

Juvenile Diversion Programs in Minnesota Counties and their Effect on Arrest Rates

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Introduction

The rise of juvenile diversion programs in Minnesota has sparked widespread discussion, especially as the nation addresses its concerns about overcrowded jails and prisons stemming from the past “tough-on-crime” policies. By using data from the Uniform Crime Report Data and data on county policies from the United States Census Bureau American Community Survey I will analyze a multitude of factors.

Results and Implications

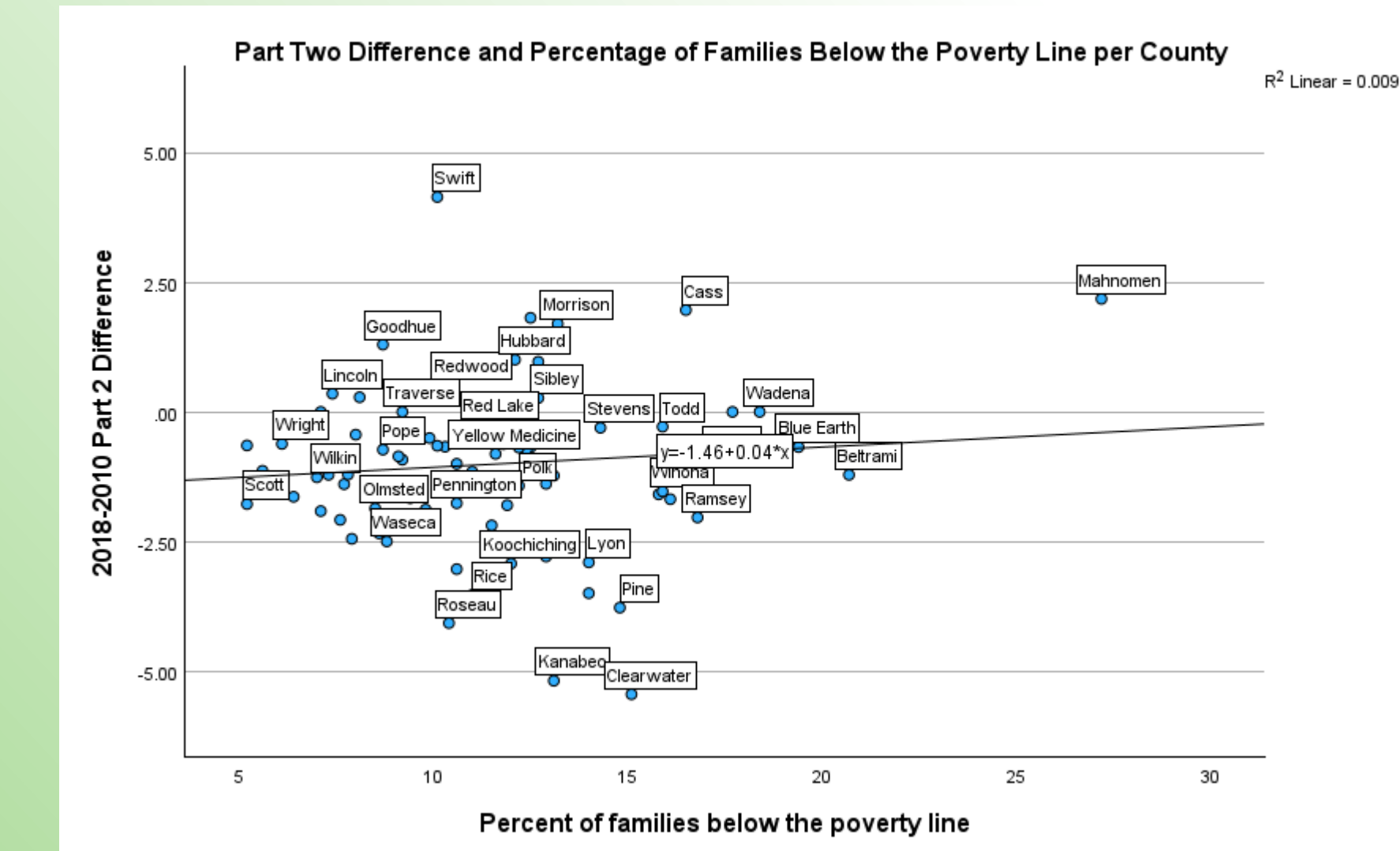
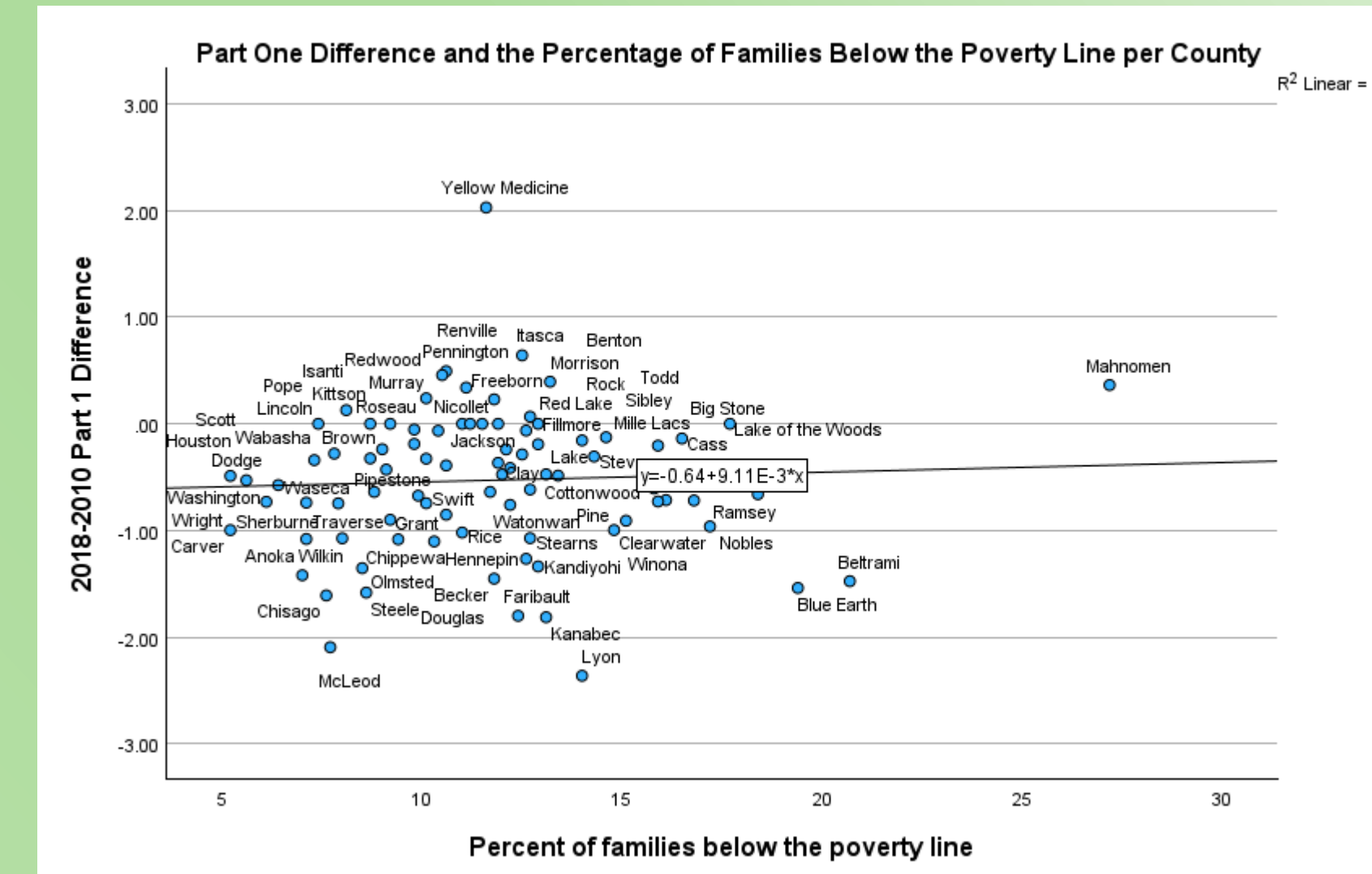
- First hypothesis data: The graph shows a slight upward trend in arrest rates with some outliers. Yellow Medicine County exhibits rising arrest rates despite the low poverty rate. Mahnommen County also shows rising rates, supporting the hypothesis due to the high poverty rate.
- Second hypothesis data: Only 2 counties found funding extremely unstable, while 28 reported it as extremely stable. Variability in the charts complicates identifying funding stability as crucial for lowering arrest rates in struggling counties. Notably, counties excelling in lowering arrest rates are only in the extremely stable category, alongside those with minimal improvement.
- Third hypothesis results contradicted my prediction. Non-restorative counties exhibited the greatest improvement in lowering arrest rates (36.9%), while counties with some use showed the least improvement (34.8%). Minimal improvement rates increased with higher utilization of restorative justice models.

