

## 2.3: Measures of the Location of the Data

The common measures of location are quartiles and percentiles.

Quartiles divide an ordered data set into four equal parts. The three quartiles of a data set are labeled as  $Q_1$ ,  $Q_2$ , and  $Q_3$ .

- About one-fourth of the data falls on or below the first quartile  $Q_1$ .
- About one-half of the data falls on or below the second quartile  $Q_2$ .
- About three-fourths of the data falls on or below the first quartile  $Q_3$ .

In the same way, percentiles divide a data set into 100 equal parts.

To calculate quartiles and percentiles, the data must be ordered from smallest to largest. Quartiles divide ordered data into quarters. Percentiles divide ordered data into hundredths. To score in the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of an exam does not mean, necessarily, that you received 90% on a test. It means that 90% of test scores are the same or less than your score and 10% of the test scores are the same or greater than your test score.

Percentiles are useful for comparing values. For this reason, universities and colleges use percentiles extensively. One instance in which colleges and universities use percentiles is when SAT results are used to determine a minimum testing score that will be used as an acceptance factor. For example, suppose Duke accepts SAT scores at or above the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile. That translates into a score of at least 1220.

Percentiles are mostly used with very large populations. Therefore, if you were to say that 90% of the test scores are less (and not the same or less) than your score, it would be acceptable because removing one particular data value is not significant.

The median is a number that measures the "center" of the data. You can think of the median as the "middle value," but it does not actually have to be one of the observed values. It is a number that separates ordered data into halves. Half the values are the same number or smaller than the median, and half the values are the same number or larger. For example, consider the following data: 1; 1.5; 6; 7.2; 4; 8; 9; 10; 6.8; 8.3; 2; 2; 10; 1

Ordered from smallest to largest: 1; 1; 2; 2; 4; 6; 6.8; 7.2; 8; 8.3; 9; 10; 10; 11.5

Since there are 14 observations, the median is between the seventh value, 6.8, and the eighth value, 7.2. To find the median, add the two values together and divide by two.

$$\begin{aligned} 6.8 + 7.2 &= 14 \\ 14 \div 2 &= 7 \end{aligned} \quad (2.3.1)$$

The median is seven. Half of the values are smaller than seven and half of the values are larger than seven.

Quartiles are numbers that separate the data into quarters. Quartiles may or may not be part of the data. To find the quartiles, first find the median or second quartile. The first quartile,  $Q_1$ , is the middle value of the lower half of the data, and the third quartile,  $Q_3$ , is the middle value, or median, of the upper half of the data. To get the idea, consider the same data set: 1; 1; 2; 2; 4; 6; 6.8; 7.2; 8; 8.3; 9; 10; 10; 11.5

The median or **second quartile** is seven. The lower half of the data are 1, 1, 2, 2, 4, 6, 6.8. The middle value of the lower half is two. 1; 1; 2; 2; 4; 6; 6.8

The number two, which is part of the data, is the first quartile. One-fourth of the entire sets of values are the same as or less than two and three-fourths of the values are more than two.

The upper half of the data is 7.2, 8, 8.3, 9, 10, 10, 11.5. The middle value of the upper half is nine.

The third quartile,  $Q_3$ , is nine. Three-fourths (75%) of the ordered data set are less than nine. One-fourth (25%) of the ordered data set are greater than nine. The third quartile is part of the data set in this example.

The interquartile range is a number that indicates the spread of the middle half or the middle 50% of the data. It is the difference between the third quartile ( $Q_3$ ) and the first quartile ( $Q_1$ ).

$$IQR = Q_3 - Q_1 \quad (2.3.2)$$

The *IQR* can help to determine potential **outliers**. A value is suspected to be a potential outlier if it is less than  $(1.5)(IQR)$  below the first quartile or more than  $(1.5)(IQR)$  above the third quartile. Potential outliers always require further investigation.

