Abstract:

Analyzing material for the presence of drugs such as cocaine, heroine, or LDS is both time-consuming and expensive, primarily because of the need to determine “beyond a reasonable doubt” the total amount of drugs seized in each case. Accuracy is important since penalties (financial and jail time) depend upon the quantity seized. Substantial backlogs in processing drug cases often develop as a result. Random sampling of drugs, and the subsequent presentation of an estimate of the total amount seized, has been used in the courts for many years. However, the methodologies used in such instances have been of an \textit{ad hoc} nature. In this talk I shall show you a sequential sampling procedure for forensic drug study that I developed for the State of Illinois Forensic Labs. This procedure provides statistical statements about the amount of the drug for either qualitative or quantitative assessment. Conclusions can be used for prosecuting these felonies or using them for plea-bargaining. This helps too speed the processing of drug cases and improves the working environment for forensic scientists. This \textit{talk is designed for everyone}.

The Stat Team has produced a software program for distribution and I shall show you how this software works.