

Complete information about the distribution of a phenotype in a population can be given only by specifying the frequency of each measured class, but a great deal of information can be summarized in just two statistics. First, we need some measure of the location of the distribution along the axis of measurement. (For example, do the indi-

vidual measurements of height for male graduates tend to cluster around 100 cm or 200 cm?) Second, we need some measure of the amount of variation within the distribution. (For example, are the heights of the male undergraduates all concentrated around the central measurement or do they vary widely across a large range?)

