

Index

Note: Page numbers in italic type indicate figures or tables.

- abused children, 364–65
- academic performance: charter schools' effect on, 160–67, *161*, *163*, 177–78, 237–38, 290–93; standardized test scores in relation to, 345; television's effect on, 273–75, *274*, *275*
- Achen, Christopher, 311
- ACU. *See* American Conservative Union
- adaptation, 22, 337–38, 349–52
- airport security: screening for terrorists with behavioral observation, 322–24; screening for terrorists with metal detectors, 337–38, 338, 339
- algorithms, and racial bias, 361–63, 363
- Altenburger, Kristen, 22
- always-takers, 227, 239
- American Conservative Union (ACU), 193–94, 196–97, 206–9, 212–13, 214
- Anzia, Sarah, 294–95
- Aronow, Peter, 123–24
- attrition, 235–36, 240
- average treatment effect (ATE), 164–67, 187, 198
- average treatment effect on the treated (ATT), 165–67, 187, 268
- average treatment effect on the untreated (ATU), 165–67, 187
- back pain, 65
- Bailey, Martha, 277
- bandwidth, 248, *249*
- Bangladesh Integrated Nutrition Project (BINP), 344
- Bartels, Larry, 311
- baseball: defensive shifts in, 350–51; pitchers' batting performance in, 345–49, *347*, *348*
- baseline differences, 166–68, 187
- Basinger, Scott, 18
- Bayes, Thomas, 317
- Bayesian statistics, 328
- Bayes' rule, 317–28, 332
- beliefs: Bayes' rule and, 317–28; and reversion to the mean, 151–52; and quantitative evidence, 314–28
- Bem, Daniel, 122–23
- Berger, Jonah, 261
- Berlinski, Samuel, 108
- Berry, Chris, 294–95
- best fit, 16, 34, 76. *See also* lines of best fit
- best linear approximation to the conditional expectation function (BLACEF), 199
- bias: baseline differences as, 166–68; in correlation and causation questions, 183–86; defined, 95, 109; estimator quality and, 98–99; over- and under-estimating, 176–81, *178*; overview of, 96–97; precision and, 98, 99; randomized experiments as safeguard against, 210–11, 221–23; sources of, 168–74; as threat to clear thinking, 5. *See also* publication bias
- Biden, Joe, 249, 251
- Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, 62, 101–2
- binary variables, 14
- Bin Laden, Osama, 63
- bins, 247–48
- Blattman, Chris, 236–37, 293
- blocking, 223, 234, 239
- Body Vibes, 38–41, 50, 221–22, 226–32, 235–36
- breastfeeding, 219–21
- broken-windows theory, 5–7
- Brooks, Juanita, 315
- Budd, Chris, 116, 117
- Burke, Marshall, 342–43
- Bush, George W., 160
- but-for test, 42, 47
- Cage, Nicolas, 186
- campaign spending, 174–76
- Card, David, 269
- Carney, Dana, 131
- CATE. *See* complier average treatment effect
- Caughy, Devin, 256
- causal effects, 50, 159, 187
- causal mediation analysis, 291–92, 299
- causation/causal inference, 37–50; average effects as key to, 41–42, 46, 49; conceptual issues in, 42–49; controlling and, 209–11; correlation mistaken for, 5, 23–24, 49, 159–74, 183–86; counterexamples and, 44–45; counterfactuals' role in, 39–40, 42–44, 49; defined, 38; explanation

- causation/causal inference (*continued*)
 of, 38–39; fundamental problem of, 41–42, 50; the law and, 42, 47; physical connection not required for, 48–49; problem of a single cause vs. multiple causes in, 43–44; proximate causes and, 43–44, 47; randomized experiments and, 221–25; significance of knowledge about, 37; time and, 47–48; uses of, 40–41
- cause-in-fact, 47
- celiac disease, 2–3, 319–21
- Central Limit Theorem, 102, 104
- Challenger* disaster, 67–68
- chance: prediction threatened by possibility of, 21.
