

Math Skills For Quantitative Public Health Courses

1/30/2009

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Why Worry about Math?

- To enable the study of statistics at an appropriate applied level
- To not waste time of those who are prepared
- To improve grades in the course

To prevent interference with ability to learn course content

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Math Competencies

- Competency needed at arithmetic and *pre*-algebra level
- **How to prepare** \Rightarrow a separate handout listing topics & review materials is provided
- Key to success **self-responsibility**

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The Math Pretest

- 20–25 questions
- Given on Bb platform
- Closed book
- No calculator
- Pencil and paper required
- Do your best *on each problem*

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Areas to be Tested

- Sums (addition), differences (subtraction), products (multiplication), and ratios (division)
- Order of operations (implied)
- Fractions, decimals, percents, ratios, proportions
- Significant digits
- Scientific notation (e.g., 2.3×10^5)
- Rounding
- Simple equations and checking of solutions
- Negative numbers
- Word problems
- Basic properties of exponents and logarithms
- No trig or geometry

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Surgeon General's Warnings



SURGEON GENERAL'S WARNING:

Inability to do basic math causes confusion, poor grades, frustration, wasted time, and the inability to learn applied biostatistics.

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