

Descriptive Tables and Plots from the ALP Tax Evasion Survey

September 4, 2016

1 Penalty-rate Perception

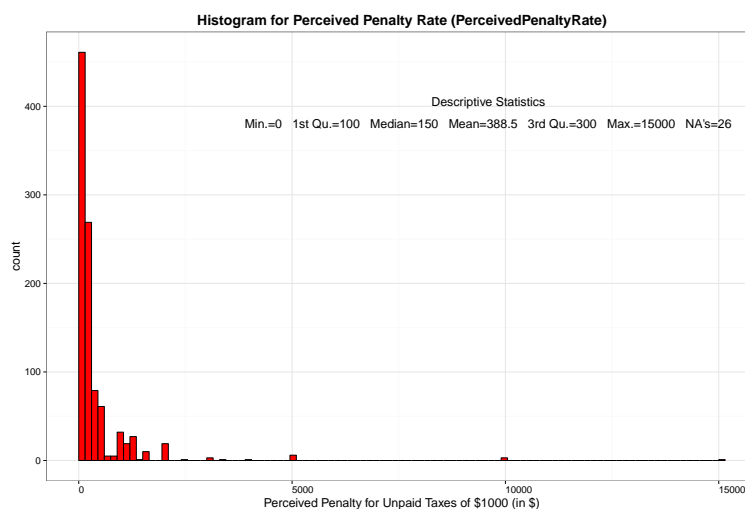


Figure 1: Imagine a person was caught underpaying their taxes by \$1000. In addition to having to pay that \$1000, how much of a penalty would they have to pay?

Penalty-rate Perception	
n	1004
mean	388.5
sd	906.8
median	150.0
min	0.0
max	15000.0
range	15000.0
skew	8.8
kurtosis	106.7
se	28.6

Table 1: Descriptive Statistics for Penalty-rate Perception

2 Tax-rate Perception

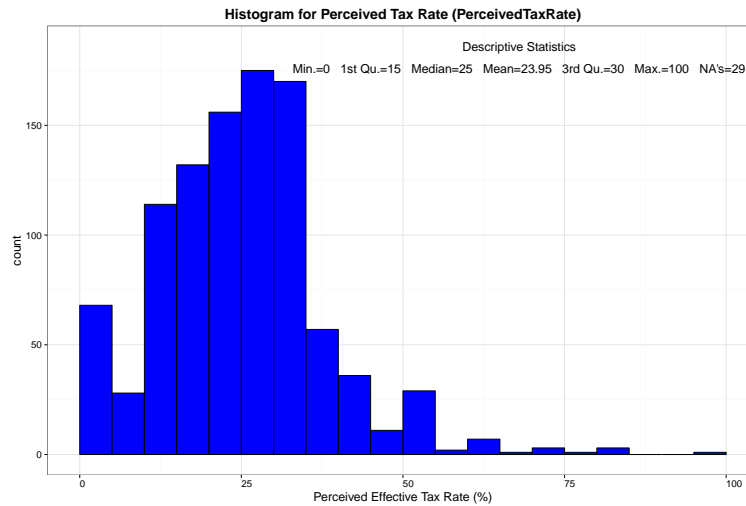


Figure 2: Now let's consider the effective income tax rate. This is the percent of your income that you owe in taxes to the federal government each year. What do you think your effective income tax rate was this past year?

	Perceived Tax Rate
n	1001
mean	24.0
sd	14.3
median	25.0
min	0.0
max	100.0
range	100.0
skew	1.5
kurtosis	6.0
se	0.5

Table 2: Descriptive Statistics for Tax-rate Perception

3 Tax Evasion Perception

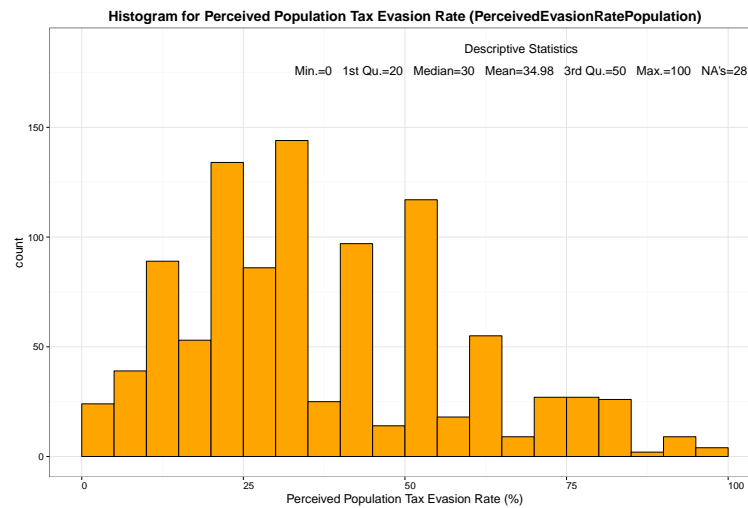


Figure 3: In a typical year, out of all taxpayers in the United States, what percent intentionally underreport their taxes?

