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

Authored by

stats writer

May 6, 2024

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, ""))

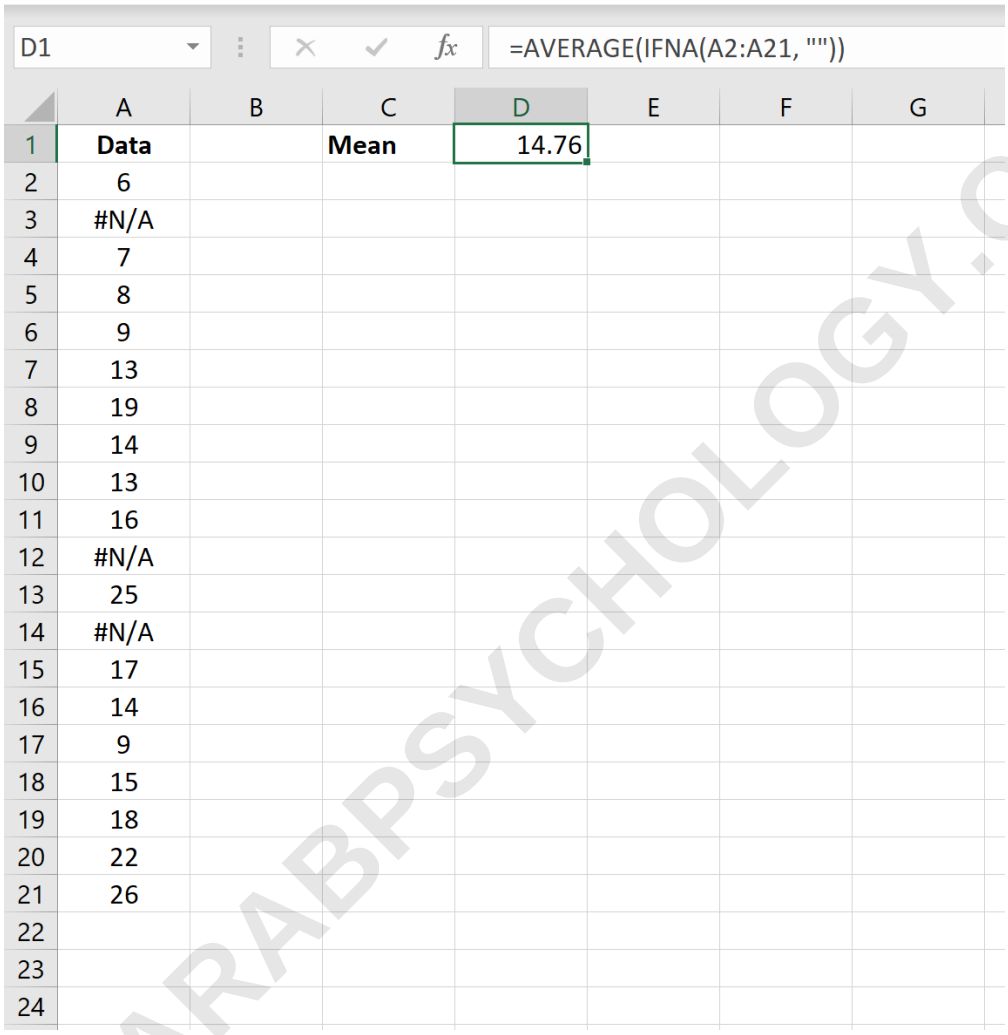
=STDEV(IFNA(A2:A21, ""))

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:



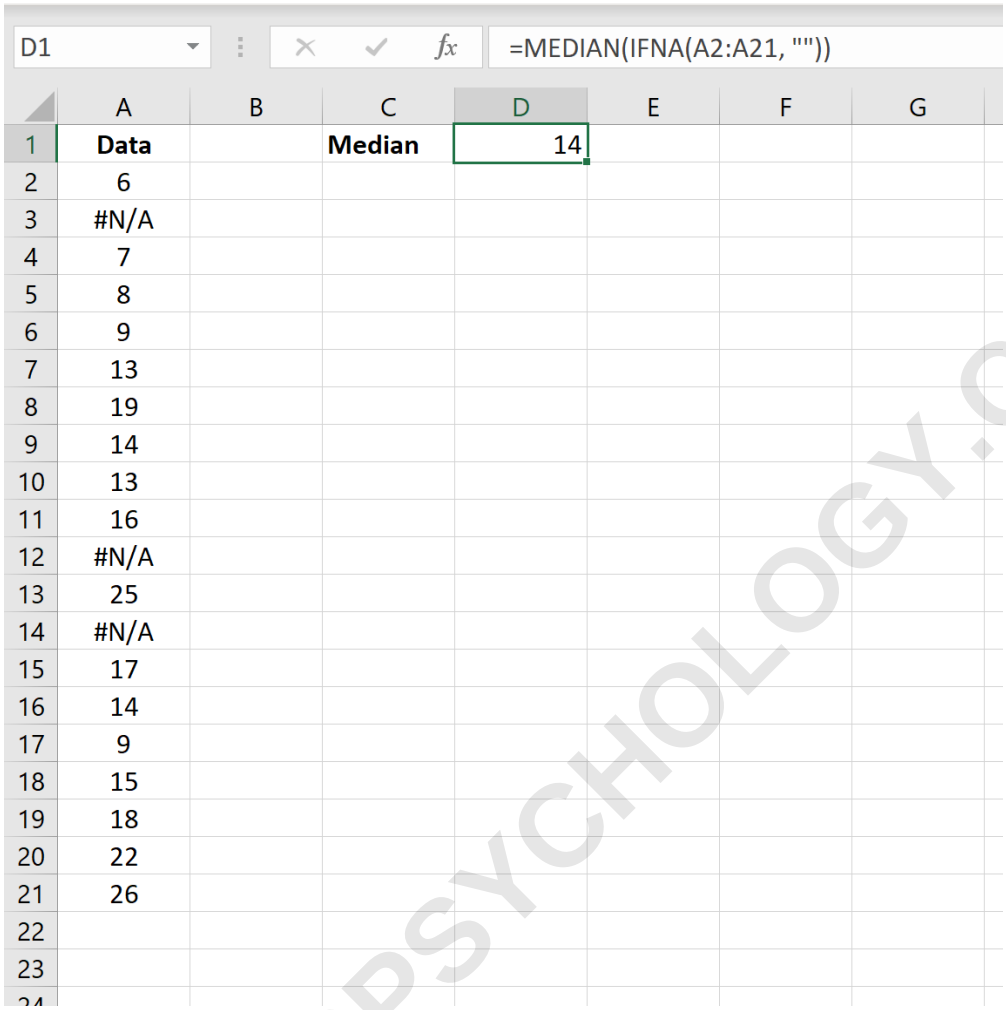
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	**Data**		**Mean**	14.76			
2	6						
3	#N/A						
4	7						
5	8						
6	9						
7	13						
8	19						
9	14						
10	13						
11	16						
12	#N/A						
13	25						
14	#N/A						
15	17						
16	14						
17	9						
18	15						
19	18						
20	22						
21	26						
22							
23							
24							

The 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:

