

# 601 Final

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## Introduction

Public schools in America encompass a wide variety of students based on several factors including age, race, sex, religion, and many others. While we celebrate this diversity across America these differences can actually lead to vast differences when comparing communities. These differences, mostly socio-economic, can lead to disparaging conditions in the school systems in each area. Since a significant amount of funding for public schools comes from local taxes, these socio-economics differences can lead to worse school systems.

One of the places where lacking of funding for schools can negatively impact them is in terms of their ability to hire more teachers. Because of their lack of funding, these school districts don't have enough room in the budget to hire more teachers or to pay them a competitive wage, which in turn leads to a lower quality of education for their students.

There have been several studies done researching the effects that student to teacher ratio has on students, one of the most well-regarded being the STAR study done in Tennessee in the 1980s. This study found that with a smaller class size (15 students compared to 22) made significant educational gains in comparison to those in the larger class. The study found that with a 32% decrease in class size students were able to increase their achievement by about 3 months over a course of 4 years (Chingos).

In this paper we will look at how schools with different racial makeups can differ in terms of their student to teacher ratios, which has been shown to have a direct impact on a student's education.

## Data

Let's read in the data and see what it looks like:

```
data <- read.csv("C:/Users/wolpe/DACSS601August2021/_data/Public_School_Characteristics_2017-18.csv")
```

## How This Data Was Collected

Taken from the NCES website: "The National Center for Education Statistics' (NCES) Common Core of Data (CCD) program is an annual collection of basic administrative characteristics for all public schools, school districts, and state education agencies in the United States. These characteristics are reported by state education officials and include directory information, number of students, number of teachers, grade span, and other conditions. The NCES Education Demographic and Geographic Estimate (EDGE) program develops annually updated point locations (latitude and longitude) for public elementary and secondary schools included in the CCD. The NCES EDGE program collaborates with the U.S. Census Bureau's Education Demographic, Geographic, and Economic Statistics (EDGE) Branch to develop point locations for schools and school district administrative offices based on reported physical addresses" (NCES).

## What's in the data?

This dataset looks at the characteristics of various public schools across the United States. Among the variables in the dataset are identifying characteristics such as the name of the school, its school district, and its location; there are also several quantitative variables such as the number of students in each grade, as well as the overall number of students broken down in categories such as race and gender.

## The numbers of the data

The data has 79 total columns and just over 100,000 rows. It is unlikely that all of this info will be useful, so in the next section we can see if the data can be cleaned and subset to be more useful to the project.

For this section we need to look deeper into two variables from the dataset, for this I want to look at school type and student to teacher ratio.

## School Type

Let's take a look at all the different levels of schools from the original, uncleaned dataset.

```
data %>%
  group_by(SCHOOL_LEVEL) %>%
  summarise(SCHOOL_LEVEL = SCHOOL_LEVEL, count.type = n()) %>%
  distinct()
```

