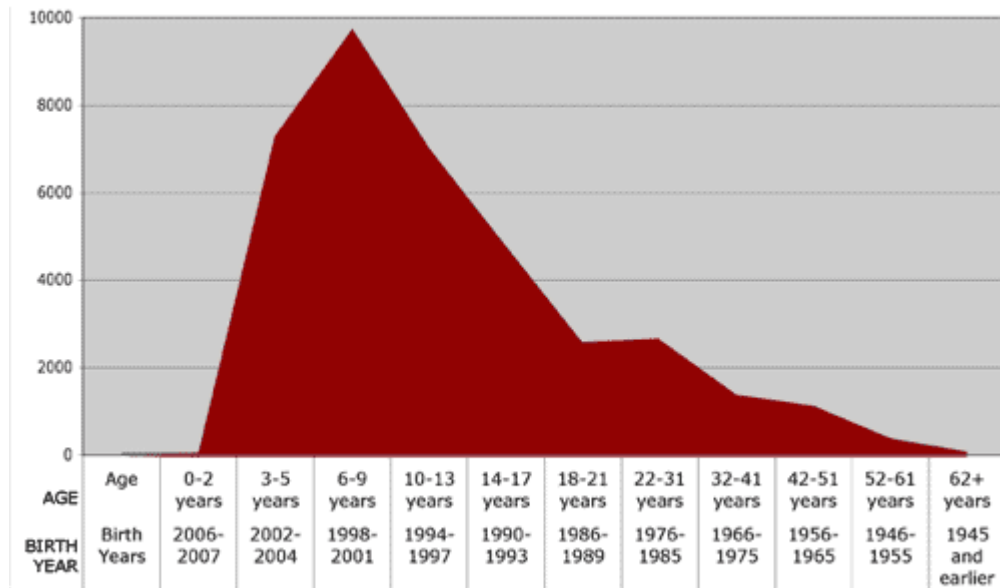


NEW COURSE FOR FALL 2009

SOCIOLOGY 301: STATISTICS FOR SOCIOLOGISTS

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CALIFORNIA AUTISM STATISTICS BY AGE

State of California, Department of Developmental Services

Popular attitudes toward statistics often include a mixture of anxiety, fear, and contempt. The warning "Don't become a statistic" is taken to mean, "Don't let something evil happen to you." Statisticians have been placed in the company of both liars and crafty politicians and they have been accused of the art of lying with numbers while appearing objective, rational, and scientific.

The use of statistics may or may not be numerical "hocus pocus." Liars may misrepresent numbers and statistics, but they also misuse words as well. On the other hand, people of integrity attempt to use words and statistics to honestly communicate with one another. Sociology students need statistical literacy to have the critical knowledge and skills needed to assess the credibility of information given

via numbers as well as via words.

In this introductory course, we will learn how to understand and interpret statistics like one might learn a new language. In addition to learning how to interpret published data, we will study and learn to use statistical analysis software. This course is specifically designed for sociology majors.

By the end of this course students should:

- Understand and appreciate the relevance of statistics.
- Understand the difference between descriptive and inferential statistics.
- Be familiar with the “language” of statistics.
- Have gained the ability to read the professional sociology literature.
- Understand how statistics can be used in data-analysis projects.

Prerequisites: Sociology Major or Minor (upper-division standing), or instructor consent

General Education: No

Course Texts: TBA