Brief Contents

List of Figures xxii

List of Tables xxvii

Preface xxix

Acknowledgments xxxiv

About the Author xxxvi

PART I: INTRODUCTION 1

Chapter 1: Introduction to Making Sense of Numbers 2

Chapter 2: Foundational Concepts for Quantitative Research 13

PART II: HOW TOPIC, MEASUREMENT, AND CONTEXT HELP MAKE SENSE OF NUMBERS 37

Chapter 3: Topic and Conceptualization 38

Chapter 4: Measurement 59

Chapter 5: Context 92

PART III: EXHIBITS FOR COMMUNICATING NUMERIC INFORMATION 113

Chapter 6: Working With Tables 114

Chapter 7: Working With Charts and Visualizations 149

PART IV: MAKING SENSE OF NUMBERS FROM MATHEMATICAL AND STATISTICAL METHODS 195

Chapter 8: Comparison Values, Contrast Sizes, and Standards 196

Chapter 9: Numbers, Comparisons, and Calculations 229

Chapter 10: Distributions and Associations 260

PART V: ASSESSING THE QUALITY OF NUMERIC ESTIMATES 305

Chapter 11: Bias 306

Chapter 12: Causality 347

Chapter 13: Uncertainty of Numeric Estimates 387

PART VI: PULLING IT ALL TOGETHER 425

Chapter 14: Communicating Quantitative Research 426

Chapter 15: The Role of Research Methods in Making Sense of Numbers 469

APPENDIXES

Appendix A: Why and How to Create New Variables 504

Appendix B: Sampling Weights 522

Appendix C: Brief Technical Background on Inferential Statistics 527

References 544

Index 554