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**Sociology 204: “Predictors of Family Structure”
A Data Analysis Module for Sociology of the Family**

Learning Objectives:

Skill

- Students will test hypotheses using quantitative data.
- Students will produce a bivariate table.
- Students will evaluate the implied hypothesis.
- Students will produce bivariate tables with a control variable.
- Students will evaluate the hypothesis under the conditions of the control variable.

Substance

- To discuss the topics of sociology and family structure.

Exercise Instructions

Table 1

Cross-tab Family Type (FamType) by Race.
We will be analyzing 1990 census data.

1. Go to <http://www.ssdan.net/datacounts>
2. Click on the “Data” in the menu bar
3. From there, click “Browse” on the left sidebar. Find “**centrend**” in the drop-down box and select it.
4. Scroll down through the list of data sets until you find “**fmin5090.dat**” Highlight and click “submit.”
5. You can also click [here](#) to launch the dataset in WebCHIP.

We will be using three variables from these data sets: family type (FamType), race (RaceLat), and family income (FmIncome).

Variables

Although there are several ways in which the following terms may be conceptualized, defined and measured, these are the definitions used by the Census Bureau.

Family Income (FmIncome) is the combined earnings of adults in the household expressed as an annual amount.

- <15K- less than 15 thousand dollars per year
- 15-25K-between 15 and 25 thousand
- 25-35K-between 25 and 35 thousand

- 35-50K-between 35 and 50 thousand
- 50K+ more than 50 thousand

Family Type(FamType) indicates the type of household defined by gender and marital status.

- MrrdCpl – married couple household
- MaleFam – male headed household, no wife/mother present (i.e., single parent family)
- FemlFam – female headed household, no husband/father present

Race (Race) – individual’s self-identification as:

- Black – all persons who indicated their race as black.
- NonBlack—all persons who indicated their race is not black

Run the crosstab for Table 1 and present your results in table form. (Make sure your independent variable is the column variable and your dependent variable is the row variable. Choose Race as your column variable and FamType as your row variable. Recall that the instructions for running a crosstab can be found at [DataCounts!](#))

Label your table: “Table 1: Family Type by Race.”

Answer the following questions:

1. What percent of NonBlacks live in the family type, married couple (MrrdCpl)?
2. What percent of Blacks live in the family type, married couple (MrrdCpl)?
3. What family type are NonBlacks most likely to live in?
4. What family type are NonBlacks least likely to live in?
5. What family type are Blacks most likely to live in?
6. What family type is most rare for both NonBlacks and Blacks?
7. Does race predict family type? That is, evaluate the hypothesis, Race > Family Type.

Table 2 and Table 3

Cross-tab Family Type by Race, controlling for Family Income (FmIncome).

Remember that a control variable is a conditional variable. It allows us to look at the relationship between two variables under different conditions. For example, we could look at the relationship between race and income controlling for gender. In this case, we would look at the effect of race on income for males in one table and for females in another. We would be able to see if race had the same effect on income for males and females. Gender then is the condition under which we are testing the relationship between race and income. In this exercise, your control variable is family income.

Produce a Percent Down Table with “Family Type” as the row variable, “Race” as the column variable and “FMIIncome” as your control variable

Present your findings for the poorest Family Type (less than 15k) in Table 2 and the richest Family Type (50K+) in Table 3. The label for table 2 should be: “Table 2: Family Type by Race for Family Income Less than 15k.” The label for table 3 should be: “Table 3: Family Type by Race for Family Income Equal to or Greater Than 50k.”

Answer the following questions:

8. When family income is 15k or less, what percent of NonBlacks live in the family type, married couple (MrrdCpl)?
9. When family income is 15k or less, what percent of Blacks live in the family type, married couple (MrrdCpl)?
10. What percent of Blacks live in the family type, married couple (MrrdCpl) when family income is 50k or more?
11. What percent of NonBlacks live in the family type, married couple (MrrdCpl) when family income is 50k or more?
12. Evaluate the following hypothesis. Does your conclusion hold for the poorest group and the richest group? Explain.
13. A) Other than the fact that many groups are lumped together under “Black” and “NonBlack,” what is your best explanation for these results? B) What other questions do these results raise? C) What other hypotheses might you test to answer those questions?