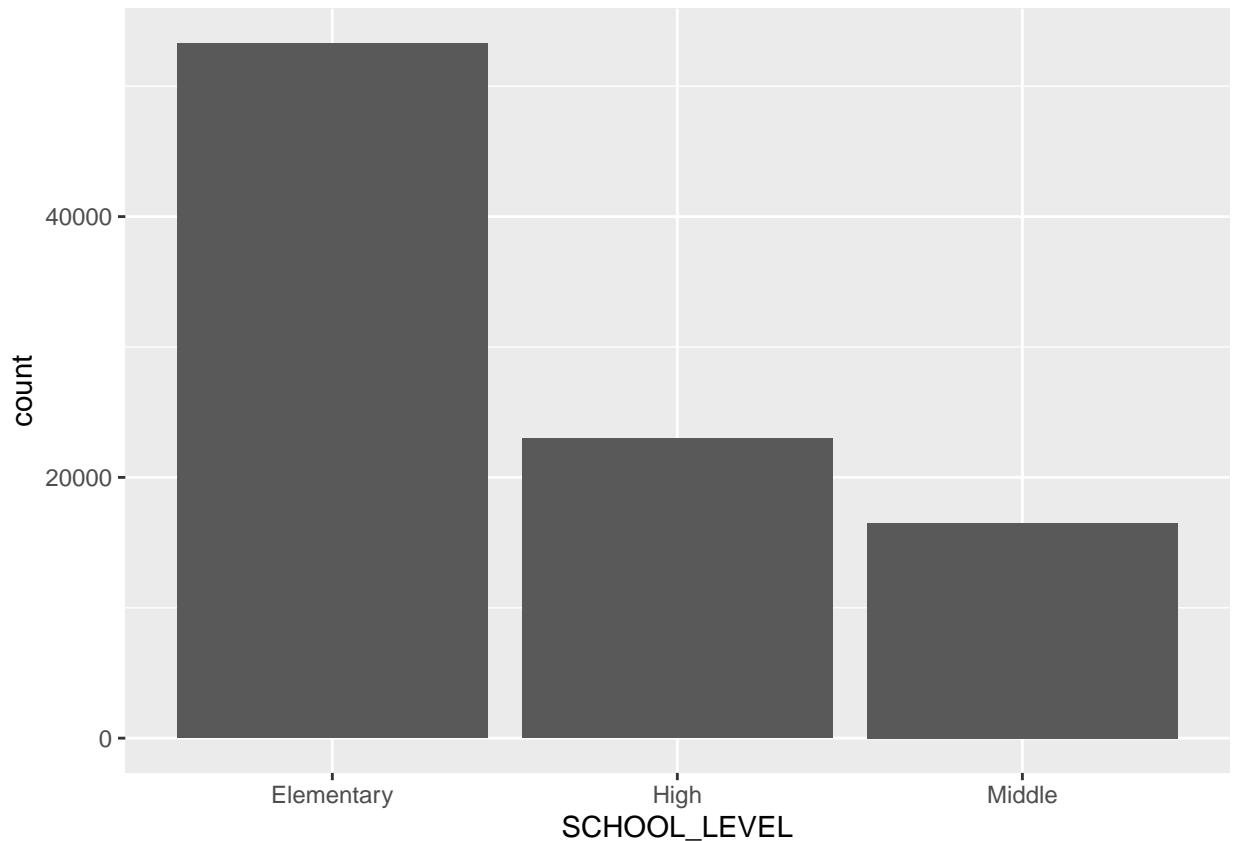
## 'summarise()' has grouped output by 'SCHOOL\_LEVEL'. You can override using the '.groups' argument.

```
## # A tibble: 10 x 2
## # Groups:   SCHOOL_LEVEL [10]
##   SCHOOL_LEVEL count.type
##   <chr>         <int>
## 1 Adult Education      28
## 2 Elementary          53287
## 3 High                22977
## 4 Middle              16506
## 5 Not Applicable       796
## 6 Not Reported         1113
## 7 Other               3824
## 8 Prekindergarten     1430
## 9 Secondary           602
## 10 Ungraded           166
```

For the dataset I wanted to focus on the most common types of school, which immediately meant filtering out adult education, secondary, and ungraded schools. This also left not applicable, not reported, and other in the dataset, which also should be removed. The last four remaining categories were elementary, high, middle, and prekindergarten. Prekindergarten schools were then removed to focus on the main three types of public schools as well as because of the number of fewer schools of this type.

Now let's filter out these unwanted categories and look at the breakdown of school type.

```
data %>%
  filter(SCHOOL_LEVEL == "High" | SCHOOL_LEVEL == "Middle" | SCHOOL_LEVEL == "Elementary") %>%
  ggplot(aes(x = SCHOOL_LEVEL)) + geom_bar()
```



This looks significantly cleaner and more organized than with all the other unused variables.