See also luck; noise
- chance imbalance, 232–34, 240
- changing relationship, 352
- charter schools, and academic performance, 160–67, 161, 163, 177–78, 237–38, 290–93
- Chenoweth, Erica, 4
- Chicago Cubs, 351
- Christakis, Nicholas, 280–81
- civil resistance, 3–5
- civil war–economy relationship, 168–69, 174, 182, 214
- clear thinking and conceptual understanding: about bias and noise, 183–86; bias as threat to, 5; data as complement to, 8, 108; errors in, 8; examples showing the need for, 2–8; improper training in, 8; moral responsibility for, 367; about potential outcomes, 163–67; technicality subordinate to, 1–2
- climate change, economic effects of, 342–43
- Clinton, Hillary, 249, 251
- cognitive behavioral therapy, 293–94
- Cohen-Cole, Ethan, 281
- coin clipping, 349–50, 349n
- coin flips
- Coleman Study, 273
- college admissions, 345
- Collins, Janet, 315–19
- Collins, Malcolm, 315–19, 317n
- Collins, Nick, 113
- commodity price shocks–violent conflict relationship, 296–98. *See also* economy: civil war's effect on
- complier average treatment effect (CATE), 230, 240, 260
- compliers, 227, 239, 260. *See also* noncompliance
- conceptual understanding. *See* clear thinking and conceptual understanding
- conditional correlation: example of, 21–22
- conditional mean function, 78–79, 79, 92
- conditional probability, 316, 332
- confidence intervals, 102–3, 110
- confounders: in case examples, 172–81, 194; controlling for, 193–215; defined, 187; explanation of, 168, 169; mechanisms vs., 181–83; over- and under-estimating, 176–81; reverse causality in relation to, 174–76
- continuity at the threshold, 251–56, 262
- contraception, 179–80
- contraception–gender-wage gap relationship, 276–77
- controlling, 193, 193–215; causation and, 209–11; defined, 215; examples of, 194–97; heterogenous treatment effects and, 197–98; matching and, 214–15; for mechanisms, 213–14; regression and, 198–209
- control variables, 198, 215
- Corman, Hope, 6
- coronavirus pandemic, 329–31, 360–61
- correlation, 13–35; causation not implied by, 5, 23–24, 49, 159–74, 183–86; conditional, 21–22; defined, 13, 33; description as a useful function of, 19–20; ethical issues with, 22–23; facts vs., 17–19; measuring, 24–29; multivariable, 21–22; positive, negative, and absence of, 13, 33; prediction as a useful function of, 20–23; usefulness of, 19–24; variation in both variables required to determine, 17–18, 55–70
- correlation coefficient, 28–29, 34
- corruption of the youth, 59–62
- cosmic habituation, 139, 149–50, 151
- cost-benefit considerations, 329–31, 358–59, 365–66
- counterexamples, 44–45
- counterfactual comparisons, 39, 50
- counterfactuals: examples of, 2, 38–39; potential outcomes and, 39–40; role of, in causal reasoning, 39–40, 42–44, 49
- covariance, 27–28, 34
- crime: temperature in relation to, 15–17, 15–17, 24, 25, 26–27, 74–79, 75, 77–79
- crime policy: broken-windows theory and, 5–7
- Cuddy, Amy, 131
- Dal Bo, Ernesto, 297–98
- Dal Bo, Pedro, 297–98
- data: clear thinking as complement to, 8, 108; non-linear, 30–32, 83–86; visual presentation of, 309–14, 310, 312, 313. *See also* quantitative evidence
- defiers, 227, 240, 260
- Dell, Melissa, 257, 260
- demand effects, 139, 152
- Democratic Party, 249–51, 311–14
- democratic peace theory, 282–85, 283
- Denver, John, 60
- dependent (outcome) variables, 57, 75, 91, 215. *See also* selecting on the dependent variable
