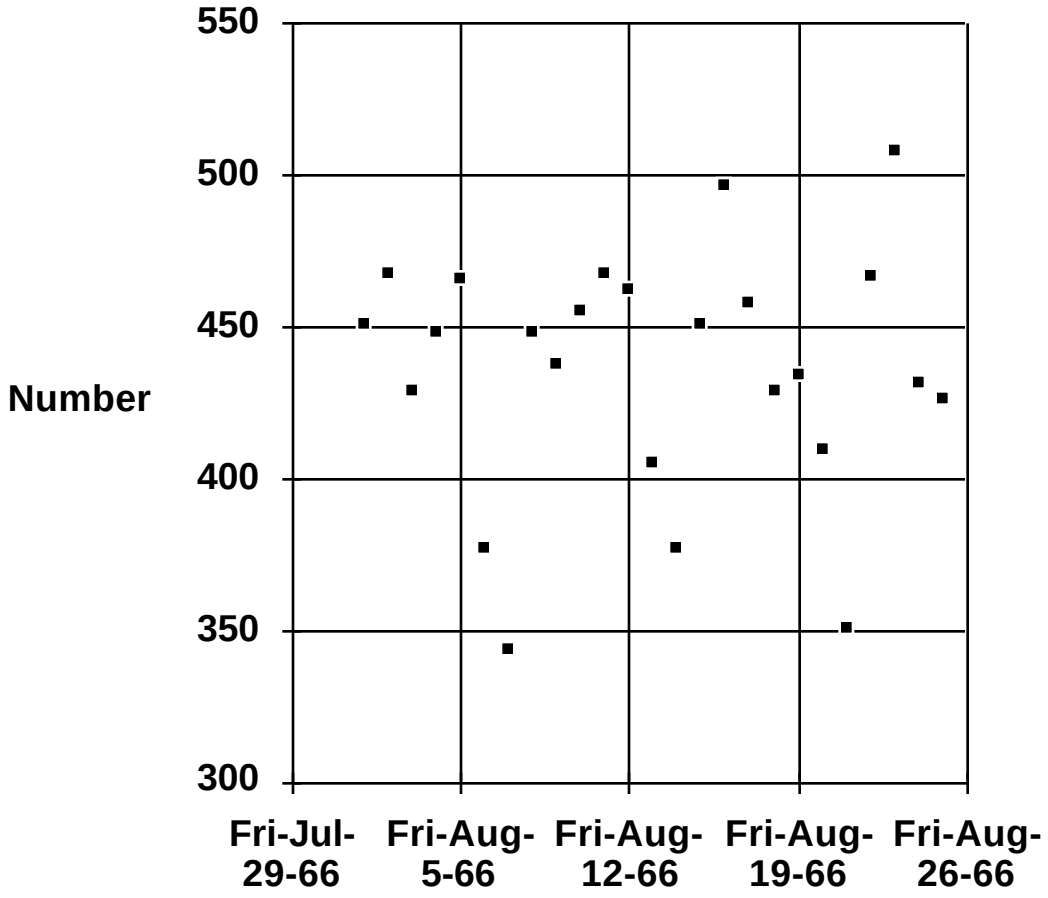
On November 9, 1965, the power went out in New York City, and it stayed out for a day—th**e Great Blackout. Nine months later, the newspapers suggested that New York was experiencing a baby boom.** The table below shows the number of babies born every day during a 25-day period, centered nine months and ten days after the Great Blackout.* These numbers average out to 436. This turns out not to be unusually high for New York. But there is an interesting twist to the data: the 3 Sundays only average 357. How likely is it that the average of 3 days chosen at random from the table will be 357 or less? What do you infer?

Number of births in New York in August 1966

Day_Plus_	Day_of_week	Day_of_Month	No_of_Births
265	Mon	1	451
266	Tue	2	468
267	Wed	3	429
268	Thu	4	448
269	Fri	5	466
270	Sat	6	377
271	Sun	7	344
272	Mon	8	448
273	Tue	9	438
274	Wed	10	455
275	Thu	11	468
276	Fri	12	462
277	Sat	13	405
278	Sun	14	377
279	Mon	15	451
280	Tue	16	497
281	Wed	17	458
282	Thu	18	429
283	Fri	19	434
284	Sat	20	410
285	Sun	21	351
286	Mon	22	467
287	Tue	23	508
288	Wed	24	432
289	Thu	25	426



*These data originate with the Public Health Department of New York. We got them from Sandy Zabell, professor of statistics, Northwestern University. A reference is A. J. Izenman and S. L. Zabell, "Babies and the blackout: the genesis of a misconception," *Social Science Research* vol. 10 (1981) pp. 282- 99.

Apparently, the *New York Times* sent a reporter around to a few hospitals on Monday, August 8, and Tuesday, August 9, nine months after the blackout. The hospitals reported that their obstetrics wards were busier than usual—probably because of the general pattern that weekends are slow, Mondays and Tuesdays are busy. These "findings" were published in a front-page article on Wednesday, August 10, 1966, under the headline "Births Up 9 Months After the Blackout." This seems to be the origin of the baby-boom myth.