



Simple Statistics: Applications in Social Research

By Terance D. Miethe, Jane Florence Gauthier

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The efficient use of statistics can transform excellent research into dynamic, persuasive scholarship. To demystify the process of calculating data, *Simple Statistics: Applications in Social Research* provides a concise introduction to basic social statistics.

In this innovative text, authors Terance D. Miethe and Jane Florence Gauthier illustrate how verbal statements and other types of material are converted into statistical codes, measures, and variables. To give students a sense of the "big picture," they clearly explain the relationship between research and statistics. Moreover, they focus on essential techniques rather than attempting to provide an intimidating, encyclopedic sweep of statistical procedures.

Written in a conversational tone, this invaluable resource does not talk down to students; instead, the authors clearly demonstrate the value of statistical thinking and reasoning in specific contexts. While most statistics texts focus primarily on *how to do* statistical procedures, they neglect to explain *why we do* them. This unique book covers both the *how* and *why* of statistics, preparing students to be better-informed, conscientious researchers. At the end of each chapter, a set of problems provides a rich context for social inquiry, challenging students to directly apply--and think critically--about what they've learned.

Throughout, the authors use hand computation methods to demonstrate how to apply various statistical procedures, and each procedure is illustrated by several helpful examples. In addition, each book is packaged with a user-friendly CD-ROM, which provides a step-by-step guide to using SPSS to perform the analyses described in the text. Detailed summaries, lists of key terms, and major formulas are included at the end of each chapter, and a comprehensive *Instructor's Manual* is also available.

A lively introduction to a complex subject, *Simple Statistics* is a vital resource for understanding the fascinating world of social statistics.

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Review

"The authors' approach, tone, and structure are nearly flawless. They use excellent and thought-provoking examples, and a good distribution of sample problems. Students need to do the basic hand calculations in order to master the substantive meaning of statistical results, and this text puts them into that task. I would definitely adopt this text."--Richard Fancy, *Wayne State University*

"What makes *Simple Statistics* distinctive is its remarkable balance between extremely technical statistics texts that are not written in a student-friendly fashion and oversimplified texts. Miethe writes in an exceptionally readable style, challenging students without intimidating them. Another key strength is the book's use of actual crime data, demonstrating the real-world applications of major statistical concepts."--Kent Kerley, *University of Alabama at Birmingham*

"Throughout this book, the author explains the relevance of statistical techniques--not just the mechanics. The conversational style is engaging, encouraging students to keep reading and realize that they can master statistics. The book distinguishes itself from other texts by paring down what students are expected to learn."--Wayne J. Pitts, *University of Memphis*

About the Author

Terance D. Miethe is Professor of Criminal Justice at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He is author of *Simple Statistics: Applications in Criminology and Criminal Justice* (OUP, 2006) and coauthor of many books, including *Crime Profiles: The Anatomy of Dangerous Persons, Places, and Situations* (OUP, 2005).

Jane Florence Gauthier is Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Her current research interests focus on gender differences in criminal offending and issues surrounding community structure and crime.

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