

Establishing a Minimum Income Level for Local College Students

I hypothesize that a local, context-specific definition of poverty based on the basic needs approach is a better definition to apply to college students in the county than the current national poverty line for single-person households. Research will be conducted in two parts. The first half will involve a survey administered to college students in Stanislaus County. The survey will be used to determine the goods and services considered to be basic needs by these students. The second half of my research will be finding the average prices of those goods and services at the local level in order to establish a minimum income level. This poverty line definition could potentially be applied to other schools in neighboring counties or the college age group as a whole in Stanislaus County, and the process that I used to find this definition could hopefully be applied anywhere if successful.