Measures of Education Inequality

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Problem

• Are socioeconomic factors connected with measures of academic performance?

Data

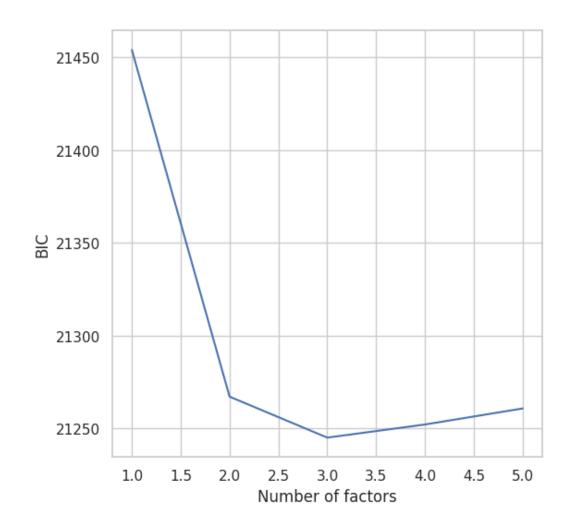
- School data was gathered from EdGap.org
- School area data was gathered from National Center for Education Statistics, or NCES

Analysis Methods

- Using average ACT scores as measure of academic performance
- Try to predict ACT score based on given factors
 - Determine which factors are the most important in that prediction
 - Do those factors imply socioeconomic inequality?

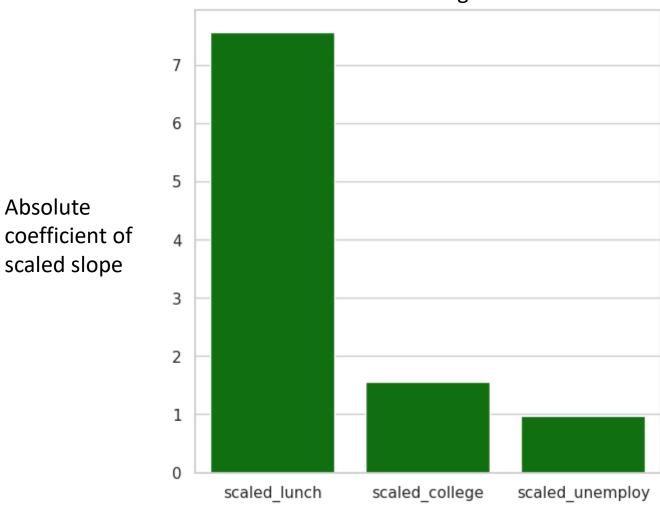
The best numerical subset has 3 factors

Best Subsets for each Number of Factors



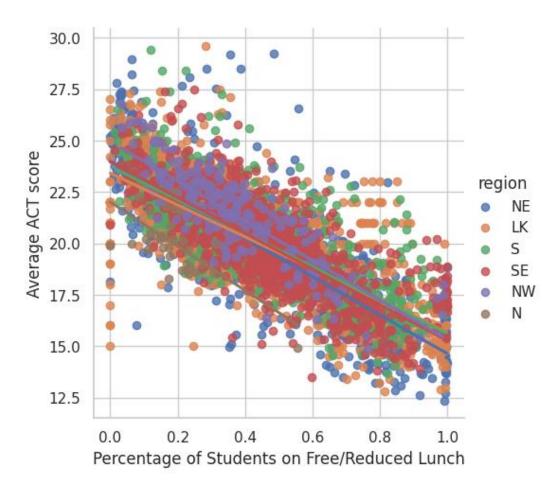
Percentage of students on free/reduced lunch is the most important factor

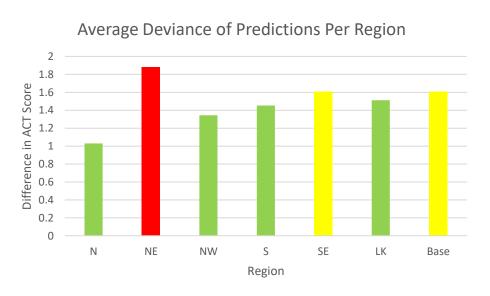
Relationship Between Scaled Variables and Average ACT Score



Using "region" as a predictor could help improve the model's accuracy

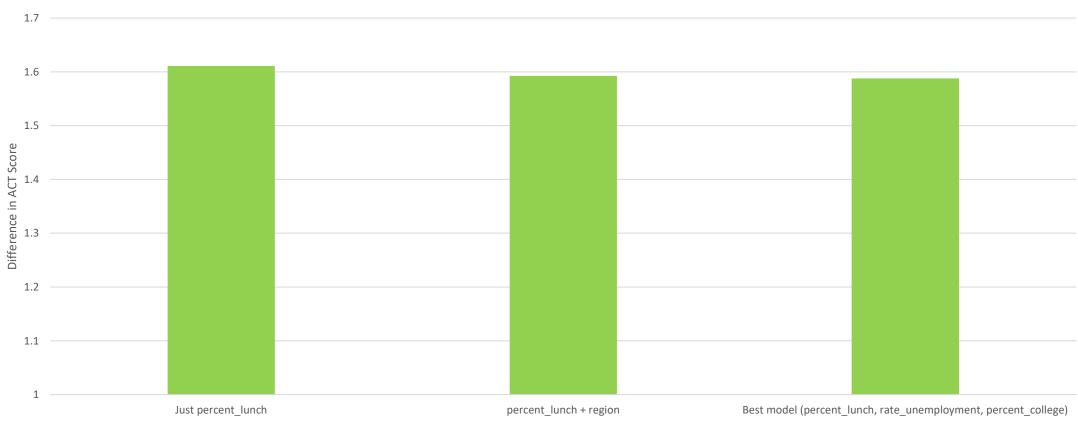
Average ACT Scores Split by Region





...but it doesn't improve it by much





Conclusion

- Percentage of students on Free/Reduced Lunch is the most important factor of the factors we studied
 - This suggests socioeconomic factors may affect academic performance
- Factoring in region does not improve the model