

Chapter Two

1. A theory has observable implications. In other words, it generates

- A. Abstractions
- B. Replications
- C. Findings
- *D. Hypotheses

2. Theories:

- A. Identify key variables
- B. Tell causal stories
- C. Explain variation
- *D. All of the above

3. Hypotheses are:

- *A. predictions of what will happen if your theory is correct
- B. true statements based upon our research
- C. not subject to falsification
- D. vague and uncertain

4. The path diagram $X \rightarrow Y$ represents a causal theory. An explanation of how change in X produces change in Y is also an important part of the theory; it is called the

- *A. Causal mechanism
- B. Causal model
- C. Causal information
- D. Causal influence

5. In the statement “Raising taxes stifles economic growth” which of the following are true:

- A. Taxes is the dependent variable
- *B. Taxes is the independent variable
- C. Economic growth is the independent variable
- D. Economic growth and taxes are positively related
- E. Both A and C

6. Logic models ...

- A. communicate an underlying theory
- B. show the causal mechanisms of how a program is thought to work
- C. may include activities needed to implement the program
- D. are often required by funding agencies
- *E. All of the above

7. Officials at a public housing agency wanted to know whether supportive housing, which combines affordable housing with social services, helps low-income single mothers recover from substance abuse and maintain employment. A research study showed that length of residence in supportive housing was negatively correlated with substance abuse but was not significantly related to employment. Which of the following is the dependent variable in this study?

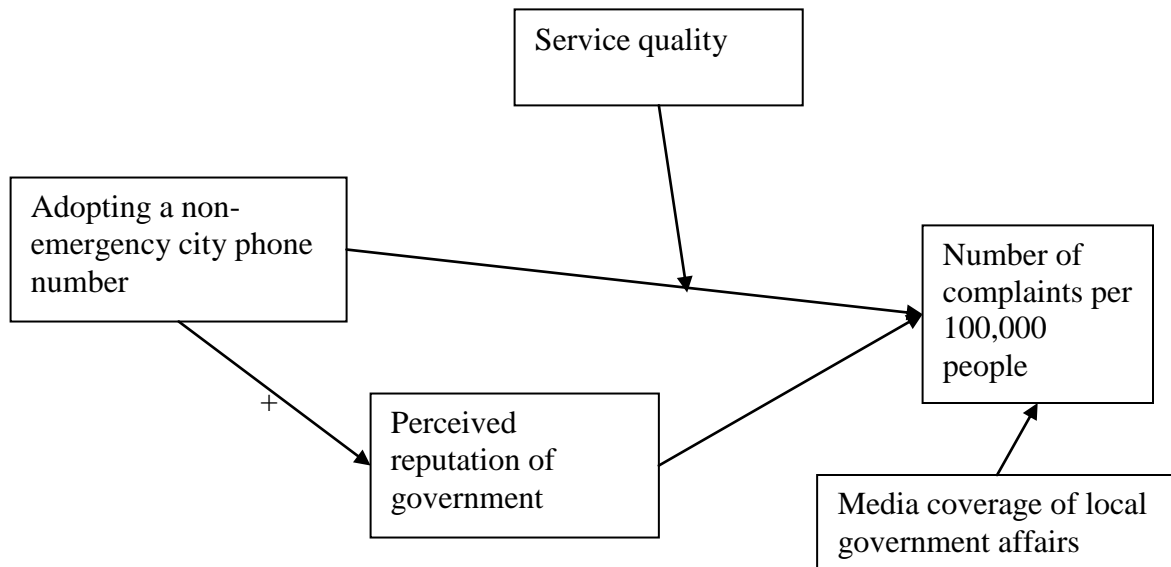
- A. Length of residence in supportive housing
- B. Substance abuse
- C. Employment
- D. Social services
- *E. Both B and C

8. A study looked at World Bank data on the political stability and economic growth of countries in the world. It found that more politically stable countries experienced more economic growth. Which of the following is the unit of analysis in this study?

- A. Political stability
- B. Economic growth
- *C. Countries
- D. World Bank data
- E. None of the above

9. Many cities have created non-emergency phone numbers that citizens can call with questions or comments about public services. However, complaints about government services may rise just because complaining is easier. In cities with very low service quality, that relationship may not be as strong because citizens were already making a lot of complaints through other means. On the other hand, citizens often appreciate the non-emergency phone number service, which can improve local government's reputation, and in turn, decrease the number of complaints about government. Other factors, of course, affect the number of complaints besides the non-emergency phone number. For example, news coverage of local government affairs may raise awareness of particular issues and generate additional complaints.

