> **This week:** Homework 1 and Quiz 1 are due Sunday. The Quiz cannot be submitted late, and a missed Quiz becomes a zero.



Florence Nightingale by Henry Hering, National Portrait Gallery x82368. Public domain.

Florence Nightingale is remembered as a nurse, and she was one. She was also a statistician, and the second thing is why she got the first thing done.

At a British military hospital during the Crimean War she found that far more soldiers were dying of preventable disease than of their wounds. She had the numbers. Nobody in London acted on them.

So she drew a picture. A circular diagram, often called the coxcomb, cut the year into twelve wedges, with the area of each wedge showing the deaths that month and the shading showing the cause. Laid out that way, the argument was hard to look away from, and sanitation reform followed. In 1858 she became the first woman elected to the Royal Statistical Society.

Section 2.3 this week is about graphs that enlighten and graphs that deceive. Nightingale is the enlighten half, and she is the reason to take the section seriously. She had the correct numbers first, and the numbers by themselves persuaded no one. The picture did.

Profile adapted from Amstat News, published by the American Statistical Association.