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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Cover -- Title Page -- Copyright Page -- Contents -- Preface -- About the companion website -- Chapter 1 Understanding basic numbers -- When is a number large? -- Ratios -- Using ratios to adjust for other variables -- Proportions, percentages and odds -- Percentage difference and percentage change: importance of baseline -- Rounding proportions and percentages -- Probabilities and risks -- Prevalence and incidence rate -- Trusting numbers -- Conclusions -- Further reading -- Exercises -- References -- Chapter 2 Data display and summary -- Types of data -- Stem-and-leaf plots and dot plots -- Box-whisker plots -- Median -- Measures of variation -- Frequency tables and histograms -- Bar charts -- Further reading -- Common questions -- What is the distinction between a histogram and a bar chart? -- What are poor methods of displaying data? -- Displaying data in papers -- Exercises -- References -- Chapter 3 Summary statistics for quantitative data -- Mean -- Variance and standard deviation -- Standard deviation from ungrouped data -- Standard deviation from grouped data -- Normal distribution -- Skewness -- Between-subjects and within-subjects standard deviation -- Common questions -- When should I quote the mean and when should I quote the median to describe my data? -- When should I use a standard deviation

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Sommario/riassunto

"This book is aimed at anyone who needs a basic introduction to statistics in the health sciences. It is based on many years' experience teaching first year medical and health science students. Many of the examples are taken from Primary Care in the UK, which is where I worked for many years. Throughout I have tried to emphasise that Medical Statistics is not just a bag of tricks, and there are many synergies between the methods. It is now over forty years since Swinscow's original edition, and each edition reflected changes in the understanding of medical statistics. Perhaps the greatest change has occurred since the previous edition, which appeared twelve years ago. Despite the efforts of medical statisticians, there was a widespread misuse of p-values, the cornerstone of conventional statistical inference. This led some journals to ban p-values altogether. It is my view that used properly the p-value is a useful concept but this book, as in previous editions of this book, concentrates on estimation rather than just hypothesis testing. The book tries to steer the reader away from an excessive devotion to p-values, to instil a proper appreciation of their usefulness and to emphasise estimation over significance testing"--

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