A foundation interested in local government affairs developed a logic model and research design to test these hypotheses. The foundation wanted to find out whether the rate of citizen complaints about local government was higher in cities with non-emergency lines, and whether the number of complaints increased after cities adopted non-emergency phone numbers.

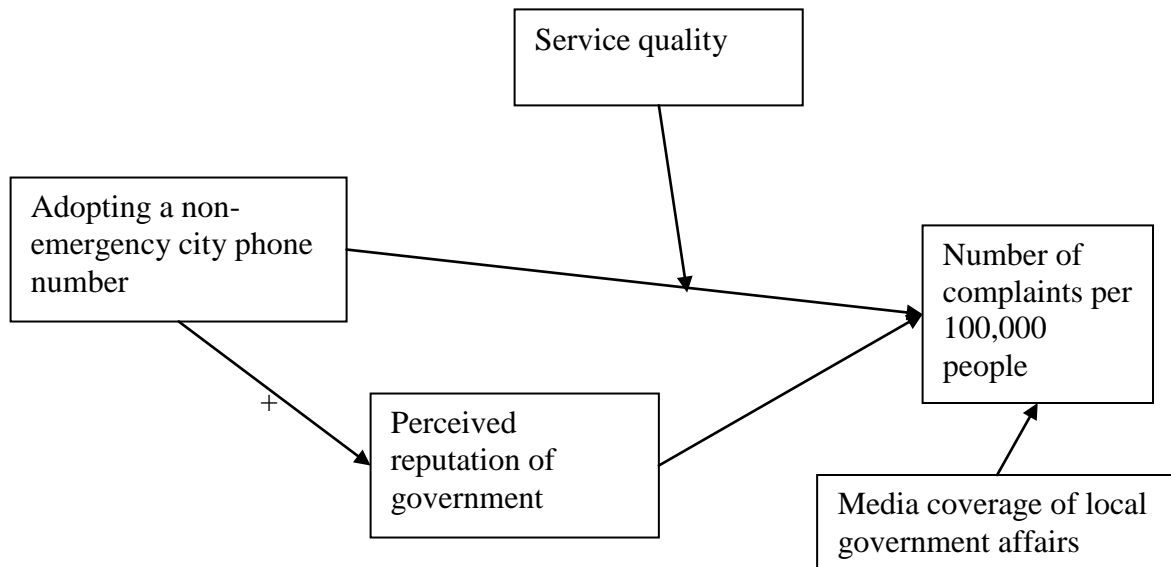


What is the unit of analysis in this model?

- *A. Cities
- B. Individuals
- C. Complaints
- D. Quantitative

10. Many cities have created non-emergency phone numbers that citizens can call with questions or comments about public services. However, complaints about government services may rise just because complaining is easier. In cities with very low service quality, that relationship may not be as strong because citizens were already making a lot of complaints through other means. On the other hand, citizens often appreciate the non-emergency phone number service, which can improve local government's reputation, and in turn, decrease the number of complaints about government. Other factors, of course, affect the number of complaints besides the non-emergency phone number. For example, news coverage of local government affairs may raise awareness of particular issues and generate additional complaints.

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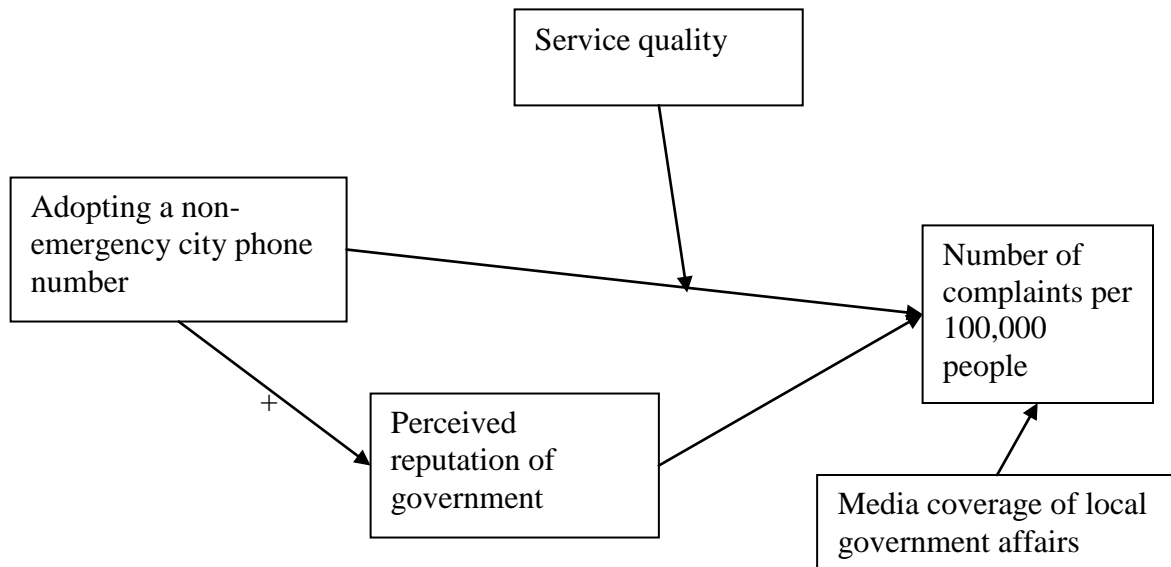


