

## CHAPTER 2

# COMMONLY USED ACRONYMS, SYMBOLS, ABBREVIATIONS, AND TERMS FOUND IN RESEARCH AND EVALUATION STUDIES

Often, when you pick up a research or evaluation study or report to read or assess, the terms, abbreviations, symbols, or acronyms used within it are rather confusing. Researchers who write such reports need to be both technical and precise; however, they should be able to write their studies in much simpler ways than they do. The dissemination of important knowledge needs to be conveyed in ways that all consumers can understand (a main rationale for this glossary). The following is not a complete listing of such terms, just ones that pop up with high frequency in various research studies, reports, and journals.

### FREQUENTLY USED TERMS IN RESEARCH AND EVALUATION STUDIES

- ABI** Absolute benefit increase  
**ARI** Absolute risk increase

<b>Answ.</b>	Answer
<b>APA</b>	American Psychological Association
<b>CATI</b>	Computer-assisted telephone interviewing
<b>CBA</b>	Cost-benefit analysis
<b>CEA</b>	Cost-effectiveness analysis
<b>CER</b>	Control event rate
<b>CoE</b>	Code of ethics
<b>DSM</b>	<i>Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders</i>
<b>DV</b>	Dependent variable
<b>EBP</b>	Evidence-based practice
<b>EER</b>	Experimental event rate
<b>exp.</b>	Experiment or experimental study
<b>H</b>	Hypothesis
<b>H<sub>a</sub></b>	Alternate hypothesis
<b>H<sub>0</sub></b>	Null hypothesis
<b>HSO</b>	Human service organization
<b>ILL</b>	Interlibrary loan
<b>IRB</b>	Institutional review board
<b>IT</b>	Information technology
<b>IV</b>	Independent variable
<b>IVR</b>	Interactive voice response
<b>MIS</b>	Management information system
<b>NGO</b>	Nongovernmental organization
<b>NNH</b>	Number needed to harm
<b>NNT</b>	Number needed to treat
<b>NPO</b>	Nonprofit organization
<b>NS</b>	Not statistically significant
<b>O/B ratio</b>	Odds-to-benefit ratio

OE	Observed effect or outcome variable (also known as DV)
PE	Program evaluation
PI	Principal investigator
PIN	Personal identification number
QL	Qualitative research
QN	Quantitative research
QoL	Quality of life
Ques.	Question
R or (R)	Randomization
RBI	Relative benefit increase
RCT	Randomized controlled trial
Rel.	Reliability
RRI	Relative risk increase
RRR	Relative risk reduction
S	Statistically significant
SSR	Single-system research
ToC	Table of contents
Val.	Validity
X	Main treatment effect (also known as IV)
X-axis	Horizontal line on a graph
Y-axis	Vertical line on a graph

### COMMON STATISTICAL TERMS

$\alpha$	Cronbach's alpha coefficient
ANCOVA	Analysis of covariance
ANOVA	Analysis of variance
ARIMA	Autoregressive integrated moving average
$\beta$	Probability of a Type II error or power of test

<b>CFA</b>	Confirmatory factor analysis
<b>CI</b>	Confidence interval
<b>Crosstabs</b>	Chi-square statistics
<b><i>cum.f</i></b>	Cumulative frequency
<b><i>d</i></b>	Cohen's measure of effect size
<b><i>df</i></b>	Degrees of freedom
<b>EFA</b>	Exploratory factor analysis
<b><i>f</i></b>	Frequency
<b><i>F</i></b>	<i>F</i> -test or Fisher's <i>F</i> ratio
<b>HLM</b>	Hierarchical linear modeling
<b>K-S</b>	Kolmogorav-Smirnov test
<b><i>M</i></b>	Mean
<b>MANOVA</b>	Multiple analysis of variance
<b><i>Mdn</i></b>	Median
<b><i>Mo</i></b>	Mode
<b><i>MS</i></b>	Mean square
<b><i>n</i></b>	Sample
<b><i>N</i></b>	Population
<b>OLS</b>	Ordinary least squares regression model
<b>OR</b>	Odds ratio
<b><i>p</i> &lt; .05</b>	Statistically significant
<b><i>p</i> &gt; .05</b>	Not statistically significant
<b><i>P</i>-value</b>	The attained level of significance
<b><math>\rho</math></b>	Spearman's rank order correlation
<b><i>r</i></b>	Correlation coefficient
<b><math>R^2</math></b>	Regression
<b><i>Ra</i></b>	Range
<b><math>S^2</math></b>	Sample variance
<b><i>SD</i></b>	Standard deviation

