

Course: Statistics for Social Justice

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KEYWORDS — Typesetting, Typst, Quarto

I. INTRODUCTION

A new course was developed that partnered with a non-profit and tabulated, organized, and analyzed their data to answer key questions and help them better serve Iowa communities.

II. LEARNING OBJECTIVES

i. Content

- Historical and ongoing inequities in housing
- Learning and applying introductory statistics

III. ACADEMIC SETTING

i. Institution - Cornell College

- Liberal arts college of 1150 students
- Small Town in Iowa
- One-course-at-a-time block schedule
- All sophomores take second-year course that has a focus on civic engagement with no pre-requisites

ii. About The Students

- Sophomores
- 14 students
- Mix of undeclared majors
- About half of the students had taken a previous statistics course

iii. Class Research Questions

IV. COMMUNITY PARTNERS

i. Waypoint Services

Among other functions, they coordinate homeless services for 96 of the 99 counties in Iowa.

ii. Iowa Legal Aid

iii. Pedagogy

- Engage -> individual reflection -> class discussion and reflection
- Varied content mediums including podcast's, videos, readings, seminars, and a board game
- Individual reflections graded with a uniform rubric
- Class discussion graded by participation
- Lecture and statistics problem sets
- Group project
 - Three class groups
 - Data “collecting”
 - Short paper graded with rubric
 - Info-graphics
 - Final presentation to Waypoint and community

iv. Positive Outcomes

- Reflections showed tremendous amounts of personal growth
- Students who reported not enjoying the course topic reported they still saw value of the work and statistics generally
- Students were extremely motivated by the potential value of their work to the community
- Authentic understanding of the complexities of data and potential impacts

v. Negative Outcomes

- Formal statistical knowledge gained was likely minimal
- The students taking the work seriously struggled to trust the work of other students
- Difficult to grade individual students

vi. Materials



1) Speed Talk and Poster Site:



2) Course Website:

vii. References