

**Tier 3 Pilot Grant Application: Scaling for Greater Impact
 Spring 2024 Cover Sheet**

Project Information

Please provide the following information.

Project Title	Improving data to understand the well-being of small and excluded populations
Budget Request from Initiative	\$99,547
Budget Match (if applicable)	\$52,013
Total Project Budget	\$151,560

Applicant Information

Lead co-investigator: Jennie Romich, Professor, School of Social Work, romich@uw.edu

Co-investigators: Sofia G. Ayala, Research Scientist, Center for Studies in Demography and Ecology, sgayala@uw.edu
 Santino Camacho, Doctoral Candidate, School of Social Work, sgtino@uw.edu
 Isaac Sederbaum, Doctoral Candidate, Evans School of Public Policy and Governance, iseder@uw.edu

UW Advisors: Scott Allard, Professor and Associate Dean for Research & Engagement, Evans School of Public Policy and Governance
 Max Halvorson, Research Scientist, Social Development Research Group, School of Social Work
 Youngjun Choe, Associate Professor, Industrial & Systems Engineering and Director, Disaster Data Science Lab
 Arjee Restar, Assistant Professor, Epidemiology
UW Advisors are campus scholars who have interest in this work and see themselves as potential users of the resulting data.

Abstract

Research data often renders small populations invisible. This project focuses on two populations who are rarely included and identified in sufficient numbers for group analysis in either general population surveys or administrative data, transgender (trans) people and Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders (NHPI). This project will establish community-informed methods and practices for identifying small populations within Washington State administrative data. It will do so by: (1) documenting the presence of transgender people and Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (NHPI) peoples within extant data, specifically the Washington Merged Longitudinal Administrative Data; (2) working with leaders from trans and NHPI communities to develop principles for best describing their populations; (3) developing a set of practices and methods for identifying trans and NHPI persons within future administrative data resources within and beyond Washington State.

Narrative: Improving data to understand the well-being of small and excluded populations.

Research data often renders small populations invisible. This project focuses on two populations who are rarely included and identified in sufficient numbers for group analysis in either general population surveys or administrative data, transgender (trans) people and Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders (NHPI). With support from the Population Health Initiative, this project will establish scientific and community-engaged bases for identifying trans and NHPI persons within Washington State administrative data.

Transgender people represent a growing portion of the United States population, with 1.9 percent of Gen Z-ers identifying as transgender (Jones 2023). However, few data sets and – to our knowledge – no fully-representative data track trans adults at the state level. Grouping transgender people under the larger LGBTQ+ umbrella can obscure disparities that are unique to or worse among transgender people, particularly transgender people of color, such as increased experience of discrimination and risk of depression and suicide (Su et al. 2016).

Similarly, research utilizing administrative datasets often flattens small racial and ethnic groups. Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities have long called for the U.S. to produce better data on Hawaiians, Samoans, Guamanian, and other members of the Pasifika community (NHPI Alliance 2008). Although federal standards have called for reporting on NHPI populations for over two decades, government and scholarly studies and reports most commonly fail to report on this population or combine them with the much larger Asian American population under the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) grouping (Kana’iaupuni 2011). Data aggregation obscures within-population variation and serves to perpetuate health and social disparities in ways that reinforce the harms of imperialism and colonialism (Camacho et al. 2022; Becker et al. 2021; Urban Indian Health Institute 2021). By including a small sexual/gender minority group (the trans population) and a small ethnoracial group (NHPI population), our project imposes cross-fertilizations of ideas and challenges the team to consider a wider spectrum of complexities in combined small population research to develop a method of practice that can support interwoven experiences.

Because our focal groups have been subject to state violence and publicly-sanctioned oppression and because the project involves the use of individual data without explicit consent, this work needs to proceed from a critically-informed and community-engaged basis. Our approach follows documented best practices for conducting research with linked administrative data which recommends taking public views into account to build social license (Jones and Ford 2018) – an intangible agreement whereby stakeholder communities perceive a project to be socially-acceptable and legitimate. Building this social license promotes inclusivity and is a way for researchers to give communities a voice in developing their social futures. While our research is permitted under state law, our community-engaged approach is ethically fitting.

Specific aims and methods

This project will establish community-informed methods and best practices for identifying small populations within Washington State administrative data. Below we describe each of our three aims with the corresponding research plans. Study activities will be carried out by the principals (Romich, Ayala, Sederbaum, & Camacho) with the guidance and assistance of a team of UW advisors, campus scholars who have interest in this work and see themselves as potential users of the related data (Allard, Choe, Halvorson, and Restar).

