

Section 3: Bivariate

Crucial points

1. **Remember that correlation does not imply causation**
If there is correlation between two sets of variables, it may be the case that one variable causes the other, but this is not necessarily the case. For example, a third variable might affect both variables.
2. **Look out for outliers**
Just as an outlier can distort the mean in single variable data, an outlier in bivariate data can distort the value of the correlation coefficient. As with single variable data, you should consider whether the outlier could be an error, and whether it should be removed from the data.