



Analyzing Statistics through Critical Thinking and Values

By Dr. Siamack Bondari, Dr. Jacci White

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Free throw percentage, RBI average, school grades, unemployment rates, mutual fund average performance numbers. Statistics are all around us. Are they always accurate? Are they intentionally biased? Do they unintentionally hurt anyone? Are they used to make better decisions? Are they abused to push through decisions? Even if Statisticians could agree on a common set of values to use in decision making, they couldn't be branded upon by all new people that enter the field. We believe that experience looking at the impact statistical results can have when they are publicized is as important as understanding how they were calculated and who was involved in the work. We also believe that every person needs to be able to think critically about not only their findings, but also about results obtained by others. This book attempts to summarize basic statistical calculations and then provide opportunities to explore findings and beliefs about those findings to bring into focus the set of values by which you already live and use them to think critically about a problem, in order to make wise decisions.

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Bibliography

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About the Author

Drs. Siamack Bondari and Jacci White are Professors of Mathematics at Saint Leo University where Dr. White is also Director of the Honors Program . They have been very active with the professional mathematics community holding offices that include President, Vice President for Programs, Vice President of Site, and Governor of the Florida Section of the Mathematical Association of America and past Mathematics and Computer Science section chairs for the Florida Academy of Sciences. Dr. White is a past winner of the SLU School of Arts and Sciences Researcher of the Year, MAA Distinguished College or University Teacher of the Year, and Phyllis Meek Service Award for the Florida Association of Women in Education. Dr. Bondari has been serving as the chair of the Department of Mathematics & Science at Saint Leo University since spring of 2009.

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