# Data Management and Analysis Workshop: Part 1

## **Dataset assembly**

We will walk through some basic data cleaning, analysis, and visualization tasks using per pupil expenditures as a running example. The repository contains all the data and code we need, so you can just follow along! This notebook introduces data cleaning and dataset assembly.

### **Load libraries**

The tidyverse is a popular collection of R libraries for data science. They provide functions and data structures that extend what is available in base R, i.e., out-of-the-box. Most data wrangling tasks use dplyr and tidyr packages, and most data visualization is with ggplot2. For details, features, and examples not covered in this notebook, please see the documentation here.

```
# Install required packages.
req <- c("tidyverse", "openxlsx")
new <- req[!(req %in% installed.packages()[, "Package"])]
if (length(new)) install.packages(new)

# Load required packages.
library(dplyr)</pre>
```

```
Attaching package: 'dplyr'

The following objects are masked from 'package:stats':

filter, lag
```

```
The following objects are masked from 'package:base': intersect, setdiff, setequal, union
```

```
library(tidyr)
library(openxlsx)
```

## Load data

Keep a simple inventory of the files that the program reads and writes at the top of the script. This will orient anyone who reads the code to its requirements and results. Everything the program needs should be contained in the repository.

Set your working directory to wherever you downloaded this repository. This tells R the folder in which to look for the data and save our results. Please see the R Studio documentation here for how to set the working directory.

```
# Identify inputs and outputs.
PWD <- getwd()
FIS <- file.path(PWD, "in", "sdf21_1a.txt")
MEM <- file.path(PWD, "in", "ccd_lea_052_2021_1_1a_080621.csv")
DTA <- file.path(PWD, "out", "data.rda")
XLS <- file.path(PWD, "out", "data.xlsx")</pre>
```

```
# Load and peek at the fiscal data.
# Need to use the function that corresponds to the file type, e.g., txt.
fis <- read.delim(FIS)
head(fis)</pre>
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                                                                   М
                                                                           М
2
        R
                R
                         R
                                 R
                                         Μ
                                                  R
                                                          R
                                                                   R
                                                                           R
                                                                                   R
                                                                                            R
3
        R
                R
                         R
                                 R
                                                  R
                                                          R
                                                                   R
                                                                           R
                                                                                   R
                                                                                            R
                                         М
4
        R
                R
                         R
                                 R
                                         М
                                                  R
                                                          R
                                                                   R
                                                                           R
                                                                                   R
                                                                                            R
5
        R
                         R
                                                  R
                                                                   R
                                                                           R
                                                                                   R
                R
                                 R
                                         М
                                                          R
                                                                                            R
6
        N
                         N
                                 N
                                         N
                                                  N
                                                          N
                                                                   N
                                                                           N
                                                                                   N
                                                                                            N
                N
  FL_AR1A FL_AR1B FL_AR2 FL_AR2A FL_AR3 FL_AR6 FL_AR6A FL_AE1
                                                                          FL_AE2
                                                                                  FL_AE3
                                                     M
1
                   М
                           M
                                     М
                                             М
                                                               Μ
                                                                        М
                                                                                Μ
                                                                                        Μ
2
         R
                   R
                           R
                                                     R
                                                                        R
                                                                                R
                                     М
                                             М
                                                               М
                                                                                        R
3
         R
                   R
                           R
                                     М
                                             М
                                                     R
                                                               М
                                                                        R
                                                                                R
                                                                                        R
4
         R
                   R
                           R
                                     М
                                             М
                                                     R
                                                               М
                                                                        R
                                                                                R
                                                                                        R
5
         R
                   R
                           R
                                     М
                                             М
                                                     R
                                                               М
                                                                        R
                                                                                R
                                                                                        R
6
         N
                   N
                           N
                                     N
                                             N
                                                     N
                                                               N
                                                                        N
                                                                                N
                                                                                        N
  FL_AE4 FL_AE5 FL_AE6 FL_AE7 FL_AE8
        М
                М
                         М
                                 М
2
        R
                R
                         R
                                 R
                                         R
3
        R
                R
                         R
                                 R
                                         R
4
        R
                R
                         R
                                 R
                                         R
5
        R
                R
                         R
                                 R
                                         R
6
        N
                N
                         N
                                 N
                                         N
```

# These are some helpful functions for accessing information about the dataset.
print(paste("Number of rows:", nrow(fis)))

```
[1] "Number of rows: 19554"
```

```
print(paste("Number of columns:", ncol(fis)))
```

[1] "Number of columns: 310"

## Check unique identifier

We think the fiscal data contain one observation for each school district. This is an important assumption that would compromise our analysis and break our code were it to fail. For

example, there may be a more complicated nesting structure or duplicates that we'd need to handle first. Let's test this.

```
# Ensure data are at the school district level.
leaid <- unique(fis$LEAID)
stopifnot(nrow(fis) == length(leaid))</pre>
```

**Technical note.** The code makes extensive use of the stopifnot() function as a defensive programming technique. It takes an expression that must evaluate to TRUE, and otherwise throws an error and stops the program. This helps document and verify assumptions of the data.

