Reflection

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This course titled Statistics for the Social Sciences is very intimidating on the surface. And using data software and coding were never on my to do list, however, this semester I learned how to do all of that and more, and it actually turned out to be very interesting. This statistics class has taught me valuable life skills and jobs skills that are transferrable to many jobs within the criminal justice and sociological fields. Each survey and statistical analysis skill taught to me throughout this class can be beneficial when looking at society and research in a larger context.

Throughout the course of this class we learned hand calculations. However, we also were taught the use of statistical computing programs that aid in the analysis of complex and large amount of data. Throughout our specific research we were taught how to analyse our survey in the computer program RStudio and SPSS 25. Each of these programs allows us to quickly do complex calculations with coding.

We have learned hand calculations for measures of central tendency, measures of variability, Z-scores and probability, confidence intervals, three different types of t-tests, analysis of variance, chi-squared tests, Pearson’s correlation, and Regressions. As well as learned, each of these in coding in RStudio and SPSS. We learned the process of recoding variables for better analysis in SPSS and Rstudios.

Each of these statistical methods can be used to code different types of variables from categorical to continuous, that help us understand the data we are studying to the best of our ability. These hand calculation and computer imputing is important because it allows us to take large samples and calculate and code them to understand how it can be applied to a larger population. In the research we completed throughout this class, we collaborated with local area HeadStart programs to study parental involvement in a larger context. And personally I looked at the average hours a parent works per week and how much time they get to spend with their child.

My experience in this course can be used in my future endeavors after college. The skill of knowing how to use RStudios and SPSS is a vary transferable skill that will allow me to secure certain jobs and will be a stand out skill on my resume when applying for jobs. Currently, I have secured a job with the 2020 Census. My passion for collecting information and the importance of statistics has grown. I have realized that the statistics researchers collect can influence policy and legislation, as well as funding for important programs in society.