

Performing Research on Existing PAEA Data

NORTHERN
ARIZONA
UNIVERSITY



Richard Dehn, MPA, PA-C
Professor and Chair
Department of PA Studies
Northern Arizona University

Workshop Goals

- To acquaint PAEA faculty members with what data is collected in PAEA's datasets
- To facilitate faculty in generating relevant research questions that PAEA data may answer
- To instruct faculty in the process of requesting access to PAEA data

Workshop Objectives

At the conclusion of the workshop, the participants will be able to:

- (1) Identify and describe PAEA datasets that might be available for independent research.
- (2) Construct a useful research question that could potentially be answered by analysis of PAEA data.
- (3) Describe the process for requesting PAEA data for research purposes.
- (4) Name at least one potential research mentor with whom the participant could collaborate to complete the project.

PAEA Datasets

- CASPA
- Program Survey
- Matriculant Survey
- Faculty Survey
- Curriculum Survey

CASPA

- Purpose: to collect data from PA Program applicants to enable programs to perform their admissions processes
- Dataset contains: all applicants to all CASPA-participating programs
- Typical variables: the usual data included on an admission application, and some survey question responses

Program Survey

- Purpose: collect most of the data needed to produce the “Annual Report”
- Dataset contains: all or nearly all accredited PA programs’ responses to:
 - a comprehensive survey instrument aimed at describing PA education in the US in the prior year
- Typical variables:
 - Program characteristics
 - Student enrollment characteristics
 - Faculty characteristics
 - Graduates’ characteristics
 - Occasional survey response, STAR Program responses

Matriculant Survey

- Purpose: to gain information about the students newly admitted to programs
- Dataset contains: a large proportion of newly enrolled PA students (high response rate)
- Typical variables: demographics, survey data on motivations for choosing the profession and a specific program, novel questions.
- Recently taken over from AAPA by PAEA
 - 2013-2014 data available

Faculty Survey

- Purpose: to describe the PA faculty nationally, and to track changes over time
- Dataset contains: faculty demographics, including rank, scholarly activity, and salary
- Typical variables: demographics, position in program, rank, publications, compensation, additional survey question data.
 - The source for faculty salary reports
 - 2014 data available soon
 - Previously in Program Survey (with low response rate on salary variables)

Curriculum Survey

- Purpose: to describe the curriculum of PA programs and to track changes over time
- Dataset contains: program characteristics, curriculum contents, curriculum allocation, curriculum methods
- Typical variables: specific courses offered, academic load of courses, descriptions of course methods

Appropriate Use of Aggregate Data

- PAEA data will typically be de-identified
- Data must be used to answer a specific research question only
- Data should be reported only in a way that protects the identity of individuals and/or individual institutions
- Data from PAEA should be stored securely
 - And disposed of properly at the end of the project

How to Request PAEA Data

Instructions and request form available on the PAEA website

- Person requesting data/PI; Contact information
- Date data file needed
- Affiliated institution (i.e., academic, research, and governmental)
- Immediate supervisor and contact information (i.e., email, phone number)
- Purpose/objectives of the study (Problem Statement)
- Brief review of literature
- Methodology
- Planned method(s) of disseminating findings
- Persons who will be involved in the effort
- Name of IRB, IRB status, and IRB number (if approved)
- Mechanisms the investigator will take to ensure security of the data

How to Request PAEA Data

- Proposal reviewed by PAEA staff to determine eligibility and completed application
- Proposal reviewed by PAEA Research Department
 - Does the research as proposed have the potential to advance knowledge of the PA education and/or the profession?
 - Did the principal investigator(s) include all of the elements required?
- Those requiring further review move to the Research Council

How to Request PAEA Data

- Cost???
 - Yes, there will be a cost for PAEA data
 - Intention: revenue-neutral process
 - PAEA member cost is calculated at a rate of \$50.00 for staff time that exceeds one hour
 - Non-members are charged \$100.00 per hour with no waiver of first hour
 - Estimates possible, however billed by time expended by PAEA research staff to prepare the data

????Questions????

Then move to the small group tables to generate researchable questions

Facilitators are available to help you with the process