Which of the following is NOT an independent variable in the model?

- A. Perceived reputation of government
- B. Media coverage of local government affairs
- *C. Complaints
- D. Both A and C

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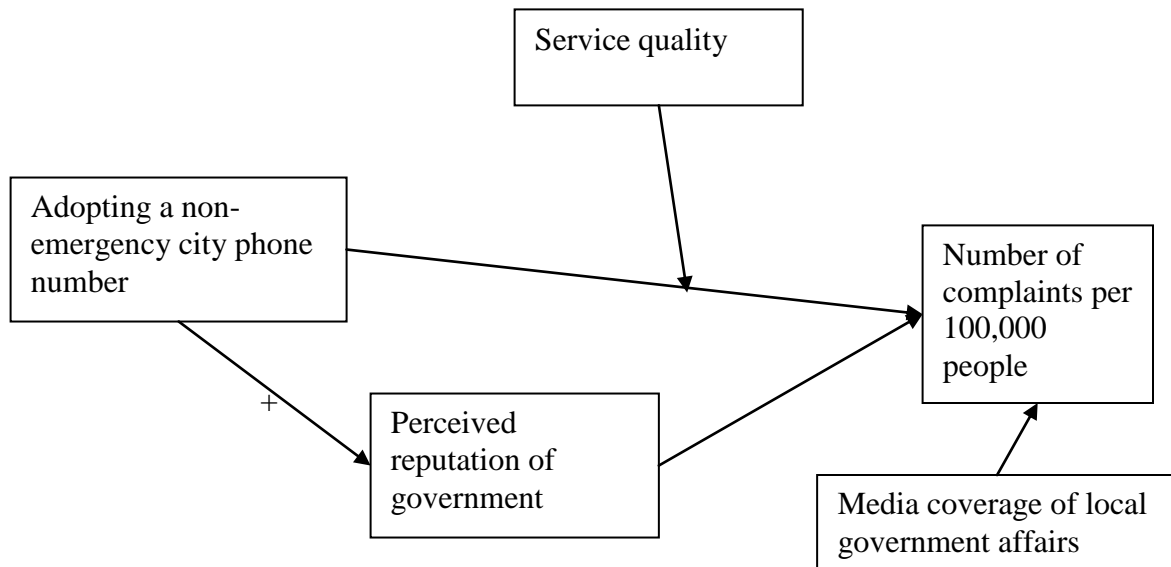


Which of the following is NOT a dependent variable in this model?

- A. Complaints
- B. Adopting a non-emergency city phone number
- C. Media coverage
- *D. Both B and C

