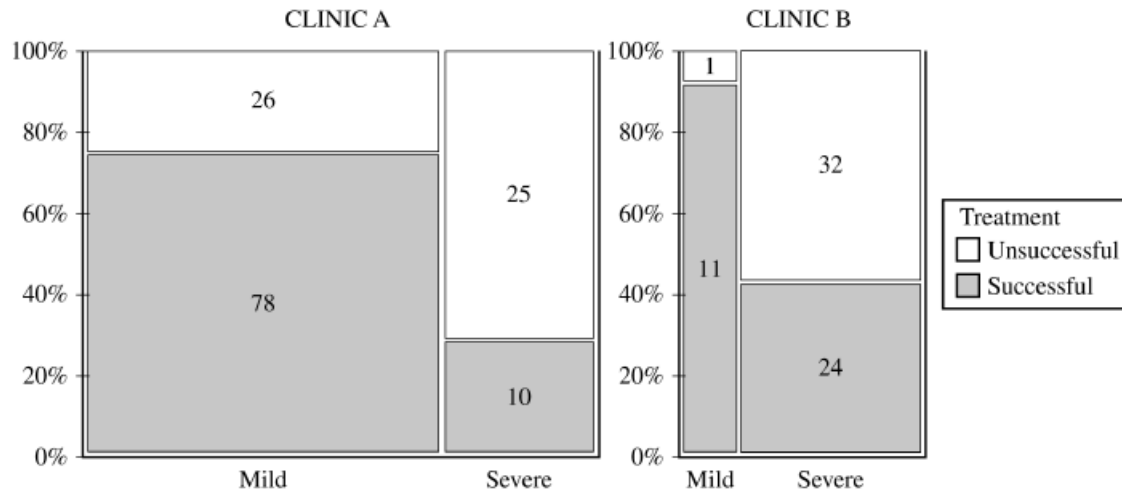
- (a) (i) Complete the following table by recording the relative frequencies of successful and unsuccessful treatments at each clinic.

	Clinic A	Clinic B
Unsuccessful treatment		
Successful treatment		

- (ii) Based on the relative frequency table in part (a-i), which clinic is more successful in treating allergy sufferers? Justify your answer.

- (b) Based on the design of the study, would a statistically significant result allow the researchers to conclude that receiving treatments at the clinic you selected in part (a-ii) causes a higher percentage of successful treatments than at the other clinic? Explain your answer.

A physician who worked at both clinics believed that it was important to separate the patients in the study by severity of the patient's allergy (severe or mild). The physician constructed the following mosaic plot. The values in the mosaic plot represent the number of patients who were either successfully treated or unsuccessfully treated in each allergy severity group within each clinic. For example, the value 78 represents the number of patients successfully treated in the mild group within Clinic A.



Based on the mosaic plot, the physician concluded the following:

For mild allergy sufferers, **Clinic B** was more successful in treating allergies.

For severe allergy sufferers, **Clinic B** was more successful in treating allergies.

(c) (i) For each clinic, which allergy severity is treated more successfully? Justify your answer.

- Clinic A:

- Clinic B:

(d) Using your answers from part (c), give a reasonable explanation of why the more successful clinic identified in part (a-ii) is the same as or different from the physician's conclusion that Clinic B is more successful in treating both severe and mild allergies.