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Statistics In Plain English, Third Edition



Synopsis

This inexpensive paperback provides a brief, simple overview of statistics to help readers gain a better understanding of how statistics work and how to interpret them correctly. Each chapter describes a different statistical technique, ranging from basic concepts like central tendency and describing distributions to more advanced concepts such as t tests, regression, repeated measures ANOVA, and factor analysis. Each chapter begins with a short description of the statistic and when it should be used. This is followed by a more in-depth explanation of how the statistic works. Finally, each chapter ends with an example of the statistic in use, and a sample of how the results of analyses using the statistic might be written up for publication. A glossary of statistical terms and symbols is also included. New features in the third edition include: a new chapter on Factor and Reliability Analysis especially helpful to those who do and/or read survey research, new "Writing it Up" sections demonstrate how to write about and interpret statistics seen in books and journals, a website at <http://www.psypress.com/statistics-in-plain-english> with PowerPoint presentations, interactive problems (including an overview of the problem's solution for Instructors) with an IBM SPSS dataset for practice, videos of the author demonstrating how to calculate and interpret most of the statistics in the book, links to useful websites, and an author blog, new section on understanding the distribution of data (ch. 1) to help readers understand how to use and interpret graphs, many more examples, tables, and charts to help students visualize key concepts. Statistics in Plain English, Third Edition is an ideal supplement for statistics, research methods, and/or for courses that use statistics taught at the undergraduate or graduate level, or as a reference tool for anyone interested in refreshing their memory about key statistical concepts. The research examples are from psychology, education, and other social and behavioral sciences.

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Customer Reviews

"This book will be an excellent first choice for students or researchers —starting the journey into the realm of statistics— but it will be also a great second choice for the many who have found this journey too intimidating the first time they tried it." - Giorgio Bedogni, Liver Research Centre, Italy, in Journal of the Royal Statistical Society "This book delivers on the promise of its title; it is the most clear and engaging communication of the basic principles of statistics that I have seen to date. It is a positive outlier that will greatly benefit teachers and students alike." - Andrew J. Elliot, University of Rochester, USA "Statistics in Plain English is a gift to students, teachers, and researchers. Urdan clearly explains statistical topics using straightforward, conversational language. The book is particularly unique because it covers everything from basic statistical principles to complex multivariate techniques, all in an extremely user-friendly manner." - Eric M. Anderman, The Ohio State University, USA "This approachable book provides an excellent introduction to statistical principles and terminology. Urdan clearly understands the bewildering experience of novices in the domain, and he smoothes the path with his clear prose and relevant examples." - Avi Kaplan, Temple University, USA "This is by far... the best statistical "primer" on the market today and I recommend it widely to students as well as colleagues...It is affordable and compact....[it] is appropriate for students at either the undergraduate or graduate level and it is generic enough...to be useful across a variety of disciplines... His manner of explaining concepts is far superior to most textbooks on the market." — Catherine A. Roster, University of New Mexico, USA "A well sequenced, well organized introduction to quantitative data analysis that does not rely on cookbook mathematics and equation-heavy presentations of statistical concepts, but instead focuses on conceptually oriented textual descriptions." - Jenefer Husman, Arizona State University, USA

Timothy C. Urdan is a Professor in the Department of Psychology at Santa Clara University. He received his Ph.D. in Education and Psychology from the University of Michigan in 1994 where he received several honors awards including the School of Education Merit Award, the Horace H. Rackham Predoctoral Fellowship, and the Burke Aaron Hinsdale Scholar in 1995. Since 2001, he has served on the editorial board for Contemporary Educational Psychology and the Journal of Educational Psychology. Dr. Urdan is the co-editor of two book series, one on Adolescence and Education and the other on Motivation and Achievement and of the forthcoming Educational

Psychology Handbook.

I had been looking for a basic text in biostatistics which explained clearly the conceptual framework of the topic. I wanted the math to be a secondary component, and not the primary method of teaching. I bought 5 or so introductory texts in order to find this one. This is one of the best teaching texts I have ever used, period. But to stay on topic, I will only say this: if you want a great introductory text on statistics, and you want to understand what your computer is calculating for you, read every page of this book. The other good news, is that it is very well written, and you could finish the book in just a few sessions.