### Student to Teacher Ratio

Let's start by looking at some summary statistics and a barplot of student to teacher ratio from the unclean dataset:

```
data %>%
  summarise(count = n(), mean.val = mean(STUTERATIO), sd.val = sd(STUTERATIO), median.val = median(STUTERATIO))

##   count mean.val sd.val median.val
## 1 100729      NA      NA         NA
```

We see that there are probably a large amount of NA values, so we first need to clean that.

```
data_stuteratio <- data %>%
  filter(!is.na(STUTERATIO))
data_stuteratio %>%
  summarise(count = n(), mean.val = mean(STUTERATIO), sd.val = sd(STUTERATIO), median.val = median(STUTERATIO))

##   count mean.val  sd.val median.val
## 1  93894 16.94477 85.73974      15.33
```

Now we are getting valid statistics, but the standard deviation appears to be very large, over 5 times the mean and median! Let's take a look at some quantiles to see what the breakdown is.

```
quantiles <- c(0, 0.005, 0.025, 0.05, 0.1, 0.25, 0.5, 0.75, 0.9, 0.95, 0.975, 0.995, 1)
data_stuteratio %>%
  summarise(quantiles = quantiles, value = quantile(STUTERATIO, quantiles))
```

```
##      quantiles      value
## 1      0.000      0.00000
## 2      0.005      0.00000
## 3      0.025      5.10325
## 4      0.050      8.02000
## 5      0.100     10.33000
## 6      0.250     12.85000
## 7      0.500     15.33000
## 8      0.750     18.18000
## 9      0.900     22.50000
## 10     0.950     25.11000
## 11     0.975     27.50000
## 12     0.995     50.30070
## 13     1.000    22350.00000
```

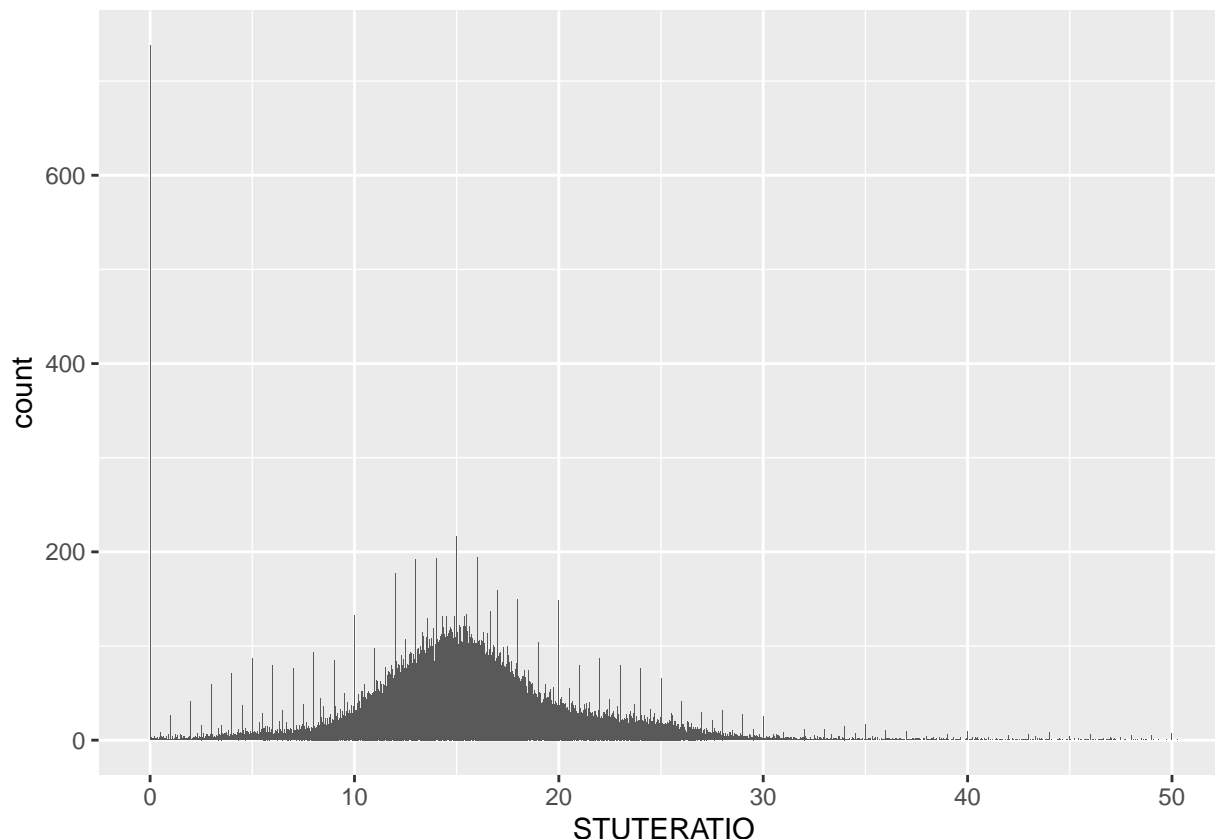
We see that our wide range of values that cause a large standard deviation is probably due to the top 0.5% of values for student to teacher ratio, as the bottom 99.5% are all equal to or less than 50.3, with the top 0.5% ranging from that to over 20,000! To look at more meaningful data, we can select the middle 99% of the data to use.

```
data_stuteratio <- data_stuteratio %>%
  filter(STUTERATIO <= 50.3007)
data_stuteratio %>%
  summarise(count = n(), mean.val = mean(STUTERATIO), sd.val = sd(STUTERATIO), median.val = median(STUTERATIO))
```

```
##      count mean.val sd.val median.val
## 1  93424 15.71938 5.2405      15.31
```

