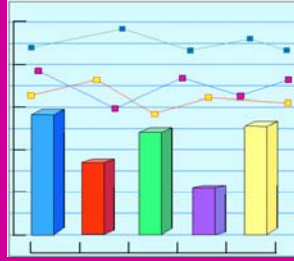


CORRELATIONS TO CAUSES



PHIL 101 Self, World, & God Lecture Fourteen



"Whoa! That was a good one! Try it, Hobbs—just poke his brain right where my finger is."

CAUSATION

Explaining the Numbers



- e1. Of the 771 men in the 40-49 year age group, 29% showed some signs of coronary heart disease.
- e2. Of the 954 women in the 40-49 year age group, only 14% showed signs of coronary heart disease.
- =====
- t0. Coronary heart disease appears much more often in women.

Explaining the Numbers



- Rival explanations
- t1. It's just a coincidence that there was the gender disparity in the Framingham study
- A casual relationship between gender and coronary heart disease?

CORRELATIONS



- Two factors
- One time correlations
 - Gun shot and dead butler
 - Peter Revson crash
- Statistical correlations
 - Race and criminal justice
 - Race and capital punishment

ITTBE



- e_1 . Details of crash
- e_2 . Broken suspension part
- =====
- t_0 . Broken part caused the crash

RIVALS



- t_1 . Reverse causation - crash caused the part to break.
- t_2 . Common cause
- t_3 . Chance - just a fluke that we observed the correlation.

RACE AND INCARCERATION



- <http://www.hrw.org/reports/2000/usa/Rcedrg00-01.htm>

RACE AND INCARCERATION



- <http://www.hrw.org/reports/2000/usa/Rcedrg00-01.htm>
- We will assume that there is no sample bias
- We will assume a statistically significant correlation

DISRTUBING STATISTICS



The disproportionate representation of black Americans in the U.S. criminal justice system is well documented.¹⁷ Blacks comprise 13 percent of the national population, but 30 percent of people arrested, 41 percent of people in jail,¹⁸ and 49 percent of those in prison.¹⁹ Nine percent of all black adults are under some form of correctional supervision (in jail or prison, on probation or parole), compared to two percent of white adults. ²⁰ One in three black men between the ages of 20 and 29 was either in jail or prison, or on parole or probation in 1995.²¹ One in ten black men in their twenties and early thirties is in prison or jail. ²² Thirteen percent of the black adult male population has lost the right to vote because of felony disenfranchisement laws.²³

ITTBE



e_1 . Strong correlation between and incarceration.

=====

t_0 . Race is causally relevant to who is incarcerated

RIVALS



t_1 . Reverse causation - being in prison is causing people to become black (?????)

t_2 . Common cause (???)

t_3 . Chance - just a fluke that we observed the correlation (?????)

RANK ORDERING

- 1st place is obvious
- Looking deeper into the cause
 - Racist hypotheses
 - Racism hypotheses
 - Poverty
 - Other cultural factors

