Lesson 9

Tuesday February 27, 2024

Survey Research Related to Juvenile Delinquency

Population

↓

Sample

Concepts

↓

Measures

Inductive

Deductive

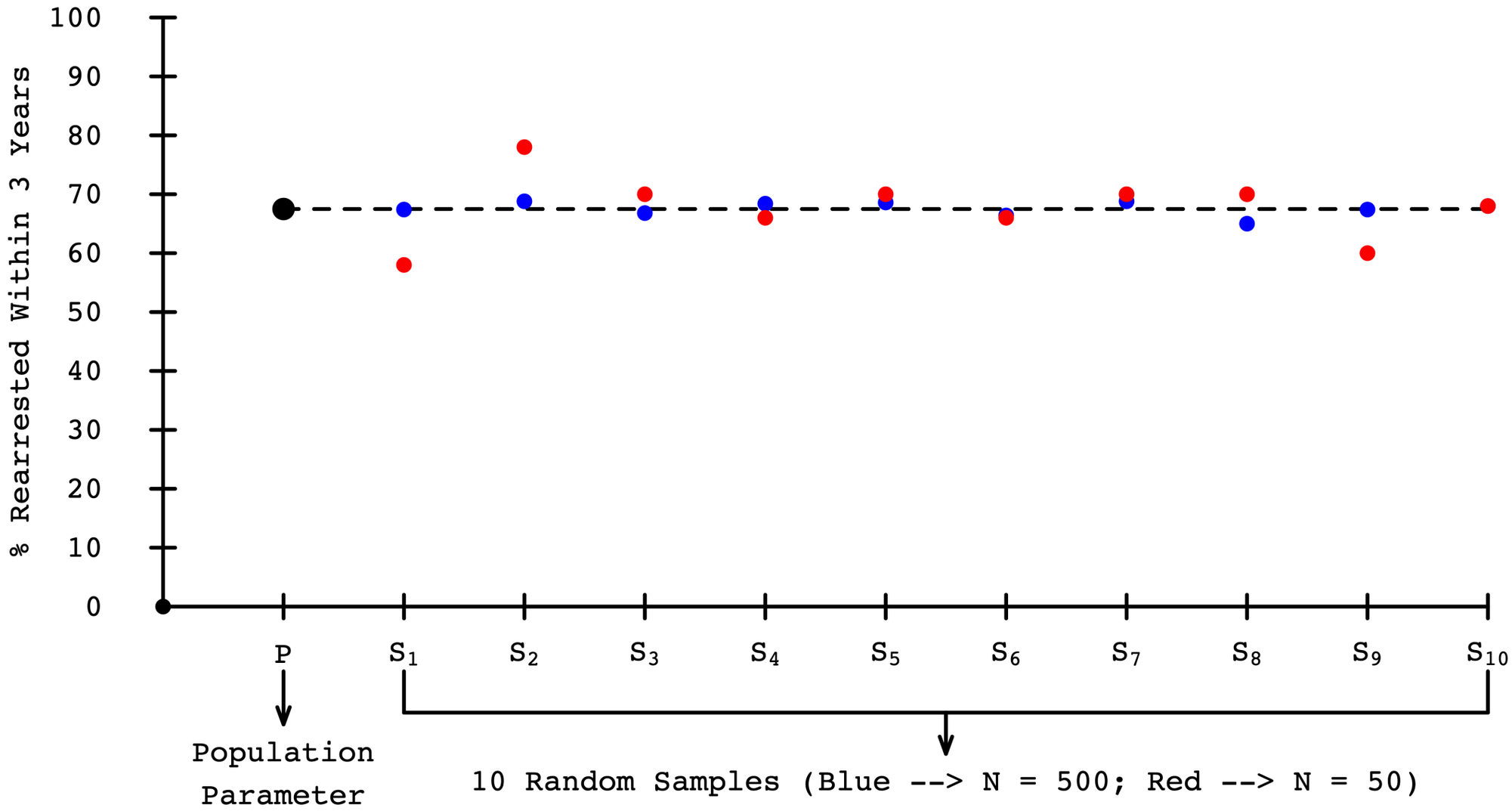
Populations and Samples

Sampling Frame: a list of everyone who could be included in a sample.

Sample Selection Methodology: probability vs. nonprobability samples.