The standard deviation for this value now makes a lot more sense, and the median has moved closer to the mean. Let's take a look at a barplot to see the distribution.

```
data_stuteratio %>%
  ggplot(aes(x = STUTERATIO)) + geom_bar()
```



The data still appears somewhat skewed, but not in a way that will negatively affect our analysis.

NOTE: In the actual filtering of data the cutoffs used for STUTERATIO are different because of other filtering, in actuality the cutoffs of 4.82 and 34.4274 will be used.

## Cleaning Data

The data is definitely unclean, let's filter out some stuff so that we have more complete data.

```
data_clean <- data %>%
  filter(!is.na(TOTAL) & TOTAL > 0 & !is.na(FTE) & FTE > 0 & STUTERATIO < 500) %>%
  filter(SCHOOL_TYPE_TEXT == "Regular school" & VIRTUAL == "Not a virtual school") %>%
  filter(SCHOOL_LEVEL == "High" | SCHOOL_LEVEL == "Middle" | SCHOOL_LEVEL == "Elementary") %>%
  filter((is.na(G13) | G13 == 0) & (is.na(PK) | PK == 0)) %>%
  filter(!is.na(STABR) & !is.na(SCH_NAME))
head(data_clean)
```

```
##      i..X      Y OBJECTID    NCESSCH      NMCNTY  SURVYEAR
## 1 -151.0701 60.49144      3 20039000448    Kenai Peninsula Borough 2017-2018
## 2 -151.2791 60.56828      4 20039000463    Kenai Peninsula Borough 2017-2018
## 3 -166.5224 53.86895     15 20072000340 Aleutians West Census Area 2017-2018
## 4 -166.5296 53.87267     16 20072000661 Aleutians West Census Area 2017-2018
## 5 -161.7707 60.80436     18 20000100207      Bethel Census Area 2017-2018
## 6 -161.7704 60.80258     19 20000100208      Bethel Census Area 2017-2018
##   STABR  LEAID ST_LEAID      LEA_NAME
## 1    AK 200390    AK-24 Kenai Peninsula Borough School District
```



```
## AS CHARTER_TEXT MAGNET_TEXT
## 1 3 Yes No
## 2 3 Yes No
## 3 90 No No
## 4 93 No No
## 5 5 No No
## 6 9 No No
```

With filtering, we now have a subset of the original data that will be much more useful for analysis. The schools were filtered to include only regular, non-virtual schools at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. It also removed any schools that had students younger than kindergarten (PK) or those past their senior year of high school (G13).

There is still an issue however with student to teacher ratios, so let's look at a distribution of that:

```
data_clean %>%
  summarise(quantile = c(0, 0.005, 0.025, 0.5, 0.975, 0.995, 1), quant.val = quantile(STUTERATIO, c(0, 1)))
```

```
## quantile quant.val
## 1 0.000 0.1900
## 2 0.005 4.8200
## 3 0.025 8.1800
## 4 0.500 15.7700
## 5 0.975 27.0000
## 6 0.995 34.4274
## 7 1.000 485.0000
```

Looking at the distribution, we see that 99% of the dataset falls between a student to teacher ratio of 4.82 and 34.4274, which we can use as a boundary to remove outliers of this variable from the dataset.

```
data_clean <- data_clean %>%
  filter(STUTERATIO >= 4.82 & STUTERATIO <= 34.4274)
```

