

# ***Making Sense of Statistical Studies* Helps Prepare Students for Life in the Information Age**

***Published by the American Statistical Association, MSSS helps students improve statistical reasoning and analysis***

**ALEXANDRIA, VA, JUNE 12, 2009** – Are hot dogs unhealthy? What percent of people wear their seat belts when driving? Which works better—a low-fat diet or a low-carbohydrate diet? Does listening to music hurt students' concentration and ability to study? These are just a few examples of the types of questions students will explore in *Making Sense of Statistical Studies (MSSS)*, a publication of the American Statistical Association/National Council of Teachers Joint Committee for Curriculum in Statistics and Probability for Grades K–12.

*MSSS* is a module of 15 hands-on investigations that provide students with valuable experience in designing and analyzing statistical studies. It is written for upper middle-school or high-school students who have some background in exploratory data analysis and basic probability.

The *MSSS* Teacher's Module includes resources that help teachers use the investigations effectively in their classrooms. Teachers' notes provide an overview of each investigation, prerequisites students need to complete the investigation, learning objectives, teaching tips, and references.

*MSSS* supports the spirit of the GAISE Report (*Guidelines for Assessment and Instruction in Statistics Education: A Pre-K–12 Curriculum Framework*), which submits that every high-school graduate should be able to use sound statistical reasoning to intelligently cope with the requirements of citizenship, employment, and family and to be prepared for a healthy and productive life. It also holds that statistics is a must-have competency for high-school graduates to thrive in the modern world of mass information.

A free download of Investigation #1 of *MSSS* is available at [www.amstat.org/education/msss](http://www.amstat.org/education/msss). Information about purchasing teacher and student modules also can be found there.

***[Note to editors: A pdf file of the MSSS tri-fold brochure is available on request – rosanne@amstat.org]***

The American Statistical Association/National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Joint Committee for Curriculum in Statistics and Probability for Grades K–12 was created in 1967 to provide additional leadership for the inclusion of statistics and probability in the nation's mathematics curriculum, promote awareness programs and quantitative literacy among teachers, and support the development and dissemination of appropriate curriculum materials.

## **About the American Statistical Association**

The American Statistical Association (ASA), a scientific and educational society founded in Boston in 1839, is the second oldest professional society in the United States. For 170 years, ASA has been providing its 18,000 members serving in academia, government, and industry and the public with up-to-date, useful information about statistics. The ASA has a proud tradition of service to statisticians, quantitative scientists, and users of statistics across a wealth of academic areas and applications. For additional information about the American Statistical Association, please visit the association's web site at <http://www.amstat.org> or call (703) 684-1221.

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