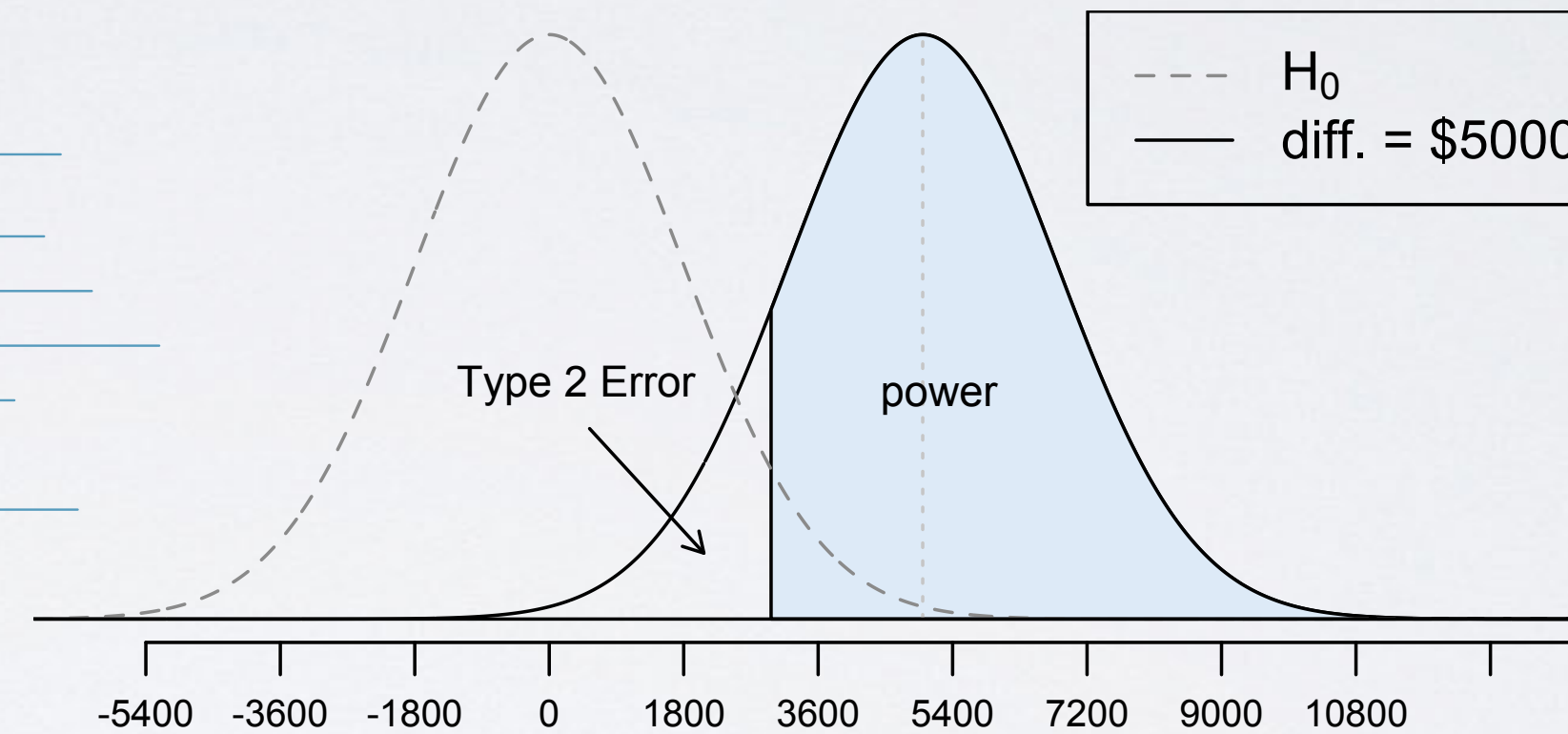
