

Statistics

The Art and Science of Learning from Data

FOURTH EDITION

Agresti Franklin Klingenberg



Statistics

The Art and Science of Learning from Data

Fourth Edition

Global Edition

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Dedication

To my wife Jacki for her extraordinary support, including making numerous suggestions and putting up with the evenings and weekends I was working on this book.

ALAN AGRESTI

To Corey and Cody, who have shown me the joys of motherhood, and to my husband, Dale, for being a dear friend and a dedicated father to our boys. You have always been my biggest supporters.

CHRIS FRANKLIN

To my wife Sophia and our children Franziska, Florentina, Maximilian, and Mattheus, who are a bunch of fun to be with, and to Jean-Luc Picard for inspiring me.

Bernhard Klingenberg

Contents

Preface 9

Part One Gathering and Exploring Data

Chapter 1 Statistics: The Art and Science of Learning from Data 28

- 1.1 Using Data to Answer Statistical Questions 29
- 1.2 Sample Versus Population 34
- **1.3** Using Calculators and Computers 43

Chapter Summary 49 Chapter Problems 50

Chapter 2 Exploring Data with Graphs and Numerical Summaries 52

- 2.1 Different Types of Data 53
- 2.2 Graphical Summaries of Data 58
- **2.3** Measuring the Center of Quantitative Data 76
- 2.4 Measuring the Variability of Quantitative Data 84
- 2.5 Using Measures of Position to Describe Variability 92
- 2.6 Recognizing and Avoiding Misuses of Graphical Summaries 102

Chapter Summary 108 Chapter Problems 109

Chapter 3 Association: Contingency, Correlation, and Regression 117

- 3.1 The Association Between Two Categorical Variables 119
- **3.2** The Association Between Two Quantitative Variables 127
- **3.3** Predicting the Outcome of a Variable 139
- **3.4** Cautions in Analyzing Associations 154

Chapter Summary 170 Chapter Problems 171

Chapter 4 Gathering Data 179

- 4.1 Experimental and Observational Studies 180
- 4.2 Good and Poor Ways to Sample 188
- 4.3 Good and Poor Ways to Experiment 198
- **4.4** Other Ways to Conduct Experimental and Nonexperimental Studies 204

Chapter Summary 216 Chapter Problems 216

Part Review 1 Online

Part TwoProbability, Probability Distributions,
and Sampling Distributions

Chapter 5 Probability in Our Daily Lives 226

- 5.1 How Probability Quantifies Randomness 227
- 5.2 Finding Probabilities 234
- 5.3 Conditional Probability 247
- 5.4 Applying the Probability Rules 258

Chapter Summary 273 Chapter Problems 273

Chapter 6 Probability Distributions 280

- 6.1 Summarizing Possible Outcomes and Their Probabilities 281
- 6.2 Probabilities for Bell-Shaped Distributions 293

6.3 Probabilities When Each Observation Has Two Possible Outcomes 305

Chapter Summary 315 Chapter Problems 316

Chapter 7 Sampling Distributions 324

- 7.1 How Sample Proportions Vary Around the Population Proportion 325
- **7.2** How Sample Means Vary Around the Population Mean 337

Chapter Summary 352 Chapter Problems 352

Part Review 2 Online

Part Three Inferential Statistics

Chapter 8 Statistical Inference: Confidence Intervals 360

- 8.1 Point and Interval Estimates of Population Parameters 361
- **8.2** Constructing a Confidence Interval to Estimate a Population Proportion 367
- 8.3 Constructing a Confidence Interval to Estimate a Population Mean 380
- 8.4 Choosing the Sample Size for a Study 391
- 8.5 Using Computers to Make New Estimation Methods Possible 400

Chapter Summary 404 Chapter Problems 404

Chapter 9 Statistical Inference: Significance Tests About Hypotheses 412

- 9.1 Steps for Performing a Significance Test 413
- 9.2 Significance Tests About Proportions 418

- 9.3 Significance Tests About Means 434
- **9.4** Decisions and Types of Errors in Significance Tests 444
- 9.5 Limitations of Significance Tests 449
- 9.6 The Likelihood of a Type II Error and the Power of a Test 456

Chapter Summary 463 Chapter Problems 464

Chapter 10 Comparing Two Groups 470

- 10.1 Categorical Response: Comparing Two Proportions 472
- 10.2 Quantitative Response: Comparing Two Means 486
- 10.3 Other Ways of Comparing Means, Including a Permutation Test 498
- 10.4 Analyzing Dependent Samples 513
- 10.5 Adjusting for the Effects of Other Variables 524

