

PARAMETER OR STATISTIC?

For the studies described, identify a.) the population and b.) the sample.

1) The Gallup Organization conducted a poll of 1003 Americans in its household panel to determine what percentage of people plan to cancel their summer vacation because of the increase in gasoline prices.

P: All American households / Sample: 1003 American household

2) Harris Interactive surveyed 2435 U.S. adults nationwide and asked them to rate quality of American public schools.

P: All US Adults / sample: 2435 US Adults

3) The American Institute of Education conducts an annual study of attitudes of incoming college students by surveying approximately 261,000 first-year students at 462 colleges and universities. There are approximately 1.6 million first-year college students in this country.

P: 1.6 million 1st yr. college st. / S: 261,000 1st year students

4) In a USA Today Internet poll, readers responded voluntarily to the question "Do you consume at least one caffeinated beverage every day?"

P: All USA Today readers / S: readers that responded to survey

5) Astronomers typically determine the distance to galaxy by measuring the distances to just a few stars within it and taking the mean (average) of these distance measurements.

P: All stars in galaxy / S: stars selected to find the mean

Determine whether the result would be a parameter or a statistic (and explain your reasoning):

6) A survey of 1103 students was taken from the university with 19,500 students. — P

statistic since results can change if sample changes

7) The 2006 team payroll of the New York Mets was \$101,084,963.

parameter - b/c it's all members of team = population

8) In a recent study of physics majors at the university, 15 students were double majoring in math.

parameter ^{popn} / ^{sample}

9) A recent survey by the alumni of a major university indicated that the average salary of 10,000 of its 300,000 graduates was \$125,000.

statistic - amount could change if we change sample.

10) The average salary of all assembly line employees at a certain car manufacturer is \$33,000.

parameter ^{popn} / ^{sample}

11) The average late fee for 360 credit card holders was found to be \$56.75.

statistic