Progressing through stations to begin a second course in statistics with students from diverse statistical backgrounds

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"A second course in statistics"

AP Statistics

Introductory statistics

Thinking with R

A second course

- Linear regression
- Experimental design

How to (quickly) prepare students from diverse backgrounds to succeed in a second course? Probability Theory

Mixed models and glms

Mathematical Statistics

A week of stations

Pre-requisite self-assessment and many optional review videos

Station 1





Station 2

import

US States

Explore

Station 3

US States

Ask research question

Answer in context

Station 2: Import and explore

State-level data mostly from census

State-level Presidential Election Totals 1976 -- 2020

State-level voter turnout data from 2018, 2020

Current Covid-19 data

An interesting dataset to explore

- Rmd with scaffolding to import, explore, visualize data.
- Flexibility to choose and explore variables.
- Effective review of into stat

Station 3: Ask and answer research questions

Complete example of:

- asking a research question
- presenting and discussing exploratory data analysis
- inference
- interpretation of results in context.

Students ask and answer their own research questions using the US States dataset.

Do a higher proportion of people eat enough vegetables in states that Trump won?

On average, is the statewide percentage of heavy drinkers larger than 5%

Is average household income different for states that Trump won?

Results

- Excellent preparation for later projects.
- Students submit their work as a first homework assignment
- Students enjoy making discoveries about the US
- Interesting discussions about sample vs population