



## Common Control Chart Myths

... Donald Wheeler

### Data must be normally distributed:

- "The normality of the data is neither a prerequisite for, nor a consequence of, a predictable process."

### Control charts work because of the central limit theorem:

- "The conservative nature of three-sigma limits makes the central limit theorem irrelevant."

- "The central limit theorem does not apply to subgroup ranges, therefore, if the central limit theorem were the basis for control charts, then the range chart would not work."

## Western Electric Rules

1. One point more than three standard deviations from the center line
2. Nine points in a row on the same side of the center line
3. Six points in a row steadily increasing or steadily decreasing
4. Fourteen points in a row alternating up and down
5. Two out of three points in a row at least two standard deviations from the center line on the same side of the center line
6. Four out of five points in a row at least one standard deviation from the center line on the same side of the center line
7. Fifteen points in a row within one standard deviation from the center line on either side of the center line
8. Eight points in a row beyond one standard deviation from the center line on either side of the center line