Chapter Summary 530 Chapter Problems 531

Part Review 3 Online

Part FourAnalyzing Association and
Extended Statistical Methods

Chapter 11 Analyzing the Association Between Categorical Variables 542

- **11.1** Independence and Dependence (Association) 543
- **11.2** Testing Categorical Variables for Independence 548
- **11.3** Determining the Strength of the Association 563
- **11.4** Using Residuals to Reveal the Pattern of Association 572
- **11.5** Fisher's Exact and Permutation Tests 576

Chapter Summary 585 Chapter Problems 585

Chapter 12 Analyzing the Association Between Quantitative Variables: Regression Analysis 592

- 12.1 Modeling How Two Variables Are Related 593
- 12.2 Inference About Model Parameters and the Association 603
- **12.3** Describing the Strength of Association 610
- **12.4** How the Data Vary Around the Regression Line 620
- **12.5** Exponential Regression: A Model for Nonlinearity 631

Chapter Summary 637 Chapter Problems 638

Chapter 13 Multiple Regression 644

- **13.1** Using Several Variables to Predict a Response 645
- **13.2** Extending the Correlation and *R*² for Multiple Regression 651
- **13.3** Inferences Using Multiple Regression 657
- 13.4 Checking a Regression Model Using Residual Plots 668
- 13.5 Regression and Categorical Predictors 674
- 13.6 Modeling a Categorical Response 680

Appendix A-1

Answers A-7

Index I-1

Index of Applications I-9

Credits C-1

A Guide to Learning From the Art in This Text D-1

Dataset Files D-2

A Guide to Choosing a Statistical Method D-3

Summary of Key Notations and Formulas D-4

Chapter Summary 689 Chapter Problems 690

Chapter 14 Comparing Groups: Analysis of Variance Methods 695

- 14.1 One-Way ANOVA: Comparing Several Means 696
- **14.2** Estimating Differences in Groups for a Single Factor 706
- **14.3** Two-Way ANOVA 716

Chapter Summary 730 Chapter Problems 730

Chapter 15 Nonparametric Statistics 736

- **15.1** Compare Two Groups by Ranking 737
- **15.2** Nonparametric Methods for Several Groups and for Matched Pairs 748

Chapter Summary 759 Chapter Problems 759

Part Review 4 Online

An Introduction to the Web Apps

The book's website, www.pearsonglobaleditions.com/agresti, links to several new and interactive web-based applets (or web apps) that run in a browser. These apps are designed to help students understand a wide range of statistical concepts and carry out statistical inference. Many of these apps are featured (often including screenshots) in Activities throughout the book. The apps allow saving output (such as graphs or tables) for potential inclusion in homework or projects.

• The **Random Numbers** app generates uniform random numbers (with or without replacement) from a user-defined range of integer values and simulates flipping a (potentially biased) coin.



- The **Mean vs. Median** app allows users to add or delete points from a dot plot as the users explore the effect of outliers or skew on these two statistics.
- The **Explore Categorical Data** and **Explore Quantitative Data** apps provide basic statistics and plots for usersupplied data.
- The **Explore Linear Regression** app allows users to add or delete points from a scatterplot and observe how the regression line changes for different patterns or is affected by outliers. The **Fit Linear Regression** app allows users to supply their own data, fit a linear regression model and explore residuals.
- The **Guess the Correlation** app lets users guess the correlation for a given scatterplot (and find the correlation between guesses and the true values).
- The **Binomial**, **Normal**, *t*-, **Chi-square**, and **F Distribution** apps visually explore the meaning of parameters for these distributions. Users can also find probabilities and percentiles and check them visually on the graph.



- The various **Sampling Distribution** apps generate sampling distributions of the sample proportion or the sample mean. These apps let users generate samples of various sizes from a wide range of distributions such as skewed, uniform, bell-shaped, bimodal, or custom-built. The apps display the population distribution, the data distribution of a randomly generated sample, and the sampling distribution of the sample mean or proportion. With the (repeated) click on a button, one can see how the sampling distribution builds up one simulated random sample at a time and, for large sample sizes, assumes a bell shape. Users can move sliders for sample size and various population parameters to see the effect on the sampling distribution. Chapter 7 shows many screenshots of these apps.
- The **Inference for a Proportion** and the **Inference for a Mean** app carry out statistical inference. They provide graphs, confidence intervals and results from *z*- or *t*-tests for data supplied in summary or original form.
- The **Explore Coverage** app uses simulation to demonstrate the concept of the confidence coefficient, both



for confidence intervals for the proportion and for the mean. Different sliders for true population parameter, sample size or confidence coefficient show their effect on coverage and width of confidence intervals.

