Lab 11 STA200 004-006 Fall2009

Looking at what knowledge the rest of the course will stress:

- The difference between causation and correlation
- The meaning of *statistically significant*
- Orders of magnitude, and the "prevalence" of a problem
- Confounding factors
- Relative risk versus absolute risk
- Margin of error
- The importance of scientific consensus

From article http://stats.org/stories/2009/lack_stats_affects_media_oct8_09.html. Read this article – we will draw on some of these examples tomorrow.

Exercise1: Coin Toss

http://www.shodor.org/interactivate/activities/Coin/

From the link above, put in 20 as the Number of Tosses and then hit "Toss'em!" Write down in the table below on which toss you first see "HTH" together and the toss you first see "HTT".

Simulation	HTH	HTT
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
AVERAGE FROM the 5		

Exercise2: Six Question Article
Answer the six questions for the following article (keep in mind what you know about correlation versus causation)
http://www.nytimes.com/2009/02/10/health/research/10beha.html?_r=1

Exercise3: Six Question Article
The White House has put out numbers claiming 640,329 jobs saved or created
http://www.recovery.gov/Pages/home.aspx.

Answer the six questions for this data presented by the government. You are welcome to research other critiques or articles that have been done of these numbers like:
http://www.illinoispolicy.org/news/article.asp?ArticleSource=1655
http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/education/chi-education-stimulus-04-nov04,0,4659134.story
http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20091030/ap_on_bi_ge/us_stimulus_jobs