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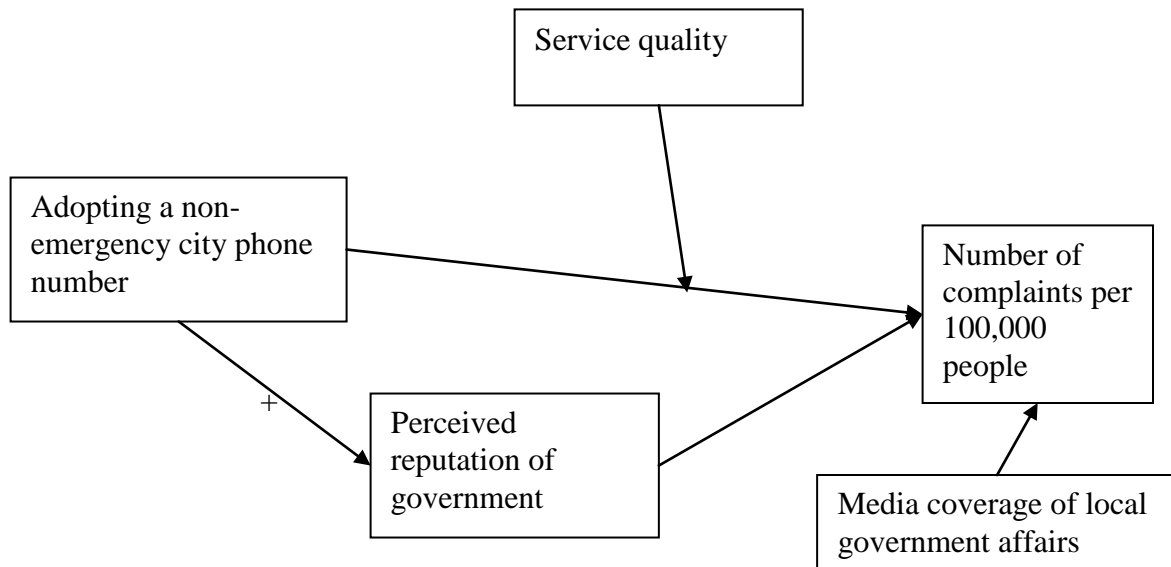


Which of the following is a moderator variable in this model?

- A. Perceived reputation of government
- B. Media coverage of local government affairs
- *C. Service quality
- D. Adopting a non-emergency city phone number

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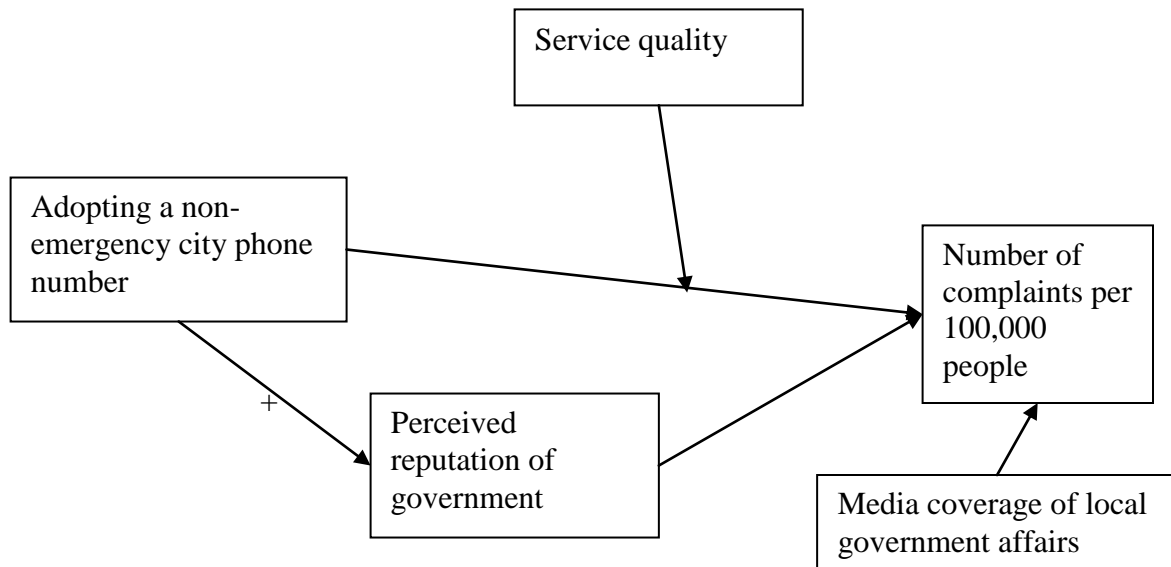


Which of the following is a mediator (intervening) variable in this model?

- *A. Perceived reputation of government
- B. Media coverage of local government affairs
- C. Service quality
- D. Adopting a non-emergency city phone number

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Which of the following is true?

- A. The causal arrow from perceived reputation to complaints should have a + sign, indicating a positive relationship
- B. The causal arrow from perceived reputation to complaints should have a - sign, indicating a negative relationship
- C. The causal arrow from media coverage to complaints should have a + sign, indicating a positive relationship
- D. A and C
- *E. B and C

15. Theories are created from a number of sources, including:

- A. Grand theories
- B. Academic disciplines
- C. Induction and deduction
- *D. All of the above

16. A _____ is a graphical or mathematical representation that serves to articulate and communicate a theory.

- A. paradigm
- B. empirical function
- *C. model
- D. descriptive

17. In the statement, disorder causes crime, disorder is the _____ variable, and crime is the _____ variable.

- *A. independent, dependent
- B. intervening, uncertain
- C. dependent, independent
- D. first, second

18. _____ variables represent steps in the causal process leading from the independent to the dependent variable.