Aim 1. Documenting the presence of transgender people and Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (NHPI) peoples within extant data.

The first step in the work is to create individual memos describing the coverage of trans and NHPI populations within the [Washington Merged Longitudinal Administrative Data \(WMLAD\)](#). A group of UW researchers examining the impact of the 2014 Seattle Minimum Wage Ordinance designed WMLAD and commissioned its construction (Romich et al. 2018). Administrative data refers to data created from information collected by public agencies during regular operations. WMLAD contains records from licensed drivers and state identity card holders, public assistance and public health care clients, registered voters, parents listed on birth certificates, and workers in jobs covered by Unemployment Insurance for the years 2010-2017. Combining data across these sources yields a population that aligns strongly with representations of the full working age adult population of the state as estimated by Census data (Long, Pelletier, and Romich 2022).

We will use WMLAD data to prepare memos about the NHPI and trans population. The memo will summarize the sources of information, assess the quality of the respective sources, and compare the data to Census estimates of the NHPI population. Information on identification as NHPI comes from one of two sources within WMLAD. Parents listed on birth certificates self-report their race and ethnicity on a form whose options include “Native Hawaiian,” “Guamanian or Chamorro,” “Samoaan,” and “Other Pacific Islander (specify).” Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) records also contain indicators for client race and ethnicity, although the collection of NHPI identity information varies across program, and some information may be caseworker assessments rather than client reports. We will compile available information and compare across sources for persons with both birth certificate and DSHS records. WMLAD does not contain ethnoracial records for persons who are not listed on a birth certificate and did not receive DSHS services. This is a weakness of the extant data which we will develop methods to address in Aim 3 below.

The memo on the trans population will have an overall similar outline. Trans population members will be identified by persons who change the sex associated with their driver’s license over the covered period. Preliminary results from the UW Priority Assessment in Trans Health study (led by UW Advisor Anjee Restar) show that 70% of respondents have their gender and name recognized on their driver's license (Transgender and Nonbinary Collective, 2023), suggesting that this is a reasonable method for identifying gender transition. Of course, many trans persons will not be counted using this method, including persons who transitioned before becoming licensed drivers, persons who transition socially but not legally, or persons who transitioned outside of this eight-year period. Preliminary estimates using WMLAD suggest that several thousand incidents of such changes exist in the data. Additional work will rule out obvious mistakes in the data by looking for things like a subsequent reversal of the gender change or a change from M to F associated with being listed as a parent on a birth certificate in the gestational role that requires a uterus. We will discuss the incidence of trans persons within WMLAD in light of other evidence about the size of this population, including data on the trans population from the Census Household Pulse Survey (Anderson et al. 2021).

Aim 1 work can begin immediately. WMLAD resides within the UW Data Collaborative’s secure enclave, and the Washington State IRB has approved its use for developing research methods. Co-investigator Sederbaum and an additional graduate research assistant will conduct the analysis for the memos, which will be reviewed by other study team members before being shared with Community Advisors.

Aim 2. Work with leaders from trans and NHPI communities to develop principles for best describing their populations.

To achieve Aim 2, we will identify and form relationships with Community Advisers (CAs), persons from the trans and NHPI communities who have volunteer or paid advocacy, policy, or research experience in defining and articulating the data and knowledge creation needs of their communities. We identify and recruit CAs starting with the networks of the study personnel. Camacho, Restar, and Sederbaum all currently work with community research advisory boards. We will begin with introductory discussions with members of these current boards to introduce the project and assess possible interest. We imagine these conversations will yield additional recommendations for other potential advisors in Washington-based or national groups. Whereas some research collaborations engage one or a small number of external partners deeply, the overall goal of this work will be well served by gathering input from a group of 10-20 CAs. We will seek demographic diversity across the trans community and representatives from different Pacific Islander groups (Native Hawaiian, Guamanian/Chamorro, Samoans, and others).

This work will follow WashPop working model for community-engaged data science depicted in Figure 1. This model is listed in stages because work in the lower-numbered stages generally needs to happen before work in the higher-numbered stages. However, community-engaged science should be iterative and ongoing with external and UW partners continuing monitoring and responding to changes in knowledge, community networks, and data needs over time.

