

A note on Odds Ratios

in

The Class Ceiling: Why it Pays to be Privileged

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In case anyone is wondering where the odds ratios we present in the book come from, below are the underlying numbers we used from the Labour Force Survey for each time we mention or present odds ratios.

Introduction, page 13: “people from upper-middle-class origins have about 6.5 times the chance of landing an elite job compared to people from working-class backgrounds”

Weighted estimate of percent of workforce in each origin/destination cell:

	DESTINATION IN “TOP JOBS”	DESTINATION IN WORKING CLASS JOBS
PRIVILEGED ORIGIN	8.89%	6.23%
WORKING CLASS ORIGIN	3.30%	15.02%

$$\text{ODDS RATIO: } (8.89/6.23)/(3.3/15.02) = 6.504$$

Chapter 1, page 34: “people from upper-middle-class backgrounds are 3.6 times more likely to be in one of our top jobs (vs anywhere else in the class distribution) when compared to working-class-origin people.”

Weighted estimate of percent of workforce in each origin/destination cell:

	DESTINATION IN “TOP JOBS”	DESTINATION IN ANY OTHER JOB
PRIVILEGED ORIGIN	8.89%	22.36%
WORKING CLASS ORIGIN	3.30%	30.07%

$$\text{ODDS RATIO: } (8.89/22.36)/(3.3/30.07) = 3.628$$

Chapter 1, page 34: “Privileged origin people are about 12 times more likely to be doctors as those from working-class backgrounds, for example, and 7.5 times more likely as to be found in architecture, while they are only about twice as likely to be engineers.” The OR is in the last column below and is (a/b)/(c/d)

	A	B	C	D	
	R in this destination, privileged origins	R in any other destination, privileged origins	R in this destination, working class origins	R in any other destination, working class origins	OR
CHIEFS OF FIRE, AMBULANCE, AND POLICE	0.11%	48.42%	0.06%	51.41%	1.88
ENGINEERING	0.74%	47.79%	0.38%	51.09%	2.08
PUBLIC SECTOR SENIOR MANAGEMENT	2.48%	46.05%	1.15%	50.32%	2.35
CORPORATE SENIOR MANAGEMENT	0.40%	48.13%	0.19%	51.28%	2.30
IT	0.34%	48.19%	0.12%	51.35%	3.11
ACCOUNTANCY	1.69%	46.84%	0.66%	50.81%	2.78
PERFORMING ARTS	0.62%	47.91%	0.23%	51.24%	2.82
FINANCE	1.05%	47.48%	0.33%	51.14%	3.44
ADVERTISING	0.48%	48.05%	0.13%	51.34%	3.82
CEOS	0.77%	47.76%	0.25%	51.22%	3.29
SCIENCE	0.39%	48.14%	0.11%	51.36%	3.90
ACADEMIA	0.42%	48.11%	0.12%	51.35%	3.74
MANAGEMENT CONSULTING	0.16%	48.37%	0.05%	51.42%	3.72
FILM & TV	0.52%	48.01%	0.10%	51.37%	5.29
LAW	0.35%	48.18%	0.07%	51.40%	5.05
JOURNALISM	0.41%	48.12%	0.07%	51.40%	6.62
LIFE SCIENCES	0.41%	48.12%	0.07%	51.40%	6.50
ARCHITECTURE	0.16%	48.37%	0.02%	51.45%	7.10
MEDICINE	0.80%	47.73%	0.07%	51.40%	12.20

Figure 1.4, page 35: the OR is in the last column below and is (a/b)/(c/d)

	A	B	C	D	OR
	R AND Parent in this occupation	R in any other destination, parent in this occupation	R in this destination , parent in any other occupation	R & Parent both not in this occupation	
MEDICINE	0.0666%	0.4397%	0.6314%	98.8624%	23.71
LAW	0.0218%	0.2568%	0.4887%	99.2327%	17.22
FILM & TV	0.0063%	0.1294%	0.3920%	99.4723%	12.33
LIFE SCIENCES	0.0105%	0.2516%	0.4043%	99.3337%	10.23
ARCHITECTURE	0.0026%	0.1764%	0.1839%	99.6372%	7.84
PERFORMING ARTS	0.0031%	0.1068%	0.3765%	99.5136%	7.71
CHIEFS OF FIRE, AMBULANCE, ETC	0.0075%	0.6093%	0.1642%	99.2190%	7.40
JOURNALISM	0.0029%	0.1243%	0.3904%	99.4824%	5.85
ACADEMIA	0.0096%	0.3334%	0.5065%	99.1506%	5.61
ADVERTISING	0.0205%	0.3321%	1.1144%	98.5330%	5.46
FINANCE	0.0194%	0.6099%	0.6719%	98.6988%	4.67
CEOS	0.0012%	0.1544%	0.1855%	99.6589%	4.26
SCIENCE	0.0066%	0.3358%	0.4867%	99.1710%	3.99
IT	0.0338%	0.4456%	2.1606%	97.3600%	3.42
ENGINEERING	0.0480%	1.6114%	1.0391%	97.3015%	2.79
ACCOUNTANCY	0.0078%	0.4570%	0.7855%	98.7497%	2.15
CORPORATE SENIOR MGMT	0.1252%	1.7920%	3.1257%	94.9570%	2.12
PUBLIC SECTOR SENIOR MGMT	0.0043%	0.3883%	0.5638%	99.0436%	1.96
MANAGEMENT CONSULTING	0.0004%	0.0957%	0.4204%	99.4834%	1.01