### Note

A potential outlier is a data point that is significantly different from the other data points. These special data points may be errors or some kind of abnormality or they may be a key to understanding the data.

### Exercise 2.3.1

For the following 13 real estate prices, calculate the *IQR* and determine if any prices are potential outliers. Prices are in dollars.  
389,950; 230,500; 158,000; 479,000; 639,000; 114,950; 5,500,000; 387,000; 659,000; 529,000; 575,000; 488,800; 1,095,000

#### Answer

Order the data from smallest to largest.

114,950 ; 158,000 ; 230,500 ; 387,000 ; 389,950 ; 479,000 ; 488,800 ; 529,000 ; 575,000 ; 639,000 ; 659,000 ; 1,095,000 ; 5,500,000

$M = 488,800$

$$Q_1 = \frac{230,500 + 387,000}{2} = 308,750$$

$$Q_3 = \frac{639,000 + 659,000}{2} = 649,000$$

$$IQR = 649,000 - 308,750 = 340,250$$

$$(1.5)(IQR) = (1.5)(340,250) = 510,375$$

$$Q_1 - (1.5)(IQR) = 308,750 - 510,375 = -201,625$$

$$Q_3 + (1.5)(IQR) = 649,000 + 510,375 = 1,159,375$$

No house price is less than  $-201,625$  However, 5,500,000 is more than 1,159,375 Therefore, 5,500,000 is a potential outlier.

### Solution

Order the data from smallest to largest.

114,950; 158,000; 230,500; 387,000; 389,950; 479,000; 488,800; 529,000; 575,000; 639,000; 659,000; 1,095,000; 5,500,000

$M = 488,800$

$$Q_1 = 230,500 + 387,000 \frac{230,500 + 387,000}{2} = 308,750$$

$$Q_3 = 639,000 + 659,000 \frac{639,000 + 659,000}{2} = 649,000$$

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$$Q_1 - (1.5)(IQR) = 308,750 - 510,375 = -201,625$$

$$Q_3 + (1.5)(IQR) = 649,000 + 510,375 = 1,159,375$$

No house price is less than  $-201,625$ . However,  $5,500,000$  is more than  $1,159,375$ . Therefore,  $5,500,000$  is a potential outlier.

### Try It 2.3.1

For the following 11 salaries, calculate the *IQR* and determine if any salaries are outliers. The salaries are in dollars.

\$33,000; \$64,500; \$28,000; \$54,000; \$72,000; \$68,500; \$69,000; \$42,000; \$54,000; \$120,000; \$40,500

### Exercise 2.3.2

Test scores for a college statistics class held during the day are:

99; 56; 78; 55.5; 32; 90; 80; 81; 56; 59; 45; 77; 84.5; 84; 70; 72; 68; 32; 79; 90

Test scores for a college statistics class held during the evening are:

98; 78; 68; 83; 81; 89; 88; 76; 65; 45; 98; 90; 80; 84.5; 85; 79; 78; 98; 90; 79; 81; 25.5

For the two data sets, find the following:

- The interquartile range. Compare the two interquartile ranges.
- Any outliers in either set.

### Answer

The five number summary for the day and night classes is

Table PageIndex1

	Minimum	$Q_1$	Median	$Q_3$	Maximum
Day	32	56	74.5	82.5	99
Night	25.5	78	81	89	98

Table 2.23

The *IQR* for the day group is  $Q_3 - Q_1 = 82.5 - 56 = 26.5$

The *IQR* for the night group is  $Q_3 - Q_1 = 89 - 78 = 11$

The interquartile range (the spread or variability) for the day class is larger than the night class *IQR*. This suggests more variation will be found in the day class's class test scores.

Day class outliers are found using the *IQR* times 1.5 rule. So,

- $Q_1 - IQR(1.5) = 56 - 26.5(1.5) = 16.25$
- $Q_3 + IQR(1.5) = 82.5 + 26.5(1.5) = 122.25$

Since the minimum and maximum values for the day class are greater than 16.25 and less than 122.25, there are no outliers.