- The **Errors and Power** app explores Type I and Type II errors and the concept of power visually and interactively. Users can move sliders to connect these concepts to sample size, significance level, and true parameter value for one-sample tests about proportions or means.
- The **Inference Comparing Proportions** and the **Inference Comparing Means** apps construct appropriate graphs for a visual comparison and carry out two-sample inference. Confidence intervals and results of hypotheses tests for two independent (or two dependent) samples are displayed. Data can be supplied in summary or original form.
- The **Bootstrap** app finds a bootstrap confidence interval for a mean, median, or standard deviation.

- The **Permutation Test** (cont. data) app compares quantitative responses between two groups using a permutation approach. By repeatedly clicking a button, the sampling distribution using permutations is generated step-by-step, which is useful when first introducing the topic. Both the original and the (randomly) permuted datasets are shown.
- The **Permutation Test for Independence** app tests for independence in contingency tables using the permutation sampling distribution of the Chi-squared statistic X^2 . It displays the original contingency table and bar chart along with the table and chart for the permuted dataset, as well as the sampling distribution of X^2 .
- The **Fisher Exact Test** app can be used for exact inference in 2 × 2 contingency tables.
- The **ANOVA** (**One-Way**) app allows comparison of several means, including post-hoc pairwise multiple comparisons.



Permutation Test Comparing Two Groups

Preface

We have each taught introductory statistics for many years, and we have witnessed the welcome evolution from the traditional formula-driven mathematical statistics course to a concept-driven approach. This concept-driven approach places more emphasis on why statistics is important in the real world and places less emphasis on mathematical probability. One of our goals in writing this book was to help make the conceptual approach more interesting and more readily accessible to students. At the end of the course, we want students to look back at their statistics course and realize that they learned practical concepts that will serve them well for the rest of their lives.

We also want students to come to appreciate that in practice, assumptions are not perfectly satisfied, models are not exactly correct, distributions are not exactly normally distributed, and different factors should be considered in conducting a statistical analysis. The title of our book reflects the experience of data analysts, who soon realize that statistics is an art as well as a science.

What's New in This Edition

Our goal in writing the fourth edition of our textbook was to improve the student and instructor user experience. We have:

- Clarified terminology and streamlined writing throughout the text to improve ease of reading and facilitate comprehension.
- Used real data and real examples to illustrate almost all concepts discussed. Throughout the book, within three to five consecutive pages, an example is presented that depicts a real-world scenario to illustrate the statistical concept discussed.
- Introduced new web-based applets (referred to as *web apps* or *apps*) illustrating and helping students interact with key statistical concepts and techniques. These apps invite students to explore consequences of changing parameters and to carry out statistical inference. Among other relevant concepts and techniques, students are introduced to:
 - Sampling distributions
 - Central limit theorem
 - Bootstrapping for interval estimation (Chapter 8)
 - Randomization or permutation tests for significance testing (Chapter 10 for difference in two means and Chapter 11 for two categorical variables).
- Inserted brief overviews to set the stage for each chapter, introducing students to chapter concepts and helping them see how previous chapters' concepts, tools, and techniques are related.
- Included computer output from the most recent versions of MINITAB and the TI calculator.
- Expanded Chapter 1, providing key terminology to establish a foundation to understand the big picture of the statistical investigative process—the importance of asking good statistical questions, designing an appropriate study, performing descriptive and inferential analysis, and making a conclusion.

- Reflected the latest trends in statistical education, including:
 - Measures of association for categorical variables in Chapter 3
 - Permutation testing in Chapters 10 and 11
 - Updated coverage of McNemar's test in Chapter 10 (previously Chapter 11)
- Moved important coverage of risk difference and relative risk to Chapter 3 (instead of first introducing these measures in Chapter 11). We believe that understanding these two statistics is a necessary part of statistical literacy for the everyday citizen as they are pervasive in mass media and the medical literature.
- Updated or replaced over 25 percent of the exercises and examples. In addition, we have updated all General Social Services (GSS) data with the most current data available.