Figure 1. WashPop Community Engaged Data Science Model

1. Research team background learning
2. Identifying appropriate community partners
3. Network with existing local and national community data governance coalitions and bodies representing these communities
4. Community-led establishment of data goals and priorities for each community
5. Collaboration in WashPop design and implementation and co-decision making in WashPop elements pertaining to community
6. Ongoing partnership, refinement, and iterative implementation
7. Knowledge feedback to state data governance authorities (e.g., WSIRB, agency data collection protocols)
8. Ongoing data resources, data usage updates, opportunities for community use and capacity building, and governance structures with community partners

Adapted from Pelletier, Romich, Abrahamson-Richards, Camacho & Ayala, 2023.

Work on the current project will largely focus on steps 1-5 of this model, beginning with background learning. Some team members have both lived and research experience with trans community (Sederbaum, Restar), some with NHPI (Camacho, Halvorson), while others are community outsiders with varying degrees of research experience. After the recruitment described above, we will share the memos prepared in Aim 1 with CAs and ask for feedback. We anticipate specific suggestions about the memos as well as thoughts about data that should be linked to the demographic information. We will discuss choices in representation, including categorization and language, and community perspectives on privacy considerations. Team members will keep notes about conversations and debrief regularly, looking for themes across meetings. We will prepare memos summarizing suggestions for data improvements.

Aim 3. Developing a set of practices and methods for identifying Trans and NHPI persons within future administrative data resources within and beyond Washington State.

The conversations and initial suggestions from Aim 2 will be crystalized into specific recommendations for shaping a next-generation data resource. WMLAD serves as the proof of concept for a new statewide data effort under development at UW (Romich, PI). This new effort, called WashPop and funded by the legislature in 2023, will consist of a statewide integrated data repository for population and policy research on topics including criminal justice and safety, economic prosperity and equity, and health and social well-being. The proposed WashPop core data file will draw on largely the same components as WMLAD but will be designed for multiple uses and users and will feature methodological improvements such as those developed under this aim.

Alongside the work in Aims 1 and 2, team members will review published and grey literature on ethical and methodological issues associated with representing small populations in quantitative data. The purpose of this review is to prepare the team to connect the suggestions of the community advisors to specific research topics. As an example, one topic concerns trade-offs between privacy and representation. Returning to the “social license” principles for using administrative records to create data on individuals, we believe that community feedback can help advance emerging privacy protection practices. Privacy practices are designed to protect against the risk of deductive disclosure, a risk heightened by recent anti-trans political pressures and ongoing criminalizing of racialized minorities. However, when small cell sizes are suppressed or noise is added in the name of privacy preservation, smaller population groups are more likely to have their needs obscured (Pujol et al. 2020). Input from community members should shape WashPop’s privacy policies.

A different example concerns methods for assigning ethnoracial group membership. A common practice to deal with missing ethnoracial data is to impute it using the Bayesian Improved Surname Geocoding (BISG) method, which combines probabilities of belonging to a given ethnoracial group based on last name (surname) and Census area (geocoding) (Decter-Frain 2022; Elliott et al. 2009; Fremont et al. 2016). However standard BISG practice combines NHPI into a larger AAPI group. Moreover, in tests of the outcomes of the BISG method on the WMLAD data, self-identified NHPI were mis-assigned to a non-AAPI ethnoracial group just as often as they were correctly assigned. Refinements to the BISG process, such as including first names in addition to surnames, have created improvements in predictions for other groups, and we hope that by drawing on NHPI community knowledge, we can generate ideas for improving the BISG for this group. Aim 3 products will consist of memos and eventually manuscripts describing these methodological refinements.

Significance and extensions

While we believe WashPop data will be a public good for state agency and community-driven questions, we also hope that the research community at UW will make use of it. We have recruited a number of UW Advisors who are potential users of the WashPop data with particular interests in being able to accurately and respectfully identify small populations. The attached letters of support from Scholarly Advisors from Social Work, Industrial & Systems Engineering, Public Policy, and Epidemiology illustrate the breadth of potential interest in this work. Our UW advisers foresee using WashPop data to examine topics as diverse as disaster preparedness, equity in voting, and illness and violence prevention. We will be in touch with all UW advisors quarterly during the project to share results in progress, gather feedback about the work, and discuss future collaborations.