The One book on statistics where I haven't felt like stupid or had to consult ten other books to get what the original book was really saying. It has no jokes, no funny cartoons necessary, just statistics explained crystal clear. This is really so easy to read, it takes you step by step through every topic and refers you back to previous sections so you can link new and old concepts together (the Kindle version makes this super easy by just clicking on the highlighted text). Used it as a complement to my epidemiology class to understand how to use inferential statistics in public health and I couldn't have gotten an "A" without it. Highly recommend it to everyone who's a little rusty on stats skills or needs to build a strong base to continue studies related to statistics at the graduate level.

I was having trouble finding clear explanations of statistics concepts such as z values, t tests, etc. before I came across this book. Many explanations of statistics concepts such as these are either too technical, consisting of many equations but no practical examples, or they are too high level without anything concrete. I'm not really interested in a derivation for these concepts. I just want to know how to apply them and to develop some intuition for how they work. This book delivered and gave me exactly what I was looking for. It explains the concepts very clearly and provides straightforward examples. I appreciated that the examples show you how to compute most of these statistics by hand. While in practice you would probably use software to compute these, this exposition really helps the concepts sink in.

I found this book to be an excellent refresher for the stats class(es) I took, lo those many years ago. It does precisely what's advertised: goes over a broad variety of statistical concepts in plain english without bogging down in the detail. He leaves you with enough information to know which techniques you want to further research, and which are not relevant for your application. There is

certainly not enough to be considered proficient in any of these, but plenty to know what you don't know. My only complaint is that the author keeps jumping around with the examples. While I appreciate the value of pulling examples from your own research, the author keeps grabbing for different examples. And with each new example, comes a bunch of new "setup" -- explanations about why this example study is appropriate, and so on. It would have been much more helpful (and briefer) if the author had chosen one or two example studies, and just kept referring to it over and over -- using the various techniques to draw more information from each example. Instead, he wastes a great deal of time (and my patience) setting up each example study. Aside from that small nit, this is a fine book, that does, as I noted, exactly what is advertised.

I am using this book to brush up on statistics for a data analytics certification that I am studying for. Before reading this book, statistics is a subject I found pretty intimidating. I didn't do well in it in highschool and failed it in college. It turns out all this time I thought I was bad at statistics and that it was a scary subject it turns out I just had bad teachers and professors and awful textbooks. This book makes statistical concepts so easy to understand and the book is genuinely well written with clarity and no fluff and unnecessary filler. That is not to say that the book is dry. It's not! The author even manages to sprinkle bits of humor and wit into his writing that keeps a traditionally dry subject interesting and engaging. I read to chapter 7 all in one sitting with this book! It's been hard for me to put down because I am amazed that I am understanding each subject he talks about remembering how I struggled with the same concept years ago and getting angrier and angrier at my previous teachers who I now feel cheated me. Another thing I like about this book's writing style is that there is little need to flip back and forth a ton between pages to reference earlier material. The author does an uncanny job mentioning or quickly reminding you of the necessary previous concept or formula you need to understand the current concept. I also like how he gives practical examples of how each concept is applied to the real world which really helps you to see the practical uses for what you are learning. Each chapter also has a looking forward section which gives a glimpse of how this concept will fit into the next concept he will introduce. This really makes it easy to see and understand how it all ties together. Kudos Mr. Urdan for your fine book and making a traditionally difficult subject engaging, easy and interesting to learn about. Thank you!

Statistics is a very boring subject for me, but the writer made the concepts very clear. I would give this book 5 stars if the figures in the book were easy to see in the Android version of Kindle. I am finding the Kindle is not good for technical books which require figures or graphics. I wish that would work

on the software more so that users could scale pictures or figures just like they do with text. I am sure blames the publisher for the problems, but I think that the tools that they provide the content provider should be easier to use to make figures and graphics scalable. I don't see this problem when I read a Adobe pdf. In summary, I would recommend the printed version of this book, but not the Kindle version .

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