<i>SE</i>	Standard error
<i>SEM</i>	Standard error of measurement
<i>SEM</i>	Structural equation modeling
<i>SED</i>	Standard error of the difference
<i>t</i>	Student's <i>t</i> -test
<i>T</i>	Standardized <i>T</i> -score
Type I	Type I error
Type II	Type II error
<i>U</i>	Mann-Whitney <i>U</i> test
<i>Var</i>	Variance, also $SD^2$
<i>W+</i>	Wilcoxon sign rank test
$\chi^2$	Chi-square distribution
<i>y</i>	Dependent variable in regression analysis, or vertical axis in a graph
<i>Z</i>	Standard normal distribution
%	Percent
>	Greater than
<	Less than
=	Equal to
≠	Not equal to
≈	Approximately equal to
$\theta$	Effect size
$\Sigma$	Sum
$\wedge$	Wilks's lambda

### WEB TERMS

**EBSCOhost** databases that provide premium online information resources for tens of thousands of institutions worldwide

<b>.edu</b>	domain name for educational institutions
<b>ERIC</b>	the Education Resources Information Center, an online digital library of education research and information
<b>.gov</b>	domain name for government agencies
<b>Jpeg</b>	a commonly used format for storing compressed photographic images
<b>JSTOR</b>	archives of over one thousand leading academic journals across different disciplines
<b>Mpeg</b>	a standard for audio and video compression and transmission
<b>.net</b>	domain name for networking services
<b>.org</b>	domain name for nonprofit organizations
<b>PsycINFO</b>	abstract database that provides systematic coverage of psychological literature from the 1800s to the present
<b>ProQuest</b>	library archives of sources, such as newspapers, periodicals, dissertations, and aggregated databases of many types
<b>PubMed</b>	national library of medicine's Medline and pre-Medline database
<b>URL</b>	uniform resource locator, a website address
<b>www</b>	World Wide Web

### FEDERAL GOVERNMENT GRANT AND FUNDING RESOURCE ACRONYMS

<b>ACF</b>	Administration of Children and Families
<b>ACF-CCB</b>	Administration of Children and Families—Child Care Bureau

<b>AoA</b>	Administration on Aging
<b>ATF</b>	Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms
<b>BJA</b>	Bureau of Justice Assistance
<b>CDBG</b>	Community Development Block Grant
<b>CDC</b>	Centers for Disease Control
<b>DHHS</b>	Department of Health and Human Services
<b>DJJ</b>	Department of Juvenile Justice
<b>DoA</b>	Department of Agriculture
<b>DoC</b>	Department of Commerce
<b>DoE</b>	Department of Education
<b>DoJ</b>	Department of Justice
<b>DoE</b>	Department of Energy
<b>DoL</b>	Department of Labor
<b>DoT</b>	Department of Transportation
<b>DoT</b>	Department of the Treasury
<b>EDA</b>	Economic Development Administration
<b>EPA</b>	Environmental Protection Agency
<b>FDA</b>	Food and Drug Administration
<b>FEMA</b>	Federal Emergency Management Agency
<b>G.R.E.A.T</b>	Gang Resistance Education and Training
<b>GSA</b>	General Services Administration
<b>HRSA</b>	Health Resources and Service Administration
<b>HSP</b>	Head Start Program
<b>HUD</b>	Housing and Urban Development
<b>IoP</b>	Institute of Peace
<b>JAIBG</b>	Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grants
<b>NCLB</b>	No Child Left Behind

<b>NIAA</b>	National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism
<b>NIC</b>	National Institute of Corrections
<b>NIDA</b>	National Institute on Drug Abuse
<b>NIH</b>	National Institutes of Health
<b>NIJ</b>	National Institute of Justice
<b>NSF</b>	National Science Foundation
<b>OJP</b>	Office of Justice Programs
<b>OMB</b>	Office of Management and Budget
<b>OMH-HHS</b>	Office of Minority Health, Health and Human Services
<b>SAMHSA</b>	Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration
<b>SSA</b>	Social Security Administration
<b>TSA</b>	Transportation Security Administration
<b>VA</b>	Veterans Administration
<b>VAW</b>	Violence Against Women