ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) STATISTICS: VALUABLE INFORMATION FOR MONITORING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT IN STATISTICS

Jiarong Zhao and Ann A. O’Connell
University of Connecticut, United States
zhaokate@yahoo.com

The Advanced Placement (AP) Statistics Program is so far the only large-scale, quantitative assessment in statistics that is widely used in the United States. The four purposes of this study are: 1) to describe the AP Statistics Program and its goals and structure; 2) to summarize assessment results since its first administration in 1997 and describe the trend of achievement over the years; 3) to present some of the results in Connecticut and other New England states as an example of the utility of this national assessment program in informing policy makers and statistics educators; 4) to highlight ways in which background data (gender, grade level, school type, etc.) collected by AP Statistics can be helpful in interpreting performance differences. The AP Statistics provides an excellent database for monitoring student learning in statistics as well as the quality of statistics education at the secondary level.