

## Practical Stats Newsletter for December 2009

Subscribe and Unsubscribe: <http://practicalstats.com/news>

All of our past newsletters:

<http://www.practicalstats.com/news/news/bydate.html>

In this newsletter:

1. Upcoming Courses
2. Nondetects in Occupational Health
3. Best wishes for 2010

### 1. Upcoming Courses

Classes now scheduled in 2010:

Time Series and Forecasting (for frequently-collected data)

Kilauea Military Camp, Hawaii Volcanoes Natn. Park (the Big Island)

Hawaii. Feb. 3-4, 2010.

Only a few seats left. Sign up sooner rather than later.

Time Series and Forecasting (for frequently-collected data)

Golden, Colorado Feb. 16-17, 2010.

Nondetects And Data Analysis

Golden, Colorado Feb 18-19, 2010.

You can always find our complete course listing at

[http://www.practicalstats.com/new\\_classes/classes.html](http://www.practicalstats.com/new_classes/classes.html)

### 2. Nondetects in Occupational Health

Most of you probably work in the field of Environmental Science. Nondetects know no occupational boundaries, occurring in many other fields as well. Historically, methods for left-censored 'detection limit' issues were first developed in astronomy. Currently the fields of occupational and human health also grapple with what methods to use. Papers parallel to the discussions we see in environmental/natural resources journals occur in journals such as the Annals of Occupational Hygiene or the Journal of Occupational and Environmental Health.

I was asked this fall to write a commentary in the Annals of Occupational Hygiene comparing our findings of how to deal with nondetects to the findings in several papers published in their discipline on the same topic. That paper is now available for download from their 'upcoming articles' website – it hasn't yet been assigned its eventual issue and page numbers, but the text of the paper is set and its fully referencable using the doi index number  
doi: 10.1093/annhyg/mep092.

It is titled "Much Ado About Next to Nothing". You may download and read it from here:

<<http://annhyg.oxfordjournals.org/cgi/reprint/mep092?ijkey=XFTmBpnrKvsC9lT&keytype=ref>>

“Much Ado” will give you a list of a few of the relevant articles in that discipline for you to explore. It will also form the basis of the new introduction to the second edition of the NADA textbook. It is my understanding that the Annals from now on will not be accepting articles where substitution of one-half (or 0.7, or whatever) times the detection limit is used to represent nondetects. Is this a harbinger of things to come in environmental journals?

### 3. Best wishes for 2010

Practical Stats will be offering courses throughout 2010, so make a list and check our website twice for times and locations. We'll also be at the National Water Quality Monitoring Conference in Denver in late April. I suspect we'll be at SETAC in the fall, and at the American Statistical Association's national meeting in Vancouver BC this summer. Hope that the new year is a good one for you, and keep in touch.

'Til next time,

Practical Stats (Dennis Helsel)

-- Make sense of your data