

ZMATH 2011c.00316

Gal, Iddo

Adult's statistical literacy: meanings, components, responsibilities.

Int. Stat. Rev. 70, No. 1, 5-25 (2002).

Summary: Statistical literacy is a key ability expected of citizens in information-laden societies, and is often touted as an expected outcome of schooling and as a necessary component of adults' numeracy and literacy. Yet, its meaning and building blocks have received little explicit attention. This paper proposes a conceptualization of statistical literacy and describes its key components. Statistical literacy is portrayed as the ability to interpret, critically evaluate, and communicate about statistical information and messages. It is argued that statistically literate behavior is predicated on the joint activation of five interrelated knowledge bases (literacy, statistical, mathematical, context, and critical), together with a cluster of supporting dispositions and enabling beliefs. Educational and research implications are discussed, and responsibilities facing educators, statisticians, and other stakeholders are outlined.

Classification: D38 B68

Keywords: statistical literacy

doi:10.1111/j.1751-5823.2002.tb00336.x