Education Research Statistics Descriptive and Comparative

Economics and Mental Health Services: Methodology

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Data Collection

Data from the 2015 National Mental Health Services Survey will be used to compare services at facilities with a variety of funding sources. Principal investigators in gathering the survey data were from the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, and the Center for Behavioral Health Services and Quality (SAMHSA et al., 2016). Data collection occurred between April 2015 and January 2016 and included 17,486 mental health treatment facilities within the United States and its territories. Data collection took place via mail questionnaires, telephone interviews, and a web-based survey (SANHSA et al, 2016).

The current data analysis of economic factors affecting access to mental health care obtained the data from the SAMHSA website. Data was downloaded as an Excel file. Data will be analyzed using RStudio software.

Sample

The original sample of 17,486 mental health treatment facilities included a variety of facility types. The sampled facilities included both public and private mental health treatment facilities. The treatment facilities included psychiatric hospitals which included non-federal general hospitals with separate psychiatric units and VA hospitals. Treatment facilities also included facilities with out-patient, day treatment, or partial hospitalization programs. Residential treatment facilities for adults and children were also part of the survey sample. Multi-setting, including non-hospital centers, were also included in the sample (SAMHSA et al., 2016).

Variables

For the most part, data was reported in a binary format with facilities either having the service or not. To provide a more continuous variable, variables were grouped by similar type of service until three variable categories were developed: mental health services, other services, and treatment modality. These new variables were tested for normality with positive results. Fees, financial resources, and funding were grouped into a new variable: funding.

Some variables were excluded from the data analysis because they were irrelevant to economics and mental health related services provided. These variables included languages, age groups, and location. Institution licensing and accreditation were also excluded in the data analysis.

Data Analysis

RStudio software will be used to analyze the data. Because there are two groups to compare, a Welch two sample t-test will be used to compare between group data. Independent variables include: mental health services, other services, and treatment modality. The dependent variable will be the presence of sliding fee scale. Central tendencies will also be calculated to provide further comparison of data. Normality will be determined using visual inspection of a histogram to insure the data meet the assumptions for ANOVA. An ANOVA will be conducted to determine correlation between and within groups.

References

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2016) National Mental Health

Services Survey (N-MHSS): 2014. Data on Mental Health Treatment Facilities. BHSIS Series S-87, HHS Publication No. (SMA) 16-5000. Rockville, MD: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Retrieved from https://wwwdasis.samhsa.gov/dasis2/nmhss.htm