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COVER SHEET

Project TIER Reproducibility Exercise: Animal House in Alcohol-Free Dorms?

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Topics: Alcohol use among U.S. college students; levels of drinking among students living in housing designated as “alcohol-free.”

Fields: Public health; economics; sociology; interpretation of observational social science data.

Approximate time required: This exercise can be easily completed in a week or less. The instructor could introduce this at the beginning of a one- or two-hour lab, students could work on it for the remainder of the lab period, then finish it out of lab within the next several days to one week.

Data source and availability: The data used in this exercise are available in the archive of the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR; www.icpsr.umich.edu). Access is restricted to users affiliated with institutions that are members of ICPSR, and each user must create an individual account before downloading the data. (Setting up an account is free and instantaneous.)

The data for the exercise are contained in ICPSR Study Number 4291. ICPSR recommends the following citation:

> “Wechsler, Henry. Harvard School of Public Health College Alcohol Study, 2001. ICPSR04291-v2. Ann Arbor, MI: Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research [distributor], 2008-02-05. https://doi.org/10.3886/ICPSR04291.v2”

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Software: ICPSR makes this dataset available in data files formatted for SAS, SPSS, and Stata, and the instructions are written assuming that students will be using one of these kinds of software, or software that can read in these files. For users of any other kinds of software, the data are also available in plain ASCII text.

Data processing:

Simple creation of new variables from variables contained in the original dataset.

Dropping cases to create a subsample consisting only of relevant observations.

Analytical concepts and methods:

Bar graphs: construction and qualitative interpretation

Controlling for confounding factors by stratification

Prerequisites:

Computing

Rudiments of data manipulation with R

Basic understanding of R Markdown

Understanding of the use of editable command files to conduct and save computations

Understanding of working directories and relative directory paths

Statistical Analysis

Understanding of bar graphs and basic numerical descriptive statistics