

## 1.2: What is a statistic? What is a statistical analysis?

The Crash Course video series are great, and there's one for statistics! Check out this Crash Course Statistics Preview video:



Figure 1.2.1: Crash Course Statistics Preview. (Crash Course: Statistics via [YouTube](#) )

You should follow the whole [Crash Course Statistics playlist](#) as you go through this textbook's chapters; the chapters won't completely align with the videos, but they will be similar. The Khan Academy also has a great [series on statistics](#) (website address: <https://www.khanacademy.org/math/statistics-probability>).

Statistics are the results of statistical analyses, such as the percentage of psychology majors at your school; the analysis was calculating the percentage, while the result is a statistic that you could share.

### Definition: Statistics

**The results of statistical analyses**

### Definition: Statistical Analyses

**Procedures to organize and interpret numerical information**

To learn more about what statistics are, you can watch [Alan Smith's TED Talk](#) about how so many people are bad at estimating statistics.



Figure 1.2.1: Alan Smith's TED Talk on loving statistics. (CC-BY-NC-ND TED Talks via [YouTube](#) or directly from [TED Talks](#))

I have my students watch this video because it shows them that statistics aren't something to be afraid of, and that statistics are really about each of us.

Learning statistical analysis is actually not that similar to learning mathematical analyses. It's more like learning to read and interpret another language. Social scientists know that a language is one of the components of a culture; the culture of statistics is

the scientific method and probability. We'll talk about the scientific method next, and will touch on probability when talking about distributions.

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