Our Approach

In 2005, the American Statistical Association (ASA) endorsed guidelines and recommendations for the introductory statistics course as described in the report, "Guidelines for Assessment and Instruction in Statistics Education (GAISE) for the College Introductory Course" (www.amstat.org/education/gaise). The report states that the overreaching goal of all introductory statistics courses is to produce statistically educated students, which means that students should develop statistical literacy and the ability to think statistically. The report gives six key recommendations for the college introductory course:

- Emphasize statistical literacy and develop statistical thinking.
- Use real data.
- Stress conceptual understanding rather than mere knowledge of procedures.
- Foster active learning in the classroom.
- Use technology for developing concepts and analyzing data.
- Use assessment to evaluate and improve student learning.

We wholeheartedly endorse these recommendations, and our textbook takes every opportunity to support these guidelines.

Ask and Answer Interesting Questions

In presenting concepts and methods, we encourage students to think about the data and the appropriate analyses by posing questions. Our approach, learning by framing questions, is carried out in various ways, including (1) presenting a structured approach to examples that separates the question and the analysis from the scenario presented, (2) providing homework problems that encourage students to think and write, and (3) asking questions in the figure captions that are answered in the Chapter Review.

Present Concepts Clearly

Students have told us that this book is more "readable" and interesting than other introductory statistics texts because of the wide variety of intriguing real data examples and exercises. We have simplified our prose wherever possible, without sacrificing any of the accuracy that instructors expect in a textbook.

A serious source of confusion for students is the multitude of inference methods that derive from the many combinations of confidence intervals and tests, means and proportions, large sample and small sample, variance known and unknown, two-sided and one-sided inference, independent and dependent samples, and so on. We emphasize the most important cases for practical application of inference: large sample, variance unknown, two-sided inference, and independent samples. The many other cases are also covered (except for known variances), but more briefly, with the exercises focusing mainly on the way inference is commonly conducted in practice. We present the traditional probability distribution–based inference but now also include inference using simulation through bootstrapping and permutation tests.

Connect Statistics to the Real World

We believe it's important for students to be comfortable with analyzing a balance of both quantitative and categorical data so students can work with the data they most often see in the world around them. Every day in the media, we see and hear percentages and rates used to summarize results of opinion polls, outcomes of medical studies, and economic reports. As a result, we have increased the attention paid to the analysis of proportions. For example, we use contingency tables early in the text to illustrate the concept of association between two categorical variables and to show the potential influence of a lurking variable.

Organization of the Book

The statistical investigative process has the following components: (1) asking a statistical question; (2) designing an appropriate study to collect data; (3) analyzing the data; and (4) interpreting the data and making conclusions to answer the statistical questions. With this in mind, the book is organized into four parts.

Part 1 focuses on gathering and exploring data. This equates to components 1, 2, and 3, when the data is analyzed descriptively (both for one variable and the association between two variables).

Part 2 covers probability, probability distributions, and the sampling distribution. This equates to component 3, when the student learns the underlying probability necessary to make the step from analyzing the data descriptively to analyzing the data inferentially (for example, understanding sampling distributions to develop the concept of a margin of error and a P-value).

Part 3 covers inferential statistics. This equates to components 3 and 4 of the statistical investigative process. The students learn how to form confidence intervals and conduct significance tests and then make appropriate conclusions answering the statistical question of interest.

Part 4 covers analyzing associations (inferentially) and looks at extended statistical methods.

The chapters are written in such a way that instructors can teach out of order. For example, after Chapter 1, an instructor could easily teach Chapter 4, Chapter 2, and Chapter 3. Alternatively, an instructor may teach Chapters 5, 6, and 7 after Chapters 1 and 4.

Features of the Fourth Edition

Promoting Student Learning

To motivate students to think about the material, ask appropriate questions, and develop good problem-solving skills, we have created special features that distinguish this text.

Student Support

To draw students to important material we highlight key definitions, guidelines, procedures, "In Practice" remarks, and other summaries in boxes throughout the text. In addition, we have four types of margin notes:

- **In Words:** This feature explains, in plain language, the definitions and symbolic notation found in the body of the text (which, for technical accuracy, must be more formal).
- **Caution:** These margin boxes alert students to areas to which they need to pay special attention, particularly where they are prone to make mistakes or incorrect assumptions.
- **Recall:** As the student progresses through the book, concepts are presented that depend on information learned in previous chapters. The Recall margin boxes direct the reader back to a previous presentation in the text to review and reinforce concepts and methods already covered.
- **Did You Know:** These margin boxes provide information that helps with the contextual understanding of the statistical question under consideration.

Graphical Approach

Because many students are visual learners, we have taken extra care to make the **text figures** informative. We've annotated many of the figures with labels that clearly identify the noteworthy aspects of the illustration. Further, most figure captions include a question (answered in the Chapter Review) designed to challenge the student to interpret and think about the information being communicated by the graphic. The graphics also feature a pedagogical use of color to help students recognize patterns and distinguish between statistics and parameters. The use of color is explained on page D-1 for easy reference.

