APPLIED DEMOGRAPHY

POVERTY

Learning Objectives:

Skill

- Using software to access and analyze census data
- Identifying independent and dependent variables
- Learning how to construct, read, and interpret bivariate tables displaying frequencies and percentages
- Identifying population trends over time

Substance

- Use different datasets to look at :
  - Poverty and Race/Ethnicity over time, and in 2000.
  - Poverty and family type

Exercise 1

Use **centrend/FPOV702k.DAT** to create a line graph indicating the percentage of black and non-black family households in poverty from 1970 to 2000.

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 **"fpov702k.dat"** Highlight and click "submit."
5. You can also click here to launch the dataset in WebCHIP.

- In WebCHIP, make a Percent Down table with POV as the row variable, YEAR as the column variable and RACE as the control variable.
- In excel, use only data for the rows labeled POVERTY. In the chart wizard, series 1 in the legend should be labeled NON-BLACK. Series 2 should be labeled BLACK. The X-axis of the chart should be labeled with YEAR values. Be sure to provide a meaningful title and don't forget to include your name.
- Very briefly describe your findings.

Exercise 2

Using the data set **cen2000/FAMILY2k.DAT**, create a stacked column chart (the second subtype in the first row of column charts) with bars for each race/ethnic group. For each group, the columns should indicate the percentage of families in poverty in 2000.

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 **“cen2000”** in the drop-down box and select it.
4. Scroll down through the list of data sets until you find **“family2k.dat”** Highlight and click “submit.”
5. You can also click here to launch the dataset in WebCHIP.

- In WebCHIP, make a Percent Down table with POV as the row variable and RACELAT as the column variable.
- In excel, use only data for the row labeled POVERTY. Do not use the data for the NLOTHERS and the NLMULTI groups when constructing the chart. Do not label the series in the legend. The X-axis of the chart should be labeled with the names of the race-ethnic groups. Be sure to provide a meaningful title and don’t forget to include your name.
- Describe the differences between race/ethnic groups.

Exercise 3

Using data from 1970 to 2000 (**centrend/FPOV702k.DAT**), create a clustered column chart with side-by-side bars (the first subtype in the first row of column charts) for each family type in poverty. In each year, the bars should indicate the percentage of each family type living in poverty.

- In WebCHIP, make a Percent Down table with POV as the row variable, FAMTYPE as the column variable and YEAR and RACE as the control variables.
- In excel, use only the data for the rows labeled POVERTY. In the chart wizard, series 1 should be labeled MrrdCpl, series 2 MaleFam and series 3 FemFam. Be sure to provide a meaningful title and don’t forget to include your name.
- Which family types experience the highest poverty?
- Describe trends in the poverty of different types of families.
- Why do you think different family types experience varying levels of poverty?