- description, as a useful function of correlation, 19–20
- deviation from the mean, 26, 34
- Dewan, Torun, 108
- diet soda, 173–74
- difference-in-differences design, 266–86; defined, 285; examples of, 269–77, 270–72, 274–75; overview of, 266–67; parallel trends and, 267–69, 271–72, 278, 280–81, 285–86; units and periods in, 269–77; useful diagnostics for, 278–81; usefulness of, 282–85
- difference in means, 187
- distribution: defined, 24
- Drug Enforcement Administration, 352

- Dube, Oeindrila, 298
dummy variables, 196, 215
- earnings. *See* income
- economy: civil war's effect on, 168–69, 174, 182, 214; climate change's effect on, 342–43. *See also* commodity price shocks–violent conflict relationship
- efficient-market hypothesis, 132, 151
- elections: age in relation to voter turnout in, 19–21, 20, 79–86, 80–86, 89; campaign spending's effect on, 174–76; candidates' ideology as influence on, 193–97, 194, 206–9, 207–9, 212–13, 213; effect of expanding the franchise on, 108; football results in relation to, 129–30; forecasting of presidential, 87–89; gender discrimination and, 294–95; get-out-the-vote campaigns and, 123–24; incumbency and, 256; of moderates vs. extremists, 249–51, 252, 255–56; newspaper endorsements' effect on, 278–79, 279; RD design's appropriateness for, 255–56; scandals' influence on, 18–19, 18; social pressure's influence on voting in, 107–8, 295–96
- elections, in relation to football results, 129–30
- Enders, Walter, 338
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 358–59
- Ericsson, K. Anders, 171–72
- errors: defined, 76, 92; examples of, 77, 78; standard, 99–101, 110, 224–25
- estimands, 95–96, 106–7, 109
- estimates, 95–96, 106–7, 109
- estimation: overview of, 94–95; over- vs. under-, 176–81; in randomized experiments, 224–25
- estimator, 95, 98–99, 98, 109
- ethics, 22–23. *See also* values
- evidence. *See also* quantitative evidence
- exclusion restriction, 231, 238, 239, 240, 259
- exogeneity, 231, 238, 240, 259, 260
- expectations (expected values), 97, 109, 221–23, 232
- experiments. *See* randomized experiments
- experts and authorities, limits of reasoning and judgment of, 3, 8–9
- explanatory variables. *See* independent (explanatory) variables
- external validity, 343–44, 353
- extrapolation: misuses of, 32
- extrasensory perception (ESP), 122–23, 326
- extreme observations, 101–2
- Facebook, 107–8, 210–11
- facts: correlation vs., 17–19; publication bias as cause for skepticism about, 122–26, 138–39
- false negative rates, 3
- false positive rates, 3
- Farber, Henry, 284
- favorite equation: bias and, 152, 154, 176–77, 222–23, 270, 274; and causal inference, 166, 183–84; explanation of, 94–95; noise and, 118, 138, 232; parallel trends and, 268; publication bias and, 118; randomization and, 222–23; reversion to the mean and, 148–49; statistical inference and, 105
- Fearon, James, 43
- features of the world. *See* variables
- Ferdinand, Archduke, 42–44, 47
- Feynman, Richard, 68
- file drawer problem, 121, 235
- first differences, 272, 275–76, 286
- first-stage effect, 231, 240
- Fisher, R. A., 223
- fixed effects, 272, 275–76, 277, 286
- Fleming, Thomas, 340
- Fletcher, Jason, 281
- flossing, 359–60
- Food and Drug Administration (FDA), 41–42, 329
- football results, in relation to elections, 129–30
- forecasting. *See* prediction
- Fowler, James, 280–81
- France, mayors' salaries in, 254–55
- frequentist statistics, 328
- fundamental problem of causal inference, 41–42, 50