References

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Tier 3 Evaluation Plan

We have a set of success markers, some concretely achievable and others more ambitious. At the aspirational level, seeing a research study on trans or NHPI populations using WashPop OR a general study on Washingtonians that specifically includes trans or NHPI populations get funding and/or published in the next decade would be the best indicator of the quality of the foundation we will establish through this work.

During the period of this project and in the near term, our incremental measures of success involve project outputs, relationship quality, and subsequent resources. Mindful that we can only control our own actions, the first and most immediate measure of our work will be whether we complete the outlined activities. The quality of our work with community members will also provide important feedback during the period of the work and in the near term thereafter. Community Advisors who stay engaged and are willing to consider future collaborations or extensions of the current work will indicate the value of our work from the community perspective.

We also plan to move the work of this project forward after the award period ends, and the eventual success of these post-project works will comprise another less certain but more externally visible set of success markers. Most importantly, this work will inform the development of WashPop for state agency and researcher use. Within the year we plan to inquire about external funding options to large foundations with histories of investing in data development, including the *Gates Foundation* and *Arnold Ventures*, and we are engaged in a group of CSDE affiliates interested in pursuing NICHD funding for this work. The community-involved work here will provide an important test of concept of our larger aspirations to develop a community steering board for WashPop work. Finally, we anticipate a few scholarly articles on ethics and data use and improving BISG. The acceptance of these articles with graduate student co-authors will speak to this project’s ability to contribute to knowledge broadly.

Project Timeline

Aim	Fall 2024	Winter 2025	Spring 2025	Summer 2025	Fall 2025
1. Documenting Trans and NHPI peoples within extant data.	Data analysis	Draft and finalize memos	Additional analysis responding to Community Advisor feedback		
2. Working Community Advisers to develop principles for best describing their populations.	Team background learning, identifying potential partners	Contact community advisors for initial conversations about overall data effort	Initial discussion of data memos with Community Advisors	Iterative conversations with Community Advisors.	
3. Developing best practices and new methods.	Review literature on methods and ethics for small populations.	List possible data or methodological improvements.	Consider Community Advisor guidance on methods.	Draft best practices and share back to Community Advisors.	Finalize best-practices and share with UW Advisors.

Biographies

Jennie Romich

Jennie Romich is a Professor of Social Welfare at the School of Social Work, Director of the West Coast Poverty Center, and Principal Investigator of both the extant WMLAD data and the WashPop data effort which secured legislative funding. Romich's record of applied policy research will help ensure the success of this effort. Romich has led or co-led City of Seattle-commissioned research to evaluate the Paid Sick and Safe Time, Minimum Wage, and Secure Scheduling Ordinances. Romich's 2022-23 study on wage equity for non-profit human services workers saw its recommendation for 7% wage increase enacted within this year's City of Seattle budget. She regularly works with state agencies on equity, research, and workforce issues. As a founding affiliate and current director of the West Coast Poverty Center, she works to convene practitioners, policymakers, and faculty around anti-poverty topics. Nationally, Romich co-leads the Social Work Grand Challenge on economic inequality and participates in the Collaborative of Poverty Centers of which WCPC is a founding affiliate. These groups set agendas for the scholarly community and work to influence policymakers.

Sofia G. Ayala

Sofia G. Ayala is a Research Scientist at the Center for Studies in Demography and Ecology (CSDE) and the Scientific Director of WashPop, a state-funded effort led by Professor Jennie Romich. At CSDE, she is the Executive Director of the Northwest Federal Statistical Research Data Center and the UW Data Collaborative. All her current appointments position her to work directly or support scholarly research with restricted-use data, including administrative data. Prior to joining the University of Washington in March 2023, Ayala was an Economist with Social Security Administration in Washington DC where she conducted confidential research on SSA's disability programs and their beneficiaries using administrative or CIPSEA restricted-use microdata from multiple Federal Agencies. Of note is her research to support the development of a revised disability adjudication policy. This research work received an SSA Commissioner's Honor Award and an ORDP Deputy Commissioner's Honor Award, both in 2021. Ayala also supported Executive Order 13985 on *Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities through the Federal Government* through confidential research and oversight of contract projects that leverage the complexity and depth of administrative data along with the capability of data science methods. Her scholarly research focuses on the study of social and economic inequalities. Ayala holds a doctorate in public policy and a master's degree in economics from The University of Texas at Austin.

