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*Illustrating Economic Inequality Analysis Techniques with Major League Baseball Salary Data.*

Inequalities in the distribution of wages, incomes, and wealth are popular topics in news media and academic journals. Unfortunately, a tendency to use a limited set of tools and data sources handicaps much of the current analysis. Applying a wider array of metrics and thinking more creatively about how to leverage data would enhance efforts to describe inequalities and to investigate causes and consequences of distributional inequities. Currently, there is little formal training in inequality analysis, but statistics, calculus, and programming instructors can all incorporate the explicit study of variation into their curricula. This presentation will discuss where to find professional sports salary data and how to use the incomes of Major League Baseball players to introduce inequality measures, such as the coefficient of variation, the Gini coefficient, and the generalized entropy measures, including Theil's T statistic. Using familiar, real world data to explain key concepts in inequality analysis can engage disinterested students and help develop critical thinking skills. (Received September 20, 2007)