

How can I ignore #N/A values when using formulas in Excel?

Authored by
stats writer

May 6, 2024

RECOMMENDED CITATION

stats writer (2024). *How can I ignore #N/A values when using formulas in Excel?*.

PSYCHOLOGICAL SCALES. Retrieved from <https://scales.arabpsychology.com/?p=143572>

The process of ignoring #N/A values when using formulas in Excel involves utilizing the IFERROR function. This function allows you to specify an alternate value or action when an #N/A error is encountered within a formula. By using this function, you can effectively bypass the #N/A values and continue with the desired calculation. This is particularly useful when working with large data sets or when performing complex calculations in Excel. By ignoring #N/A values, you can ensure that your formulas accurately reflect the intended results without being disrupted by errors.

Ignore #N/A Values When Using Formulas in Excel

You can use the following basic syntax to calculate the mean, median, sum, standard deviation, etc. in Excel while ignoring #N/A values:

=AVERAGE(IFNA(A2:A21, ""))

=MEDIAN(IFNA(A2:A21, ""))

=SUM(IFNA(A2:A21, ""))

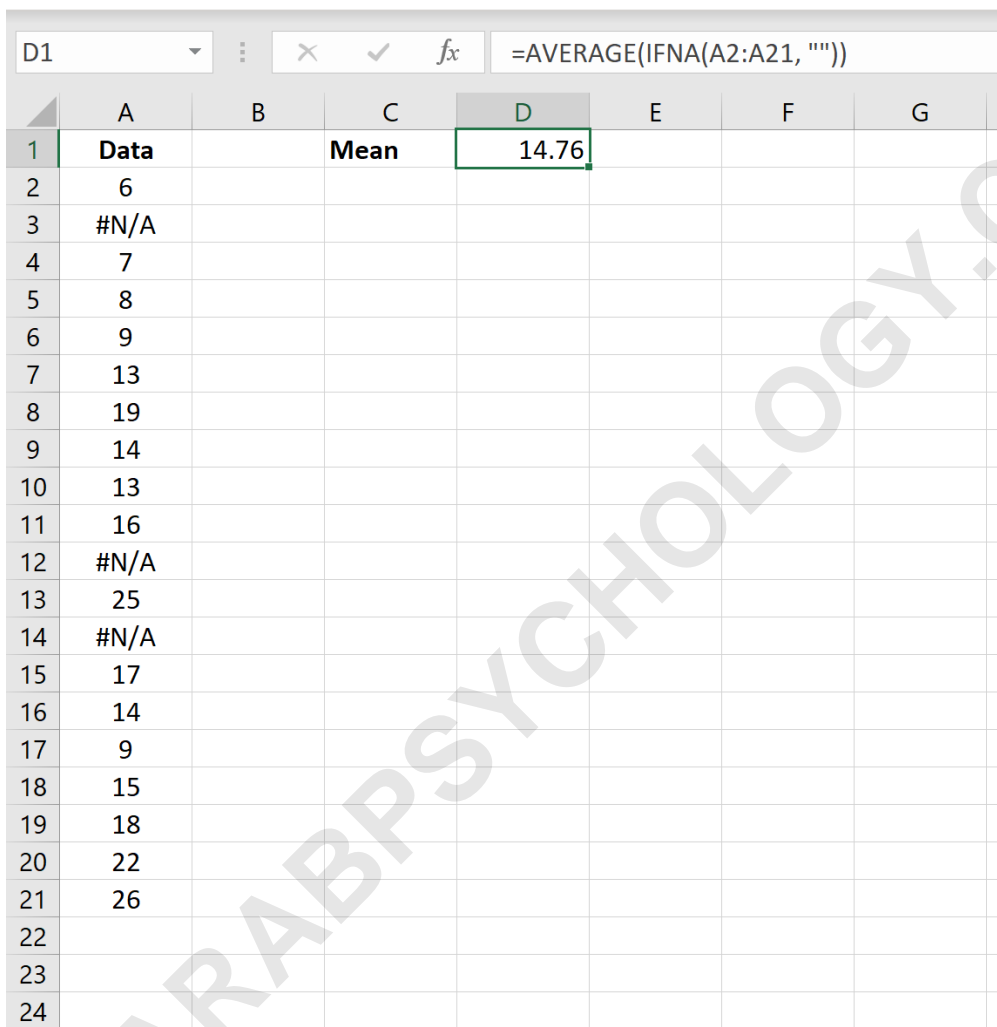
=STDEV(IFNA(A2:A21, ""))

This syntax simply replaces #N/A values with blanks and then calculates the descriptive statistic you're interested in.

