This module is updated based on one created by Donald Arwood of South Dakota State University to include more recent ACS Data and for ease of use with WebCHIP 4.0

POPULATION PROBLEMS
Women and Household Structures 1950-2008

INTRODUCTION

When I was growing up in Watertown, South Dakota in the 1960s, I lived in a neighborhood filled with *Father Knows Best* and *Leave It to Beaver* families. There was a father, mother, and at least one child in nearly every house up and down the block. Of course there were a few exceptions; the son of the middle-aged couple who lived across the alley moved off to California making his parents empty-nesters; two nice middle-aged ladies lived next door; and, my siblings and I lived in a female-headed household.

You most likely learned in your Introduction to Sociology, Social Problems, and Family classes that traditional mom-pop-children households in the United States are not as dominant as they once were. You may also have learned that the change was due in part to the increasing status of women and changes in customs and laws that made divorce less troublesome to obtain. And we all have known for quite some time that children in female-headed households have a much greater chance of living in poverty.

While you do the exercises in this lesson, you will find data that look at some of these claims. In the next lesson, we will explore some of the demographic "causes" of the increase in the status of women—declines in both mortality and fertility and an increase in urbanization.

Learning Objectives:

Skill
- Using software to access and analyze census data
- Identifying independent and dependent variables
- Quantitative writing
- Learning how to construct, read, and interpret bivariate tables displaying frequencies and percentages
- Identifying population trends over time
- Forming testable hypotheses using quantitative data

Substance
- The first exercise explores data on the DataCounts! site.

- The second exercise uses WebCHIP to (1) demonstrate that the trend in family types is actually occurring; (2) find out if there is a relationship between family type and poverty; and (3) see if that relationship held over time.
- The third exercise will use look at the relationship between the number of children present in the family and percent living in poverty for different kinds of families.
- The fourth exercise allows you to develop and test hypotheses of your own.

EXERCISE 1

1. Go to http://ssdan.net/datacounts/webchip
2. Select the category **acs2008trend**
3. Select the **FamPov** dataset
4. Click "Compute Marginals" to see the variables included in this dataset.

EXERCISE 2 PART 1

Using the **Fampov** dataset in WebCHIP, identify the percent of female-headed, male-headed, and married couple families for 1970, 1980, 1990, 200, and 2008. Report your data in the table 1.
1. Load the WebCHIP using the link provided above.
2. Create a marginals table to get frequency distributions of each variable in the file
3. Select "Famtype" in the row variable box and "Year" in the column variable box.
4. Generate a Percent Down table by clicking the "Percent Down" button.

Table 1. Family Type by Year

FAMILY TYPE	YEAR					
	1970	1980	1990	2000	2008	TOTAL
MrrdCpl						
MaleFam						
FemlFam						
TOTAL						

What changes have occurred?

EXERCISE 2 PART 2

Absolute hypothesis to be tested: *Female-headed households (no spouse present) are more likely to live in poverty than male-headed (no spouse present) and married couple households.*

Using WebCHIP, identify the percent of each type of family that fall in each of the following poverty categories: poverty, near poverty, and other. You will need to follow the same steps you did for Table 1. What is your new row variable? What is your new column variable?

Table 2. Poverty Classification by Family Type

POVERTY CLASSIFICATION	FAMILY TYPE			
	MrrdCpl	MaleFam	FemlFam	TOTAL
Poverty				
Near Poor				
Other				
TOTAL				

What pattern exists?

EXERCISE 2 PART 3

Conditional hypothesis to be tested: *Female-headed households (no spouse present) are more likely to live in poverty than male-headed (no spouse present) and married couple households, even over time.*

Using WebCHIP, determine if poverty levels vary by family type for the 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, and 2008 census years. Produce Percent Down contingency tables with your independent, dependent, and control variables.

Table 3. Poverty Classification by Family Type_1970

POVERTY CLASSIFICATION	FAMILY TYPE			
	MrrdCpl	MaleFam	FemlFam	TOTAL

Poverty				
Near Poor				
Other				
TOTAL				

Table 4. Poverty Classification by Family Type_1980

POVERTY CLASSIFICATION	FAMILY TYPE			
	MrrdCpl	MaleFam	FemlFam	TOTAL
Poverty				
Near Poor				
Other				
TOTAL				

Table 5. Poverty Classification by Family Type_1990

POVERTY CLASSIFICATION	FAMILY TYPE			
	MrrdCpl	MaleFam	FemlFam	TOTAL
Poverty				
Near Poor				
Other				
TOTAL				

Table 6. Poverty Classification by Family Type_2000

POVERTY CLASSIFICATION	FAMILY TYPE			
	MrrdCpl	MaleFam	FemlFam	TOTAL
Poverty				

Near Poor				
Other				
TOTAL				

Table 7. Poverty Classification by Family Type_2008

POVERTY CLASSIFICATION	FAMILY TYPE			
	MrrdCpl	MaleFam	FemlFam	TOTAL
Poverty				
Near Poor				
Other				
TOTAL				

What did you find?

EXERCISE 3

Using WebCHIP, focus on the relationship between number of children in the family and family income.
1. Go to http://ssdan.net/datacounts/webchip
2. Select the category **acs2010**
3. Select the **ChildPov** dataset
4. Click "Compute Marginals" to see the variables included in this dataset.

What pattern exists?

Table 8. Poverty Classification by Presence of Children

POVERTY CLASSIFICATION	PRESENCE OF CHILDREN			
	None	Kids<6	KidsOtr	TOTAL
Poverty				
Near Poor				

Middle				
Comfortable				
TOTAL				

Now focus on the relationship between number of children in the family and family income controlling for family type. Does family type make a difference? Which household type has the highest percentage in poverty and near poverty? Which has the lowest? Why?

Table 9. Poverty Classification by Presence of Children_Married Couple Households

POVERTY CLASSIFICATION	PRESENCE OF CHILDREN			
	None	Kids<6	KidsOtr	TOTAL
Poverty				
Near Poor				
Middle				
Comfortable				
TOTAL				

Table 10. Poverty Classification by Presence of Children_Male-Headed (no wife present) Households

POVERTY CLASSIFICATION	PRESENCE OF CHILDREN			
	None	Kids<6	KidsOtr	TOTAL
Poverty				

Near Poor				
Middle				
Comfortable				
TOTAL				

Table 11. Poverty Classification by Presence of Children_Female-Headed (no husband present) Households

POVERTY CLASSIFICATION	PRESENCE OF CHILDREN			
	None	Kids<6	KidsOtr	TOTAL
Poverty				
Near Poor				
Middle				
Comfortable				
TOTAL				

EXERCISE 4

Using WebCHIP develop and test absolute and conditional hypotheses of your own. Did you find support for your hypotheses? Why or why not?