Hands-On Activities and Simulations

Each chapter contains diverse and dynamic activities that allow students to become familiar with a number of statistical methodologies and tools. The instructor can elect to carry out the activities in class, outside of class, or a combination of both. The activity often involves simulation, commonly using a web app available through the book's website or MyStatLab. Similar activities can also be found within MyStatLab. These hands-on activities and simulations encourage students to learn by doing.

Connection to History: On the Shoulders of ...

We believe that knowledge pertaining to the evolution and history of the statistics discipline is relevant to understanding the methods we use for designing studies and analyzing data. Throughout the text, several chapters feature a spotlight on people who have made major contributions to the statistics discipline. These spotlights are titled **On the Shoulders of ...**

Real-World Connections

Chapter-Opening Example

Each chapter begins with a **high-interest example** that raises key questions and establishes themes that are woven throughout the chapter. Illustrated with engaging photographs, this example is designed to grab students' attention and draw them into the chapter. The issues discussed in the chapter's opening example are referred to and revisited in examples within the chapter. All chapter-opening examples use real data from a variety of applications.

Statistics: In Practice

We realize that there is a difference between proper academic statistics and what is actually done in practice. Data analysis in practice is an art as well as a science. Although statistical theory has foundations based on precise assumptions and conditions, in practice the real world is not so simple. **In Practice** boxes and text references alert students to the way statisticians actually analyze data in practice. These comments are based on our extensive consulting experience and research and by observing what well-trained statisticians do in practice.

Exercises and Examples

Innovative Example Format

Recognizing that the worked examples are the major vehicle for engaging and teaching students, we have developed a unique structure to help students learn to model the question-posing and investigative thought process required to examine issues intelligently using statistics. The five components are as follows:

- **Picture the Scenario** presents background information so students can visualize the situation. This step places the data to be investigated in context and often provides a link to previous examples.
- **Questions to Explore** reference the information from the scenario and pose questions to help students focus on what is to be learned from the example and what types of questions are useful to ask about the data.
- **Think It Through** is the heart of each example. Here, the questions posed are investigated and answered using appropriate statistical methods. Each solution is clearly matched to the question so students can easily find the response to each Question to Explore.
- **Insight** clarifies the central ideas investigated in the example and places them in a broader context that often states the conclusions in less technical terms. Many of the Insights also provide connections between seemingly disparate topics in the text by referring to concepts learned previously and/or foreshad-owing techniques and ideas to come.
- **Try Exercise:** Each example concludes by directing students to an end-of-section exercise that allows immediate practice of the concept or technique within the example.

Concept tags are included with each example so that students can easily identify the concept demonstrated in the example.

Relevant and Engaging Exercises

The text contains a strong emphasis on real data in both the examples and exercises. We have updated the exercise sets in the fourth edition to ensure that students have ample opportunity to practice techniques and apply the concepts. Nearly all of the chapters contain more than 100 exercises, and more than 25 percent of the exercises are new to this edition or have been updated with current data. These exercises are realistic and ask students to provide interpretations of the data or scenario rather than merely to find a numerical solution. We show how statistics addresses a wide array of applications, including opinion polls, market research, the environment, and health and human behavior. Because we believe that most students benefit more from focusing on the underlying concepts and interpretations of data analyses than from the actual calculations, the exercises often show summary statistics and printouts and ask what can be learned from them.

We have exercises in three places:

• At the end of each section. These exercises provide immediate reinforcement and are drawn from concepts within the section.

- At the end of each chapter. This more comprehensive set of exercises draws from all concepts across all sections within the chapter.
- **Part Reviews.** These exercises draw connections among a part's chapters and summarize the overarching themes and concepts. Part exercises reinforce primary learning objectives. These are all available in MyStatLab.

Each exercise has a descriptive label. Exercises for which technology is recommended (such as using software or an app to carry out the analysis) are indicated with the fight icon. Larger data sets used in examples and exercises are referenced in the text, listed on page D-2, and made available on the book's website. The exercises are divided into the following three categories:

- **Practicing the Basics** are the section exercises and the first group of end-ofchapter exercises; they reinforce basic application of the methods.
- Concepts and Investigations exercises require the student to explore real data sets and carry out investigations for mini-projects. They may ask students to explore concepts and related theory or be extensions of the chapter's methods. This section contains some multiple-choice and true-false exercises to help students check their understanding of the basic concepts and prepare for tests. A few more difficult, optional exercises (highlighted with the ◆ icon) are included to present some additional concepts and methods. Concepts and Investigations exercises are found in the end-of-chapter exercises.
- **Student Activities** are designed for group work based on investigations each of the students performs on a team. Student Activities are found in the end-of-chapter exercises, and additional activities may be found within chapters as well.

Technology Integration

Up-to-Date Use of Technology

The availability of technology enables instruction that is less calculation-based and more concept-oriented. Output from software applications and calculators is displayed throughout the textbook, and discussion focuses on interpretation of the output rather than on the keystrokes needed to create the output. Although most of our output is from MINITAB[®] and the TI calculators, we also show screen captures from IBM[®] SPSS[®] and Microsoft Excel[®] as appropriate.

Web Apps

Web apps referred to in the text are found on the book's website (www. pearsonglobaleditions.com/agresti) and in MyStatLab. These apps have great value because they demonstrate concepts to students visually. For example, creating a sampling distribution is accomplished more readily with a dynamic and interactive web app than with a static text figure. (Description and list of the apps may be found on page 7.)

Data Sets

We use a wealth of real data sets throughout the textbook. These data sets are available on the www.pearsonglobaleditions.com/agresti website. The same data set is often used in several chapters, helping reinforce the four components of the statistical investigative process and allowing the students to see the big picture of statistical reasoning. Exercises requiring students to download the data set from the book's website are noted with this icon:

Learning Catalytics

Learning Catalytics is a web-based engagement and assessment tool. As a "bring-your-own-device" direct response system, Learning Catalytics offers a diverse library of dynamic question types that allow students to interact with and think critically about statistical concepts. As a real-time resource, instructors can take advantage of critical teaching moments both in the classroom or through assignable and gradeable homework.

UPDATED! Example-Level Videos

Select examples from the text have guided videos. These updated videos provide excellent support for students who require additional assistance or want reinforcement on topics and concepts learned in class.

MyStatLab[™] Online Course (access code required)

MyStatLab is a course management system that delivers **proven results** in helping individual students succeed.

- MyStatLab can be successfully implemented in any environment—lab-based, hybrid, fully online, traditional—and demonstrates the quantifiable difference that integrated usage has on student retention, subsequent success, and overall achievement.
- MyStatLab's comprehensive online gradebook automatically tracks students' results on tests, quizzes, homework, and in the study plan. Instructors can use the gradebook to intervene if students have trouble or to provide positive feedback. Data can be easily exported to a variety of spreadsheet programs, such as Microsoft Excel.

MyStatLab provides **engaging experiences** that personalize, stimulate, and measure learning for each student.

- **Tutorial Exercises with Multimedia Learning Aids:** The homework and practice exercises in MyStatLab align with the exercises in the textbook, and they regenerate algorithmically to give students unlimited opportunity for practice and mastery. Exercises offer immediate helpful feedback, guided solutions, sample problems, animations, videos, and eText clips for extra help at point-of-use.
- Getting Ready for Statistics: A library of questions now appears within each MyStatLab course to offer the developmental math topics students need for the course. These can be assigned as a prerequisite to other assignments if desired.
- **Conceptual Question Library:** In addition to algorithmically regenerated questions that are aligned with your textbook, a library of 1,000 Conceptual Questions is available in the assessment managers that require students to apply their statistical understanding.
- **StatCrunch:** MyStatLab includes a web-based statistical software, StatCrunch, within the online assessment platform so that students can easily analyze data sets from exercises and the text. In addition, MyStatLab includes access to **www.StatCrunch.com**, a website where users can access more than 20,000 shared data sets, conduct online surveys, perform complex analyses using the powerful statistical software, and generate compelling reports.
- Integration of Statistical Software: Knowing that students often use external statistical software, we make it easy to copy our data sets from the

MyStatLab questions into software like StatCrunch, MINITAB, Excel, and more. Students have access to a variety of support—Technology Tutorials Videos and Technology Study Cards—to learn how to use statistical software effectively.

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- **Crunch.** A full range of numerical and graphical methods allows users to analyze and gain insights from any data set. Interactive graphics help users understand statistical concepts and are available for export to enrich reports with visual representations of data.
- **Communicate.** Reporting options help users create a wide variety of visually appealing representations of their data.

Full access to StatCrunch is available with a MyStatLab kit, and StatCrunch is available by itself to qualified adopters. For more information, visit our website at www.statcrunch.com or contact your Pearson representative.

An Invitation Rather Than a Conclusion

We hope that students using this textbook will gain a lasting appreciation for the vital role the art and science of statistics plays in analyzing data and helping us make decisions in our lives. Our major goals for this textbook are that students learn how to:

- Recognize that we are surrounded by data and the importance of becoming statistically literate to interpret these data and make informed decisions based on data.
- Become critical readers of studies summarized in mass media and of research papers that quote statistical results.
- Produce data that can provide answers to properly posed questions.
- Appreciate how probability helps us understand randomness in our lives and grasp the crucial concept of a sampling distribution and how it relates to inference methods.
- Choose appropriate descriptive and inferential methods for examining and analyzing data and drawing conclusions.

- Communicate the conclusions of statistical analyses clearly and effectively.
- Understand the limitations of most research, either because it was based on an observational study rather than a randomized experiment or survey or because a certain lurking variable was not measured that could have explained the observed associations.

We are excited about sharing the insights that we have learned from our experience as teachers and from our students through this text. Many students still enter statistics classes on the first day with dread because of its reputation as a dry, sometimes difficult, course. It is our goal to inspire a classroom environment that is filled with creativity, openness, realistic applications, and learning that students find inviting and rewarding. We hope that this textbook will help the instructor and the students experience a rewarding introductory course in statistics.

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of Learning from Data by Agresti, Franklin, and Klingenberg

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▲ Figure 10.10 Screenshot from Permutation Web App. The histogram shows the permutation sampling distribution of the difference between sample means. This sampling distribution is obtained by considering all possible ways of dividing the responses of the 14 dogs into two groups of size 7 and computing the difference in sample means for each. The semi-circle in the right tail indicates the actually observed difference. (The dot plots above the histogram show the original data and the data after a random permutation, in this case, the permutation when all dogs in Group 1 are switched with all dogs from Group 2) Question Is the observed difference extreme?

www.mystatlab.com

Resources for Success

Instructor Resources

Additional resources can be downloaded from **www.pearsonglobaleditions.com/agresti**

Text-specific website, www.pearsonglobaleditions.com/ agresti New to this edition, students and instructors will have a full library of resources, including apps developed for in-text activities and data sets (.csv, TI-83/84 Plus C, and .txt).

Updated! Instructor to Instructor Videos provide an opportunity for adjuncts, part-timers, TAs, or other instructors who are new to teaching from this text or have limited class prep time to learn about the book's approach and coverage from the authors. The videos, available through MyStatLab, focus on those topics that have proven to be most challenging to students. The authors offer suggestions, pointers, and ideas about how to present these topics and concepts effectively based on their many years of teaching introductory statistics. They also share insights on how to help students use the textbook in the most effective way to realize success in the course.

Instructor's Solutions Manual, by James Lapp, contains fully worked solutions to every textbook exercise. Available for download from Pearson's online catalog at www.pearsonglobaleditions.com/agresti and through MyStatLab.

Answers to the Student Laboratory Workbook are available for download from www.pearsonglobaleditions.com/agresti and through MyStatLab.

PowerPoint Lecture Slides are fully editable and printable slides that follow the textbook. These slides can be used during lectures or posted to a website in an online course. The PowerPoint Lecture Slides are available from www.pearsonglobaleditions.com/agresti and through MyStatLab.

TestGen[®] (www.pearsoned.com/testgen) enables instructors to build, edit, print, and administer tests using a computerized bank of questions developed to cover all the objectives of the text. TestGen is algorithmically based, allowing instructors to create multiple but equivalent versions of the same question or test with the click of a button. Instructors can also modify test bank questions or add new questions. The test bank is available for download from www.pearsonglobaleditions.com/agresti and through MyStatLab.

The Online Test Bank is a test bank derived from TestGen[®]. It includes multiple choice and short answer questions for each section of the text, along with the answer keys. Available for download from www.pearsonglobaleditions.com/agresti and through MyStatLab.

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Updated! Example-level videos explain how to work examples from the text. The videos provide excellent support for students who require additional assistance or want reinforcement on topics and concepts learned in class (available in MyStatLab).

Student Laboratory Workbook, by Megan Mocko (University of Florida) and Maria Ripol (University of Florida), is a study tool for the first ten chapters of the text. This workbook provides section-by-section review and practice and additional activities that cover fundamental statistical topics (ISBN-10: 0-13-386089-2; ISBN-13: 978-0-13-386089-4).

