

Request #: 554 - PSY - Thesis

Jac'lyn Bera Thesis (Rural Disproportionality)

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Background

The thesis project is examining if rurality along with race/ethnicity and SES are a predicting factors for Special education services in school districts in the Rocky Mountain West region of the USA.

Sample

Planning to obtain data sets for SES (Free/Reduced lunch), rurality, Race/ethnicity from Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming state boards of education, as well as NCES data sets.

Hypothesis

Question 1: Does rurality predict special education placement? – district level data (Race/ethnicity and SES)

Question 2: Is there an interaction between student race/ethnicity and rurality for special education placement? — cannot do in this study (not nesting this project) but could do interactions at the county level (wouldn't account for nesting) with aggregated data

Question 3: Is there a three-way interaction between student race/ethnicity, rurality, and SES in the prediction of special education placement?

Progress

Already in contact with the state boards of education and have collected some data for the variables listed above. Have not done any statistical analysis or cleaning of data.

Request

Guidance on what type of analysis to move forward with and to continue data collection.

Timeline

Have plan for analysis and methods drafted by end of July 2021, propose thesis in September 2021, data analysis and write up between September 2021-February 2022