

Data that can be classified into two or more categories.

Note: When there is an order to the categories, the term used is **ordinal data** (e.g. stages of cancer or level of education). When there is no order, the term used is *nominal data* (e.g. blood group, civil status or ethnic origin). There is no mathematical relationship between the values (e.g. a person with Stage IV cancer is not twice as sick as a person with Stage II cancer).