Example 2-1. Based on the results in this chapter, suppose you were asked to summarize what you learned about whether first babies arrive late. Which summary statistics would you use if you wanted to get a story on the evening news? Which ones would you use if you wanted to reassure an anxious patient? Finally, imagine that you are Cecil Adams, author of The Straight Dope, and your job is to answer the question, “Do first babies arrive late?” Write a paragraph that uses the results in this chapter to answer the question clearly, precisely, and honestly.

Which summary statistics would you use if you wanted to get a story on the evening news?

I would use a minimum range, maximum range, or outlier to get the story on the evening news.

Which ones would you use if you wanted to reassure an anxious patient?

I would use variance or effect size to reassure an anxious patient

Finally, imagine that you are Cecil Adams, author of The Straight Dope, and your job is to answer the question, “Do first babies arrive late?” Write a paragraph that uses the results in this chapter to answer the question clearly, precisely, and honestly.

First babies don’t arrive late, at least not by a sizeable metric. Looking at the effect size, first babies arrive on average 13 hours later than other babies. This is a 0.2% difference. It is important to note that comparing the first birth to multiple births doesn’t give a clear apple to apple comparison as there are more total babies born than the first baby. One should compare first births to second births or first births to third births as a percentage to give a more detailed look at babies born.