## Subsetting Columns

Now let's subset the columns in the dataset to only include those that interest this project.

```
data_sub <- data_clean %>%
  select(SCH_NAME, STABR, GSLO, GSHI, G01, G02, G03, G04, G05, G06, G07, G08, G09, G10, G11, G12, TOTAL)
head(data_sub)
```

```
## SCH_NAME STABR GSLO GSHI G01 G02 G03 G04 G05 G06
## 1 Soldotna Montessori Charter School AK KG 06 23 27 22 25 28 19
## 2 Kaleidoscope School of Arts & Science AK KG 05 43 42 46 46 43 NA
## 3 Eagle's View Elementary School AK PK 06 30 36 33 31 26 29
## 4 Unalaska Jr/Sr High School AK 07 12 NA NA NA NA NA NA
## 5 Gladys Jung Elementary AK 03 06 NA NA 97 75 79 90
## 6 Bethel Regional High School AK 07 12 NA NA NA NA NA NA
## G07 G08 G09 G10 G11 G12 TOTAL AM HI BL WH HP TR FTE STUTERATIO AMALM
## 1 NA NA NA NA NA NA 167 8 5 0 136 0 15 10.35 16.14 4
## 2 NA NA NA NA NA NA 260 16 14 3 168 0 56 16.75 15.52 10
## 3 NA NA NA NA NA NA 217 23 30 2 56 13 3 13.50 16.07 11
```

```
## 4 30 25 26 38 36 29 184 24 21 0 38 8 0 14.50 12.69 12
## 5 NA NA NA NA NA NA 341 284 6 1 44 0 1 22.13 15.41 141
## 6 94 90 106 52 63 70 475 418 7 1 38 0 2 33.05 14.37 221
## AMALF ASALM ASALF HIALM HIALF BLALM BLALF WHALM WHALF HPALM HPALF TRALM TRALF
## 1 4 0 3 2 3 0 0 58 78 0 0 7 8
## 2 6 1 2 6 8 3 0 82 86 0 0 26 30
## 3 12 52 38 14 16 0 2 26 30 7 6 1 2
## 4 12 52 41 12 9 0 0 23 15 4 4 0 0
## 5 143 2 3 4 2 0 1 21 23 0 0 0 1
## 6 197 5 4 4 3 0 1 20 18 0 0 1 1
## TOTMENROL TOTFENROL SCHOOL_LEVEL
## 1 71 96 Elementary
## 2 128 132 Elementary
## 3 111 106 Elementary
## 4 103 81 High
## 5 168 173 Elementary
## 6 251 224 High
```

## Arranging Some Data

It may be useful to be the top several rows for certain columns, in this script, we look at the top 6 schools ordered based on their student to teacher ratio.

```
data_stuteratio <- data_sub %>%
  arrange(STUTERATIO, by_group = TRUE)
head(data_stuteratio)
```

```
## SCH_NAME STABR GSLO GSHI G01 G02 G03 G04 G05 G06 G07
## 1 George Jr Republic HS PA 09 12 NA NA NA NA NA NA NA
## 2 Medicine Bow Elementary WY KG 06 1 4 0 3 2 1 NA
## 3 LONE STAR UNDIVIDED HIGH SCHOOL CO 09 12 NA NA NA NA NA NA NA
## 4 VERDIGRE MIDDLE SCHOOL NE 07 08 NA NA NA NA NA NA 4
## 5 Judith Gap High School MT 09 12 NA NA NA NA NA NA NA
## 6 Mobile Elementary School AZ KG 08 5 0 5 1 3 1 0
## G08 G09 G10 G11 G12 TOTAL AM HI BL WH HP TR FTE STUTERATIO AMALM AMALF
## 1 NA 54 54 88 83 279 1 36 135 80 0 26 57.94 4.82 1 0
## 2 NA NA NA NA NA 11 0 0 0 11 0 0 2.28 4.82 0 0
## 3 NA 16 5 4 4 29 NA 3 NA 26 NA NA 6.01 4.83 NA NA
## 4 10 NA NA NA NA 14 2 0 0 12 0 0 2.90 4.83 1 1
## 5 NA 4 3 3 3 13 0 1 0 12 0 0 2.68 4.85 0 0
## 6 2 NA NA NA NA 19 0 4 5 9 0 1 3.90 4.87 0 0
## ASALM ASALF HIALM HIALF BLALM BLALF WHALM WHALF HPALM HPALF TRALM TRALF
## 1 1 0 36 0 135 0 80 0 0 0 26 0
## 2 0 0 0 0 0 0 4 7 0 0 0 0
## 3 NA NA 2 1 NA NA 13 13 NA NA NA NA
## 4 0 0 0 0 0 0 5 7 0 0 0 0
## 5 0 0 1 0 0 0 5 7 0 0 0 0
## 6 0 0 3 1 2 3 5 4 0 0 0 1
## TOTMENROL TOTFENROL SCHOOL_LEVEL
## 1 279 0 High
## 2 4 7 Elementary
## 3 15 14 High
## 4 6 8 Middle
```



```
## 5          6          7          High
## 6         10         9    Elementary
```

