

Utah Data Research Center

Example Proposal / UDRC Data Request (Operational)

Project Title

High School outcomes for children who used FakeProgramName (FPN) at DWS.

Objective (overarching goal of project)

The objective of this report is to understand the efficacy of FPN in improving high school outcomes for its participants/enrollees.

Background

Please describe the significance or uniqueness of the research. How will this research fill gaps in knowledge? If this is an operational data request, what decisions, initiatives, or processes do you hope to inform with this data?

Our division conducts this report each year to judge the efficacy of FPN in improving high school outcomes for its enrollees. It is part of our federal reporting requirements.

Provide your literature review or operational review explaining why the research is necessary:

Our division has previously done this report by conducting enrollee surveys to understand the efficacy of FPN, and we have anecdotal evidence that it improves high school outcomes. We would like to have concrete data to back up these anecdotes and supplement the user surveys we conduct. We also want to know if there are patterns in high school outcomes for FPN enrollees by county of residence.

Links to previous years' FPN reports or reporting guidance from state or federal legislature are provided.

Questions and Hypotheses

List specific research questions and/or hypotheses. These should build upon the literature review, SME knowledge, or agency knowledge explained in the literature review or operational review section:

Does the use of FPN by children in K-12 programs impact their high school performance in terms of GPA and test scores relative to children who were eligible for FPN but did not enroll? Are there any patterns related to county of residence for FPN enrollees' high school outcomes?

Proposed Methods

List expected methods and analysis, e.g. regression, clustering:



We plan to run summary statistics (means and percentages of demographic breakouts) on both the high school outcome data for FPN enrollees and eligible, non-enrolling children. We will then compare the high school outcomes between the two groups to see if the FPN enrollees have better outcomes.

Variables or data columns requested

Note variable types in parentheses after variable names.

Outcome variables: High school test scores (ACT) (continuous/numeric) and GPAs (continuous/numeric) for FPN enrollees and FPN eligible children.

Independent variables: county of residence (categorical/factor)

Control variables/other demographic breakout variables: Race (binary for each race), gender (binary), Hispanic ethnicity (binary)

Expected Results or Project outcome

List or describe expected results of main statistical analysis:

We expect that high school test scores and GPAs will be improved for students who enrolled in FPN as compared to those who were eligible but did not enroll.

Describe how the results will be leveraged in your agency or research group:

Our division will also use the report to consider any ways we can improve FPN administration in the future.

Describe the end product of the project (e.g. academic report, dashboard, internal agency report):

The final product will be a publicly available report published online.