- fuzzy regression discontinuity design, 257–61, 262
- gallons-per-mile vs. miles-per-gallon, 306–8, 307
- Galton, Francis, 90, 139–42
- Garro, Haritz, 248
- Gauss, Carl Friedrich, *Theory of the Motion of the Heavenly Bodies Moving about the Sun in Conic Sections*, 90
- Gelman, Andrew, 137
- gender: height-income relationship and, 202–6, 204–5; voter discrimination based on, 294–95; wage gap in relationship to contraception, 276–77
- gene-disease linkages, 150, 151
- General Accountability Office (GAO), 322, 324
- Gentzkow, Matthew, 273, 275
- Gerber, Alan, 295
- get-out-the-vote campaigns, 123–24
- Giuliani, Rudy, 6
- Gladwell, Malcolm, 57–59, 171
- Goldin, Claudia, 276
- golf scores, 143–45, 144, 145
- Goop, 38
- Gore, Tipper, 59–60
- government programs, RD designs for evaluating, 246–47
- government type–oil production correlation, 14–15, 14, 55–56, 56
- Gowa, Joanne, 284
- Green, Donald (Don), 123–24, 284, 295
- Greenstone, Michael, 365–66
- Guggenheim, David, *Waiting for Superman*, 160–61
- Hall, Andrew, 251, 256
- Hamlet Evaluation System, 257–58, 260
- Harcourt, Bernard, 6–7
- Hawthorne effect, 139, 139n, 152

- health: causation in matters of, 38–42, 45–46; confounders and mechanisms in, 181–82; diagnoses influenced by limited sample of patients, 65; heart health, 181–82; help-seeking and reversion to the mean in matters of, 145–47; HIV and contraception, 179–80; intermediate outcomes' value in studies related to, 340; predictions concerning violations of codes of public, 22; quantitative evidence interpretation in matters of, 2–3, 319–21; racial bias in algorithms related to, 361–63, 363; of skin, 38–40, 221–22, 226–32, 235–36; social networks' effect on behavior associated with, 279–81
- Healy, Andrew, 129
- height of individuals: generational variation in, 90, 91, 139–43; and income, 201–6, 202–5
- Heinzerling, Lisa, 358
- help-seeking, and reversion to the mean, 145–47
- heterogenous treatment effects, 46, 50, 197–98
- high school dropouts, 62–63
- HIV, 179–80
- Ho, Daniel, 22
- homogeneous treatment effects, 230
- homophily, 280–81
- Hsiang, Solomon, 342–43
- hypothesis testing, 103–4, 110, 114, 225
- Imbens, Guido, 198
- income: height in relation to, 201–6, 202–5; merit scholarships' effect on, 244–46, 254–55; military service's effect on, 238–39
- incumbency advantage, 256
- independent (explanatory) variables, 75, 83–86, 92
- India, malnutrition in, 343–44
- in expectation. *See* expectations (expected values)
- instrumental variables (IV) analysis, 231–32, 238, 240, 260
- intent-to-treat (ITT) effect, 226–31, 238, 240
- intercept, 75, 92
- interference, 236–37, 240
- intermediate outcomes, 292–94, 339–41
- internal validity, 343, 353
- International Journal of Epidemiology*, 219
- Irvin, Veronica, 128
- Jacobson, Gary, 175
- Jamison, Julian, 293
- Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 122–23
- Kant, Immanuel, 282
- Kaplan, Robert, 128
- Katz, Lawrence, 276
- Kelling, George L., 5–7
- Kim, Soo Yeon, 284
- knee surgery, 146–47
- Knowledge is Power Program, 163
- Koehler, Jonathan, 315
- Krueger, Alan, 269
- Ladd, Jonathan, 278
- The Lancet Infectious Diseases* (journal), 179–80
- Larimer, Christopher, 295
- Larrick, Richard, 307–8
- LATE. *See* local average treatment effect
- law: causality and, 42, 47
- Law of Large Numbers, 102
- lead treatment variable, 278, 286
- Legendre, Adrien-Marie, *New Methods for the Determination of the Orbits of Comets*, 89–90