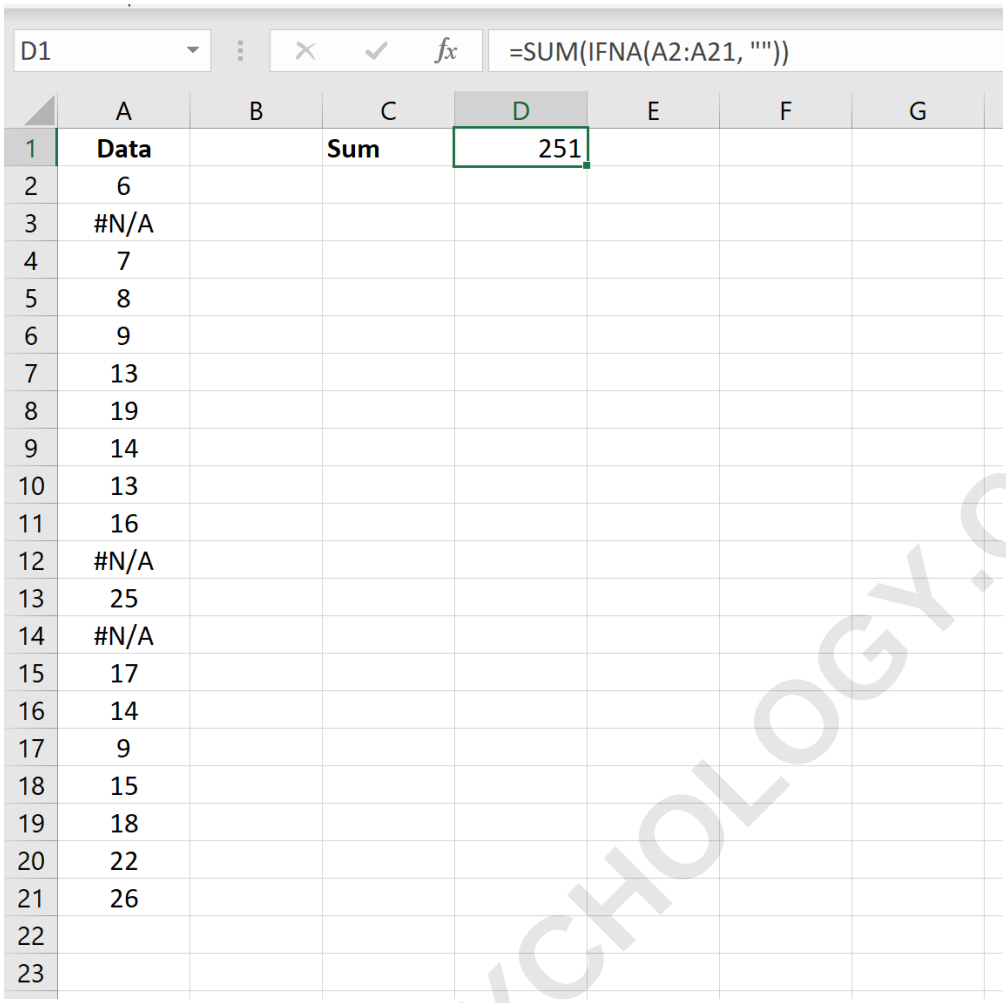


	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	**Data**		**Median**	14			
2	6						
3	#N/A						
4	7						
5	8						
6	9						
7	13						
8	19						
9	14						
10	13						
11	16						
12	#N/A						
13	25						
14	#N/A						
15	17						
16	14						
17	9						
18	15						
19	18						
20	22						
21	26						
22							
23							

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

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

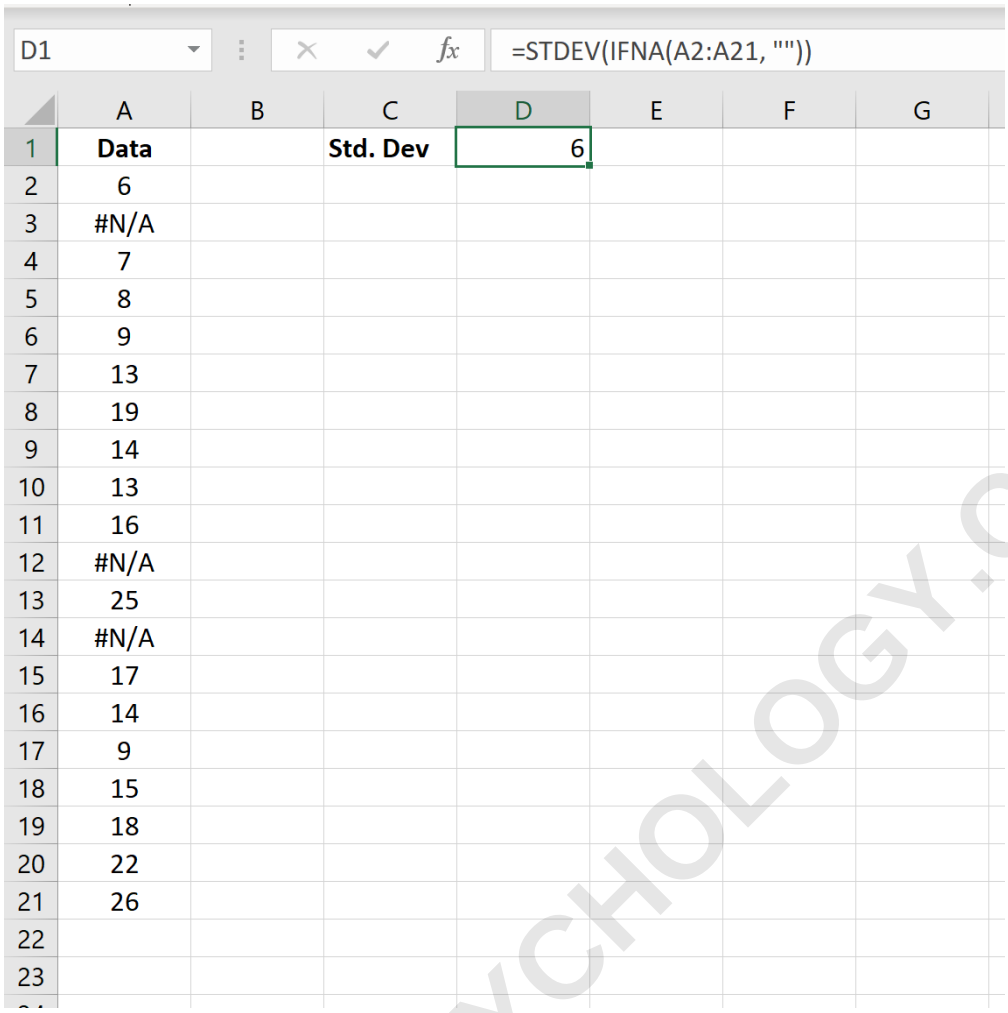
The following screenshot shows how to calculate the sum of a dataset that contains #N/A values:



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

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



	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: