

§ 5B - SHOULD YOU BELIEVE A STATISTICAL STUDY?

9. THE SAT TESTS MOSTLY HIGH SCHOOL MATH, NOT MIDDLE SCHOOL MATH, AND DOES NOT TEST ONE'S ABILITY TO TEACH AT ALL. ALSO, THE TEACHERS PROBABLY TOOK THE SAT AS HIGH SCHOOLERS - PRESUMABLY A LONG TIME AGO. THUS, THESE SCORES MIGHT BE OUTDATED & IRRELEVANT. ∴ SAT SCORE IS NOT AN APPROPRIATE PIECE OF DATA FOR ACCOMPLISHING THE GOAL OF THE STUDY.

12. THE PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANY HAS A FINANCIAL INTEREST TO FIND THEIR DRUG SUPERIOR. THERE IS POTENTIAL FOR BIAS.

13. SELECTION BIAS BECAUSE THE AUDIENCE FOR ONE TV TALK SHOW IS PROBABLY NOT REPRESENTATIVE OF POPULATION. PARTICIPATION BIAS BECAUSE ONLY HIGHLY OPINIONATED VIEWERS WILL CALL IN TO VOTE.

15. HOW DO YOU MEASURE HAPPINESS? THIS IS A DIFFICULT VARIABLE TO MEASURE, AND SEEMINGLY IMPOSSIBLE TO MEASURE IN ONLY 5 QUESTIONS. ("POORLY DEFINED VARIABLE").

19. PARTICIPANTS ARE UNLIKELY TO ADMIT TO ABUSING A SPOUSE OR PARTNER. IT IS UNCLEAR IF THE QUESTIONNAIRE IS ANONYMOUS OR NOT, BUT EVEN IF IT IS, PARTICIPANTS MAY STILL LIE.

20. THE WORDING OF THE QUESTION IS BIASED (AGAINST FLAG BURNING) AND DOES NOT ASK A QUESTION APPROPRIATE FOR THE GOAL OF THE STUDY.

21. WAS INFLATION TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT? IT SEEMS NOT, AND SO THE RISE IN PRICE DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN THAT TUITION HAS INCREASED (RELATIVE TO OTHER PRICES).

22. AVERAGE WEIGHT LOSS DOES NOT SAY WHETHER MOST PEOPLE LOST WEIGHT OR NOT (PERHAPS JUST A FEW PEOPLE LOST A LOT OF WEIGHT).

ALSO, WHAT DOES "ENOUGH DISCIPLINE" MEAN? NOT CLEAR -
; HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE DIET PROGRAM BEING STUDIED.

23. WHAT DO "ALWAYS", "OFTEN", AND "SPECIAL EFFORT" MEAN.
NOBODY CAN RECYCLE "ALWAYS". ALSO, PEOPLE MAY BE RELUCTANT TO ADMIT TO NOT RECYCLING, AND SO MAY LIE.

30. SELECTION BIAS - NEW YORKERS ARE NOT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE NATIONAL POPULATION.

31. I DON'T KNOW HOW "CAMPUS MAIL" WORKS, BUT ASSUMING A RETURN ADDRESS IS REQUIRED THEN THE SURVEY IS NOT ANONYMOUS ; SO STUDENTS MAY BE RELUCTANT TO LIST ANY PROFESSOR AS "WORST".
ALSO, THE TERMS "BEST" ; "WORST" ARE NOT CLEARLY DEFINED AND MAY BE HARD TO MEASURE.

34. WHAT DOES "SAFETY OF FOOD" MEAN?

SAFE TO EAT?

SAFE FROM BEING STOLEN?

} WHAT IS THE GOAL OF THE STUDY?

WHAT DO "EXTREMELY CONCERNED", "VERY CONCERNED", ;
"SOMEWHAT CONCERNED" MEAN? SEEMS HARD TO DOING
; MEASURE.

43. 98% OF MOVIES \neq 98% OF TOP MOVIE RENTALS



(PRESUMABLY IN U.S.)

EVER?

45. SINCE WELCH FOODS FUNDED THE STUDY, THE RESEARCHERS HAVE FINANCIAL INCENTIVE TO PRODUCE RESULTS IN FAVOR OF GRAPE JUICE. THIS A POTENTIAL FOR BIAS. ALSO, THE JUICE DOES NOT FIGHT HEART DISEASE, IT FIGHTS RISK FACTORS OF HEART DISEASE.

46.

(a) 1740

(b)

	EXERCISE	NO EXERCISE	TOTAL
DEMENTIA	106	52	158
NO DEMENTIA	912	273	1185
TOTAL	1018	325	1343

(c)

