

AP Statistics

THE BEST PREDICTOR OF THE WINNING PERCENTAGE

The ultimate goal in any sport (besides having fun) is to win. One measure of how well a team does is the winning percentage. In baseball, a lot of effort goes in to figuring out the variable that best predicts a team's winning percentage. The following data represent the winning percentages of teams in the National League along with potential explanatory variables. Which variable do you think is the best predictor of winning percentage? Explain.

Team	Winning Percentage	Runs Scored	Home Runs	Team Batting Average	On-Base Percentage	Batting Average against Team	Team Earned-Run Average
Arizona	0.315	615	135	0.253	0.31	0.266	4.98
Atlanta	0.593	803	178	0.27	0.343	0.265	3.74
Cubs	0.549	789	235	0.268	0.328	0.247	3.81
Cincinnati	0.469	750	194	0.25	0.331	0.28	5.19
Colorado	0.42	833	202	0.275	0.345	0.29	5.54
Florida	0.512	718	148	0.264	0.329	0.256	4.1
Houston	0.568	803	187	0.267	0.342	0.258	4.05
Los Angeles	0.574	761	203	0.262	0.332	0.254	4.01
Milwaukee	0.416	634	135	0.248	0.321	0.259	4.24
Montreal	0.414	635	151	0.249	0.313	0.266	4.33
Mets	0.438	684	185	0.249	0.317	0.261	4.09
Philadelphia	0.531	840	215	0.267	0.345	0.264	4.45
Pittsburgh	0.447	680	142	0.26	0.321	0.267	4.29
San Diego	0.537	768	139	0.273	0.342	0.263	4.03
San Francisco	0.562	850	183	0.27	0.357	0.265	4.29
St. Louis	0.648	855	214	0.278	0.344	0.251	3.75