11.220 Quantitative Reasoning & Statistical Methods for Planners I Spring 2009

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Quantitative Reasoning and Statistical Methods

Ezra Glenn

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"High-rise syndrome in cats", M.O. Whitney and C. J. Mehlhaff, *Journal of American Veterinary Medical Association*, 1987; 191(11):1399-403.



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| floors | samples |
|--------|---------|
| 1 | 0 |
| 2 | 8 |
| 3 | 14 |
| 4 | 27 |
| 5 | 34 |
| 6 | 21 |
| 7-8 | 9 |
| 9-32 | 13 |

Table: Number of Samples Collected by Height of Building



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- gather, manage, and document data and sources
- visualize complex data and relationships
- state and investigate research hypotheses
- recognize and control for random chance, and distill from it hints of meaning where possible
- deal with uncertainty, both practical and existential
- think critically about the limitations of science and quantitative analysis
- communicate with integrity and persuasion to a wide variety of audiences about quantitative information, statistical analysis, and scientific findings

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I also expect you to think about ways to apply all of this to your own work, and to have fun.