

Confidence Intervals: Proportions

For problems 1-4, consider each situation described below. Identify the population and the sample, explain what p and \hat{p} represent.

1. Police set up an auto checkpoint at which drivers are stopped and their cars inspected for safety problems. They find that 14 of the 134 cars stopped have at least one safety violation. They want to estimate the percentage of all cars that may be unsafe.
2. A TV talk show asks views to register their opinions on prayer in schools by logging onto a website. Of the 602 people who voted, 488 favored prayer in schools. We want to estimate the level of support among the general public.
3. A school is considering requiring students to wear uniforms. The PTA surveys parent opinion by sending a questionnaire home with all 1245 students; 380 surveys returned with 228 families in favor of the change.
4. A college admits 1632 freshman one year, and four years later 1388 of them graduate on time. The college wants to estimate the percentage of all their freshman enrollees who graduate on time.

7. A June 2004 Gallup Poll asked Americans who they thought better fit their idea of what a first lady should be, Laura Bush or Hillary Clinton. More Americans believed Bush fit the bill, 52% to 43%. The remaining 5% felt that both women equally fit their idea of a first lady or neither of them did, or they had no opinion. The poll was based on a random sample of 1005 adults aged 18 and older.

a. Find the 95% confidence interval for the true proportion of all U.S. adults who believe Laura Bush fits their idea of a first lady.

b. If someone assumes that half of the U.S. adult population thinks Hillary Clinton fits the bill, what would you say?