



*Promoting the Practice and Profession of Statistics*

## **FAST FACTS**

The American Statistical Association (ASA), a scientific and educational society founded in Boston in 1839, is the world's largest community of statisticians and the second oldest, continuously operating professional society in the United States. For 170 years, the ASA has supported excellence in the development, application, and dissemination of statistical science through meetings, publications, membership services, education, accreditation, and advocacy. Its members serve in industry, government, and academia in more than 90 countries, advancing research and promoting sound statistical practice to inform public policy and improve human welfare.

The ASA mission is to promote excellence in the application of statistical science across the wealth of human endeavor, specifically to:

- support excellence in statistical practice, research, journals, and meetings
- work for the improvement of statistical education at all levels
- promote the proper application of statistics
- anticipate and meet member needs
- use the discipline of statistics to enhance human welfare
- seek opportunities to advance the statistics profession

### **Membership**

Today, ASA serves 18,000 members in the U.S., Canada, and around the world. In government, academia, and the private sector, ASA members apply their expertise to diverse and vital areas that include:

- research in medical areas such as AIDS
- environmental risk assessment
- the development of new therapeutic drugs
- the exploration of space
- quality assurance in industry
- the examination of social issues such as the homeless and the poor
- analytic research on current business problems and economic forecasting
- the setting of standards for statistics used at all levels of government
- the promotion and development of statistical education for the public and the profession, and
- the expansion of methods and the use of computers and graphics to advance the science of statistics

### **Organizational Structure**

ASA is organized in Sections, Chapters, and Committees. Chapters are arranged geographically, representing 78 areas across the US and Canada. Sections are subject-area and industry-area interest groups covering 24 sub-disciplines. ASA has more than 60 committees coordinating meetings, publications, education, careers, and special-interest topics involving statisticians.

### **Key Activities**

**Meetings** – ASA sponsors meetings and workshops around the United States, including the [Joint Statistical Meetings](#) (JSM) and many smaller, more specialized regional meetings.

**Publications** – ASA publishes scholarly journals, general interest magazines, statistical research guides, informational brochures, membership information, and books of interest to statisticians.

**Education** – ASA sponsors educational programs and meetings to enrich statistical knowledge and is an active participant in K-12 education initiatives involving statistics and mathematics.

**Career Services** – ASA provides assistance in all aspects of career planning, placement, and enhancement through information, salary surveys, online job ads, and career development tools.

**Awards, Scholarships and other Honors** – ASA acknowledges and recognizes members who have made outstanding contributions to statistics or the association by sponsoring awards, honors, and fellowships.

**Accreditation** – Established in 2010, ASA's accreditation program is modeled after programs in Australia, Canada, and the United Kingdom. Accreditation is a portfolio-based credential that is renewable every five years. Accreditation is voluntary; applicants seek accreditation because they believe the credential is worthwhile to them, but it is not a requirement for practice.

**Advocacy** – ASA, through its Science Policy department, conducts a variety of activities to raise the profile of statistics in policymaking discussions and advocate on matters of interest to statisticians.

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