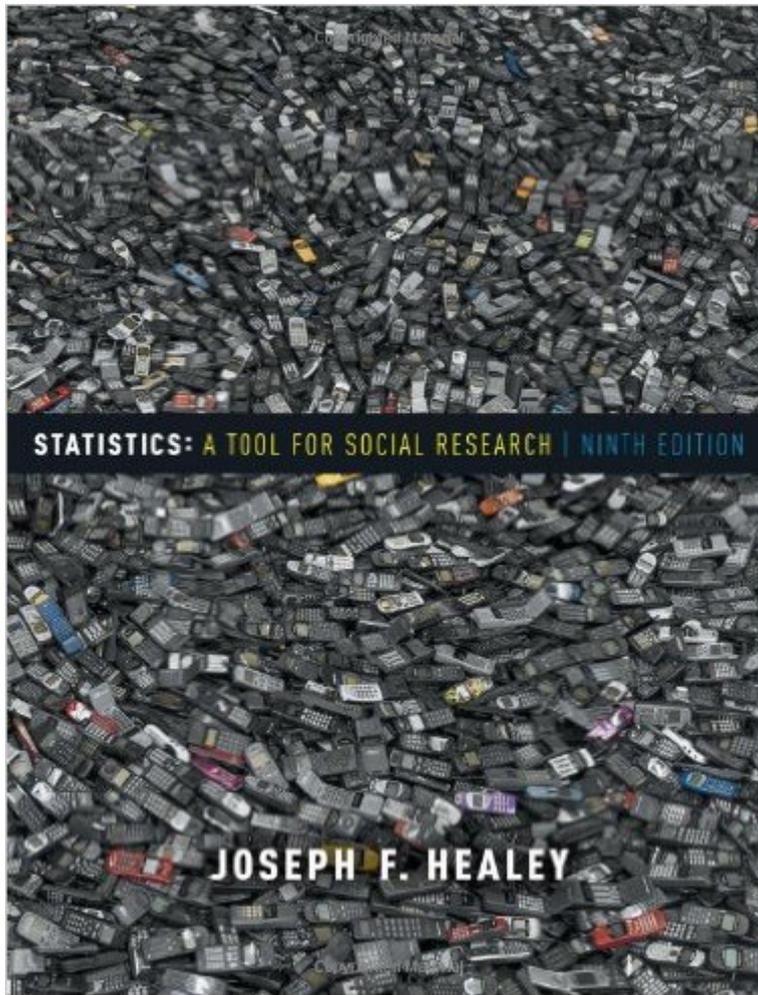


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# Statistics: A Tool For Social Research



## Synopsis

STATISTICS: A TOOL FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH, Ninth Edition, is a comprehensive, reader-friendly text that uses real-world examples, engaging exercises, and special features in every chapter to help even the most math-averse students succeed in a required statistics course. At the same time, this versatile text is appropriate for more advanced students in diverse social science disciplines, providing an accessible, well-balanced introduction to fundamental concepts of statistics and their practical application to a wide variety of contemporary social issues. The text covers hand calculations and the use of computers, providing a solid grounding in both traditional formulas and the latest SPSS statistical software package. Healey effectively breaks down even complex material to help students master key concepts and hone the skills they will need to succeed as professionals in a social science field--or simply to become "statistically literate," intelligent consumers of social research.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I heard horror stories about Stats long before I actually had to take the class. When combined with the fact that I also have a serious math-phobia, I eventually entered my Stats class with a great deal of fear and anxiety. If you're like me, exhale! This book, written by Healey, does a great job of walking the reader through explanations of each concept it introduces. If that isn't enough (and it usually isn't for the average mathphobe,) the text includes a "ONE STEP AT A TIME" step by step feature for solving each formula and also provides examples to guide the reader. Exercises

(and answers to them) helps the reader to work through each concept. If all of this sounds great, you should know that this book does not hold your hand throughout the process. You will have to use your noodle so to speak, but if you are interested in a great resource for a basic understanding of statistics, This book is a winner. Concepts tie into each other and the book is thoughtfully arranged in a way which makes it evident that each concept serves as a foundation to the next. If there is one criticism I have of all textbooks (including this one) that involves math problems and formulas, it is that they tend to skimp on the problem exercises. I would love to have had a CD included with this book that provided more exercises. (I know--only crazy people ask for more math problems). Even though there were enough exercises provided to grasp each concept, it would be nice if readers like myself are absolutely confident when leaving one concept going forward to another. I believe additional problems would help in that regard. I rented this text book for the semester and it was a used book, which may explain why a CD was not included. The lack of a CD is the only reason my rating is 4 versus 5 stars. Really wished I had purchased this one.

The book covers most necessary areas of stats, but does it not in a brilliant way: 1) In pursuit of making stats simple, the author seems to have left out crucial information in some places so that it leaves the reader confused - you understand HOW to make calculation, but not WHY you should do them. 2) Writting could have been clearer and consise. Examples aren't really well selected - some much more lucid and compelling ones could be brought up to illustrate the points made. 3) The book promises "a wide range of student resources" on its web site - in fact there is nothing there except a review of elementary math. 4) The lay out of the book isn't bad, but this merit is outweighed by the mess in referencing. E.g. Index indicates that info on t-distribution is on p.46 - there is not a single word about t-distribution there, whereas all the info is on pp. 197-199, which is not mentioned in the index at all; etc. In general, if you just want to pass an exam in elementary stats and can do with rudimentary knowledge of the subject, go with this book. For real understanding of statistics look at different books.

This 6th edition is almost same as 5th edition. The only difference is the Micro statistics program domostration which almost of all people are not using. Anyway if you need to buy this book, I'd like to recommend 5 edition. It is cheaper.

In the product review, it says the book comes with the latest version of the spss software, which it does not. I ended up returning the book and it took nearly a month to get me my money back.

Great in terms of clarity and the way it is organized. I was particularly interested in measures of association - of the best I have come across. However I was most disappointed to learn that the companion online materials are almost non-existent. They refer to them throughout the text, but after registering to access the material, you pretty much get nothing. Given the price, I was expecting to a much better quality online support as happened with another introductory book I bought "Basic Business Statistics", Berenson-Levine-Krehbiel, 12 ed. That is a real website with quality materials available for those who bought the book.

The specific scales in the back of the book were helpful and effective (though these scales and graphs, for instance in determining z-score) are readily available and standardized so a simple web search can locate the same graph. The chapters were oddly formatted, so finding the point of a lesson was very difficult. The questions at the end of the chapters were weird (not overly difficult, but I thought the subject matter for the questions was outdated).

Healy makes statistics both bearable and easily understood whether it is your first encounter with stats, or a refresher course. I ordered a used copy via .com's textbook service and was quite pleased with the condition of the book. I recommend both the text (if you have to take stats), and using to buy your texts at much reduced prices and good quality.

This book I needed for my college statistics class. It does not offer many examples, and the ones it does offer do not go into great detail. It was useful in addition to my class, but would not have been useful just by itself.

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