Sample Selection Methodology: probability vs. nonprobability samples.

Representativeness and Bias



Assessing the Representativeness of a Survey

Table A.2

Census Bureau Estimates of the 1976 Age, Sex, and Racial Distribution of the Adolescent Population Compared to Estimates Derived from the National Youth Survey, 1977*

	NYS Estimates	Census Bureau Estimates
SEX		
Males	53%	51%
Females	47%	49%
RACE		
White	83%	84%
Black	15%	14%
Others	2%	2%
AGE		
11 year olds	13%	13%
12 year olds	14%	14%
13 year olds	16%	14%
14 year olds	14%	15%
15 year olds	16%	15%
16 year olds	14%	14%
17 year olds	13%	15%

* Census estimates were derived from Estimates of the Resident Population of the United States by Age, Sex and Race: July 1, 1974 to 1976, United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Series P-25, #643, Jan. 1977. The NYS age is based upon the reported age at the time of the initial interview.

The Sample

The National Youth Survey employed a probability sample of households in the continental United States based upon a multistage, cluster sampling design. The sample was drawn in late 1976 and contained 2360 eligible youth aged 11-17 at the time of the initial interview. Of these, 1725 (73 percent) agreed to participate in the study, signed informed consents and completed interviews in the initial survey.[4] An age, sex and race comparison between nonparticipating eligible youth and participating youth indicates that the loss rate from any particular age, sex, or racial group appears to be proportional to that group's representation in the population. Further, with respect to these characteristics, participating youth appear to be representative of the total 11 through 17 year old youth population in the United States as established by the U.S. Census Bureau for 1976 (see Appendix A for this comparison).

Source: Elliott, D.S., SS Ageton, D Huizinga, BA Knowles, RJ Canter (1983). The Prevalence and Incidence of Delinquent Behavior. Behavioral Research Institute: Boulder, CO.

Measuring Delinquency in a Survey

V444 **Y1-225: FREQUENCY STRONG-ARM OTHERS**

How many times in the Last Year have you . . .

used force (strong-arm methods) to get money or things
from OTHER PEOPLE (not students or teachers)?

PCT VALID	PCT ALL	N	VALUE	LABEL
97.0	96.6	1,666	0	
1.3	1.3	22	1	
0.9	0.9	15	2	
0.1	0.1	2	3	
0.1	0.1	1	4	
0.2	0.2	4	5	
0.1	0.1	1	8	
0.1	0.1	2	10	
0.1	0.1	1	12	
0.1	0.1	1	13	
0.1	0.1	1	15	
0.1	0.1	1	22	
0.1	0.1	1	23	
	0.4	7	999	
100.0	100.0	1,725 cases		

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A measure of robbery from the National Youth Survey (1977)

Comparing Self-Reported Delinquency to Arrests

TABLE B-25 Estimation of Probability of Arrest per Crime (q) from Data on Offenders and Arrestees in National Youth Survey

Number of Self-Reported Offenses in 1976 and 1978	Midpoint Number of Offenses	Number of Offenders[a]	Fraction Arrested[a]	Probability of Arrest per Crime (q)[b]	Standard Deviation of q Estimate[c]
1-2	1.5	149	.0067	.004479	.004467
3-5	4	151	.0199	.005004	.002871
6-10	8	181	.0110	.001388	.000978
11-20	15	207	.0290	.001959	.000793
21-50	35	233	.0300	.000871	.000327
51-100	75	131	.0382	.000519	.000230
101-200	150	109	.0734	.000508	.000176
201+	250	90	.1889	.000837	.000193

