Advanced Statistics

Simpsons Paradox:

A phenomenon in probability and statistics where a trend appears in several data groups but disappears or reverses when the groups are combined.

(It shows how different data groupings can lead to very different conclusions)

EX:



A couple years a go UC Berkeley did a test to see if there was any gender bias in their acceptance rates.(the example above follows what UC Berkeley did but with made-up numbers).

In the example if we look at the admittance rates for both males and females separated by major

we find out that the males have a lower admittance rate instead of the females in both majors

we reach a conclusion that: there is female bias in admittance rates!.

however if we look at both majors combined we'll find that for males, out of the applied 1000, 460 got accepted leading to an admittance rate of 46%.

as for females, out of the 1000 applied only 260 got accepted leading to an admittance rate of only 26%.

by looking at such data we conclude that there is severe male bias in overall acceptance.