Isaac Sederbaum

Isaac Sederbaum, MPA is a fifth-year PhD candidate at the Evans School of Public Policy & Governance. Isaac has a background in participatory research and is deeply committed to the wellbeing of the trans and gender expansive community. His dissertation, "The Cost of Being Trans: Three Papers on Administrative Burdens and Transgender Adults in the US" utilizes a participatory design to examine the barriers trans people face when attempting to access SNAP, Medicaid, and Unemployment insurance. Chapter 2, "A Qualitative Study of the Psychological Costs of Citizen-State Interactions for Trans People" was funded by a PHI Tier 1 grant. Isaac has extensive experience as a mixed-methodologist, working with large datasets, implementing surveys, and conducting qualitative interviews, most recently with his dissertation. Before returning to UW for his PhD, he spent five years as a criminal justice researcher at the Vera Institute of Justice and the Center for Justice Innovation (previously known as the Center for Court Innovation). He holds an MPA from the Evans School and a BA from Portland State University.

Santino Camacho

Santino (Tino) Camacho, MPH, is queer Gela' CHamoru scholar from the island of Guåhan (Guam), a fourth-year PhD candidate at the School of Social Work, and Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Research Scholar. As a community embedded scholar Tino brings expertise in through community-based and Indigenist research with Pacific Islander communities to this project. His research goals are to develop theories, interventions, and policies that promote cultural resurgence and promote health through culturally-rooted interventions for queer and transgender Pacific Islanders (QTPI). For his doctoral qualifying paper, titled "Mamfok I Talyayan Hinemlo: Weaving Resistant Relationalities to Promote Queer and Trans Pacific Islander Well-being," Tino recruited a community advisory committee of QTPI community members and leaders to guide and collaborate with from inception to dissemination. During COVID-19, he worked closely with Dean Michael Spencer and Associate Dean David Takeuchi to support and uncover the socioeconomic disparities within Pasifika communities with the local Pacific Islander community through a Population Health Initiative grant. The results of the quantitative arm of this work were published in a special issue of *Health Equity*.

Tier 3 Project Budget (add additional pages if funding is matched by more than three entities)

	Requested from Initiative	Funding Match by: <i>School of Social Work</i>	Funding Match by: <i>CSDE</i>	Funding Match by: <i>Evans School</i>
Salaries				
Faculty	14557			
Staff	8944		9556	
Student	37501	17178		
Benefits	13310	3195	2896	
Fringe Benefits Based on Payroll Load Rate In Effect				
Supplies and Materials	500			
Supplies, Equipment Under \$2,000, etc.				
Equipment				
Equipment Over \$2,000				
Travel	500			
Per Diem Lodging/Meals/Expenses, Air Fare, Mileage, Car Rental				
Tuition	15235	12188		
For graduate students				
Other: Payments to Community Advisors	9000		2000	5000
Total Direct Costs	99547	32561	14452	5000

Budget Justification

Project funds will pay for investigator and staff time and to support the work of the Community Advisors.

PHI funds will support 5% of Romich's (lead co-I) time to oversee the project administration and provide high-level guidance for the project products. Romich's writing time on the project will be covered by her FTE devoted to research (not a formal match but per School of Social Work workload policy, 20% of faculty time is allocated to scholarship). Camacho and Sederbaum will each work two quarters as 50% ASE research assistants on the project. Camacho will have one quarter covered by PHI funds and a second covered by a Social Work match. Social Work will also cover an additional quarter of a to-be-named doctoral student to perform analysis. CSDE will contribute 5% of Ayala's time as a match. Ayala will advise on data analysis, work with the team to translate community feedback into specific data best practices, and as the scientific director of WashPop, will integrate these best practices into data workflows. The WashPop Operations Specialist will support the work by coordinating payments to the community partners and assisting with logistics scheduling and for any in-person meetings (7.5% in through 9/15/25 and 5% thereafter).

We have allocated funds to provide stipends for 10-16 Community Advisors. We would like to retain flexibility in allocating those funds either directly to individuals or to the non-profit community organization where our Community Advisors work. Some Community Advisors are longstanding volunteer organizers who do not formally work in an organization. For these advisors, we will offer direct honoraria, likely of \$500 per year in 2025 and 2026 so as not to subject them to Social Security Number collection requirements. For Community Advisors who work with a non-profit organization, we will follow their preference and their organizational practice regarding personal versus organizational compensation. To compensate a community-based organization for a staff member's consultation, we will likely offer payments of \$1,500 to offset the staff time associated with navigating the UW payments system. The Evans School has contributed \$5000 and CSDE has contributed \$2000 towards these costs. We have also budgeted modest amounts for local travel and other convening expenses, including possibly food which is a culturally important element of gatherings.

