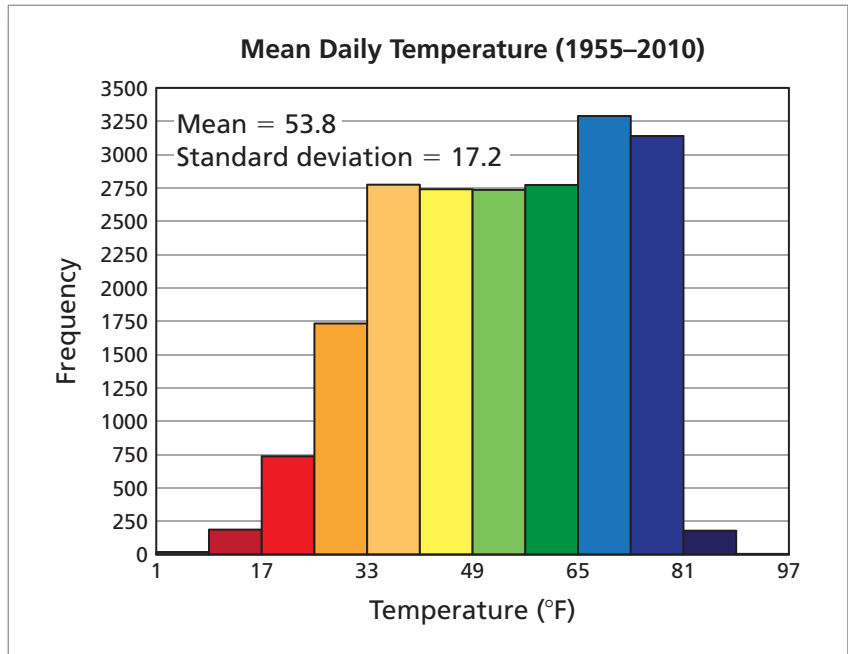EXAMPLE 2   **Describing Dispersion**

The histogram shows the distribution of the mean daily temperatures at McGuire Air Force Base from 1955 through 2010. Describe the dispersion.

Mean Daily Temperature (1955–2010)

Mean = 53.8
Standard deviation = 17.2

SOLUTION

The vast majority of the temperatures lie within 1 standard deviation of the mean. That is, they range from 36.6°F to 71°F.

✓ **Checkpoint**   Help at *Math*.and**Y⊖U**.com

The line graph shows 101-day moving averages of the data represented in the histogram. The temperatures are plotted from 1955 through 2010. Suppose you are doing a study on global warming. Which of the two graphic displays would be more helpful? Explain your reasoning.

101-Day Moving Averages