

# Crystal Ball Software and Risk Analysis Tips

## (#45) Alternate Parameter Sets

All the continuous probability distributions (except uniform) let you define the distributions using percentiles for parameters. This option gives you added flexibility to set up assumptions when only percentile information is available or when specific attributes (e.g., mean, standard deviation) of the variable in your model are unknown.

For example, if you are defining a normal distribution, but are unsure of the absolute minimum and maximum values of the variable, you could instead define the distribution using the 10th and 90th percentiles along with the likeliest value. This gives you a distribution that has 80%, or four-fifths of the values, occurring between the two specified percentiles.

To change the parameter sets for the continuous distributions, use the popup "Parms" menu in the upper right corner of the Define Assumption dialog. The currently selected parameter set has a check mark next to it. Choosing "Set Default," also on the Parms menu, will select the chosen parameter set as the default for that distribution type.

For more information on alternate parameter sets, see your *Crystal Ball User Manual*.

For more information or to contact us, browse to <http://helpdesk.crystalball.com>

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