

1. If you were given a “sample” what would you have?

*Answer: A collection of individuals selected from a population; a subclass of a population.*

Here is an excerpt from a newspaper article:

About six in 10 Illinois high school students say they could get a handgun if they wanted one, a third of them within an hour, a survey shows. The poll of 2508 junior and senior high school students in Chicago also found 15 per cent had actually carried a handgun within the past 30 days, with 4 per cent taking one to school.

2. Would you make any criticisms of this article?

*Answer: The article drew conclusions about Illinois high schoolers, but it used data collected from a sample of Chicago juniors and seniors. The sample is not representative of Illinois high schoolers.*

3. If you were a high school teacher, would this report make you refuse a job offer in Illinois, say in Peoria, or Evanston? Why or why not?

*Answer: For the reasons given in the last question, the article gives no information about conditions in Peoria, or Evanston. The article would not influence my decision.*

Here is an excerpt from a newspaper article:

Some 96 percent of callers to radio station WQLQ have said that the driving age in Louisiana should be lowered. The phone-in listener poll, which closed yesterday, showed 4815—out of the 5000-plus callers—favored a lower driving age, the rock-n-roll station said. Only 238 believed the driving age should remain the same. Many callers stressed they did not drive but still believed in lowering the minimum age, a radio spokesman said.

4. What was the size of the sample in this article?

*Answer: About 5000.*

5. Is the sample reported here a reliable way of finding out public support for a lower driving age? What or why not?

*Answer: No the sample was biased. People favoring a lower age were far more likely to respond than people who had other opinions.*

*Source: The questions on this quiz were adapted a couple of years ago from a source that I can no longer identify. The text of this quiz is not original work. —JJM*