Night class outliers are calculated as:

- $Q_1 - IQR(1.5) = 78 - 11(1.5) = 61.5$
- $Q_3 + IQR(1.5) = 89 + 11(1.5) = 105.5$

For this class, any test score less than 61.5 is an outlier. Therefore, the scores of 45 and 25.5 are outliers. Since no test score is greater than 105.5, there is no upper end outlier.

### Solution

The five number summary for the day and night classes is

	Minimum	$Q_1$	Median	$Q_3$	Maximum
Day	32	56	74.5	82.5	99
Night	25.5	78	81	89	98

Table 2.22

- The *IQR* for the day group is  $Q_3 - Q_1 = 82.5 - 56 = 26.5$

The *IQR* for the night group is  $Q_3 - Q_1 = 89 - 78 = 11$

The interquartile range (the spread or variability) for the day class is larger than the night class *IQR*. This suggests more variation will be found in the day class's class test scores.

- Day class outliers are found using the *IQR* times 1.5 rule. So,

- $Q_1 - IQR(1.5) = 56 - 26.5(1.5) = 16.25$
- $Q_3 + IQR(1.5) = 82.5 + 26.5(1.5) = 122.25$

Since the minimum and maximum values for the day class are greater than 16.25 and less than 122.25, there are no outliers.

Night class outliers are calculated as:

- $Q_1 - IQR(1.5) = 78 - 11(1.5) = 61.5$
- $Q_3 + IQR(1.5) = 89 + 11(1.5) = 105.5$

For this class, any test score less than 61.5 is an outlier. Therefore, the scores of 45 and 25.5 are outliers. Since no test score is greater than 105.5, there is no upper end outlier.

### Try It [Math Processing Error]

Find the interquartile range for the following two data sets and compare them.

Test Scores for Class A

69; 96; 81; 79; 65; 76; 83; 99; 89; 67; 90; 77; 85; 98; 66; 91; 77; 69; 80; 94

Test Scores for Class B

90; 72; 80; 92; 90; 97; 92; 75; 79; 68; 70; 80; 99; 95; 78; 73; 71; 68; 95; 100

### ✓ Example [Math Processing Error]

Fifty statistics students were asked how much sleep they get per school night (rounded to the nearest hour). The results were:

Table PageIndex2

AMOUNT OF SLEEP PER SCHOOL NIGHT (HOURS)	FREQUENCY	RELATIVE FREQUENCY	CUMULATIVE RELATIVE FREQUENCY
4	2	0.04	0.04
5	5	0.10	0.14
6	7	0.14	0.28
7	12	0.24	0.52
8	14	0.28	0.80
9	7	0.14	0.94
10	3	0.06	1.00

**Find the 28<sup>th</sup> percentile.** Notice the 0.28 in the "cumulative relative frequency" column. Twenty-eight percent of 50 data values is 14 values. There are 14 values less than the 28<sup>th</sup> percentile. They include the two 4s, the five 5s, and the seven 6s. The 28<sup>th</sup> percentile is between the last six and the first seven. **The 28<sup>th</sup> percentile is 6.5.**

**Find the median.** Look again at the "cumulative relative frequency" column and find 0.52. The median is the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile or the second quartile. 50% of 50 is 25. There are 25 values less than the median. They include the two 4s, the five 5s, the seven 6s, and eleven of the 7s. The median or 50<sup>th</sup> percentile is between the 25<sup>th</sup>, or seven, and 26<sup>th</sup>, or seven, values. **The median is seven.**

**Find the third quartile.** The third quartile is the same as the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile. You can "eyeball" this answer. If you look at the "cumulative relative frequency" column, you find 0.52 and 0.80. When you have all the fours, fives, sixes and sevens, you have 52% of the data. When you include all the 8s, you have 80% of the data. **The 75<sup>th</sup> percentile, then, must be an eight.** Another way to look at the problem is to find 75% of 50, which is 37.5, and round up to 38. The third quartile,  $Q_3$ , is the 38<sup>th</sup> value, which is an eight. You can check this answer by counting the values. (There are 37 values below the third quartile and 12 values above.)