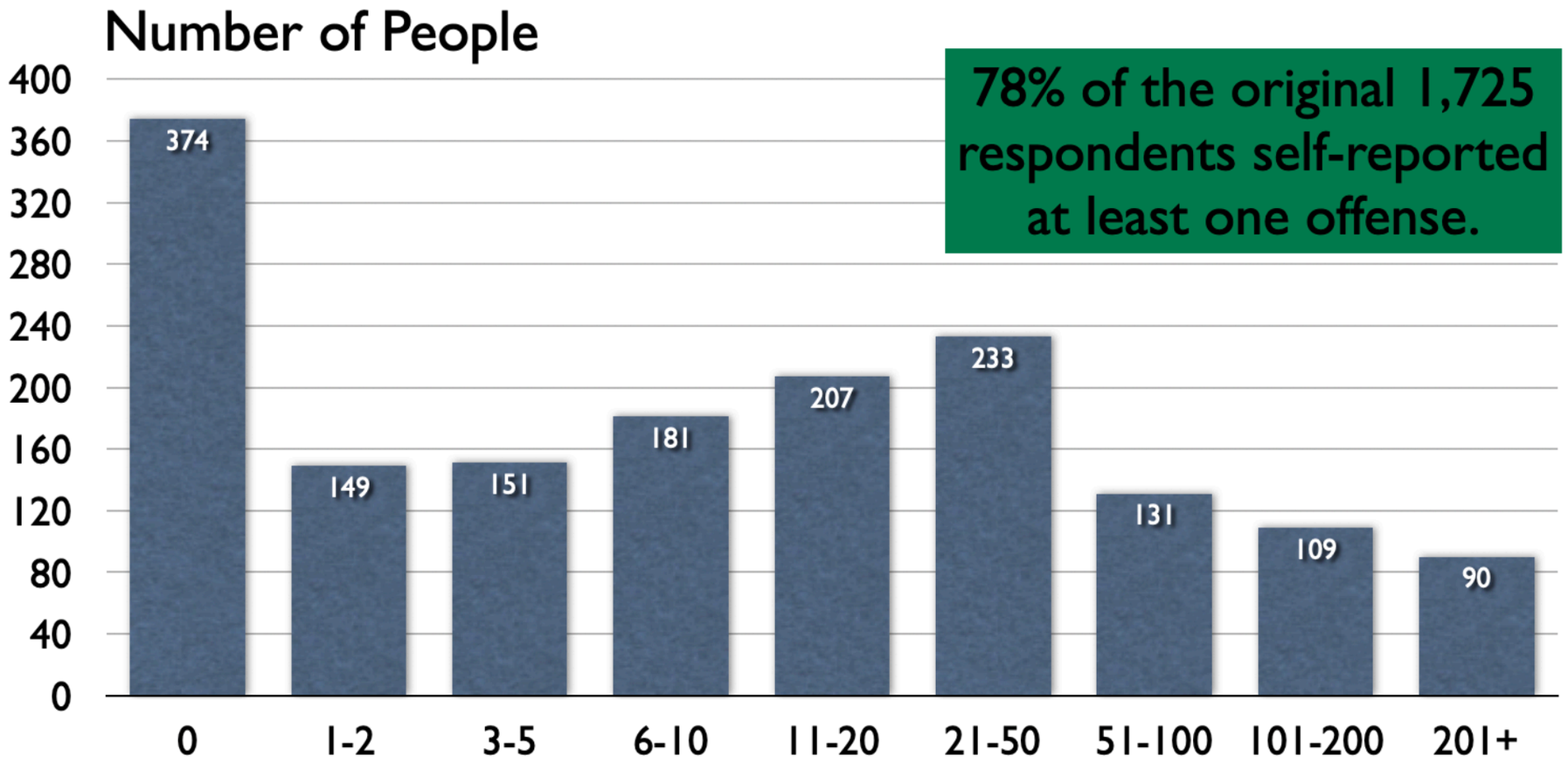
[a] Dunford and Elliott (1984:Table 7).

[b] If q is the probability of arrest per crime and $p = 1 - q$ is the probability of not being arrested for a crime, then the probability of no arrests for persons committing n crimes is p^n and the fraction ever arrested is just $1 - p^n$. The midpoint value for the range of crimes committed is used for n to estimate q. The results, however, are roughly comparable within the entire range. For the 11-20 group, for example, $q = .002670$ for $n = 11$ and $q = .001470$ for $n = 20$, compared with the midpoint value of $q = .001959$ for $n = 15$.