Perceived Population Tax Evasion Rate (%)	
n	1002
mean	35.0
sd	21.2
median	30.0
min	0.0
max	100.0
range	100.0
skew	0.7
kurtosis	-0.1
se	0.7

Table 3: Descriptive Statistics for Perceived Population Tax Evasion Rate

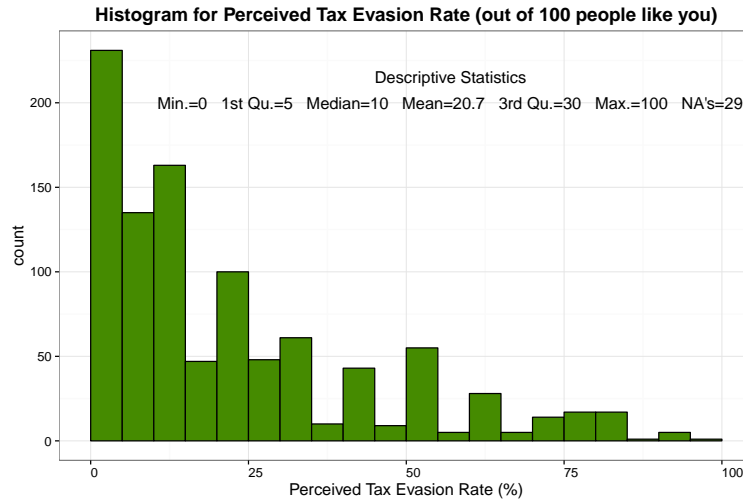


Figure 4: Now consider people like you. In a typical year, out of 100 people like you, how many intentionally underreport their taxes?

	Perceived Tax Evasion Rate
n	1001
mean	20.7
sd	22.4
median	10.0
min	0.0
max	100.0
range	100.0
skew	1.4
kurtosis	1.2
se	0.7

Table 4: Descriptive Statistics for Perceived Tax Evasion Rate (out of 100 people like you)

	Perceived Tax Evasion Rate (When there are many evaders)
n	1001
mean	30.0
sd	23.2
median	25.0
min	0.0
max	100.0
range	100.0
skew	0.5
kurtosis	-0.3
se	0.7

Table 5: Descriptive Statistics for Perceived Tax Evasion Rate (when half of all US taxpayers evade taxes)

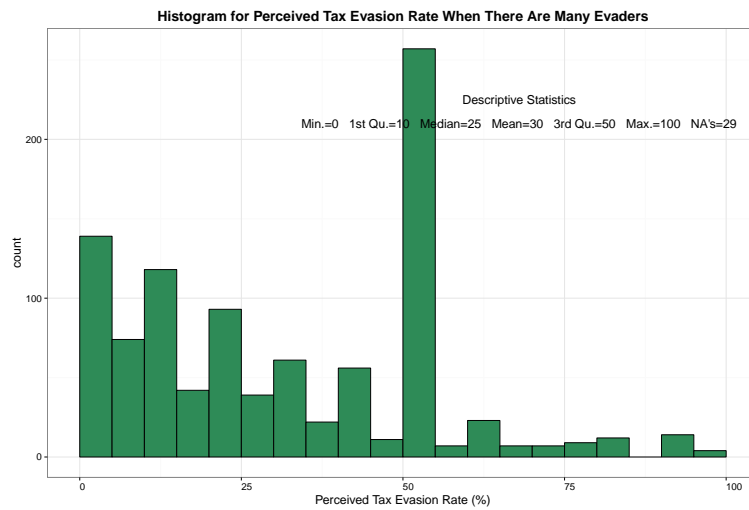


Figure 5: Imagine that a widely-disseminated news story comes out that half of all US taxpayers underreport their taxes. Out of 100 people like you, how many would now underreport their taxes?

4 The Token Questions

	Q1	Mean	Q3
The amount of taxes that I owe	20.0	34.3	50.0
The cost to figure out taxes	5.0	13.0	20.0
Benefits and public services supported by taxes	10.0	22.4	30.0
A moral obligation to report and pay taxes	15.0	30.3	40.0

Table 6: Imagine that you have 100 tokens. Please allocate 100 tokens to the issues below. More tokens means more important. In terms of how you think about taxes and paying your taxes, how important is each of the following?

	Q1	Mean	Q3
Your own thoughts	40.0	54.8	70.0
What you hear and know from friends, family, and other close contacts	10.0	22.3	30.0
What you hear broadly from the media and other sources	10.0	22.9	30.0

Table 7: Now let's consider your thoughts on the fairness of taxes, and what you've seen and heard from those around you. Again, please allocate 100 tokens to the issues below. In terms of how fair taxes seem to you, how important is each of the following?

	Q1	Mean	Q3
Your own thoughts	40.0	57.8	80.0
What you hear and know from friends, family, and other close contacts	10.0	20.3	30.0
What you hear broadly from the media and other sources	10.0	21.9	30.0

Table 8: Now let's consider your thoughts on the risk of audits and penalties for not paying one's taxes. Again, please allocate 100 tokens to the issues below. In terms of how you think about these risks, how important is each of the following?