

# Sampling Data in SQL Server



**Gerald Britton**

Pluralsight Author

@GeraldBritton [www.linkedin.com/in/geraldbritton](http://www.linkedin.com/in/geraldbritton)



# Overview



**What is sampling?**

**Sampling methods**

**TABLESAMPLE option**

**Sampling queries using TABLESAMPLE**



# Understanding Data Sampling

**Population**

**Sample**

**Sampling method**

**Bias**

**Sample size**



```
SELECT | DELETE | UPDATE ...  
  
FROM <table source> [AS <alias>]  
  
TABLESAMPLE [SYSTEM]  
  
    (<sample size> [PERCENT | ROWS]  
  
        [REPEATABLE <seed>])
```

- ◀ **Start of query or subquery (sample)**
- ◀ **FROM clause (population)**
- ◀ **TABLESAMPLE option (random sampling)**
- ◀ **Sample size (unbiased)**
- ◀ **Return the same sample next time**



## Demo 1



Using the TABLESAMPLE option





## Demo 2



**Creating stratified samples**



## Demo 3



**Cluster sampling**



# Summary



**Sampling data in SQL Server**

**Reviewed data sampling**

**TABLESAMPLE option**

**Demos building sampling queries**

**Omitted convenience sampling**

