

BOX 11.2 How to Create a Three-Way Contingency Table

1. Give the table a title in the form of the name of the "*dependent variable*" "by" the "*independent variable*" "controlling for" the "*control variable*."
2. As with a regular contingency table, the independent variable is found in the columns; the dependent variable, in the rows. Insert a table with three more columns (c) than the number of categories in the independent variable (IV); that is, $c = IV + 3$.
3. In addition to two rows for column headings, each section will need enough rows for the number of categories of the dependent variable (DV) plus one for the number of cases and one for the measure of association. Think of the number of categories of the control variable as "CV." To get the number of rows (r), use this formula: $r = (DV + 2)CV + 2$.
4. The first two rows contain headings. The first column heading should identify the control variable; the second, the dependent variable. In the middle columns, place the categories of the independent variable in the second row and center the label of the independent variable in the first row above the categories. The last column of the second row should be headed "Total" for the row marginals.
5. Below the heading in the second column, give the categories of the dependent variable followed by two blank lines. Repeat this as many times as there are categories in the control variable.
6. Go to each time you repeated the first category of the dependent variable. Consecutively place each of the categories of the control variable to the left in the first column.
7. Within the cells, you will include the column percent within each of the sections of the table.
8. Include the row marginals for each section as you would for a regular contingency table, with both the row percent and the number of cases in parentheses.
9. Instead of the complete column marginal, in the second to the last row of each section, just include the column n in parentheses.
10. In the lower right-hand cell for each section, give the value of the measure of association for that section with the appropriate number of stars to indicate statistical significance.
11. Divide the table by lines: at the top and bottom, below the column headings, and between each subsection.
12. Below the table, in a smaller font, give the information necessary to understand it: the data source, the key for statistical significance, and the question wording.