### Try It 2.3.3

Forty bus drivers were asked how many hours they spend each day running their routes (rounded to the nearest hour). Find the 65<sup>th</sup> percentile.

Table PageIndex3

Amount of time spent on route (hours)	Frequency	Relative Frequency	Cumulative Relative Frequency
2	12	0.30	0.30
3	14	0.35	0.65
4	10	0.25	0.90
5	4	0.10	1.00

## A Formula for Finding the $k$ th Percentile

If you were to do a little research, you would find several formulas for calculating the  $k$ <sup>th</sup> percentile. Here is one of them.

$k$  = the  $k$ <sup>th</sup> percentile. It may or may not be part of the data.

$i$  = the index (ranking or position of a data value)

$n$  = the total number of data

- Order the data from smallest to largest.
- Calculate  $i = k/100(n+1)$   $i = \frac{k}{100}(n+1)$
- If  $i$  is an integer, then the  $k$ <sup>th</sup> percentile is the data value in the  $i$ <sup>th</sup> position in the ordered set of data.
- If  $i$  is not an integer, then round  $i$  up and round  $i$  down to the nearest integers. Average the two data values in these two positions in the ordered data set. This is easier to understand in an example.

### ? Exercise 2.3.3

Listed are 29 ages for Academy Award winning best actors *in order from smallest to largest*.

18; 21; 22; 25; 26; 27; 29; 30; 31; 33; 36; 37; 41; 42; 47; 52; 55; 57; 58; 62; 64; 67; 69; 71; 72; 73; 74; 76; 77

- Find the 70<sup>th</sup> percentile.
- Find the 83<sup>rd</sup> percentile.

#### Answer

a.  $\circ k = 70$

$\circ i$  = the index

$\circ n = 29$

$i = \frac{k}{100}(n+1) = \left(\frac{70}{100}\right)(29+1) = 21$  . Twenty-one is an integer, and the data value in the 21<sup>st</sup> position in the ordered data set is 64 . The 70<sup>th</sup> percentile is 64 years.

b.  $\circ k = 83^{\text{rd}}$  percentile

$\circ i$  = the index

$\circ n = 29$

$i = \frac{k}{100}(n+1) = \left(\frac{83}{100}\right)(29+1) = 24.9$  , which is NOT an integer. Round it down to 24 and up to 25. The age in the 24<sup>th</sup> position is 71 and the age in the 25<sup>th</sup> position is 72 . Average 71 and 72 . The 83<sup>rd</sup> percentile is 71.5 years.



#### Solution

a.  $k = 70$

- $i$  = the index
- $n = 29$

$i = k100k100$ " role="presentation" style="position: relative;">"

$$\frac{k}{100}(n+1) = (7010070100$$

" role="presentation" style="position: relative;">"  $\frac{70}{100}(29+1) = 21$ . Twenty-one is an integer, and the data value in the 21<sup>st</sup> position in the ordered data set is 64. Tl

b.  $k = 83^{\text{rd}}$  percentile

- $i$  = the index
- $n = 29$

$i = k100k100$ " role="presentation" style="position: relative;">"

$$\frac{k}{100}(n+1) = (8310083100$$

" role="presentation" style="position: relative;">"  $\frac{83}{100}(29+1) = 24.9$ , which is NOT an integer. Round it down to 24 and up to 25. The age in the 24<sup>th</sup> position is 71

#### Try It 2.3.4

Listed are 29 ages for Academy Award winning best actors *in order from smallest to largest*.

