

This module is updated based on one created by Susanne Morgan of Ithaca College to include more recent data and for ease of use with WebCHIP 4.0.

The Value of an Education (Exercise Document for Students)

An introductory module using WebCHIP and data from the U.S. Census

This PACKET INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING TEACHING MATERIALS:

- **In-Class Exercise** (one-page handout to distribute to students. It involves individual guesses, group consensus, and then demonstration of census data.)
- **Homework Assignment** (handout to distribute at the end of class: it includes graphs for them to make and brief writing assignments.)

This module has the following objectives:

Skills

- To orient students to WebCHIP, by in-class demonstration
- To learn to identify the contents of various datasets, read marginals, and read a percentaged crosstab table.
- To give beginning practice writing about data.
- To provide a brief homework assignment beginning to graphically illustrate data.

Substance

- To clarify common misperceptions about the frequency and value of a college education.
- To use collaborative learning techniques.

This module was developed by Susanne Morgan, Department of Sociology, Ithaca College. It uses datasets and materials from SSDAN, Social Science Data Analysis Network, directed by William H. Frey of the Population Studies Center, The University of Michigan. The idea for the module comes from Tony Catanese, Department of Economics, DePauw University.

In-Class Exercise

The Value of a College Education

In the first column below, please write your guess as to the percentages of the adult (over 25) U.S. population which has completed the following levels of education:

Table 1

<i>Education</i>	<i>Your guess</i>	<i>Group consensus</i>	<i>Census Data</i>
<9 years			
10-12 years			
HighSchoolGrad			
Some College			
College Grad			
Master's Degree			
Ph.D./Professional			

Now please write your guess as to the percentages of the adult, full-time employed U.S. Population which earns the following amounts per year.

Table 2

<i>Earnings</i>	<i>Your guess</i>	<i>Group consensus</i>	<i>Census Data</i>
<15 K			
15-25K			
25-35K			
35-50K			
50K+			

When you have completed your guesses, meet with a group of 4-6 and arrive at a group guess. Enter that guess in the second column.

After the groups report on their guesses, fill in the actual data from the data sets in the **acs2008** Collection, which will be projected or handed out. To find this information, create a Marginals table in each of the datasets.

To open the datasets in acs2008 in WebCHIP. To load the dataset:

1. Go to <http://ssdan.net/datacounts/webchip>
2. From there, in collections find "**acs2008**" in the drop-down box and select it.
3. Scroll down through the list of data sets until you find the specified dataset and select it:

Table 1 Data: EducOccup.dat

Table 2 Data: Earn.dat