Loving County, Texas, Red Boxing Trunks, and Other Cautionary Examples in Statistics

Abstract

Loving County, Texas, was reported as having the highest highway fatality rate in the U.S. Fighters in the 2004 Olympics martial arts events who wore red had an advantage over those who wore blue. Such amazing facts as these are reported almost every week in the news. Often they refer to publications in respectable scientific journals, where presumably they are taken seriously. In this talk I'll show a selection of such stories and try to highlight the statistical issues they raise.