18; 21; 22; 25; 26; 27; 29; 30; 31; 33; 36; 37; 41; 42; 47; 52; 55; 57; 58; 62; 64; 67; 69; 71; 72; 73; 74; 76; 77

Calculate the 20<sup>th</sup> percentile and the 55<sup>th</sup> percentile.

#### Note

You can calculate percentiles using calculators and computers. There are a variety of online calculators.

#### Exercise 2.3.4

Using Table ? \(\PageIndex{2}\):

- a. Find the 80<sup>th</sup> percentile.
- b. Find the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile.
- c. Find the first quartile. What is another name for the first quartile?

#### Answer

Using the data from the frequency table, we have:

a. Notice there are 50 data values in the table, so  $n = 50$ .

Calculate the index  $i$  as follows:

$$i = \frac{80}{100}(50+1) = 40.8 \quad (2.3.3)$$

Since  $i = 40.8$ , calculate the mean of the 40<sup>th</sup> and 41<sup>st</sup> data values. The 40<sup>th</sup> data value is 8 , the 41<sup>st</sup> data value is 9 , and the mean of these two data values is 8.5 . Thus, the 80<sup>th</sup> percentile is 8.5.

b. Calculate the index  $i$  as follows:

$$i = \frac{90}{100}(50+1) = 45.9 \quad (2.3.4)$$

Since  $i = 45.9$ , calculate the mean of the 45<sup>th</sup> and 46<sup>th</sup> data values. The 45<sup>th</sup> data value is 9 , the 46<sup>th</sup> data value is 9 , and the mean of these two data values is 9 . Thus, the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile is 9 .

c. Another name for the first quartile is the 25<sup>th</sup> percentile. Proceed to calculate the 25<sup>th</sup> percentile: Calculate the index  $i$  as follows:

$$i = \frac{25}{100}(50+1) = 12.75 \quad (2.3.5)$$

Since  $i = 12.75$ , calculate the mean of the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> data values. The 12<sup>th</sup> data value is 6 , the 13<sup>th</sup> data value is 6 , and the mean of these two data values is 6 . Thus, the first quartile is 6 .



#### Solution

Using the data from the frequency table, we have:

a. Notice there are 50 data values in the table, so  $n = 50$ .

Calculate the index  $i$  as follows:

$$i = 80100(50+1) = 40.8 i = 80100(50+1) = 40.8$$

$$i = \frac{80}{100}(50+1) = 40.8$$

Since  $i = 40.8$ , calculate the mean of the 40<sup>th</sup> and 41<sup>st</sup> data values. The 40<sup>th</sup> data value is 8, the 41<sup>st</sup> data value is 9, and the mean of these two data values is 8.5. Thus, the 80<sup>th</sup> percentile is 8.5.

b. Calculate the index  $i$  as follows:

$$i = 90100(50+1) = 45.9 i = 90100(50+1) = 45.9$$

$$i = \frac{90}{100}(50+1) = 45.9$$

Since  $i = 45.9$ , calculate the mean of the 45<sup>th</sup> and 46<sup>th</sup> data values. The 45<sup>th</sup> data value is 9, the 46<sup>th</sup> data value is 9, and the mean of these two data values is 9. Thus, the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile is 9.

c. Another name for the first quartile is the 25<sup>th</sup> percentile. Proceed to calculate the 25<sup>th</sup> percentile:


Calculate the index  $i$  as follows:

$$i = 25100(50+1) = 12.75 i = 25100(50+1) = 12.75$$

$$i = \frac{25}{100}(50+1) = 12.75$$

Since  $i = 12.75$ , calculate the mean of the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> data values. The 12<sup>th</sup> data value is 6, the 13<sup>th</sup> data value is 6, and the mean of these two data values is 6. Thus, the first quartile is 6.

### Try It 2.3.5

Refer to the Table  \(\PageIndex{3}\). Find the third quartile. What is another name for the third quartile?

