

Inequality: A Sociological Analysis

Assignment Overview:

All UNT students who take sociology 1510: Introduction to Sociology (regardless of whom is teaching it) are required to write a research paper. The purpose of this exercise is to develop your ability to synthesize numerical data and sociological perspectives. Throughout the semester, you have been developing your understanding of the Conflict and Functionalist perspectives. In this exercise, you will use the data attached from the Central Texas Sustainability project (CTSIP), a comprehensive evaluation of sustainability indicators in Central Texas, to identify patterns in numerical data and then apply each of the perspectives in explaining why these patterns may exist.

Below is a suggested outline to help guide your development of the paper. Please pay particular attention to the rubric given on the following page, as it provides specific information on where your points will come from and what your professor and teaching assistant will be looking for.

Suggested Outline:

Paragraph 1	Introduction	State the issue that you will be examining (relationship between income inequality and health coverage/status). Explain why this is an important area to examine. Be sure to gain the readers interest in the topic.
Paragraph 2-3	Theory	Explain that there are two theoretical perspectives (conflict and functional) that provide explanations for income inequality and health care coverage/status. Provide a brief description of each perspective and what each might predict and why with regard to health care coverage and status in the U.S.
Paragraph 4-7	Data	Provide an overview of what the information in the tables tells us. Does the functional perspective help to explain the relationship between the income inequality and health care coverage/status found in the data presented in the tables? Does the conflict perspective help to explain the data in the tables? Discuss each theory's ability to explain the findings. Which theory appears to do the best job of explaining the findings? Perhaps they each do a good job but from a different perspective (there is no right or wrong answer but you must support whatever perspective you take).
Paragraph 8	Conclusion	Provide a brief conclusion that (1) summarizes the data and how each theory explains the data and (2) considers the social implications of the data (note how these patterns relate to the larger society).

Formatting Requirements:

The assignment must adhere to the following formatting requirements:

- The paper must be at least 2 pages and no more than 5 pages (not including bibliography).
- The paper must be emailed to the TA in PDF format. The paper must also be printed and turned in on the day it is due.
- The paper must be written in 12 point Times New Roman font.
- The paper must be double spaced.
- All page margins must be 1 inch.
- Any articles, books, etc. that are used must be cited appropriately, using any conventional citation method you are familiar with (e.g., APA, MLA, ASA, etc.). A reference list (bibliography) should also be provided at the end of the paper to show the resources used/cited. If you are not familiar with a citation method, seek assistance from the instructor or the free University writing lab (<http://www.unt.edu/writinglab/>).
- If you have any questions send your professor an email: yeatts@unt.edu.

Assignment Rubric:

Elements of Paper:	Maximum point value	What professor is looking for:
Critical Thinking		
Introduction states issue	4	A paper with a clear introduction that identifies the issue
Presentation of information	4	A paper that examines the evidence and its relevance
Consideration of context and perspectives	4	A paper that recognizes the context and multiple perspectives
Logical progression of argument	4	A paper that logically presents perspectives with use of data
Conclusion with implications	4	A paper with a clear conclusion that addresses the implications of the data
Communication Skills		
Addresses all elements	4	A paper that shows awareness of perceptions and assumptions
Level of organization	4	A paper that is organized and cohesive
Demonstrates awareness of concepts	4	A paper that demonstrates awareness of multiple perspectives

Use of relevant content	4	A paper that utilizes relevant data in an appropriate manner
Clearly delivers material and thoughts	4	A paper that presents a clear transmission of meaning and thought
Empirical/Quantitative Skills		
Identifies numerical facts	4	A paper that identifies appropriate numerical data
Synthesizes numerical data	4	A paper that synthesizes numerical facts into perspectives
Analyzes numerical data	4	A paper that analyzes numerical data and its implications
Social Responsibility		
Acknowledges other perspectives	4	A paper that acknowledges multiple perspectives
Applies other perspectives	4	A paper that applies multiple perspectives to the concept
Acknowledges relation of perspective to community	4	A paper that acknowledges how perspectives relate to society
Applies analysis to community	4	A paper that applies, in detail, the perspectives to society
Total Points	68	

