

STATISTICS HUMOR

- When she told me I was average, she was just being mean
- If the 2nd moment about the mean is the variance, the 3rd moment is skewness, and the 4th moment is kurtosis, what is the k th moment?

That's easy.... the k th moment is a **KODAK MOMENT!!!**

- What did one regression coefficient say to the other regression coefficient?

I'm partial to you!

- A beautiful young woman was dating a mathematician and a statistician, and she knew she had to make a decision. The two young fellows knew of each other, and were all the time trying to impress her with their intelligence. The woman decided that she would put the two young men to a test, and the winner would be her husband. She brought them into a small room and explained to them, "I have decided to end this battle between you, and pick one of you for my life-long partner. You must pass a simple test which I have devised. In turn, I want each of you to stand on that side of the room, and I will stand on this side of the room. Every 10 seconds, I want you to walk half the distance between us towards me until you get to me. Once you get to me, I want you to give me a kiss."

The mathematician quickly thinks he has the answer to the test, and wants to be the first to proclaim it. "I refuse to do such a thing!" the mathematician said. "If I always walk half the distance toward you, I will never get to you. There will always be some distance left, no matter how small, and it can always be split in half!" The mathematician knows he has won, and smirks quietly to himself.

The statistician thinks for a second, and says, "I'll give it a whirl." So, he stands on the other side of the room from the young woman, and then walks half way to her. After 10 seconds, he walks half way to her again. Then again. Then again. After about 2 minutes, the statistician is face to face with the young woman, their noses almost touching. Suddenly, he grabs her and gives her a big kiss!

The mathematician shouts, "Hey! You can't do that! You weren't all the way there! You CAN'T ever get all the way there by going half way each time!"

The statistician replies, "Well, **FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES**, I was there!!!"

The young woman and the statistician were wed that next spring.

A fun story by David Leonhardt

Have you ever noticed how much our world runs on statistics? That's because statistics never lie, of course. So I am here to offer help with statistics – to sort out all those conflicting truths. Here are a few very alarming statistics.

Almost half of the world's population earns a below-average income.

These demographics totally shocked me. I was under the impression that almost half of the world's population earns an above-average income. But then I discovered it is the reverse. I needed help with statistics, so I phoned my Uncle "Stats" Gyula.

"Almost half the world's population earns a below-average income."

Uncle Gyula was dumbfounded, "So?"

"Well, I want to make sure that nobody has a below-average income."

At a loss for words, my Uncle advised, "It won't happen until everybody has an above-average IQ." That made sense. "Right now," Uncle Gyula continued, "Almost half the world has a below-average IQ, and statistics never lie." I was floored. I did not realize we had such an IQ scarcity on our hands. But I was sure it is in some way related to another shocking statistic:

If current trends continue, by 2017 every child born will be illiterate.

I, myself, had recently sired two illiterate children. As discouraging as this was, I was determined that they should live a normal life and overcome this menacing handicap. Discovering the link between below-average IQ and below-average incomes, I am now more determined than ever to overcome our children's infant illiteracy.

I needed help with another shocking statistic I had read:

At least 97.3 percent of people are at risk of getting cancer.

I was particularly worried about this statistic because I did not know if I was one of the 97.3.

"I think you are," Uncle Gyula suggested. "Most people are, you know."

My uncle's comment worried me even more. It was scary enough that 97.3 percent of people are at risk of getting cancer, but it was even scarier to discover that most people fall into that 97.3 percent demographic.

Uncle Gyula tried to calm my fears, "I have another statistic that should make you feel much better. The majority of people at risk will survive, and statistics never lie."

That WAS reassuring. But it did not ease my mind about another ominous statistic I had read:

By 2050, at current mortality rates, two out of every three people will be dead.

This was worrisome because I suspected that I might be among the two-out-of-three people.

Uncle Gyula tried to reassure me once more, "This time, demographics would be on your side, because you can't get cancer when you are dead."

Sa-ay. That is good news. And Uncle Gyula was right. In fact, cancer rates in cemeteries remain at historic lows. And statistics never lie.

I recently bought a "home statistics calculator" on sale at Krispy Kreme. This will be fun. Let's say I want to find out what is the likelihood of starving to death. Let's see...I last ate about an hour and a half ago. OK, I'll just push this button...and here comes the results:

"Based on your caloric intake of the previous hour, you are likely to starve to death in just 30 days." That terrified me. I am going to starve to death in just 30 days. What can I do to stave off starvation?

Wait. There's more: "Immediate intervention can avert statistical starvation. Go directly to Krispy Kreme. Eat a dozen donuts every day, and you will reduce the risk of starvation by at least 69.3 percent.

This seems like great advice. Hmm, I wonder what Uncle Gyula would say about this.

"Actually, if you eat a dozen donuts every day, you decrease your chances of starving within 30 days to almost zero. And, due to increased risk of a heart attack, your new projected lifespan is...37 years old."

"But I'm already 41," I protested.

Uncle Gyula pondered these statistics. "It seems to me that starvation is your best bet, after all. And statistics never lie."