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SDS 358

Examining the yearly percentage of impoverished individuals who attain a bachelors degree

In impoverished communities, the chances of young children growing up and attaining a Bachelors degree or higher is very limited. This is due to a number of factors, including learning disparities, violence, and prevalence of drug use. However, a key factor that is often overlooked is race and how it affects these other variables. Historically, we have seen that there is a wide gap between opportunities for underprivileged white communities vs underprivileged communities of color. This can be seen not only in basic measures like college graduation, but also more critical factors such as math and reading difficulties, drugs, and violence.

The My Brother’s Keeper initiative(MBK) has been examining these effects since 2000 and compiled a sizeable data set with which to work, with variables ranging from race to median income to condom usage. With all these variables at our disposal, it is possible to further investigate which factors are most heavily influenced by race.

My research question is , when controlling for year and poverty, does race moderate the relationships that math and reading difficulties, drug use, violence, imprisonment rates, and high school completion have with bachelors degree attainment. To accomplish this, I will be using a Moderated Multiple Regression with a categorical and quantitative variable interaction.

The nuisance variables are year and poverty.

The outcome variable is percentage of Bachelors degree attainment of graduates from underprivileged communities.

My variables of interest are:

* Math scores and reading scores based on the average National Assessment of Educational Progress exams administered in schools administered biennially.
* Imprisonment rate per 100,000
* Percentage of adolescents aged 18-24 who have attained a high school diploma or GED
* Percentage of drug users in underserved communities
* Percentage of violent crime in underserved communities of one predominant race.

The Moderator is Race. Race is divided up into 6 categories: White, Black, Hispanic, Asian, Native American, and Other. Other includes multi-racial as well as pacific islanders amongst it’s responses. I will be using white as our reference group, as it is the predominant race in America.

The data comes from the aggregation of data collected by the My Brother’s Keepers program from 2000 to 2013. Because MBK uploads and updates their data individually based on variables, I will be combining all the individual data sets into one large dataset to simplify the work process. The CSV’s for each variable of interest is listed below.

Data sources:

<https://catalog.data.gov/dataset/my-brothers-keeper-key-statistical-indicators-on-boys-and-men-of-color/resource/05614937-d0ba-44a4-91f5-2ceeb87bfef1>

<https://catalog.data.gov/dataset/my-brothers-keeper-key-statistical-indicators-on-boys-and-men-of-color/resource/90884ef1-a584-4a93-88dd-c5cdd5441ea7>

<https://catalog.data.gov/dataset/my-brothers-keeper-key-statistical-indicators-on-boys-and-men-of-color/resource/de36dfd8-2473-4236-8102-dac44b62ccf2>

<https://catalog.data.gov/dataset/my-brothers-keeper-key-statistical-indicators-on-boys-and-men-of-color/resource/cb8aea84-86c2-403d-94ab-52b3be398822>

<https://catalog.data.gov/dataset/my-brothers-keeper-key-statistical-indicators-on-boys-and-men-of-color/resource/400d53b5-dde1-4942-8e2f-c3930b1b063b>

<https://catalog.data.gov/dataset/my-brothers-keeper-key-statistical-indicators-on-boys-and-men-of-color/resource/ca7f3757-8b65-43df-b0b3-e2ee2d40e5fe>

<https://catalog.data.gov/dataset/my-brothers-keeper-key-statistical-indicators-on-boys-and-men-of-color/resource/400d53b5-dde1-4942-8e2f-c3930b1b063b>

<https://catalog.data.gov/dataset/my-brothers-keeper-key-statistical-indicators-on-boys-and-men-of-color/resource/c0bd373a-0ca0-41af-85e8-47e4ae8ff1a7>

<https://catalog.data.gov/dataset/my-brothers-keeper-key-statistical-indicators-on-boys-and-men-of-color>