## Handle missing data

The columns MEMBERSCH and TOTALEXP describe total number of students and total expenditures, respectively. We can see that they contain some negative values, which is impossible! Reading the documentation, we learn that these values mark different kinds of missingness. We need to recode these as NA values to correctly analyze the data.

```
# Summarize students and expenditures.
summary(fis[, c("MEMBERSCH", "TOTALEXP")])
```

```
MEMBERSCH
                    TOTALEXP
Min.
            -9
                        :-2.000e+00
1st Qu.:
           199
                 1st Qu.: 3.676e+06
Median :
           613
                 Median: 1.029e+07
Mean
          2500
                        : 4.303e+07
      :
                 Mean
3rd Qu.:
          1808
                 3rd Qu.: 3.171e+07
       :894493
                        : 3.420e+10
Max.
                 Max.
```

```
# Tabulate negative values in students.
table(fis$MEMBERSCH[fis$MEMBERSCH < 0])</pre>
```

```
-9 -3 -2 -1 65 465 1032 71
```

```
# Tabulate negative values in expenditures.
table(fis$TOTALEXP[fis$TOTALEXP < 0])</pre>
```

```
-2 -1
897 491
```

```
# Recode missing values to NA.
fis <- mutate(fis, across(c("MEMBERSCH", "TOTALEXP"), ~ replace(.x, .x < 0, NA)))
# Summarize students and expenditures again.
summary(fis[, c("MEMBERSCH", "TOTALEXP")])</pre>
```

```
MEMBERSCH
                     TOTALEXP
                         :0.000e+00
Min.
             0
                 Min.
1st Qu.:
           280
                 1st Qu.:4.694e+06
Median:
           716
                 Median :1.192e+07
          2728
                         :4.632e+07
Mean
                 Mean
3rd Qu.:
          2027
                 3rd Qu.:3.491e+07
Max.
       :894493
                 Max.
                         :3.420e+10
NA's
       :1633
                 NA's
                         :1388
```

**Technical note.** We used base R grammar to filter for missing values and tidyverse grammar to replace them. Both are correct, however sometimes one is more concise than the other. Like with any writing, aim for clear and simple code.

### Generate new measures

Now that we have a numerator and denominator, we can calculate a rate. In statistics, we call this defining a variable. But in the tidyverse, we call this creating a column. Note that we have some school districts with zero students, so we will use a conditional statement to generate these values where we can.

```
# Calculate per pupil expenditure.
fis <- mutate(
  fis,
  ppe = case_when(
    MEMBERSCH > 0 ~ TOTALEXP / MEMBERSCH,
    .default = NA
  )
)
```

```
# Summarize per pupil expenditure.
summary(fis$ppe)
```

```
Min. 1st Qu. Median Mean 3rd Qu. Max. NA's 0 12503 15525 25246 21132 7236000 2239
```

#### Transform data

We're also interested in how per pupil expenditure varies by majority race, but that information is not in the fiscal data. For that, we'll need to get the membership data.

```
# Load and peek at the membership data.
# Need to use the function that corresponds to the file type, e.g., csv.
mem <- read.csv(MEM)
head(mem)</pre>
```

```
SCHOOL_YEAR FIPST STATENAME ST
                                               LEA_NAME STATE_AGENCY_NO UNION
                      ALABAMA AL Alabama Youth Services
1
    2020-2021
                                                                       1
   2020-2021
                      ALABAMA AL Alabama Youth Services
                                                                       1
                                                                            NA
2
3
   2020-2021
                      ALABAMA AL Alabama Youth Services
                                                                       1
                                                                            NA
4
   2020-2021
                  1
                      ALABAMA AL Alabama Youth Services
                                                                       1
                                                                            NA
   2020-2021
                  1
                      ALABAMA AL Alabama Youth Services
                                                                       1
                                                                            NA
5
                      ALABAMA AL Alabama Youth Services
   2020-2021
                  1
                                                                       1
                                                                            NA
                                            RACE ETHNICITY
 ST LEAID LEAID
                    GRADE
                                                               SEX STUDENT COUNT
   AL-210 100002 Grade 1 American Indian or Alaska Native Female
                                                                              NA
  AL-210 100002 Grade 1 American Indian or Alaska Native
                                                                              NA
   AL-210 100002 Grade 1
                                                      Asian Female
                                                                              NA
  AL-210 100002 Grade 1
                                                     Asian
                                                              Male
                                                                              NA
   AL-210 100002 Grade 1
                                 Black or African American Female
5
                                                                              NA
   AL-210 100002 Grade 1
                                 Black or African American
                                                                              NA
                                                              Male
                                 TOTAL_INDICATOR
                                                     DMS FLAG
1 Category Set A - By Race/Ethnicity; Sex; Grade Not reported
2 Category Set A - By Race/Ethnicity; Sex; Grade Not reported
3 Category Set A - By Race/Ethnicity; Sex; Grade Not reported
4 Category Set A - By Race/Ethnicity; Sex; Grade Not reported
5 Category Set A - By Race/Ethnicity; Sex; Grade Not reported
6 Category Set A - By Race/Ethnicity; Sex; Grade Not reported
```

```
# Note data are not at the school district level!
leaid <- unique(mem$LEAID)
stopifnot(nrow(mem) > length(leaid))
```