### A Formula for Finding the Percentile of a Value in a Data Set

- Order the data from smallest to largest.
- $x$  = the number of data values counting from the bottom of the data list up to but not including the data value for which you want to find the percentile.
- $y$  = the number of data values equal to the data value for which you want to find the percentile.
- $n$  = the total number of data.
- Calculate  $100(x+0.5y)/n$

### ? Exercise 2.3.5

Listed are 29 ages for Academy Award winning best actors *in order from smallest to largest*.

18; 21; 22; 25; 26; 27; 29; 30; 31; 33; 36; 37; 41; 42; 47; 52; 55; 57; 58; 62; 64; 67; 69; 71; 72; 73; 74; 76; 77

- Find the percentile for 58.
- Find the percentile for 25.

### Answer

a. Counting from the bottom of the list, there are 18 data values less than 58 . There is one value of 58.  $x = 18$  and  $y = 1 \cdot \frac{x+0.5y}{n}(100) = \frac{18+0.5(1)}{29}(100) = 63.80$ . 58 is the 64<sup>th</sup> percentile.

b. Counting from the bottom of the list, there are three data values less than 25 . There is one value of 25 .

$x = 3$  and  $y = 1 \cdot \frac{x+0.5y}{n}(100) = \frac{3+0.5(1)}{29}(100) = 12.07$ . Twenty-five is the 12<sup>th</sup> percentile.

### Solution

a. Counting from the bottom of the list, there are 18 data values less than 58. There is one value of 58.

$x = 18$  and  $y = 1$ .  $\frac{x+0.5y}{n}(100) = \frac{18+0.5(1)}{29}(100) = 63.80$ . 58 is the 64<sup>th</sup> percentile.

b. Counting from the bottom of the list, there are three data values less than 25. There is one value of 25.

$x = 3$  and  $y = 1$ .  $\frac{x+0.5y}{n}(100) = \frac{3+0.5(1)}{29}(100) = 12.07$ . Twenty-five is the 12<sup>th</sup> percentile.

### Try It 2.3.6

Listed are 30 ages for Academy Award winning best actors *in order from smallest to largest*.

18; 21; 22; 25; 26; 27; 29; 30; 31; 33; 36; 37; 41; 42; 47; 52; 55; 57; 58; 62; 64; 67; 69; 71; 72; 73; 74; 76; 77

Find the percentiles for 47 and 31.

### Interpreting Percentiles, Quartiles, and Median

A percentile indicates the relative standing of a data value when data are sorted into numerical order from smallest to largest. Percentages of data values are less than or equal to the pth percentile. For example, 15% of data values are less than or equal to the 15<sup>th</sup> percentile.

- Low percentiles always correspond to lower data values.
- High percentiles always correspond to higher data values.

A percentile may or may not correspond to a value judgment about whether it is "good" or "bad." The interpretation of whether a certain percentile is "good" or "bad" depends on the context of the situation to which the data applies. In some situations, a low percentile would be considered "good;" in other contexts a high percentile might be considered "good". In many situations, there is no value judgment that applies.

Understanding how to interpret percentiles properly is important not only when describing data, but also when calculating probabilities in later chapters of this text.

### Note

When writing the interpretation of a percentile in the context of the given data, the sentence should contain the following information.

- information about the context of the situation being considered
- the data value (value of the variable) that represents the percentile
- the percent of individuals or items with data values below the percentile
- the percent of individuals or items with data values above the percentile.

### ? Exercise 2.3.6

On a timed math test, the first quartile for time it took to finish the exam was 35 minutes. Interpret the first quartile in the context of this situation.

### Answer

Twenty-five percent of students finished the exam in 35 minutes or less. Seventy-five percent of students finished the exam in 35 minutes or more. A low percentile could be considered good, as finishing more quickly on a timed exam is desirable. (If you take too long, you might not be able to finish.)

