Research Methods and Statistics through Kickball—Normal distributions

Normal Distributions

A graphical interpretation of a population that is 'bell shaped' as it has the highest frequency in the middle and this frequency diminishes the farther you get from the center on either end. The mean, median, and mode are all equal in a perfect normal curve.

A curve shaped like a bell that is supposed to represent what a population’s scores would be. Half of the scores are below the mean, and half are always above. As you get further away from the mean, the scores becomes smaller. In research we attempt to have a population that is distributed in this way. For example, a baseball team would have some players who are great or terrible, but most would be somewhere in the middle. Another example is IQ scores, see below.