The following examples show how to use this syntax in practice.

Example 1: Calculate Mean & Ignore #N/A Values

The following screenshot shows how to calculate the mean of a dataset that contains #N/A values:



The screenshot shows an Excel spreadsheet with the following data:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Data		Mean	14.76			
2	6						
3	#N/A						
4	7						
5	8						
6	9						
7	13						
8	19						
9	14						
10	13						
11	16						
12	#N/A						
13	25						
14	#N/A						
15	17						
16	14						
17	9						
18	15						
19	18						
20	22						
21	26						
22							
23							
24							

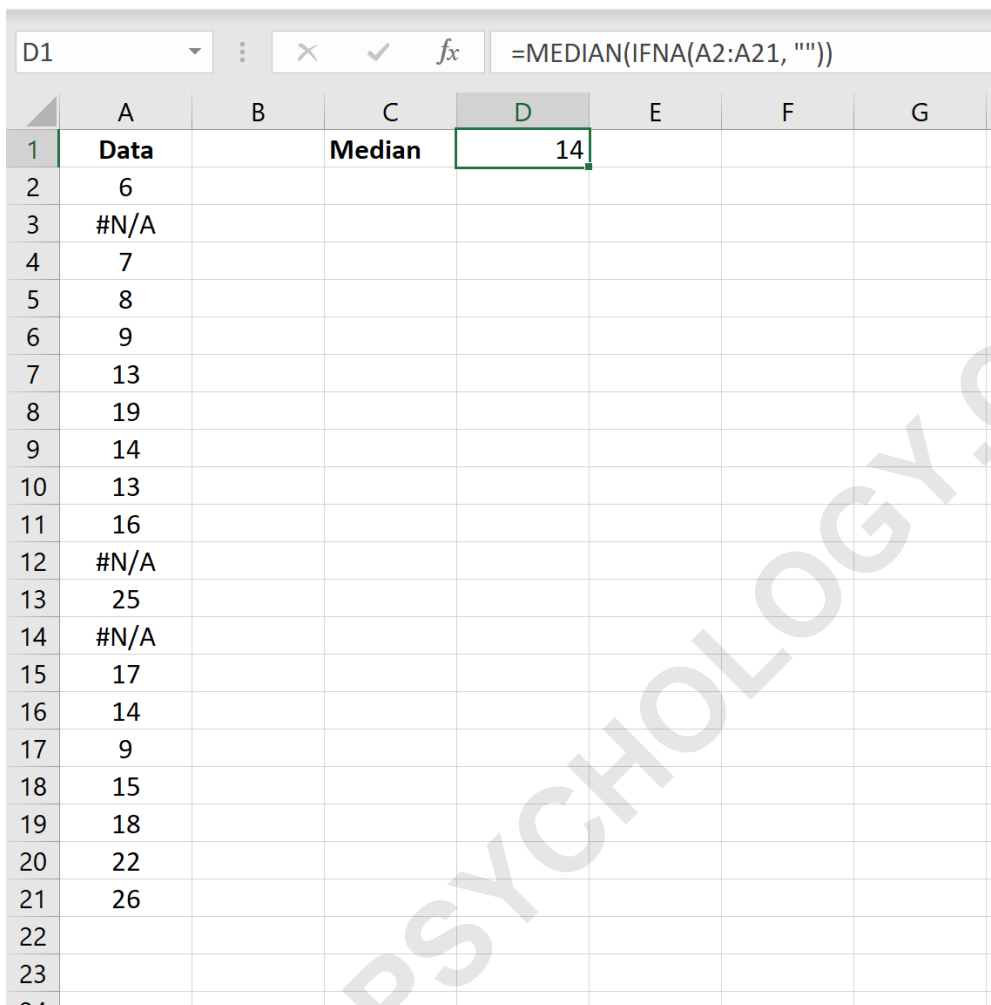
The formula bar shows the formula: `=AVERAGE(IFNA(A2:A21, ""))`

The mean of the dataset (ignoring all #N/A values) is **14.76**.

