Standard Deviation (SD)

The formula for standard deviation (SD) is

![quare root of [ (1/N) times Sigma i=1 to N of (xi - mu)^2 ]]()

The formula may look confusing, but it will make sense after we break it down. Here's a quick preview of the steps we're about to follow:

**Step 1:** Find the mean.

**Step 2:** For each data point, subtract the mean and square the result.

**Step 3:** Sum the values from Step 2.

**Step 4:** Divide by the number of data points.

**Step 5:** Take the square root of the number in step 4

EXCEL COMMAND

The **Excel** STDEV **function** calculates the sample **standard deviation** of a supplied set of values. The **syntax** of the **function** is: STDEV( number1, [number2], ... )

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[Excel STDEV Function](http://www.excelfunctions.net/Excel-Stdev-Function.html)

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