Study Cards for Statistics Software This series of study cards, available for Excel[®], MINITAB[®], JMP[®], SPSS[®], R[®], StatCrunch[®], and the TI family of graphing calculators provides students with easy, step-by-step guides to the most common statistics software. Available in MyStatLab.

www.mystatlab.com

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Gathering and Exploring Data



Chapter 1 Statistics: The Art and Science of Learning from Data

Chapter 2 Exploring Data with Graphs and Numerical Summaries

Chapter 3

Association: Contingency, Correlation, and Regression

Chapter 4 Gathering Data



CHAPTER

- 1.1 Using Data to Answer Statistical Questions
- **1.2** Sample Versus Population
- **1.3** Using Calculators and Computers



Statistics: The Art and Science of Learning from Data

Example 1

How Statistics Helps Us Learn About the World

Picture the Scenario

In this book, you will explore a wide variety of everyday scenarios. For example, you will evaluate media reports about opinion surveys, medical research studies, the state of the economy, and environmental issues. You'll face financial decisions such as choosing between an investment with a sure return and one that could make you more money but could possibly cost you your entire investment. You'll learn how to analyze the available information to answer necessary questions in such scenarios. One purpose of this book is to show you why an understanding of statistics is essential for making good decisions in an uncertain world.

Questions to Explore

This book will show you how to collect appropriate information and how to apply statistical methods so you can better evaluate that information and answer the questions posed. Here are some examples of questions we'll investigate in coming chapters:

- How can you evaluate evidence about global warming?
- Are cell phones dangerous to your health?
- What's the chance your tax return will be audited?
- How likely are you to win the lottery?
- Is there bias against women in appointing managers?
- What 'hot streaks' should you expect in basketball?
- How can you analyze whether a diet really works?
- How can you predict the selling price of a house?

Thinking Ahead

Each chapter uses questions like these to introduce a topic and then introduces tools for making sense of the available information. We'll see that **statistics** is the art and science of designing studies and analyzing the information that those studies produce. In the business world, managers use statistics to analyze results of marketing studies about new products, to help predict sales, and to measure employee performance. In finance, statistics is used to study stock returns and investment opportunities. Medical studies use statistics to evaluate whether new ways to treat disease are better than existing ways. In fact, most professional occupations today rely heavily on statistical methods. In a competitive job market, understanding statistics provides an important advantage.

But it's important to understand statistics even if you will never use it in your job. Understanding statistics can help you make better choices. Why? Because every day you are bombarded with statistical information from news reports, advertisements, political campaigns, and surveys. How do you know what to heed and what to ignore? An understanding of the statistical reasoning—and in some cases statistical misconceptions—underlying these pronouncements will help. For instance, this book will enable you to evaluate claims about medical research studies more effectively so that you know when you should be skeptical. For example, does taking an aspirin daily truly lessen the chance of having a heart attack?

We realize that you are probably not reading this book in the hope of becoming a statistician. (That's too bad, because there's a severe shortage of statisticians—more jobs than trained people. And with the ever-increasing ways in which statistics is being applied, it's an exciting time to be a statistician.) You may even suffer from math phobia. Please be assured that to learn the main concepts of statistics, logical thinking and perseverance are more important than high-powered math skills. Don't be frustrated if learning comes slowly and you need to read about a topic a few times before it starts to make sense. Just as you would not expect to sit through a single foreign language class session and be able to speak that language fluently, the same is true with the language of statistics. It takes time and practice. But we promise that your hard work will be rewarded. Once you have completed even part of this text, you will understand much better how to make sense of statistical information and, hence, the world around you.

1.1 Using Data to Answer Statistical Questions

Does a low-carbohydrate diet result in significant weight loss? Are people more likely to stop at a Starbucks if they've seen a recent Starbucks TV commercial? Information gathering is at the heart of investigating answers to such questions. The information we gather with experiments and surveys is collectively called **data**.

For instance, consider an experiment designed to evaluate the effectiveness of a low-carbohydrate diet. The data might consist of the following measurements for the people participating in the study: weight at the beginning of the study, weight at the end of the study, number of calories of food eaten per day, carbohydrate intake per day, body-mass index (BMI) at the start of the study, and gender. A marketing survey about the effectiveness of a TV ad for Starbucks could collect data on the percentage of people who went to a Starbucks since the ad aired and analyze how it compares for those who saw the ad and those who did not see it.

Defining Statistics

You already have a sense of what the word *statistics* means. You hear statistics quoted about sports events (number of points scored by each player on a basket-ball team), statistics about the economy (median income, unemployment rate), and statistics about opinions, beliefs, and behaviors (percentage of students who