



STANFORD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
Department of Genetics

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Dear Hilary,

I was talking to Irene a few days ago, and she may have written you, about Claude; now I am glad to have your postcard.

I do not have any independent statistical data on the question of sex ratio. Walter Bodmer and I had taken some looks at sex ratio in the data of the U.S. census. We concluded that unreliability of reporting live births was a larger factor in such data and probably also in the vital statistics (birth certificates) than was usually understood. The unreliability as well as the secondary sex ratio will be confounded with class, regional, and race differences and these in turn with factors like season of birth. So, our net conclusion is simply to view data of this kind with acute skepticism unless specific checks are available to alleviate these sources of uncertainty.

Sincerely yours,


Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

re H.K.
Postcard, W. Niebler
on sex ratio

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