- Lenz, Gabriel, 278
- Liberian youth, interventions for at-risk, 236–37, 293–94
- life advice, 70
- linearity: importance of determining, 21; uses for describing non-linearity, 30–32
- lines of best fit, 16, 21, 29, 33, 74–76
- Ling, Jeff, 60
- local average treatment effect (LATE), 198, 216, 246, 247, 252, 260
- local linear approach, 248, 249
- long format, 272, 286
- long regression, 199
- luck, 113–18, 132–33, 143–44, 151. *See also* chance
- Ludwig, Jens, 6–7
- Maddon, Joe, 351
- Malhotra, Neil, 129
- malnutrition, in India and Bangladesh, 343–44
- margin of error, 102, 110
- mask-wearing, during coronavirus pandemic, 360–61
- matched-pair design, 223
- matching, 214–15
- McChrystal, Stanley, 63–64
- McGlaughlin, Dan, 170–73
- McGrath, Mary, 123–24
- McNamara, Robert, 257
- mean (μ), 24, 26, 34. *See also* reversion to the mean
- measurement: intermediate outcomes and, 339–41; mission in relation to, 336–43; partial, 337–38; and sample appropriateness, 345–49; strategic adaptation and, 349–52; of wrong outcome or treatment, 337–43
- mechanisms: assessment of, 290–99; causal mediation analysis and, 291–92; confounders vs., 181–83; controlling for, 213–14; defined, 187; designing studies to test, 295–96; disentangling, 296–98; independent theoretical predictions about, 294–95; intermediate outcomes and, 292–94; overview of, 290–91
- mediators. *See* mechanisms
- metal detectors in airports, 337–38
- Miguel, Edward, 342–43
- miles-per-gallon vs. gallons-per-mile, 306–8, 307
- military service–earnings relationship, 238–39
- Miller, Bill, 132–34
- minimum wage–unemployment relationship, 269–72, 270–72

- missions: aligning measurement with, 336–43; external validity and, 343–44; ill-defined, 341–43; sample appropriateness for, 343–49; strategic adaptation and, 349–52
- Mo, Cecelia, 129
- Mocan, H. Naci, 6
- Montagnes, Pablo, 129–30
- motivation in sports, 261
- multivariable correlation, 21–22
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), 68
- National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, 128
- National Political Awareness Test (NPAT), 194–97, 206–9, 212, 214
- natural experiments, 237–39, 240
- Nature* (journal), 107–8
- Nature Human Behaviour* (journal), 127
- nearest neighbor matching, 214
- negative correlation: defined, 13, 33; examples of, 16
- Nelson, Leif D., 124, 126
- never-takers, 227, 240
- New England Journal of Medicine*, 148, 280
- newspaper endorsements, voter behavior affected by, 278–79, 279
- Newton, Isaac, 349n
- New Yorker* (magazine), 139
- n* factorial, 115
- 95% confidence interval, 102–3, 110
- noise: in correlation and causation questions, 183–86; defined, 95, 97, 109, 152; effects of, 109; hypothesis testing for, 104, 114; in randomized experiments, 222, 223; reversion to the mean linked to, 138, 142. *See also* chance
- noncompliance, 226–32, 239, 256–61
- non-linearity, 30–32, 83–86
- NPAT. *See* National Political Awareness Test
- null hypothesis, 104–5, 110
- Obama, Barack, 160
- obesity, contagiousness of, 279–80
- observations: defined, 15
- Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA), 358–59
- oil production–government type correlation, 14–15, 14, 55–56, 56
- omitted variable bias formula, 200–201, 200, 201, 216
- one-sided *z*-test, 104
- ordinary least squares (OLS) regression, 77, 92, 196
- ordinary least squares (OLS) regression coefficients, 77
- ordinary least squares (OLS) regression line, 29, 34, 77–81