Confirmations of matching support

Evans School

From: Scott W. Allard
Sent: Monday, April 1, 2024 9:10 AM
To: Isaac M. Sederbaum <iseder@uw.edu>
Subject: Evans Matching Support for PHI Tier 3 Submission

Isaac –

Thank you for this note. The Evans School of Public Policy & Governance is excited to provide \$5,000 in matching support as part of your submission to this Tier 3 Grants opportunity through PHI. We are excited about the ideas here, the strength of your team, and how the proposal fits into your broader research program.

Best, Scott W. Allard
Daniel J. Evans Endowed Professor of Social Policy
Associate Dean for Research & Engagement
[Evans School of Public Policy and Governance](#)
University of Washington
Box 353055 | Seattle, WA | 98195-3055
email – sallard@uw.edu
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UW web - <https://evans.uw.edu/profile/scott-allard/>
Personal web - <http://scottwallard.com/>

Social Work

On Mon, May 13, 2024 at 11:15 AM Rona L. Levy <rlevy@uw.edu> wrote:

Dear Dr. Romich,

In response to your request, the School of Social Work is pleased to support your application to the Population Health Initiative for the project titled "Improving data to understand the well-being of small and excluded populations." SSW will make a matching contribution in the form of two quarters of doctoral ASE research support (50% time plus benefits and tuition). The value of this support is estimated at \$32, 561.

Rona L. Levy, M.S.W., Ph.D., M.P.H.
Professor and Director
Behavioral Medicine Research Group
Associate Dean for Research
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CENTER FOR STUDIES IN DEMOGRAPHY & ECOLOGY
UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

May 13, 2024

To: Jennie Romich, Social Work

From: Steven Goodreau, Development Core Director, CSDE
Dan Eisenberg, Science Core Director, CSDE
Tina Swenson, Administrator, CSDE

Re: Population Health Initiative Seed Grants and Matching Support

CSDE is pleased to pledge matching support for your PHI Tier 3 proposal, *Improving data to understand the well-being of small and excluded populations*. This includes \$2,000 for payments to community advisers, as well as 5% FTE for CSDE research scientist Sofia Ayala (salary + benefits = \$12,452). We will provide these resources if your proposal is selected for funding by PHI.

We're delighted to support this project and wish you the very best in the competition.

Sincerely,

Steven M. Goodreau
Development Core Director, CSDE
goodreau@uw.edu

As a Federally and University funded research center, the [Center for Studies in Demography & Ecology](#) in the College of Arts & Sciences provides technical expertise and financial support to over 150 researchers at the University of Washington

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<https://csde.washington.edu/>

CSDE acknowledges we are on Coast Salish territory, the traditional homeland of the Duwamish, Suquamish, Tulalip, and Muckleshoot nations and other Native peoples.

CSDE's commissioned logo from Native artist, UW Professor Marvin Oliver acknowledges these vital connections to native peoples and territories





May 13, 2024

Dear Isaac Sederbaum and team:

We are writing to confirm our unwavering support for your team's proposed project, "Improving data to understand the well-being of small and excluded populations." Our Transgender and Nonbinary Collective in Research Equity from Washington (TNB-CREW) members are confident that your project aims are well aligned and believe it to be crucial to addressing the needs of trans communities in Washington.

We are a group of dedicated trans stakeholders and leaders who are passionate about advancing trans health, policy, and social justice through research and practice. Our diverse membership includes experts in gender-affirming healthcare, HIV surveillance, healthcare navigation, social work, and biomedical science. We're committed to using public health and health policy research to drive systemic change and improve the well-being of trans individuals across Washington. Dr. Sederbaum's proposal fits within our mission.

During our previous meeting with your team and along with Dr. Arjee Restar, we have discussed working together to ensure that the materials and design approach of your study are crafted with principles of community engagement and centering trans researchers and voices at the forefront. We are in agreement on the importance of creating study materials and methods that are sensitive and directly benefit the needs of transgender adults in Washington State.

Should the proposal be accepted, we will offer our services as an advisory board. Our primary role is to ensure that the study is steered by the most prominent trans community leaders and stakeholders in Washington. We are thrilled to express our full support of this proposal and are pleased to participate in this exciting collaboration. We are confident that our joint efforts will lead to the delivery of equitable health programs for trans populations and we look forward to seeing this proposal come to fruition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "AJK", followed by a horizontal line that extends to the right and then curves downwards.

