

Unit 8 Lesson 16: Estimating Population Proportions

1 Getting to School (Warm up)

Student Task Statement

A teacher asked all the students in one class how many minutes it takes them to get to school. Here is a list of their responses:

20	10	15	8	5	15	10	5	20
5	15	10	3	10	18	5	25	5
5	12	10	30	5	10			

1. What fraction of the students in this class say:
 - a. it takes them 5 minutes to get to school?
 - b. it takes them more than 10 minutes to get to school?
2. If the whole school has 720 students, can you use this data to estimate how many of them would say that it takes them more than 10 minutes to get to school?

Be prepared to explain your reasoning.

2 Reaction Times

Student Task Statement

The track coach at a high school needs a student whose reaction time is less than 0.4 seconds to help out at track meets. All the twelfth graders in the school measured their reaction times. Your teacher will give you a bag of papers that list their results.

1. Work with your partner to select a random sample of 20 reaction times, and record them in the table.

2. What **proportion** of your sample is less than 0.4 seconds?
3. Estimate the proportion of all twelfth graders at this school who have a reaction time of less than 0.4 seconds. Explain your reasoning.
4. There are 120 twelfth graders at this school. Estimate how many of them have a reaction time of less than 0.4 seconds.
5. Suppose another group in your class comes up with a different estimate than yours for the previous question.
 - a. What is another estimate that would be *reasonable*?
 - b. What is an estimate you would consider *unreasonable*?

3 A New Comic Book Hero

Student Task Statement

Here are the results of a survey of 20 people who read *The Adventures of Super Sam* regarding what special ability they think the new hero should have.



response	what new ability?
1	fly
2	freeze
3	freeze
4	fly
5	fly
6	freeze
7	fly
8	super strength
9	freeze
10	fly

response	what new ability?
11	freeze
12	freeze
13	fly
14	invisibility
15	freeze
16	fly
17	freeze
18	fly
19	super strength
20	freeze

1. What proportion of this sample want the new hero to have the ability to fly?
2. If there are 2,024 dedicated readers of *The Adventures of Super Sam*, estimate the number of readers who want the new hero to fly.

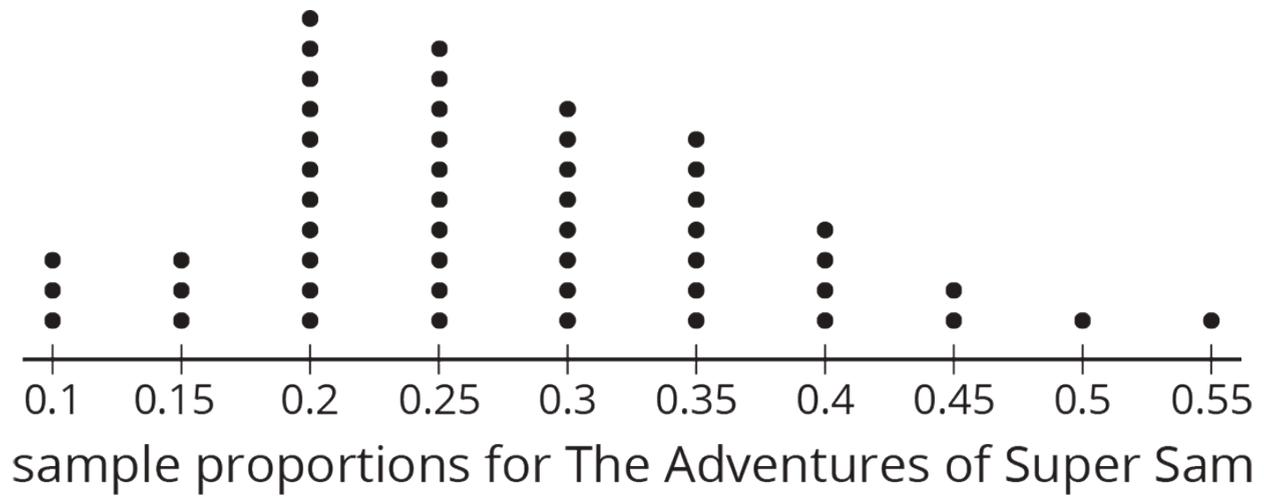
Two other comic books did a similar survey of their readers.

- In a survey of people who read *Beyond Human*, 42 out of 60 people want a new hero to be able to fly.
 - In a survey of people who read *Mysterious Planets*, 14 out of 40 people want a new hero to be able to fly.
3. Do you think the proportion of all readers who want a new hero that can fly are nearly the same for the three different comic books? Explain your reasoning.
 4. If you were in charge of these three comics, would you give the ability to fly to any of the new heroes? Explain your reasoning using the proportions you calculated.

4 Flying to the Shelves (Optional)

Student Task Statement

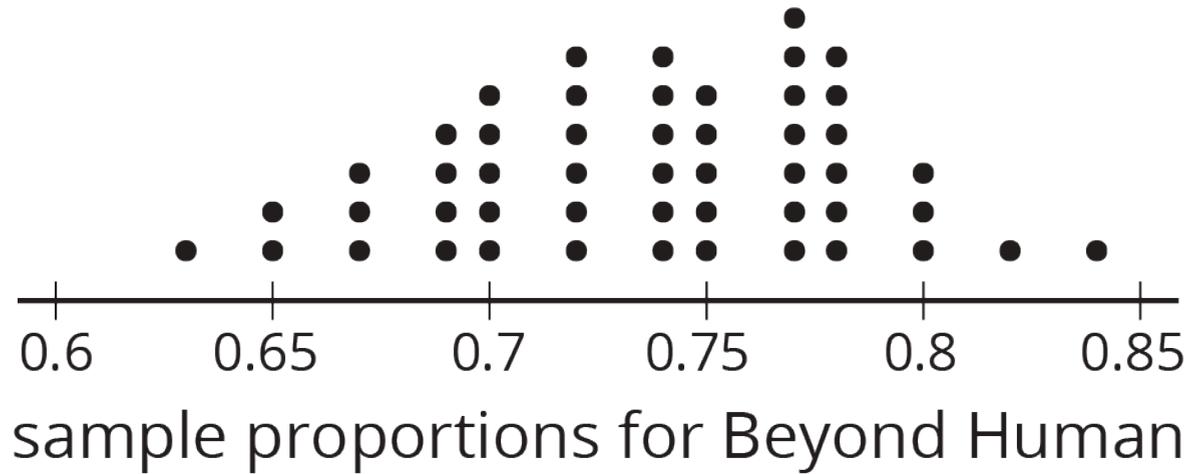
The authors of *The Adventures of Super Sam* chose 50 different random samples of readers. Each sample was of size 20. They looked at the sample proportions who prefer the new hero to fly.



1. What is a good estimate of the proportion of *all* readers who want the new hero to be able to fly?
2. Are most of the sample proportions within 0.1 of your estimate for the population proportion?

3. If the authors of *The Adventures of Super Sam* give the new hero the ability to fly, will that please most of the readers? Explain your reasoning.

The authors of the other comic book series created similar dot plots.



4. For each of these series, estimate the proportion of all readers who want the new hero to fly.

- *Beyond Human*:

- *Mysterious Planets*:

5. Should the authors of either of these series give their new hero the ability to fly?

6. Why might it be more difficult for the authors of *Mysterious Planets* to make the decision than the authors of the other series?