Data

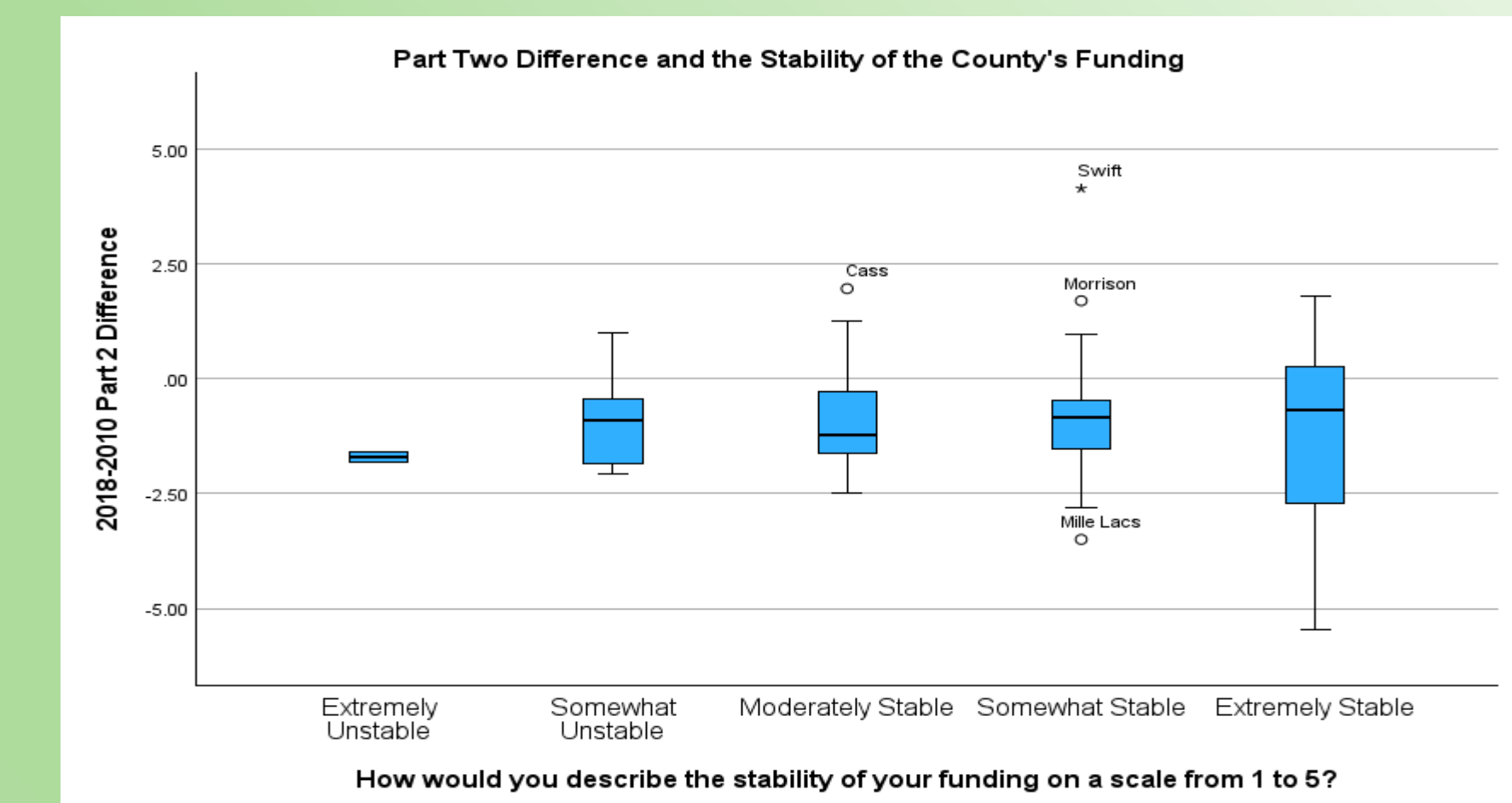
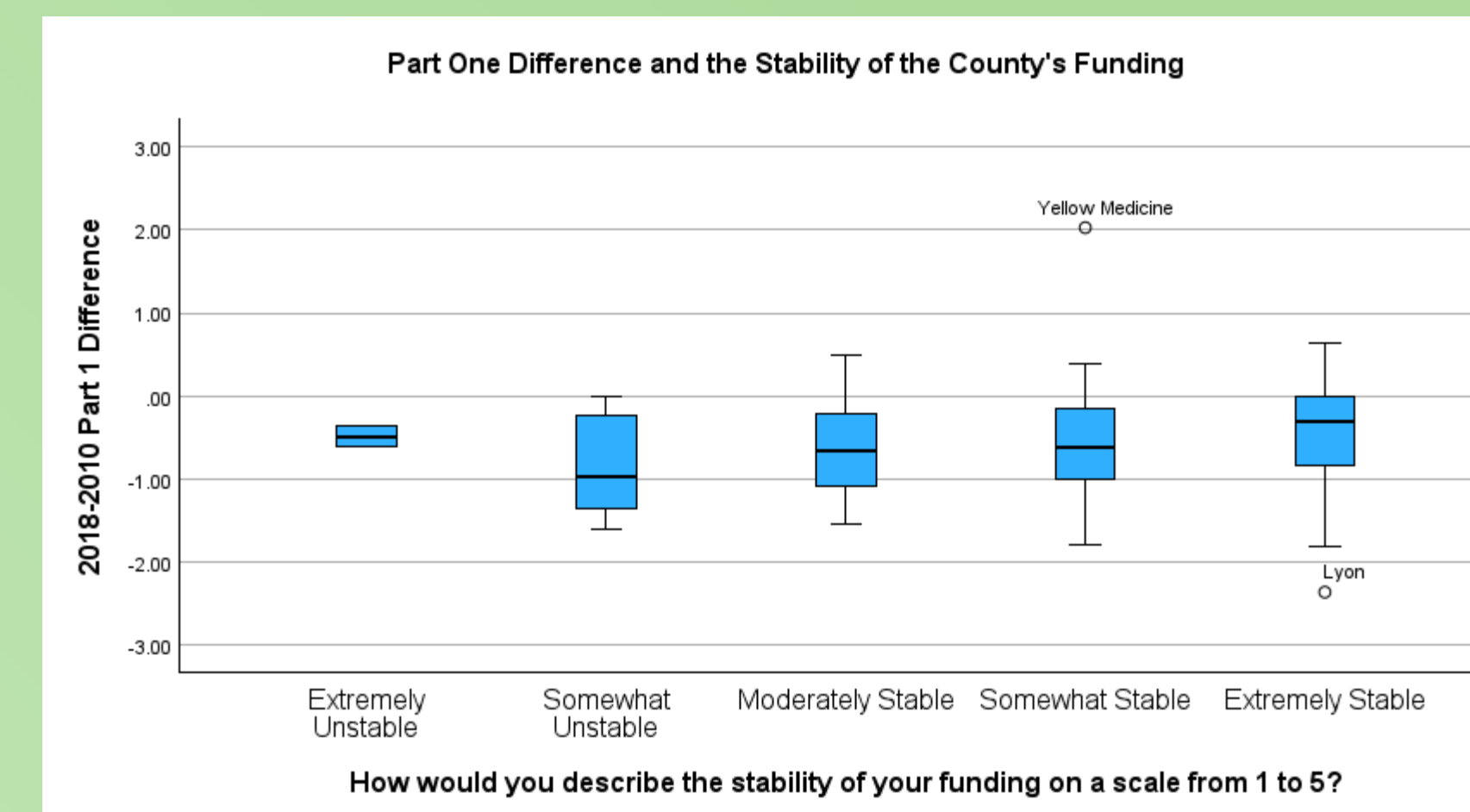
- *Arrest Dashboards*. (n.d.). Dps.mn.gov. <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/ojp/statistical-analysis-center/Pages/arrest-dashboards.aspx>
- U.S. Census Bureau. (2014). Data profiles [Data profile]. American Community Survey (ACS) website. Retrieved from <https://www.census.gov/acs/www/data/data-tables-and-tools/data-profiles/2014/>