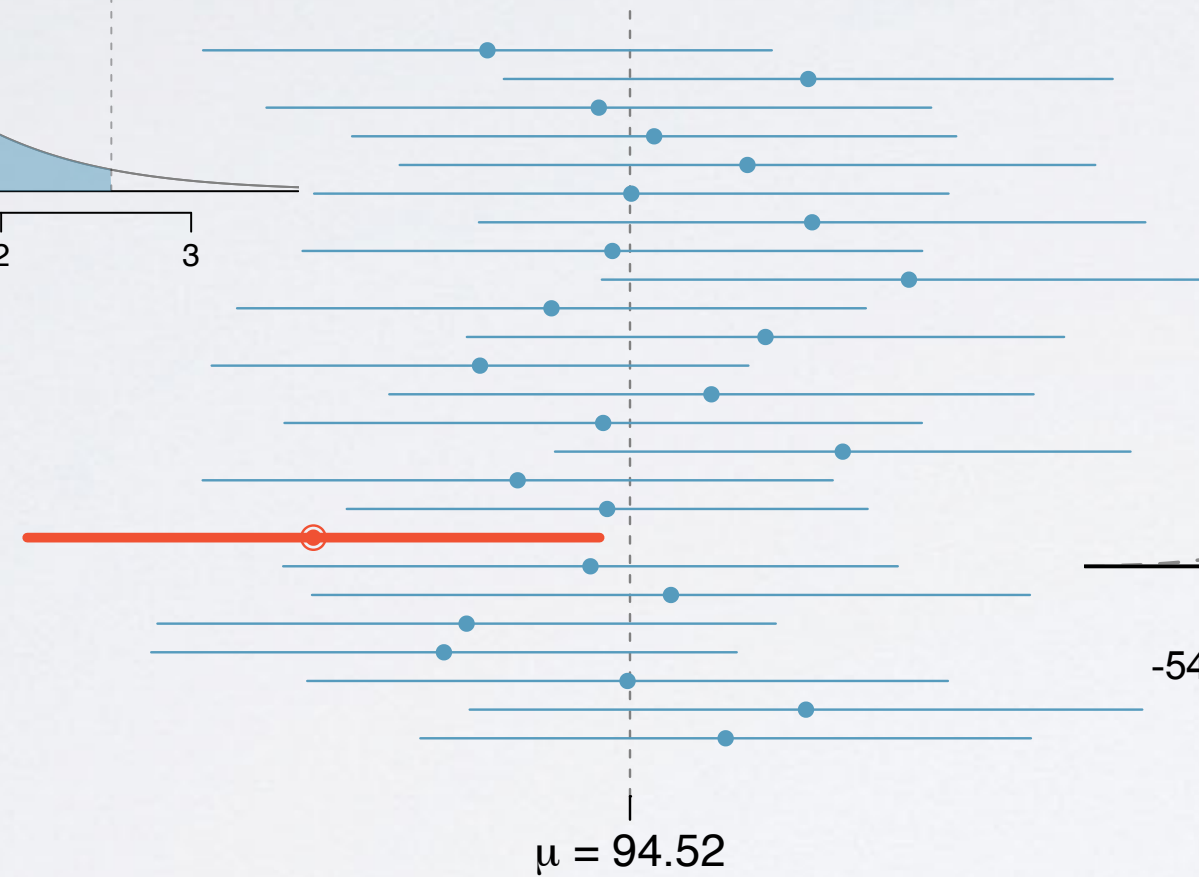