Example 2: Calculate Median & Ignore #N/A Values

The following screenshot shows how to calculate the

median of a dataset that contains #N/A values:



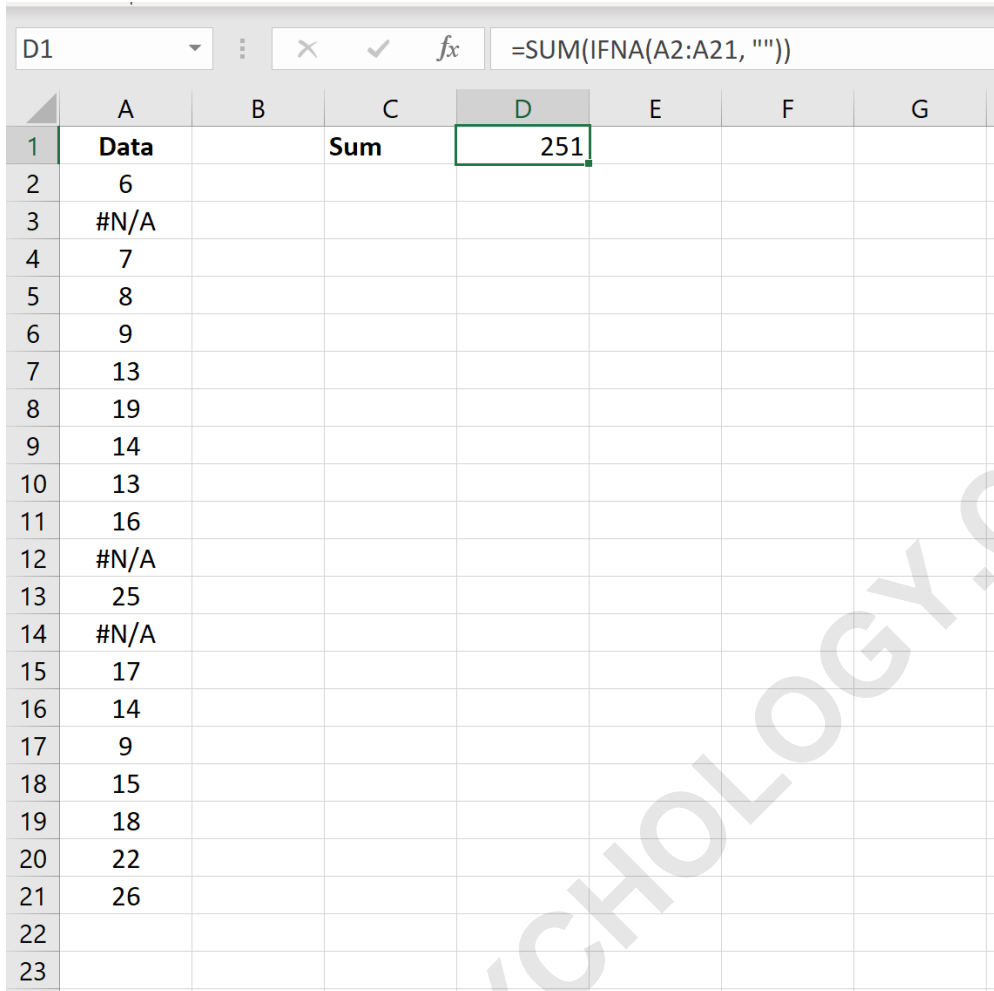
The screenshot shows an Excel spreadsheet with a formula bar at the top displaying `=MEDIAN(IFNA(A2:A21, ""))`. The spreadsheet has columns A through G and rows 1 through 24. Column A contains the data values, and column C contains the label 'Median'. The value '14' is displayed in cell D1, which is the result of the median calculation. A large watermark 'ARABPSYCHOLOGY.COM' is visible diagonally across the spreadsheet.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Data		Median	14			
2	6						
3	#N/A						
4	7						
5	8						
6	9						
7	13						
8	19						
9	14						
10	13						
11	16						
12	#N/A						
13	25						
14	#N/A						
15	17						
16	14						
17	9						
18	15						
19	18						
20	22						
21	26						
22							
23							
24							

The median of the dataset (ignoring all #N/A values) is 14.

