

Florence Nightingale (1820–1910)



Nightingale was born in Italy and grew up in England. In an era when women were excluded from most intellectual life, she was a pioneering nurse and an early statistician. She instituted the systematic recording of mortality and morbidity data at military hospitals and used comparative data to campaign for the improvement of hospital sanitation. Nightingale was the first

woman to be elected to Fellow of the Royal Statistical Society (1858) and the American Statistical Association invited her to become an honorary member (1874). She became professor of Applied Statistics at Oxford University (1891), and was the first woman to receive Britain's Order of Merit (1907).

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