- outcome variables. *See* dependent (outcome) variables
- out-of-sample predictions, 86, 86, 92
- over-comparing, 118–21, 119, 127–28, 131
- over-estimates, 176–78, 180, 182, 187
- overfitting, 86–89, 92
- Paltrow, Gwyneth, 38
- Pape, Robert, 63–64
- paradox of plenty, 14
- parallel trends, 267–69, 271–72, 278, 280–81, 285–86
- Parents Music Resource Center (PMRC), 59–62
- partial measures, 337–38, 352
- Pascal, Blaise, 43
- Pauling, Linus, 148
- Paul the Octopus, 113–18
- PCR tests. *See* polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests
- Pence, Mike, 360
- percentage point change, 309, 331
- percent change, 309, 331–32
- Perkoski, Evan, 4
- p*-hacking, 119–20, 120n, 122–26, 134, 206
- physicalism, 48–49
- pitchers, batting performance of, 345–49, 347, 348
- placebo effect, 147–48
- politics: campaign spending, 174–76; French mayors' salary-performance relationship, 254–55; Southern realignment in, 311–14, 312, 313; stock prices, 248–49. *See also* elections; U.S. Congress; voter behavior; voter turnout
- polling, 95, 97–101, 103–4
- polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests, 329–31
- Pope, Devin, 261
- population difference in means, 165
- populations: defined, 109; samples in relation to, 29–30, 94
- positive correlation: defined, 13, 33; examples of, 16
- posterior beliefs, 318, 326–28, 327, 328, 332
- post-mortem analyses, 65–69
- post-treatment covariates, 181, 187
- potential outcomes, 163–67; defined, 50; explanation of, 39–40
- potential outcomes framework, 39, 50
- power pose, 131
- precision: bias and, 98, 99; defined, 109; estimator quality and, 97, 98–99
- prediction: considerations involved in, 21; correlation as useful for, 20–23; ethical issues in, 22–23; example of unreliable, 113–18; out-of-sample, 86, 86, 92; of presidential elections, 87–89; quantifying, 99–103
- pre-registration, of research studies, 127–28
- presidential elections, 87–89
- pre-treatment covariates, 181, 187
- pre-trends, 278, 279, 279, 286
- Preuss School, 160–63, 161, 163, 167–68
- prior beliefs, 318, 326–28, 327, 328, 332
- Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* (journal), 129
- product of the deviations, 28
- Project Vote Smart, 194
- proximate causality, 47
- proximate causes, 43–44
- p*-screening, 120–21, 123–24, 134
- PS: Political Science & Politics* (journal), 87

- publication bias: defined, 134; in everyday life, 131–34; overview of, 118–21, 119; *p*-hacking, 119–20, 122–26; potential solutions to, 126–31; *p*-screening, 120–21, 123–24; reversion to the mean linked to, 149–50, 151; skepticism about facts because of, 122–26, 138–39
- p*-value, 104–5, 110, 114, 119–21, 127, 325
- quantitative evidence: acting on, 305, 328–31, 361–67; beliefs' interaction with, 314–28; cautionary tales about, 2–8; insufficiency of, 357–61; limits of, 357–67; and non-quantifiable properties, 358–59, 363–64, 366–67; scale for representing, 305–11; values' interaction with, 328–31, 357, 361–67; visual presentation of, 309–14. *See also* data
- Quarterly Journal of Political Science*, 108
- Querubin, Pablo, 257, 260
- racial bias, in health-related algorithms, 361–63, 363
- Radio Lab* (radio show), 139
- random assignment, 239
