Connor Johnson

Assignment 2

Getting married and/or having kids are some of the biggest decisions a person can make in their life. These decisions have long lasting effects on the person’s life. Since personal relationships like these require time and commitment, they can often pull people away from other things like their career, especially for women. Studies show that women often see their salaries stagnate after having kids. This likely more due to the fact that they spend more time away from work than their performance in their careers becoming worse. This study is going to analyze the effect of personal relationships on male athletes. Since an athlete must commit much more time and energy to their career compared to the average person, it is likely that personal relationships could have a larger effect on their performance. The primary research questions in this study are as follows:

* Does getting married affect a male professional baseball player’s performance?
* Does having children affect a male professional baseball player’s performance?

The original idea for this study came from a comment by NHL commentator Mike Milbury. He said that NHL players were performing better while isolated during the COVID-19 pandemic because they have “no women to distract them.” This study will attempt to answer the question of whether person relationships negatively affect performance even though relationships tend to be a positive “distraction” from their careers. This question is important because people should understand the overall effects of these types of decisions, especially those in careers that require a lot of commitment. Most studies that have been done on this topic have focused on the average person’s career and income instead of performance. This study will provide more insight on the topic by concentrating on actual performance in a much more intensive career.

**Methodology**

The sample of this study will include players in the MLB. Four starters from each team with families will be randomly selected to give a sample size of 120 players. Because of injuries and lack of public information, some players had to be removed so the final sample size is 117.

Variables

* Batting average: quantitative variable that will be split into categories

Categories of Variables

* Pre-marriage: categorical variable for the above variables before the player is married
* Post-marriage: categorical variable for the above variables after the player is married
* No Kids: categorical variable for the above variables while the play has no kids
* One Kids: categorical variable for the above variables while the play has one kid
* Two Kids: categorical variable for the above variables while the play has two kids

The batting average of the players for each year they played is publicly provided by the MLB. The data will specifically be coming from baseball-refernce.com which provides accurate stats on players which was obtained from the MLB. Information on the marriage date and birthdates of athletes’ children can also be easily found on online bios and social media accounts. Instagram and Twitter have been found to be the best source for finding this information so these two social media sites will be used the most. Since anyone can post this data, more research needs to be done to verify the accuracy. The study analyzes the change of variables among the categories provided. There will be two methods of analysis using this data. The first will be a simple analysis of the difference in batting average between the seasons before and after the events described above. The second analysis will be an ANACOVA model using the batting averages of players in 2019. Players will be split into groups based on the categorical variables. Analysis of the data will then show if there is a significant difference among these groups of players.