[c] The standard deviation for the estimate of q is estimated from:

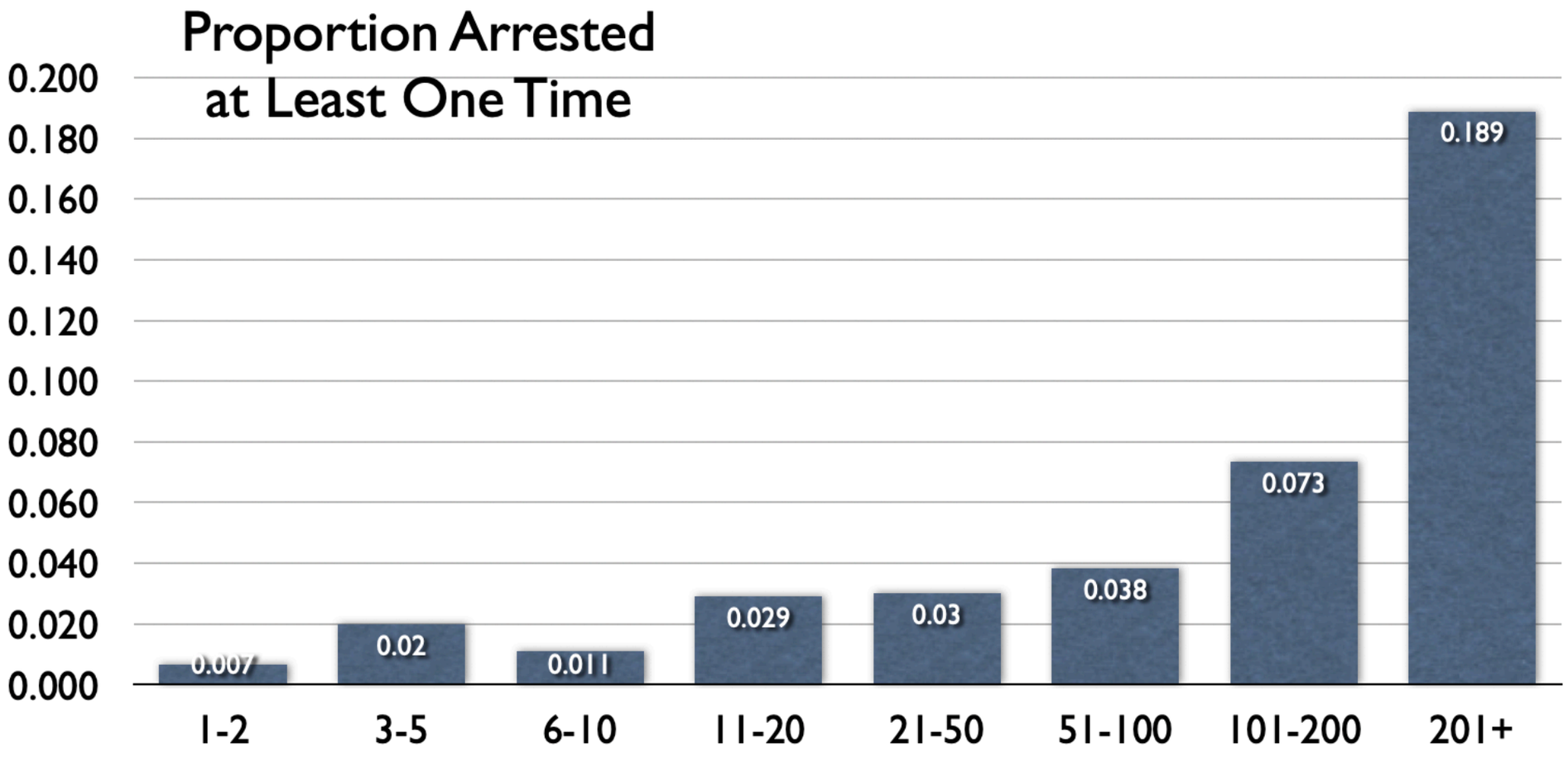
Source: Blumstein, Alfred, Jacqueline Cohen, Jeffrey A. Roth, and Christy A. Visher (editors) (1986). Criminal careers and "career criminals." (Volume 1). Washington, DC: National Academy Press.

NYS: Number of Self-Reported Offenses & Offenders



Source: Blumstein, Alfred, Jacqueline Cohen, Jeffrey A. Roth, and Christy A. Visher (editors) (1986). Criminal careers and "career criminals." (Volume 1). Washington, DC: National Academy Press.

NYS: Risk of Arrest by # of Self-Reported Offenses



Source: Blumstein, Alfred, Jacqueline Cohen, Jeffrey A. Roth, and Christy A. Visher (editors) (1986). Criminal careers and "career criminals." (Volume 1). Washington, DC: National Academy Press.