

A: Descriptive statistics organize and summarize information about a sample. They are the first step toward using inferential statistics, which are procedures used to learn whether we can make conclusions about a population based on data from a sample.

3. Why is it the case that in almost any research study, there will be some degree of sampling error?

A: Unless everyone in the population is included in the sample, there will be some discrepancy between the population characteristics and the sample characteristics.