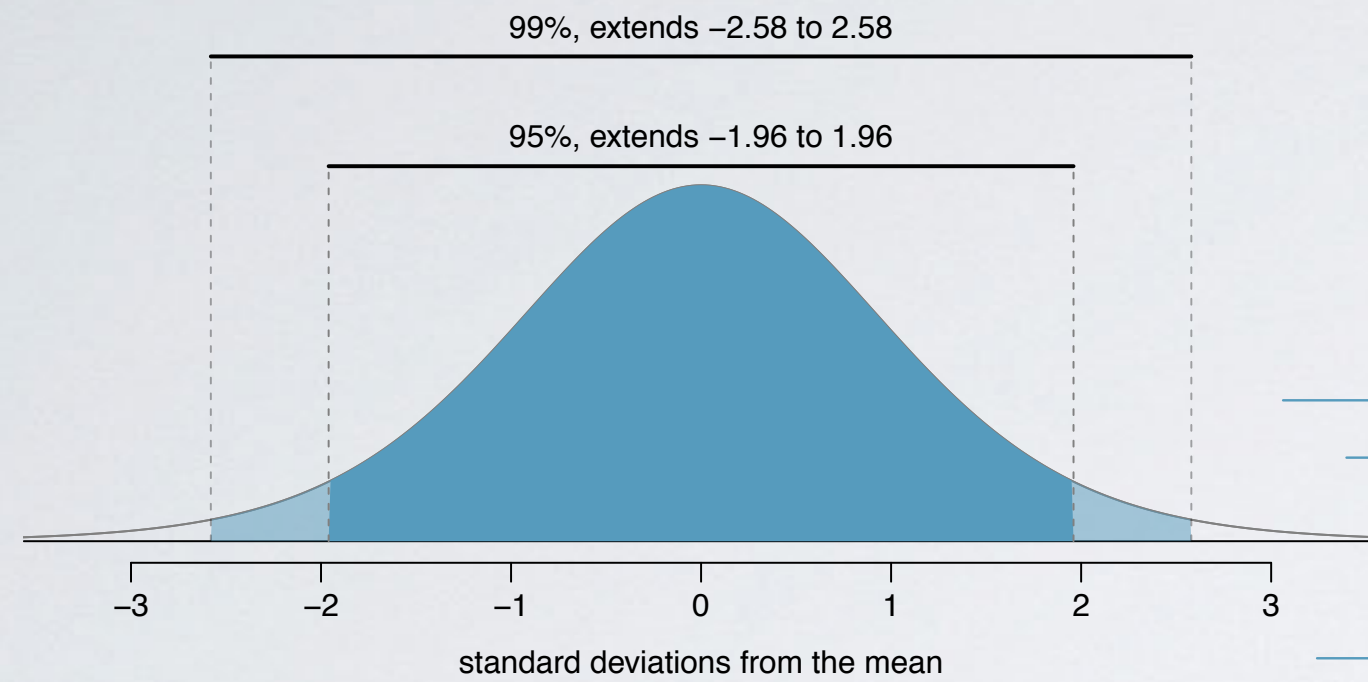


