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*Date: April 26, 2019*

**Take Home Assignment 4**

Research Question

For Take Home Assignment 4, I am analyzing the impact of **poverty rates of zip codes within 6 miles of higher education institutions in Texas** *on* **total enrollment proportions of students from four main races** (White, Black, Asian, and Hispanic).

A 2016 research study[[1]](#footnote-1) found that local colleges vary along lines of race and class. In particular, it found that communities with large Hispanic populations and low educational attainment had the fewest alternatives nearby, while White and Asian communities tended to have more. These can result in education deserts, or places where there are abundant opportunities for some communities and are rare in others.

This is an interesting topic from a policy perspective since it raises concerns about some populations, when compared to others, not having equal access to quality education given they live in a low-income and high poverty region. Poor access to educational opportunities nearby has implications for these communities in terms of income levels and standards of living. By expanding on this research topic, policymakers can better understand a need for injecting resources in regions of high need to expand educational access for certain communities. This will ultimately help break the cycle of poverty and unequal opportunities for the same populations.

Data Sources

* U.S. Census, American Community Survey 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates
* Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) Survey 2012-2017

1. Hillman, Nicholas W. "Geography of college opportunity: The case of education deserts." American Educational Research Journal 53, no. 4 (2016): 987-1021. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)