Table of Contents to October 8, 2015 Letter to American Statistical Association

A. The General Unsoundness of Analyses of Differences Between Outcome Rates of Advantaged and Disadvantaged Groups and the Need for the American Statistical Association to Form a Committee to Address the Situation (8)

1. Patterns by Which Measures of Differences Between Outcome Rates (8)

a. The Two Relative Differences (8)

b. Absolute Differences and the Odds Ratios (20)

2. The Impossibility of Soundly Analyzing Differences Between Outcome Rates Without Consideration of the Ways the Measures Used Tend to Be Affected by the Frequency of the Outcome (26)

3. Summary of Treatments of the Pertinent Pattern (29)

4. Recommendation (35)

B. Reasons That the American Statistical Association Should Immediately Advise Congress and Federal Agencies That Reducing the Frequency of an Outcome Tends to Increase, Not Decrease, Relative Differences in Rates of Experiencing the Outcome (36)

Tables

Table 1. Illustration of effects on relative differences in pass and fail rates of lowering a cutoff from a point where 80% of AG passes to a point where 95% of AG passes, with proportions DG comprises of persons who pass and of persons who fail (when mean scores differ by approximately half a standard deviation and DG comprises 50% of test takers) (11) Table 2. Hepatitis B vaccination rates for white and black fifth graders before and after implementation of school-entry vaccination requirement, with ratio of white to black vaccination

rates and ratio of black to white rates of no vaccination (15)

Table 3. White and black rates of multiple suspensions in preschool and K-12, with ratio of black to white multiple suspension rates and ratio of white to black rates of avoiding multiple suspensions (16)

Table 4. White and black rates of receiving callbacks for testers with and without convictions indicated on application, with ratio of no conviction to conviction callback rates and ratio of conviction to no conviction rates of no callback (17)

Table 5. Favorable outcome rates of advantaged group (AG) and disadvantage group (DG) at four settings with different favorable outcome frequencies, with measures of difference (22)

Figures

Figure 1. Ratios of (1) DG Fail Rate to AG Fail Rate, (2) AG Pass Rate to DG Pass Rate, (3) DG Failure Odds to AG Failure Odds; and (4) Absolute Difference Between Rates Figure 2. Absolute differences between rates of AG and DG pass (or fail) rates at various cutoff points defined by AG fail rate (21)

Figure 3. Ratios of (1) DG fail rate to AG fail rate, (2) AG pass rate to DG pass rate, (3) DG failure odds to AG failure odds (22)