foundations for inference



Young, Underemployed, and Optimistic

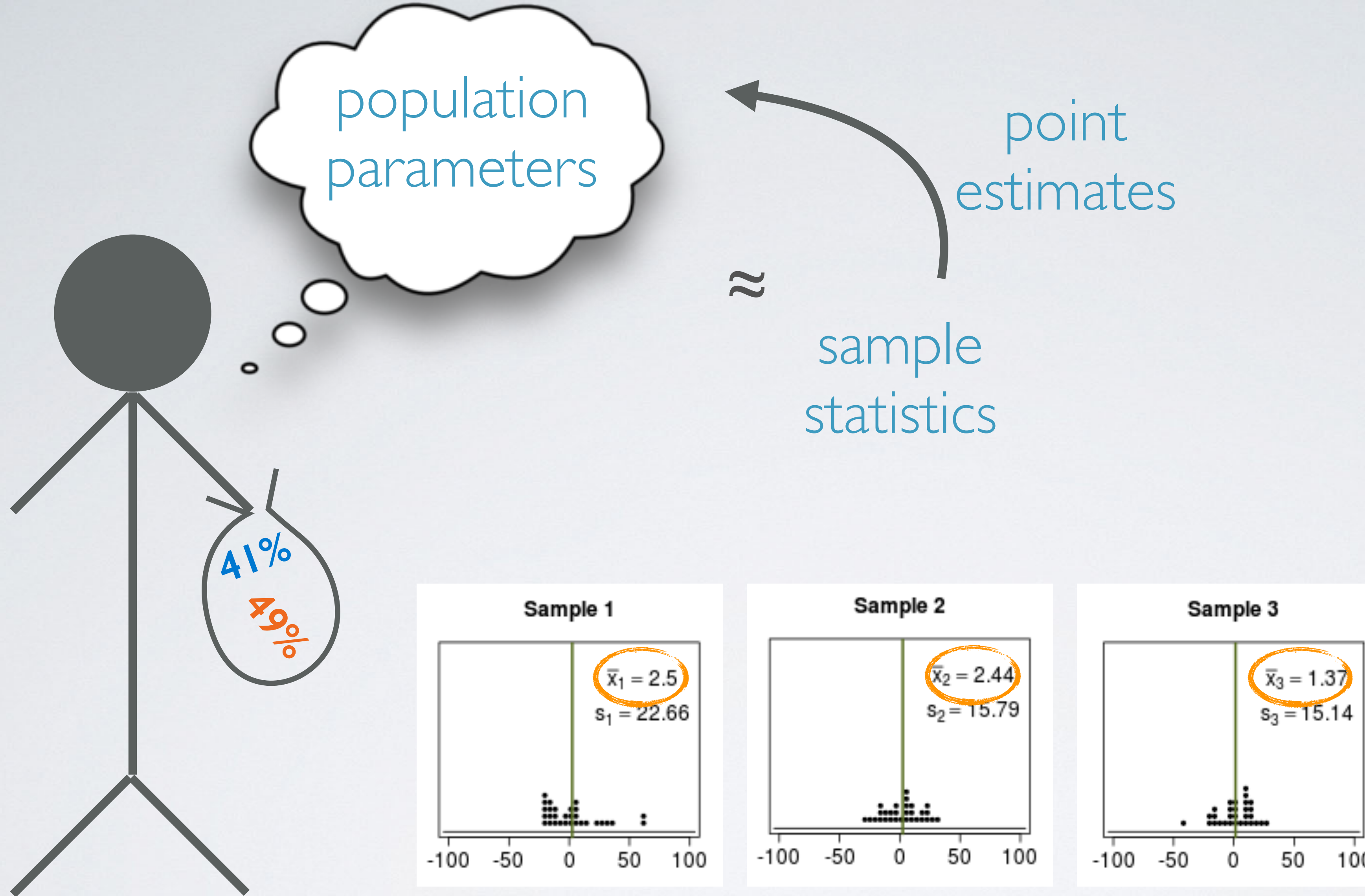
Coming of Age, Slowly, in a Tough Economy

Young adults hit hard by the recession. [A plurality of the public \(41%\) believes young adults, rather than middle-aged or older adults, are having the toughest time in today's economy.](#)

Tough economic times altering young adults' daily lives, long-term plans. While negative trends in the labor market have been felt most acutely by the youngest workers, many adults in their late 20s and early 30s have also felt the impact of the weak economy. [Among all 18- to 34-year-olds, fully half \(49%\) say they have taken a job they didn't want just to pay the bills, with 24% saying they have taken an unpaid job to gain work experience.](#)

The general public survey is based on telephone interviews conducted Dec. 6-19, 2011, with a nationally representative sample of 2,048 adults ages 18 and older living in the continental United States [...] Margin of sampling error is plus or minus 2.9 percentage points for results based on the total sample and 4.4 percentage points for adults ages 18-34 at the 95% confidence level.

- ▶ 41% \pm 2.9%: We are 95% confident that 38.1% to 43.9% of the public believe young adults, rather than middle-aged or older adults, are having the toughest time in today's economy.
- ▶ 49% \pm 4.4%: We are 95% confident that 44.6% to 53.4% of 18-34 years olds have taken a job they didn't want just to pay the bills.



**sampling
variability**

**central
limit
theorem**

**statistical
inference**

**confidence
intervals &
hypothesis
tests**

**significance,
confidence,
power**