And now we look at the bottom 6 schools with the highest student-teacher ratio.

```
data_stuteratio <- data_sub %>%
  arrange(STUTERATIO)
tail(data_stuteratio)
```

```
##                                SCH_NAME STABR GSLO GSHI G01 G02
## 58631                College of So. NV HS East    NV   11   12  NA  NA
## 58632                Everest High School    OH   09   12  NA  NA
## 58633                Birch Grove Intermediate    CA   03   06  NA  NA
## 58634                John C. Fremont Elementary    CA  KG   08  85  76
## 58635 Aspire Benjamin Holt College Preparatory Academy    CA   09   12  NA  NA
## 58636                Hamburg Middle School    IA   06   08  NA  NA
##      G03 G04 G05 G06 G07 G08 G09 G10 G11 G12 TOTAL AM  HI BL WH HP TR  FTE
## 58631  NA  NA  NA  NA  NA  NA  NA  NA 102  68   170 NA  85 23 42  4  5  5.00
## 58632  NA  NA  NA  NA  NA  NA  20  24  17   7    68  0   4 37 24  0  3  2.00
## 58633 109 118 119 112  NA  NA  NA  NA  NA  NA   458  1 180 28 52  6 29 13.40
## 58634  77  95 115 113  91 102  NA  NA  NA  NA   867 13 759 26 33  4  6 25.24
## 58635  NA  NA  NA  NA  NA  NA 122 130  94  72   418  5 184 23 83  3 16 12.17
## 58636  NA  NA  NA  14  18  13  NA  NA  NA  NA    45 NA   7 NA 37  NA  1  1.31
##      STUTERATIO AMALM AMALF ASALM ASALF HIALM HIALF BLALM BLALF WHALM WHALF
## 58631      34.00    NA    NA     3     8    42    43     5    18    17    25
## 58632      34.00     0     0     0     0     1     3    27    10    15     9
## 58633      34.18     1    NA    93    69    95    85    12    16    30    22
## 58634      34.35     8     5    14    12   400   359    16    10    19    14
## 58635      34.35     1     4    55    49    87    97    10    13    35    48
## 58636      34.35    NA    NA    NA    NA     3     4    NA    NA    17    20
##      HPALM HPALF TRALM TRALF TOTMENROL TOTFENROL SCHOOL_LEVEL
## 58631     1     3     2     3         70        100          High
## 58632     0     0     1     2         44         24          High
## 58633     5     1    18    11        254        204    Elementary
## 58634     1     3     4     2        462        405    Elementary
## 58635     3    NA     4    12        195        223          High
## 58636    NA    NA    NA     1         20         25          Middle
```

## Summary Data

Now let's take a look at some summary of the dataset in terms of its student-teacher ratio in each state.

```
data_stats <- data_sub %>%
  group_by(STABR) %>%
  summarise(STABR = STABR, AvgRatio = mean(STUTERATIO), SDRatio = sd(STUTERATIO))
```

