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P A 397C: Data Management and the Research Life Cycle

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**Final Project Proposal**

I am interested in using data to look at issues of reproductive health. One area where I am particularly interested in is in access to reproductive health services and healthcare, including abortion services. Over the past few years, states have introduced many restrictions around abortion services, including limiting what kinds of services or what kinds of clinics are able to provide these services.[[1]](#footnote-1) States have also introduced restrictions around funding for reproductive health services, including whether public funding for healthcare is available for abortion services.[[2]](#footnote-2) As a result of these restrictions, many abortion providers around the country have closed in recent years.[[3]](#footnote-3) At the same time, organizations called crisis pregnancy centers have grown in number around the country. Crisis pregnancy centers typically offer counseling around pregnancy and abortion, adoption referrals, some resources for child-rearing, and may provide pregnancy testing or sonogram services;[[4]](#footnote-4) however, they also often provide false medical information which may attempt to sway women facing an unintended pregnancy.[[5]](#footnote-5) Reproaction, an activist organization working to advance reproductive justice, created one of the first databases of locations of crisis pregnancy centers in the country.6

For my final project, I will do a multiple regression analysis looking at different variables to see what drives the number of crisis pregnancy centers in a state. I will be creating my dataset for analysis using python to merge the datasets. I plan to do the multiple linear regression in Stata, using the R2 to determine the goodness of fit to validate my results.

My research question will be: Do poverty status, health insurance coverage, abortion rates within a state, or state policies around abortion or access to health care, influence the number of crisis pregnancy centers within that state? I will use the number of crisis pregnancy centers in each state as the dependent variable, using a database from Reproaction as the data source.[[6]](#footnote-6) For independent variables, I will look at the state-level variables and datasets I used in the THA1: Medicaid expansion by state from the Kaiser Family Foundation, Census Bureau data around poverty status and health insurance coverage by state, and Guttmacher Institute data around state abortion rates and change in abortion rate from 2011-2014. I will also look at whether the political climate in the state is correlated with number of crisis pregnancy centers using Pew Research Center data, and I also plan to look at whether it is correlated with state public funding for abortion using Guttmacher data around state policies. I will also see if there are any other health-related or economic indicators that may be correlated with prevalence of crisis pregnancy centers.

For data management, I will store my datasets and code on GitHub and use GitHub for version control throughout the course of the project. My datasets are all publicly available, so nothing will be identifiable.

1. “Last Five Years Account for More Than One-quarter of All Abortion Restrictions Enacted Since Roe.” January 2016. Guttmacher Institute, accessed March 15, 2019, from <https://www.guttmacher.org/article/2016/01/last-five-years-account-more-one-quarter-all-abortion-restrictions-enacted-roe>. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. “State Funding of Abortion under Medicaid: As of March 1, 2019.” Guttmacher Institute, accessed March 15, 2019, from <https://www.guttmacher.org/state-policy/explore/state-funding-abortion-under-medicaid>. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Jones RK and Jerman J, “Abortion Incidence and Service Availability in the United States, 2014.” *Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health* 49(1):17-27, March 2017. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Kimport K, Dockray JP, and Dodson D, “What Women Seek from a Pregnancy Resource Center.” *Contraception* 94(2): 168-172, August 2016. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Bryant AG and Levi EE, “Abortion Misinformation from Crisis Pregnancy Centers in North Carolina.” *Contraception* 86(6): 752-756, December 2012. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Reproaction Education Fund: Fake Clinic Database, accessed March 15, 2019 from <https://reproaction.org/fakeclinicdatabase>. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)