Transitions

File: WEMP1

THE DATA

This dataset looks at the employment status of married women. There is a set of simple set of variables. For each individual, data is recorded annually. There are 1425 measurements.

THE VARIABLES

case   individual identifier
femp   wife's employment status; 1=employed, 0=unemployed
year   year (1975 – 1987)
fempt_1   wife's employment status at t-1; 1=employed, 0=unemployed

Spend some a short time getting to know the data?

Crosstabulate wife's current employment status (**femp**) with employment status at t-1 (**fempt_1**). This is sometimes called a transition matrix.

1. What can we infer from this information?

2. Is there a significant relationship between the wife's current employment status and her previous employment status?

Compute a variable **fempt_2** so that 0=employed, 1=unemployed.
(The new variable is the same as **fempt_1** but with the categories reversed).

Crosstabulate wife's current employment status (**femp**) with employment status at t-1 (**fempt_2**).

3. What do you notice about the value of chi-square?

Crosstabulate wife's current employment status (**femp**) with employment status at t-1 (**fempt_1** and **fempt_2**) this time compute **Total** percentages and the McNemar test. This is a nonparametric test for two related dichotomous variables.

4. What do you conclude about the relationship between wife's current employment status and employment status at t-1?

5. What is the McNemar test telling us? Should we beware of variable coding?

6. Why might this be considered a naïve analysis?