Inspecting the data and reading the documentation, we learn that the data contain multiple observations per school district to disaggregate membership by grade, race, and gender. We want to aggregate and reshape the data to the school district level with additional columns for total membership by race.

```
# Write a function to check uniqueness of identifiers.
# Use this in a chain of tidyverse functions to check your work.
isid <- function(.data, ...) {
   if(any(duplicated(dplyr::select(.data, ...)))) {
     stop("indexers do not uniquely identify the observations")
   }
   return(.data)
}</pre>
```

```
# Aggregate and reshape to the school district level.
lea <- mem |>
  # Select observations for the race-gender level.
  filter(TOTAL_INDICATOR == "Derived - Subtotal by Race/Ethnicity and Sex minus Adult Educat
  # Consolidate race/ethnicity categories with shorthand labels.
  mutate(race = case_match(
    RACE_ETHNICITY,
    "Asian"
                                                     ~ "asian",
    "Black or African American"
                                                     ~ "black",
                                                     ~ "hisp",
    "Hispanic/Latino"
    "White"
                                                     ~ "white",
    c("American Indian or Alaska Native",
      "Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander",
      "Two or more races",
      "Not Specified")
                                                     ~ "other"
  )) |>
  # Sum membership by race and overall within district.
  group_by(LEAID, race) |>
  summarize(n = sum(STUDENT_COUNT, na.rm = TRUE)) |>
  isid(LEAID, race) |>
  mutate(tot = sum(n)) |>
  ungroup() |>
  # Reshape to district level.
  pivot_wider(names_from = race, values_from = n) |>
  isid(LEAID) |>
  # Calculate group shares.
  rowwise() |>
  mutate(across(
    c(asian, black, hisp, white, other),
```

```
\sim .x / tot * 100,
  .names = "pct_{.col}"
)) |>
# Create indicators on majority status.
mutate(across(
  c(asian, black, hisp, white, other),
  \sim if_else(tot == 0, FALSE, .x / tot > 0.5),
  .names = "maj_{.col}"
  )
) |>
ungroup() |>
# Identify majority group.
mutate(maj_group = case_when(
 maj_asian ~ "asian",
 maj_black ~ "black",
 maj_hisp ~ "hisp",
 maj_white ~ "white",
 maj_other ~ "other",
  tot > 0 ~ "none"
))
```

`summarise()` has grouped output by 'LEAID'. You can override using the `.groups` argument.

**Technical note.** The last example uses the pipe operator |> to pass (a) the output of the previous function to (b) the input of the next function. This idiom allows chaining of discrete operations into an easily readable sequence of operations.

## Merge data

With both datasets cleaned, we can bring them together to assemble our analysis file. Specifically, we will join the columns by matching their rows with the school district identifier. We can say that the dataframes have a one-to-one relationship because each row in one will match to at most one row in the other.

```
# Merge fiscal and membership data.
dta <- fis |>
    # Numericize school district identifier to enable merge.
mutate(LEAID = as.numeric(LEAID)) |>
    # Merge datasets and keep matches.
inner_join(lea, by = "LEAID", relationship = "one-to-one") |>
```

```
# Keep non-missing values.
filter(!is.na(ppe) & !is.na(maj_group))
```

```
Warning: There was 1 warning in `mutate()`.
i In argument: `LEAID = as.numeric(LEAID)`.
Caused by warning:
! NAs introduced by coercion
```

Note that the inner join only keeps school districts that exist in both dataframes. We also drop school districts with missing values. We need to check how much of the sample we lose due to these decisions.

```
# Check number of districts dropped in merge.
all_leaid <- unique(c(as.numeric(fis$LEAID), mem$LEAID))</pre>
```

Warning in unique(c(as.numeric(fis\$LEAID), mem\$LEAID)): NAs introduced by coercion

```
pct_retain <- nrow(dta) / length(all_leaid) * 100
print(paste("Percent of districts retained:", sprintf("%3.2f", pct_retain)))</pre>
```

```
[1] "Percent of districts retained: 87.59"
```

This seems like a lot. In a real project, we would go back to see how these school districts are distinct from the sample retained and whether they belong. If they do, we would need to find a way to recover the missing data or understand how our analysis could be biased.

### Save file

As a last step, keep just the data elements required and rename columns for readability.

```
# Clean up.
dta <- dta |>
    # Choose one column for total district enrollment.
select(-tot) |>
    rename(tot = MEMBERSCH) |>
    # Rename columns.
    rename(exp = TOTALEXP) |>
    rename_with(tolower, everything()) |>
    # Keep and reorder required columns.
    select(leaid, name, stname, tot, exp, ppe, starts_with("pct_"), maj_group)
```

With data cleaning complete, save the analysis file for use in the analysis program. Come back to the cleaning program to implement major revisions that the analysis requires. Aim to keep the workflow simple so that anyone who looks through the repository can follow along.

```
# Save dataset to load into another R program.
# This puts the dataframe into the same namespace.
save(dta, file = DTA)
# Save to Excel workbook.
write.xlsx(dta, XLS)
```