

Introduction

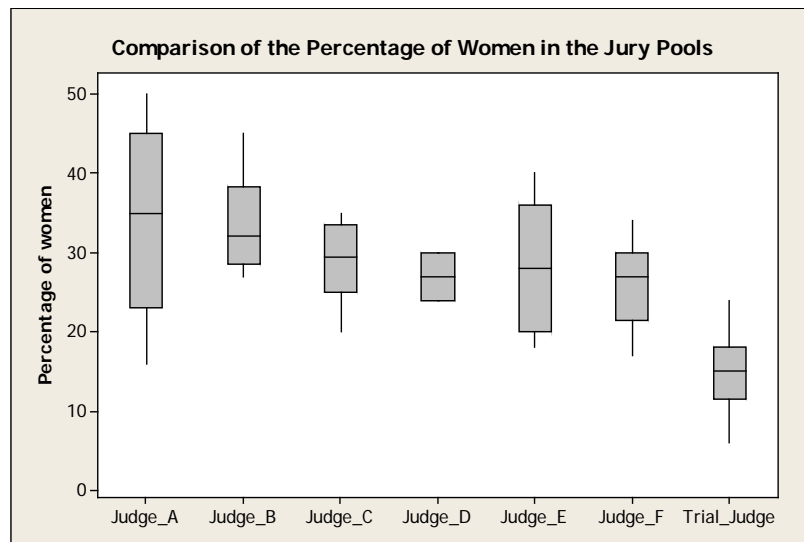
After Benjamin Spock's conviction on conspiracy charges, an appeal of his case was made partially based on the fact that his jury was all-male which seemed highly unlikely. Since women for various reasons do not make up half of the jury pool, data were collected on the percentage of women in the jury pool for cases of other, similar judges and on other cases for the trial judge. The question is whether or not the trial judge has the same percentage of women on his venires as the other comparable judges have.

Methods

We used ANOVAs and Welch's t-tests to analyze these data using the software program Minitab.

Results

An ANOVA to evaluate whether all seven judges have the same percentage of women on their venires indicates that they do not ($F(6, 39) = 6.28$, $p\text{-value} < 0.001$) while an ANOVA to evaluate whether the six comparator judges have the same percentage of women on their venires indicates that there is no evidence that their percentages of women on their venires differ ($F(5, 31) = 1.21$, $p\text{-value} = 0.329$). Comparing the data for Spock's trial judge to the pooled data from the six comparable judges indicates that the trial judge had a smaller percentage of women on his venires than the comparable judges had (based on a one-sided, 2-sample Welch's t-test, $T = -6.79$, 17 df, $p\text{-value} < 0.001$). The following graphic shows that the distribution of the percentage of women on the trial judge's venires was noticeably lower than that for the other judges:



Discussion

These data were observational and taken from judges at different locations. There may be some reason (other than prejudice on the judge's part) why women participate less often in jury pools for Spock's trial judge than for the other judges, but these data suggest that the matter should be investigated.