Audren J.K. Bambilla

Board Member, on behalf of TSSAB

May 13, 2024

Sofia Ayala
Santino Camacho
Jennie Romich
Isaac Sederbaum

Dear Colleagues –

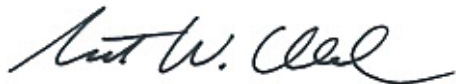
I am pleased to join the project on “Improving data to understand the well-being of small and excluded populations,” as a UW Advisor. As outlined below, I have expertise relevant to this work, and I am a potential user of the resulting data. I am prepared to review the project’s work; make suggestions for strategy, analysis, and extensions; and consider future collaborations or independent uses of the resulting data and methods.

This work interests me because it overlaps with my current research as a Primary Investigator for the Washington Elections Database project and Washington State Ballots project. These projects focus on the creation of public use data files and original empirical research that intended to better understand the voter experience in Washington State, with particular attention to concerns about disparate rates of ballot rejections in urban versus rural areas and among communities of color.

Both projects draw upon publicly available voting data. Because voting data does not include race or ethnicity information, however, we used a common imputation method -- Bayesian Improved Surname Geocoding (BISG) -- based on surnames and residential location. While this approach provides reasonably good estimates for certain race and ethnic groups at the aggregate, there are well-known limitations of this method. For future iterations of this research, the Ballots Project research team would be very interested in using the proposed WashPop data, which would include more reliable demographic information and allows smaller populations’ experiences to be meaningfully included in work for the State of Washington.

I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Scott W. Allard
Daniel J. Evans Endowed Professor of Social Policy
Associate Dean for Research and Engagement
Daniel J. Evans School of Public Policy and Governance
at the University of Washington



May 13, 2024

Sofia G. Ayala
Santino Camacho
Jennie Romich
Isaac Sederbaum

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to join the project on “Improving data to understand the well-being of small and excluded populations” as a UW Advisor. As outlined below, I have expertise relevant to this work, and I am a potential user of the resulting data. I am prepared to review the project’s work; make suggestions for strategy, analysis, and extensions; and consider future collaborations or independent uses of the resulting data and methods.

I am interested in this work because of its overlap with a current project of the Center for Disaster Resilient Communities, funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to develop a work plan for building a regional data ecosystem to enhance public health emergency preparedness and response in Region 10. Of value to this ecosystem are data and methods that allow for identifying populations that could benefit from targeted outreach or interventions. Evidence tells us that different populations are impacted differently by commonly occurring disasters or public health emergencies (e.g., hurricanes, wildfires, infectious disease outbreaks). However, few data resources offer the capability to observe the experiences over time of smaller populations at a geographic scale that may be of value to disaster preparedness and response. Your project and proposed resulting data and methods may offer an opportunity to do so.

As a scholar interested in advancing data for disaster management, I see value in this and in future iterations of this effort, and look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Youngjun Choe".

Youngjun Choe, Ph.D.
Director, Disaster Data Science Lab
Deputy Director, Center for Disaster Resilient Communities
Associate Professor, Industrial & Systems Engineering
University of Washington

Sofia Ayala
Santino Camacho
Jennie Romich
Isaac Sederbaum

May 13, 2024

Dear Colleagues –

I am pleased to join the project on “Improving data to understand the well-being of small and excluded populations” as a UW Advisor. As outlined below, I have expertise relevant to this work, and I am a potential user of the resulting data. I am prepared to review the project’s work; make suggestions for strategy, analysis, and extensions; and consider future collaborations or independent uses of the resulting data and methods.

I am interested in this work because of its overlap with my current project on academic well-being among Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders, funded by the Washington State Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs (CAPAA). The development of data to represent Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Washingtonians has long been a policy priority of CAPAA, and I anticipate that they will be very interested in this work. As a clinical psychologist with interests in promoting well-being, providing evidence-based treatment, and eliminating identity-based mental health disparities, I see great value in this effort.

I see myself using the WashPop data in future studies of risk for and protection against substance use problems among Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander and multiracial youth, and believe this project has potential to contribute tangibly to the well-being of small and excluded populations over the years to come.

Sincerely,



Max Halvorson, PhD

--

Research Scientist
Social Development Research Group
University of Washington
maximum2@uw.edu