

## Conditional Standard Deviation

- Conditional Standard Deviation
- Conditional SD in Regression
- Regression Assumptions
- Predicting Y from X versus Predicting X from Y



## Conditional Mean

- The mean SBP of infants with a gestational age of 25 weeks in approximately 42 mm Hg .
- This is the conditional mean given a gestational age of 25 weeks, since it is based only on infants who satisfy some condition ( 25 weeks gestation).
- The marginal mean SBP is the mean SBP of all infants ( 47 mm Hg ), regardless of gestational age.


## Conditional Distributions - One more time

- In general, we can consider the distribution of $Y$ variables (e.g., height) for observations that satisfy some condition $X=x$ (e.g., age equals 25 weeks).
- This is called the conditional distribution of $\boldsymbol{Y}$ given $\boldsymbol{X}=\boldsymbol{x}$.
- In a scatter plot, the conditional distribution of $Y$ given $X=x$ is the distribution of points in the vertical strip above a given value of $x$.


## Linear Regression

- Linear regression fits a straight line to the conditional mean of Y, given X.
- How might we determine the conditional SD at any given $x=$ value?
- For example, what is the conditional SD of SBP for infants with a gestational age of 25 weeks?


## Conditional Standard Deviation

- Conditional SD of Y given $\mathrm{X}=\mathrm{x}$ :
- In a scatterplot, the conditional standard deviation of Y given $\mathrm{X}=\mathrm{x}$ is the spread of points in the vertical strip above a given value of $x$.
- The spread is determined relative to the center (mean) of the distribution of points in the vertical strip.


## Conditional Standard Deviation

- Conditional SD of $Y$ given $X=x$ :
- The spread can be determined by the residuals:

$$
y_{i}-\hat{y}_{i}=y_{i}-\left(a+b x_{i}\right)
$$

- In calculating the SD , should we consider the spread of points only in the vertical strip above the particular value of $x$ (e.g., 25 weeks)?


## Recall: Regression Assumptions

- The regression line estimates the conditional mean of $Y$ given $X=x$ for any point $x$ if the following assumptions are met.

1. Conditional mean of $Y$ is a linear function of $X$.
2. Conditional SD of $Y$ is constant for all $X$.

- We often make an additional assumption:

3. The conditional distribution of $Y$ is a normal distribution for any value of $x$.

## Conditional Standard Deviation

- Conditional SD of $Y$ given $X=x$ :

$$
s_{y \mid x}=\sqrt{\frac{1}{n-2} \sum_{i=1}^{n}\left(y_{i}-\hat{y}_{i}\right)^{2}}
$$

- Measures the degree of scatter of the points about the regression line (in any give vertical strip).
- In Stata, this is denoted by Root Mean Square Error (MSE).
- This is the variation NOT explained by the linear regression model.


## Example: Height and Age

| TABLE 2.7 | Mean height of <br> Kalama children |
| :---: | :---: |
| Age $x$ <br> in months | Height $y$ <br> in centimeters |
| 18 | 76.1 |
| 19 | 77.0 |
| 20 | 78.1 |
| 21 | 78.2 |
| 22 | 78.8 |
| 23 | 79.7 |
| 24 | 79.9 |
| 25 | 81.1 |
| 26 | 81.2 |
| 27 | 81.8 |
| 28 | 82.8 |
| 29 | 83.5 |



## Example: SBP and Gestational Age

- Data: SBP and gestational age for 100 infants.
- Mean Gestational age $=28.9$ weeks, $\mathrm{SD}=2.53$ weeks.
- Mean $\mathrm{SBP}=47.1 \mathrm{~mm} \mathrm{Hg}, \mathrm{SD}=11.4 \mathrm{~mm} \mathrm{Hg}$
- Correlation between gestational age and SBP, $r=0.28$.
- Suppose we are interested in predicting SBP from gestational age.



## Example: SBP and Gestational Age

- Regression line: $\mathrm{SBP}=10.6+1.26$ (gestational age)

Conditional SD $=11$

Of infants 25 weeks in gestation, what proportion have a SBP between 31 and 53 mm Hg .

## Example: SBP and Gestational Age

- If we make assumption (3), then the SBP of 25week old infants have a normal distribution with mean $=10.6+1.26$ (gestational age).
- What's the SD of this conditional distribution? 11 mm Hg .
- Of 25-week old infants, what proportion have an SBP between 31 and 53 mm Hg ?


## Recall: The Empirical Rule

- All normal distributions have the following property:
- $68 \%$ of the area under the curve lies with $\sigma$ of the mean.
- $95 \%$ of the area of the curve lies within $2 \sigma$ of the mean.
- $99.7 \%$ of the area of the curve lies within $3 \sigma$ of the mean.


## Example: SBP and Gestational Age

- For 25-week old infants, SBP's between 31 and 53 mm Hg are 1 SD above and below the mean ( 42 mm Hg for 25-week old infants).
- So, $68 \%$ of 25 -week old infants have SBP's between 31 and 53 mm Hg .
- Previously: Calculating the proportion of all infants with SBP's between 31 and 53.
- Now: Can calculate for infants of a given age only.


## Predicting $\mathbf{X}$ from $\mathbf{Y}$

- Regression line:

$$
\text { SBP }=10.6+1.26 \text { (gestational age) }
$$

- For an infant 25 weeks into gestation, our prediction for its SBP is

$$
\mathrm{SBP}=10.6+1.26(25)=42 \mathrm{~mm} \mathrm{Hg}
$$

- Now consider an infant with an SBP of 42 mm Hg , what is our prediction of its gestational age?


## Predicting $\mathbf{X}$ from $\mathbf{Y}$

- Consider the scatterplot of SBP (Y) versus gestational age (X).
- Then the conditional mean gestation age of infants with an SBP of 42 mm Hg is the mean of the points within the horizontal strip at $\mathrm{Y}=42$.
- In general, predicting Y from X is NOT the same as predicting X from Y (although the data in this example provide similar regression results).


## Example: Poverty and Doctors

- Between 1997 and 1999, data were collected on poverty rates and the number of doctors in each of the 50 states and DC.
- Of interest is how strongly poverty and the number of doctors in related.
- How do we expect these two to relate?