## 'summarise()' has grouped output by 'STABR'. You can override using the '.groups' argument.

```
data_summary <- distinct(data_stats)
data_summary
```

```
## # A tibble: 53 x 3
## # Groups:   STABR [53]
##   STABR AvgRatio SDRatio
##   <chr>    <dbl>    <dbl>
## 1 AK      16.0     3.02
## 2 AL      18.1     2.64
## 3 AR      13.2     2.81
## 4 AZ      18.9     3.77
## 5 CA      23.4     3.47
## 6 CO      16.4     3.71
## 7 CT      12.0     1.92
## 8 DC      13.1     4.02
## 9 DE      14.9     2.63
## 10 FL     17.2     3.66
## # ... with 43 more rows
```

## Analysis

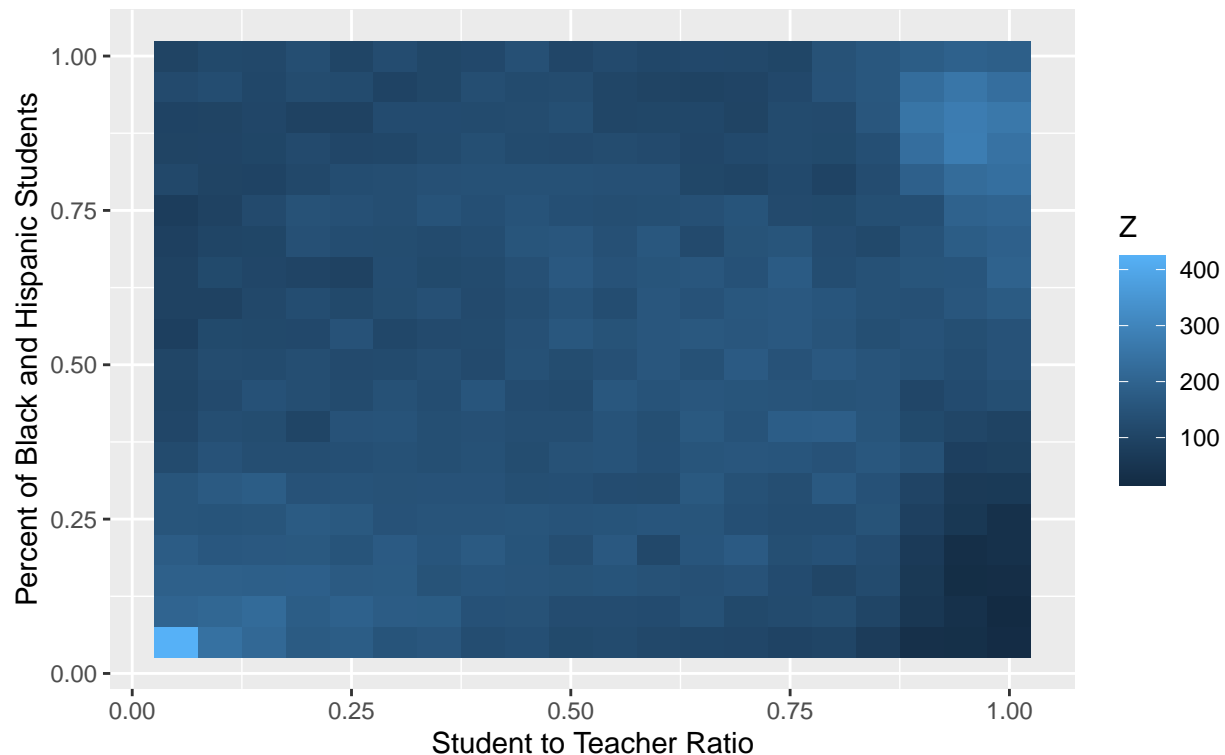
Let's take a look at student to teacher ratio in relation to the percentage of black and hispanic students in the school.

```
quant <- c()
axis_val <- c()
count <- 1
heat.data <- data_sub %>%
  summarise(SCH_NAME, STUTERATIO, BLHI_PCT = (BL + HI)/TOTAL) %>%
  filter(!is.na(BLHI_PCT))
while (count <= 20) {
  count2 <- 1
  while (count2 <= 20) {
    cur.data <- heat.data %>%
      filter(STUTERATIO >= quantile(STUTERATIO, prob = c((count2-1)*0.05)) & STUTERATIO < quantile(STUTERATIO, prob = c(count2*0.05)))
    quant <- append(quant, nrow(cur.data))
    count2 <- count2 + 1
  }
  axis_val <- append(axis_val, 0.05*count)
  count <- count + 1
}
data <- expand.grid(X=axis_val, Y=axis_val)
data$Z <- quant
print(axis_val)
```

```
## [1] 0.05 0.10 0.15 0.20 0.25 0.30 0.35 0.40 0.45 0.50 0.55 0.60 0.65 0.70 0.75
## [16] 0.80 0.85 0.90 0.95 1.00
```

```
ggplot(data, aes(X, Y, fill= Z)) +
  geom_tile() + labs(title = "Percentage of Black or Hispanic Students \nvs. Student to Teacher Ratio",
```