### Solution

- Twenty-five percent of students finished the exam in 35 minutes or less.
- Seventy-five percent of students finished the exam in 35 minutes or more.
- A low percentile could be considered good, as finishing more quickly on a timed exam is desirable. (If you take too long, you might not be able to finish.)

### Try It 2.3.7

For the 100-meter dash, the third quartile for times for finishing the race was 11.5 seconds. Interpret the third quartile in the context of the situation.

### Exercise 2.3.7

On a 20 question math test, the 70<sup>th</sup> percentile for number of correct answers was 16. Interpret the 70<sup>th</sup> percentile in the context of this situation.

#### Answer

Seventy percent of students answered 16 or fewer questions correctly. Thirty percent of students answered 16 or more questions correctly. A higher percentile could be considered good, as answering more questions correctly is desirable.

### Try It 2.3.8

On a 60 point written assignment, the 80<sup>th</sup> percentile for the number of points earned was 49. Interpret the 80<sup>th</sup> percentile in the context of this situation.

### Exercise 2.3.8

At a community college, it was found that the 30<sup>th</sup> percentile of credit units that students are enrolled for is seven units. Interpret the 30<sup>th</sup> percentile in the context of this situation.

#### Answer

Thirty percent of students are enrolled in seven or fewer credit units. Seventy percent of students are enrolled in seven or more credit units. In this example, there is no "good" or "bad" value judgment associated with a higher or lower percentile. Students attend community college for varied reasons and needs, and their course load varies according to their needs.

### Try It 2.3.9

During a season, the 40<sup>th</sup> percentile for points scored per player in a game is eight. Interpret the 40<sup>th</sup> percentile in the context of this situation.

### Exercise 2.3.9

Add exercises text here.

#### Answer

Add texts here. Do not delete this text first.

### Example 2.3.1

Sharpe Middle School is applying for a grant that will be used to add fitness equipment to the gym. The principal surveyed 15 anonymous students to determine how many minutes a day the students spend exercising. The results from the 15 anonymous students are shown.

0 minutes; 40 minutes; 60 minutes; 30 minutes; 60 minutes  
10 minutes; 45 minutes; 30 minutes; 300 minutes; 90 minutes;  
30 minutes; 120 minutes; 60 minutes; 0 minutes; 20 minutes

Determine the following five values.

- Min = 0
- $Q_1 = 20$
- Med = 40
- $Q_3 = 60$
- Max = 300

If you were the principal, would you be justified in purchasing new fitness equipment? Since 75% of the students exercise for 60 minutes or less daily, and since the *IQR* is 40 minutes ( $60 - 20 = 40$ ), we know that half of the students surveyed exercise between 20 minutes and 60 minutes daily. This seems a reasonable amount of time spent exercising, so the principal would be justified in purchasing the new equipment.

However, the principal needs to be careful. The value 300 appears to be a potential outlier.

$$Q_3 + 1.5(IQR) = 60 + (1.5)(40) = 120.$$

The value 300 is greater than 120 so it is a potential outlier. If we delete it and calculate the five values, we get the following values:

- Min = 0
- $Q_1 = 20$
- $Q_3 = 60$
- Max = 120

We still have 75% of the students exercising for 60 minutes or less daily and half of the students exercising between 20 and 60 minutes a day. However, 15 students is a small sample and the principal should survey more students to be sure of his survey results.

### Try It 2.3.1

A college statistics instructor is investigating the amount of time students spend working on a final project in the course. The instructor would like students to spend approximately 3 to 4 hours as the typical amount of time to be spent on the project. The instructor collects data from a random sample of 10 students for the number of hours spent working on the final project. The results obtained are as follows:

2 hours; 3 hours; 5 hours; 3 hours; 4 hours;  
4 hours; 3 hours; 11 hours; 3 hours; 2 hours.

- a. Determine the following five values: *Min*,  $Q_1$ , *Med*,  $Q_3$ , *Max*.
- b. Should the instructor modify the final project or leave as is?