Example 3: Calculate Sum & Ignore #N/A Values

The following screenshot shows how to calculate the sum of a dataset that contains #N/A values:



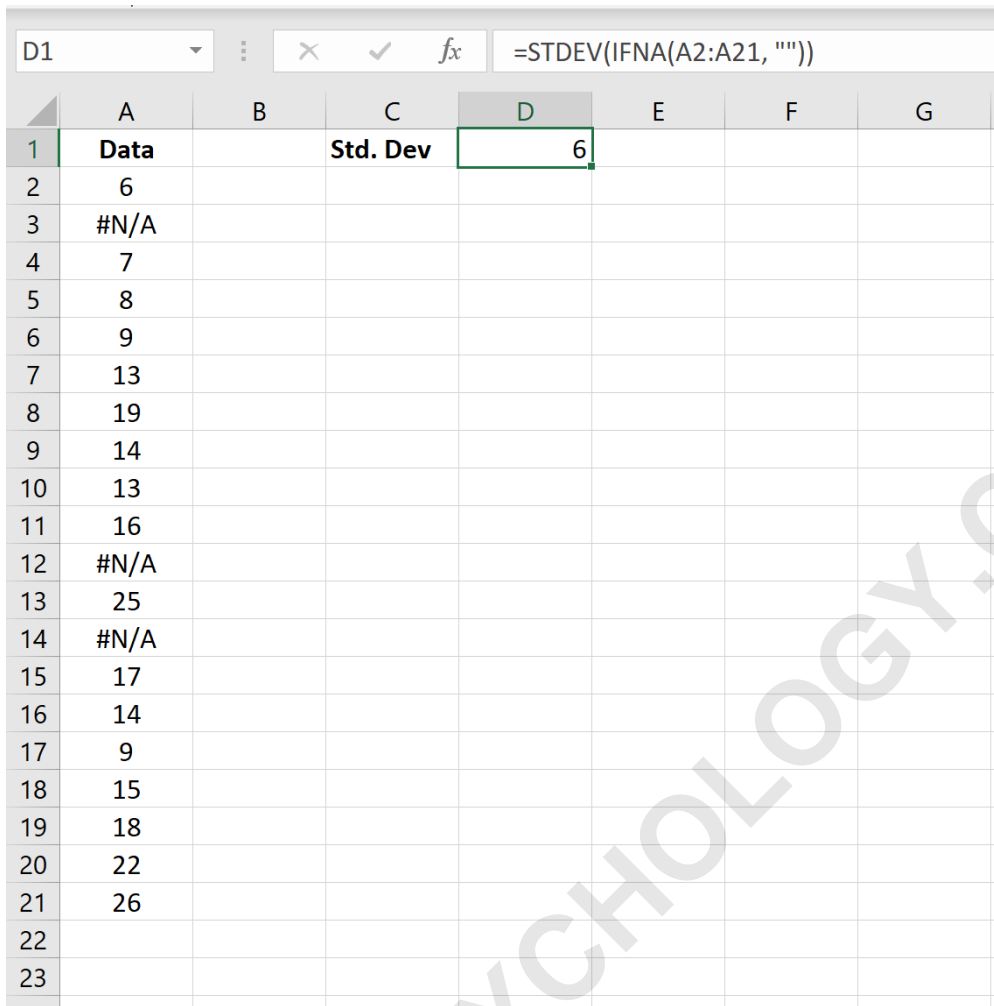
The image shows an Excel spreadsheet with the following data in column A:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Data		Sum	251			
2	6						
3	#N/A						
4	7						
5	8						
6	9						
7	13						
8	19						
9	14						
10	13						
11	16						
12	#N/A						
13	25						
14	#N/A						
15	17						
16	14						
17	9						
18	15						
19	18						
20	22						
21	26						
22							
23							

The formula bar shows the formula: `=SUM(IFNA(A2:A21, ""))`

The sum of the dataset (ignoring all #N/A values) is 251.

Example 4: Calculate Standard Deviation & Ignore #N/A Values



The image shows an Excel spreadsheet with a dataset in column A and its standard deviation calculated in cell D1. The formula bar shows the formula `=STDEV(IFNA(A2:A21, ""))`. The dataset in column A consists of the following values: 6, #N/A, 7, 8, 9, 13, 19, 14, 13, 16, #N/A, 25, #N/A, 17, 14, 9, 15, 18, 22, 26. The standard deviation is calculated as 6.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Data		Std. Dev	6			
2	6						
3	#N/A						
4	7						
5	8						
6	9						
7	13						
8	19						
9	14						
10	13						
11	16						
12	#N/A						
13	25						
14	#N/A						
15	17						
16	14						
17	9						
18	15						
19	18						
20	22						
21	26						
22							
23							

The standard deviation of the dataset (ignoring all #N/A values) is 6.

The following tutorials explain how to perform other common tasks in Excel: