

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO "CONTROL" FOR ANOTHER PREDICTOR?

At the simplest you can do as you would do in a 3 way cross-tab: for each level of the first predictor, examine the relationship between the second predictor and the outcome.

For example if you found a relationship between sex and fear of crime, and race and fear, you would look at the relationship between sex and fear separately for members of each racial group.

Here we have a relationship between poverty and violent crime, and we want to know if the relationship holds up for SOUTHERN as well as NON-SOUTHERN states. (While we are at it we also will look at one other predictor: graduation rates.) TOP chart shows the plots for SOUTHERN states. MIDDLE chart shows the relationships for NON-Southern states.

Because the X and Y axes move around when you chart them separately, you also can chart them together, as the bottom chart does.

The question these charts address: controlling for differences between southern vs. non-southern location, what kind of relationship do I see between poverty rates and violent crime rates?