- randomized experiments, 218–39; attrition in, 235–36; causal inference and, 221–25; chance imbalance in, 232–34; estimation in, 224–25; examples of, 219–21; hypothesis testing and, 225; interference in, 236–37; natural experiments vs., 237–39; noise in, 222, 223; noncompliance in, 226–32; potential problems with, 225–37; surgical procedures as, 147; unbiasedness of, 106, 210–11, 221–23; underpowered, 234–35; value of, 218
- RD designs. *See* regression discontinuity (RD) designs
- reduced-form effect. *See* intent-to-treat (ITT) effect
- regression, 74–92; controlling and, 198–209; elements of, 198; intellectual history of, 89–91, 141; linear, 79–86; non-linear data and, 83–86; overfitting and, 87–89; overview of, 74–79; presentation of, 89, 89; reading regression tables, 211–13, 213; sharp vs. fuzzy, 256–57; usefulness of, 91
- regression coefficient (slope of regression line), 29, 34
- regression discontinuity (RD) designs, 243–62; applications of, 246–47; continuity at the threshold in, 251–56, 253; defined, 262; examples of, 244–46, 245–47, 248–51, 252, 257–61, 258, 259, 261; implementation of, 247–51; noncompliance and, 256–61; overview of, 243–46
- regression equation, 75, 92
- regression lines, 92. *See also* ordinary least squares (OLS) regression line
- regression parameters, 75–76, 92
- regression tables, 211–13, 213
- regression to the mean. *See* reversion to the mean
- Reinhart, Carmen M., 69
- replication, 123, 128–30, 138–39
- replication crisis, 139
- representativeness: of samples, 21
- Republican Party, 311–14
- research design, 218, 239
- resource curse, 14
- reverse causality: in case examples, 174–76, 178–79; confounders in relation to, 174–76; controlling not effective for, 210; defined, 187; explanation of, 169–70, 170
- reversion to the mean, 138–52, 176–81; beliefs not susceptible to, 151–52; cosmic habituation and, 139, 149–50, 151; dangers of not recognizing, 150; defined, 152; discovery of, 139–41, 140; everyday life examples of, 145–47; examples of, 6–7, 90–91; explanation of, 141–45; instances not susceptible to, 151; noise linked to, 138, 142; placebo effect compared to, 147–48; signal linked to, 142
- Rogers Commission, 68
- Rogoff, Kenneth S., 69
- r*-squared statistic, 29, 89, 212–13
- running variable, 244–46, 262
- samples: appropriateness of, 343–49; defined, 109; populations in relation to, 29–30, 94; representativeness of, 21; selected, 344–49; small, 101–2
- sampling distribution, 99, 110
- Sanders, Bernie, 249–51
- San Diego City Schools, 160–63, 161, 163, 167
- Sandler, Todd, 338
- scale, for data representation, 305–11
- scatter plots, 15, 15
- Schmidt, Eric, 1
- scholarships–earnings relationship, 244–46, 254–55
- Schooler, Jonathan, 139, 149
- Science* (journal), 362–63
- Screening of Passengers by Observation Techniques (SPOT), 322–24
- Second Reform Act (United Kingdom, 1867), 108
- Sekhon, Jas, 256
- selected samples, 344–49, 353
- selecting on the dependent variable: defined, 56–57, 70; error of, 56–64; world seemingly organized to encourage, 64–70
- sensitivity analysis, 179
- Shapiro, Jesse, 273, 275
- sharp regression discontinuity design, 256, 262
- Sheridan, Margaret, 293
- short regression, 199
- signal (systematic factors), 142, 152
- significance, substantive vs. statistical, 107–8
- Silver, Nate, 87, 89
- Simmons, Uri, 124, 126
- Simonsohn, Joseph P., 124, 126
- Singer, David Andrew, 69
- skin health, 38–40, 221–22, 226–32, 235–36
- slope, 16, 34, 75. *See also* regression coefficient
- Snider, Dee, 60
- social media: voter behavior and, 107–8; well-being in relation to use of, 210–11, 211
- Soll, Jack, 307–8

- sorting, 254
