

This module is updated based on one created by Jeffrey Leiter, North Carolina State University to include more recent ACS Data and for ease of use with WebCHIP 4.0

## **Do Blacks Earn Less than Whites and Why?**

A Data Analysis Module for an Introductory Sociology Course  
Developed as Part of the Integrated Data Analysis Project  
of the American Sociological Association

### **LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

#### *Skill*

After using this module, students will gain skills in:

- Using software to access and analyze census data
- Identifying independent and dependent variables
- Employing control variables
- Forming testable hypotheses using quantitative data
- Learning how to construct, read, and interpret bivariate tables displaying frequencies and percentages
- Creating visual tools representing quantitative data in the form of charts or graphs
- Using real world data to enhance and support key course concepts

### **STARTING TO THINK**

In this module, we are going to explore what people earn from their jobs. People care a lot about earnings. Why?

- What part of the population has any other source of income besides their job earnings?
- How do differences in peoples' earnings tell us about how their contributions to our society differ?
- To what extent does the quality of a person's life depend on their job earnings?
- Would we have a better society if differences or inequality in earnings were limited? How limited?
- What reasons for differences in earnings do you think are acceptable in a just society?

### **DIFFERENCES IN EARNINGS**

Let's start by looking at differences in earnings. You can access WebCHIP through the following link: <http://ssdan.net/webchip/webchip4/>

1. From there, click on the drop-down menu on the left sidebar to choose your dataset. Find "**census 2000**".
2. Scroll down through the list of data sets until you find **work2k-45.dat**. Highlight and click on the data set. This will bring up the data set in the WebCHIP program and it is ready for analysis.

Now you will examine income by race for 45-54 year olds in 2000. First, read the description of the data set. Who is described here? Do the limitations in the people described matter for studying differences in earnings?