- A. disjointed
- B. unregulated
- *C. intervening
- D. none of the above

19. A _____ represents the objects or things described by the variables in a model, and can also be thought of as the level of aggregation or disaggregation.

- *A. unit of analysis
- B. unit of function
- C. unit of ratio
- D. unit of idea

20. Which is most clearly an example of a positive (not normative) question?

- A. Why doesn't the government provide more money for childcare?
- B. Who deserves childcare vouchers more—single working mothers or parents of children with disabilities?
- C. Should childcare vouchers cover only licensed day care or also care by a family member?
- *D. Does receiving a childcare voucher lead to increased family income?

21. Over the last few decades, data shows that fertility rates have been falling steadily in Asia. This statement refers to _____ variation.

- *a. longitudinal

22. In 2009, fertility rates were lower in European countries and higher in Latin American countries. This statement refers to _____ variation.

- *a. cross-sectional

23. Age is a major risk factor for heart disease, yet researchers often choose to study factors that people have control over, such as diet and exercise. In this example, age is a _____ variable while diet and exercise are _____ variables.

*a. nonmodifiable; modifiable

24. A path diagram is composed of circles and arrows. The circles represent _____ and the arrows represent _____.

*a. variables; relationships

25. Densely populated cities tend to have lower rates of obesity but higher rates of asthma. With respect to their direction, density → obesity is a _____ relationship, and density → asthma is a _____ relationship.

*a. negative; positive

26. Please discuss several specific tips for creating a logic model. Why are these in particular important to the process?

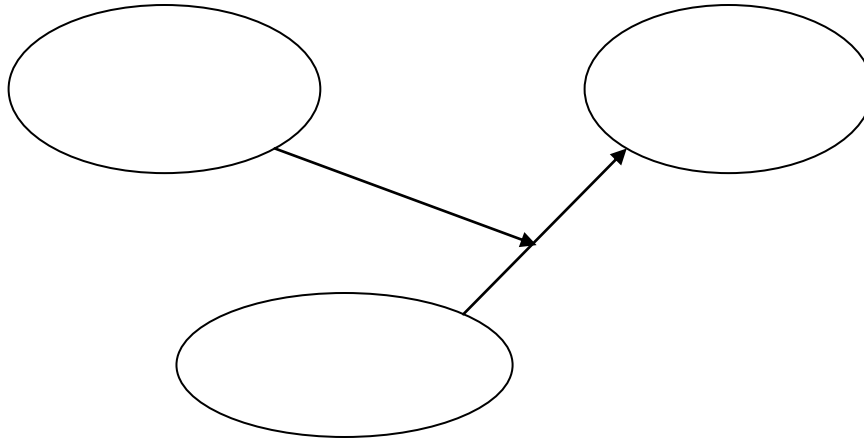
*a. Answers will vary

27. Please discuss the importance of identifying inputs, activities, outputs, and outcomes as part of developing a logic model.

*a. Answers will vary

28. An environmental advocacy group is interested in whether a tax on companies that pollute the air based on CO₂ emissions would decrease the firms' emissions. However, members of the group are concerned that while small businesses might decrease emissions as much as possible to avoid the tax, large corporations might be able to afford the tax and just continue polluting.

Based on the group's theory, write in the names of the independent, dependent, and moderator variables, and add signs to indicate the directions of the relationships.



*a. Answers will vary

29. A human resources department wanted to increase job satisfaction among employees by offering more health benefits. But there are many factors that may affect job satisfaction besides benefits, including organization characteristics such as leadership, job characteristics such as interesting work, and individual characteristics such as level of experience. Further, better health benefits may lead to improvements in employees' general health and wellbeing, which has also been found to affect job satisfaction. Finally, increasing benefits may send a message to employees that they are valued contributors to the organization, which could also increase their job satisfaction. Create a path model showing the hypothesized relationship between benefits and job satisfaction and including other causes and intervening variables.

*a. Answers will vary

30. Please discuss one example of an applied research question that you may be interested in examining specific to your field of study.

*a. Answers will vary