A = 61 – 68

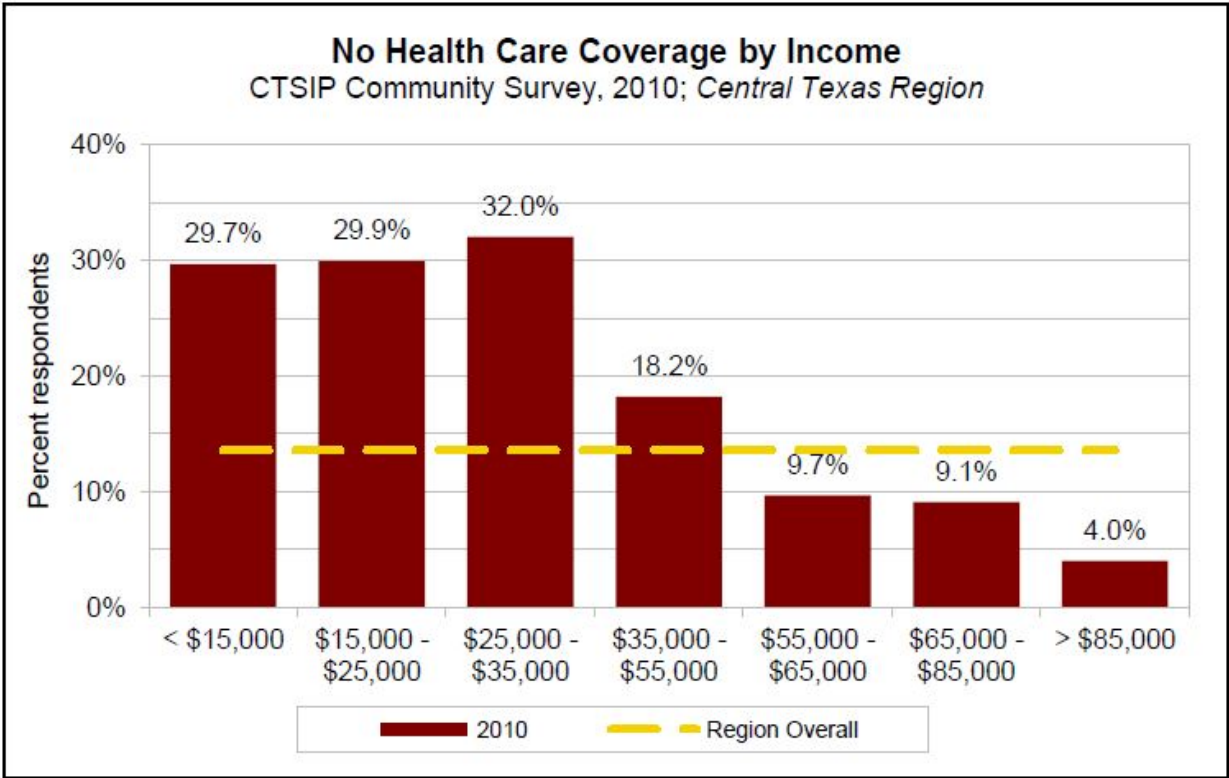
B = 53 – 60

C = 45 – 52

D = 37 – 44

F = less than 37

TABLE 1: Percentage Reporting No Health Care Coverage across Various Income Levels



Survey Question: Do you currently have any kind of health care coverage, including health insurance, prepaid plans such as HMOs, or government plans such as Medicare?

TABLE 2: Reason for No Health Care Coverage

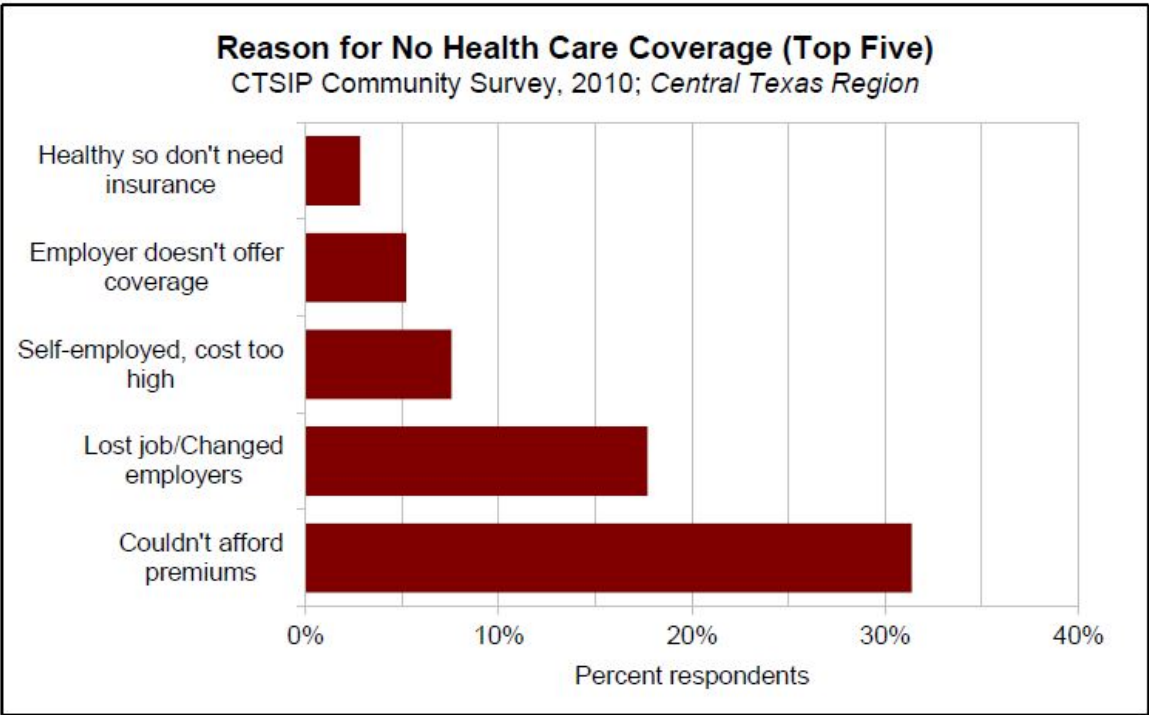


TABLE 3: General Health Status for Various Income Levels