## Percentage of Black or Hispanic Students vs. Student to Teacher Ratio



Looking at the generated heatmap, we can see that the bottom right, where schools have the highest student to teacher ratio and lowest percentage of black and hispanic are the least common. However, it appears that the most common combination is a high student to teacher ratio and a high percentage of black and hispanic students. The heat map was used to convey the number of schools whose student to teacher ratio and black and hispanic percentage matched the x and y axes for those values. It would have been nice if there was more robust racial statistics available for the schools as more specific heatmaps could be created.

We can now see if there is any kind of statistically significant correlation between the two.

```
model <- lm(heat.data, formula = STUTERATIO ~ BLHI_PCT)
summary(model)
```

```
##
## Call:
## lm(formula = STUTERATIO ~ BLHI_PCT, data = heat.data)
##
## Residuals:
##      Min       1Q   Median       3Q      Max
## -13.2873  -3.1183  -0.5833   2.7228  18.4625
##
## Coefficients:
##              Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
## (Intercept)  15.53747    0.02945   527.53  <2e-16 ***
## BLHI_PCT      2.78925    0.05926    47.07  <2e-16 ***
## ---
## Signif. codes:  0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
```

```
##
## Residual standard error: 4.49 on 54678 degrees of freedom
## Multiple R-squared:  0.03895,    Adjusted R-squared:  0.03893
## F-statistic: 2216 on 1 and 54678 DF,  p-value: < 2.2e-16
```

It is evident from the summary of the t-test on the regression equation that the coefficient for student to teacher ratio is statistically significant, with a t value of 47.07 and a p value of nearly 0. Thus for every additional unit increase in percent of black and hispanic students in a school we expect the student to teacher ratio to increase by 0.028, which although small is a significant correlation between the two variables.

## Discussion of Results

From looking at the results of the analysis, we can now begin to draw some conclusions on the relation between black and hispanic population at a school and the student to teacher ratio for the school.

First looking at the heatmap, there are several observations that are important to point out. First, we see the highest amount of schools on the graph for the lowest percentile in student to teacher ratio and black and hispanic percentage, meaning that the schools with the fewest number of these students and the best student to teacher ratios are incredibly common. It is also clear that the area of the graph with the fewest schools is the area with a high student to teacher ratio and a low number of black and hispanic students, meaning that these schools are uncommon when looking at the country's public schools. Lastly, the area with a high black and hispanic population and student to teacher ratio are also very common. What this heatmap shows is that it is more common for schools with lower percentages of black and hispanic students to have better learning environments, and they are also very uncommon to have poorer learning conditions. In addition to this, schools with higher amounts of black and hispanic students are more likely to have a high student to teacher ratio.

When looking at the analysis of the regression, there is a weak yet statistically significant positive correlation between the percentage of black and hispanic students and the school's student to teacher ratio. This percentage point increase of 0.028, while small, does provide evidence that schools with higher percentages of black and hispanic students tend to have higher student to teacher ratios.

## Works Cited

Chingos, Matthew; Whitehouse, Grover. "Class Size : What Research Says and What it Means for State Policy". <https://www.brookings.edu/research/class-size-what-research-says-and-what-it-means-for-state-policy/>

NCES. *Public School characteristics. 2017–18. Common Core Data Set*. <https://data-nces.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/nce-public-school-characteristics-2017-18/about>