- Sousa, William, 6–7
- Southern realignment in politics, 311–14, 312, 313
- Spenkuch, Jorg, 248
- Spiegelharter, David, 116, 117
- Springsteen, Bruce, 60
- spurious correlation, 184
- standard deviation (σ), 27
- standard error, 99–101, 110, 224–25
- state fixed effects, 272
- statistical inference, 21, 105–7
- statistical power, 234–35, 240, 325–26, 332
- statistical significance, 104–5, 107–8, 110, 126–27
- statistics: beliefs and, 314–28; defined, 18; substantive use of, 305–31; values and, 328–31. *See also* quantitative evidence
- stock prices, 132–34, 151–52
- strategic adaptation, 22, 337–38, 349–52, 353
- stratification, 223, 234, 239
- substantive significance, 107–8
- suicide terrorism, 63–64
- summation (Σ): defined, 24
- Summers, Larry, 365–66
- sum of squared errors, 29, 34, 76–79, 92
- superstars, 132–34
- Tamil Nadu Integrated Nutrition Project (TINP), 343–44
- Tampa Bay Rays, 351
- teeth flossing, 359–60
- television's effect on children's academic performance, 273–75
- temperature-crime relationship, 15–17, 15–17, 24, 25, 26–27, 74–79, 75, 77–79
- 10,000-hour rule, 57–59, 170–73
- terrorists, identification of, 322–24, 337–38, 338, 339
- Thompson, Dan, 251
- time; causality and, 47–48, difference-in-differences design for studying changes over, 266–85
- toxic dumping, 365–67
- Transportation Security Administration (TSA), 322–24
- treatments, 39, 50, 164. *See also* heterogeneous treatment effects
- treatment variables, 198, 215
- Trump, Donald, 250, 360
- 2008 financial crisis, 69
- unbiasedness, 109
- under-estimates, 176–78, 187
- under-reporting, 118–21, 119, 127–28, 131
- unemployment–minimum wage relationship, 269–72, 270–72
- U.S. Coast Guard, 352
- U.S. Congress, voting records of members of, 193–97, 194, 206–9, 207–9, 212–13, 213, 214
- U.S. Department of Education, 61
- U.S. House of Representatives, 63–64
- U.S. Secret Service, 61
- U.S. Senate, 60
- utilitarianism, 364
- values: and decision-making with quantitative evidence, 328–31, 357, 361–67; hidden in quantitative approach, 361–63; influenced by quantitative approaches, 364–67. *See also* ethics
- values, and quantitative evidence, 328–31
- Vargas, Juan, 298
- variables: control, 198, 215; defined, 13, 15; dependent (outcome), 57, 75, 91, 215; independent (explanatory), 75, 83–86, 92; instrumental, 231–32, 238, 240; running, 244–46; treatment, 198, 215
- variance (σ^2), 26, 34
- Vietnam War, U.S. bombing strategy in, 257–61, 258, 259
- Vigen, Tyler, 184–85
- violent conflict–commodity price shocks relationship, 296–98. *See also* civil war–economy relationship
- vitamin C, 148
- voter behavior: and gender discrimination, 294–95; get-out-the-vote campaigns and, 123–24; policy preferences and, 311–14, 312, 313; social pressure and, 107–8, 295–96
- voter turnout: age in relation to, 19–21, 20, 79–86, 80–86, 89; newspaper endorsements' effect on, 278–79, 279
- Wainer, Howard, 101
- Wald, Abraham, 231
- Wald Estimator, 231–32, 240
- war. *See* civil war–economy relationship; democratic peace theory; violent conflict–commodity price shocks relationship
- war on drugs, 351–52
- welfarism, 364
- well-being, social media's effect on, 210–11, 211
- Wertham, Fredric, 60–61
- wide format, 272, 286
- William III, King, 349
- Wilson, James Q., 5
- window tax, 349–50
- World Bank, 343–44
- World War I, 42–44, 47
- Yap, Andy, 131
- Yoon, David, 284
- youth: corruption of, 59–62; as dropouts, 62–63
- z-test, 104

