

Course: Statistics for Social Justice

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I. Introduction

A new course was developed that partnered with a non-profit and tabulated, organized, and analyzed their data to answer key questions and help them better serve Iowa communities.

II. Brief Learning Objectives

- Learn about historical and ongoing inequities in housing
- Learn, apply, and communicate the result of descriptive introductory statistics

III. ACADEMIC SETTING AND STUDENTS

- Small Liberal arts college of 1150 students
- One-course-at-a-time block schedule
- All sophomores take second-year course with a focus on civic engagement and with no pre-requisites
- Course had 14 Sophomores
- Mix of undeclared majors, half intending a minor or major in statistics or data science
- About half of the students happen to have taken a previous statistics course

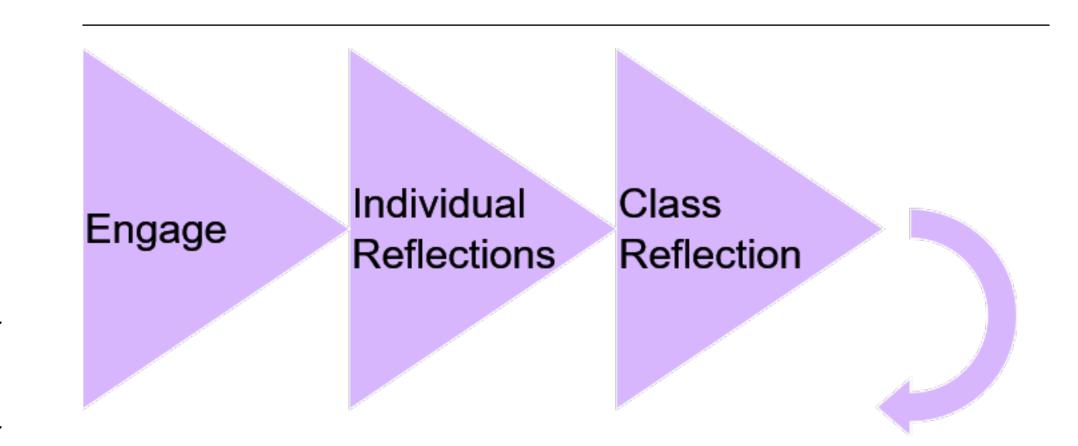
IV. COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- Waypoint Services: Among other functions, they coordinate homeless services for 96 of the 99 counties in Iowa.
- Iowa Legal Aid: Provide free civil legal assistance. With this project, they shared data that allowed us to connect some people utilizing housing services to eviction cases.

V. Research Questions

- For those who have completed the Waypoint program, is there a relationship between the race and/or gender of the individuals and evictions?
- For those who have completed the Waypoint program, is there a relationship between the race and/or gender of the individuals and who successfully completes a program?
- Is there a relationship between the race and/or gender of the individuals and who uses, and reuses housing programs?

VI. Pedagogy



- Varied content mediums including podcast's, videos, readings, seminars, and a board game
- Group project for community partner
 - ► Three groups of 4-5 students
 - ▶ Data "collecting" from partners platform
 - Short paper graded with rubric
- Info-graphics final presentation to Waypoint and community

- Individual reflections graded with a uniform rubric
- Class discussion graded by participation
- Lecture and statistics problem sets which were graded for correctness

VII. STUDENT OUTCOMES AND CHALLENGES

- Reflections showed tremendous amounts of personal growth
- Students who reported not enjoying the course topic reported they still saw the value of the work and statistics generally
- Students were extremely motivated by the potential value of their work for the community
- Authentic understanding of the complexities of data and potential impacts
- Minimal learned formal statistics
- The students taking the work seriously struggled to trust other students
- Difficult to grade individual students

VIII. JSM Materials—Course Materials



