

## All About Me and Where I Live: How “Typical” am I?

Statistics are helpful in many things. One of the many uses of statistics is to compare events with one another. With this project, I compared myself to the population of the United States and found some things that I didn't expect.

One of the things that I compared myself with is my BMI. I learned that I was in the eighth percentile in the nation. I am still normal, but I was surprised that I was that low. Another event that surprised me was my sleeping habits. I thought that I didn't get hardly any sleep compared to other 12<sup>th</sup> graders in the United States, but it turned out that about 24% of kids my age get less sleep than me. It's probably still not very good to only get about six hours of sleep typically, but at least I know that there are other kids out there getting the same amount or even less sleep than I am.

When it comes to Utah, I learned that we earn about the mean of the United States. Our median income is about \$54,744, which is more than the national average of \$50,046. We earn more than about 71% of the rest of the country. Sometimes it might not seem like it, but the statistics helped me put it into perspective. I learned that we are about average in terms of “idleness” of our teenage population. Our z score was only  $-.49$  so we just barely under the average compared to the nation. We are doing okay, but we could definitely be doing better. There is still about a 67% chance that another random sample of 50 from another state would be more active than we are.

This project helped me tremendously to understand how to interpret data in normal and sampling distributions. I learned how to compare an individual or a group against another sample of the same size. By using this information, it helps us to know how someone or something compares to another because we can compare apples to apples.