Hypothesis and Analysis

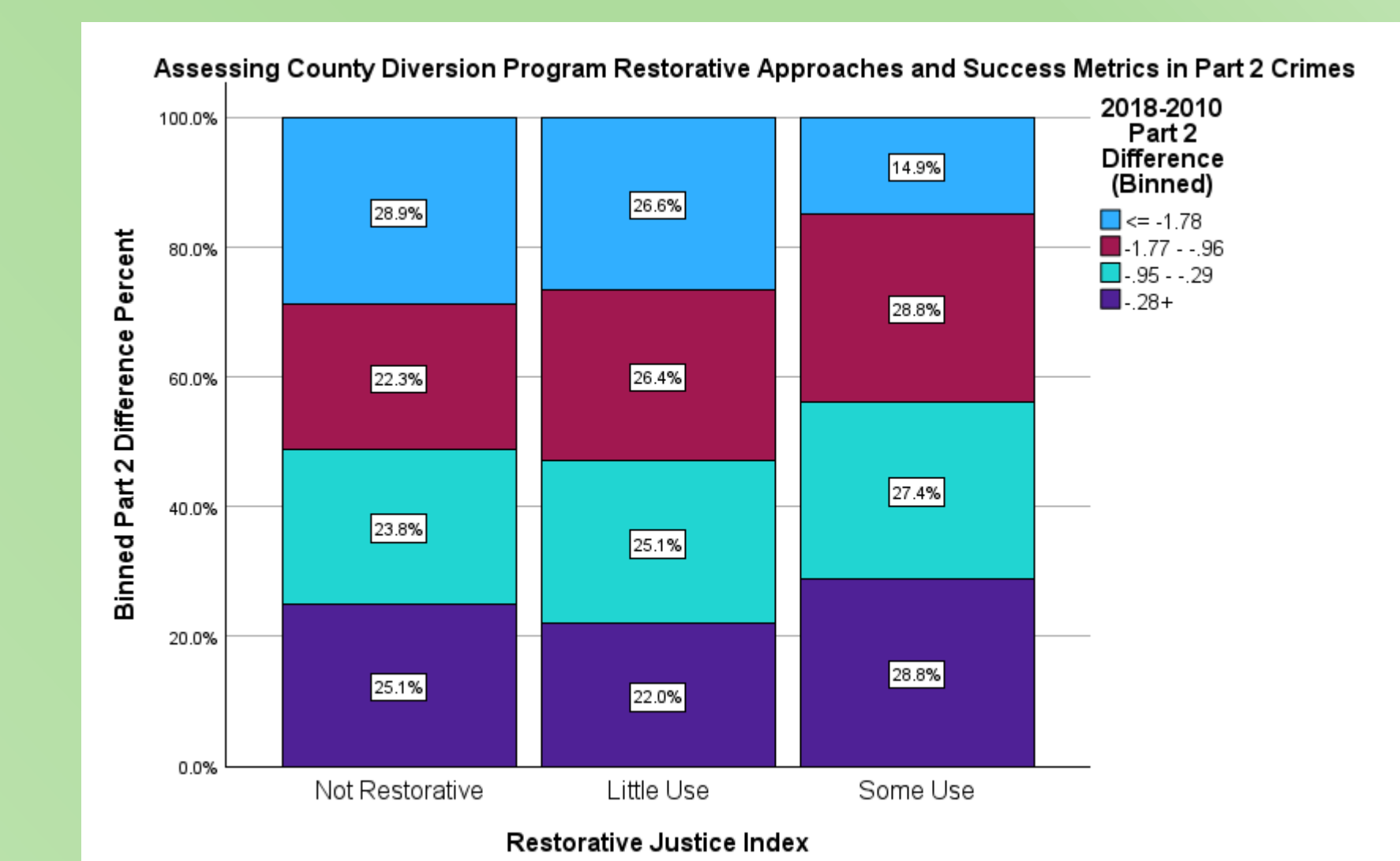
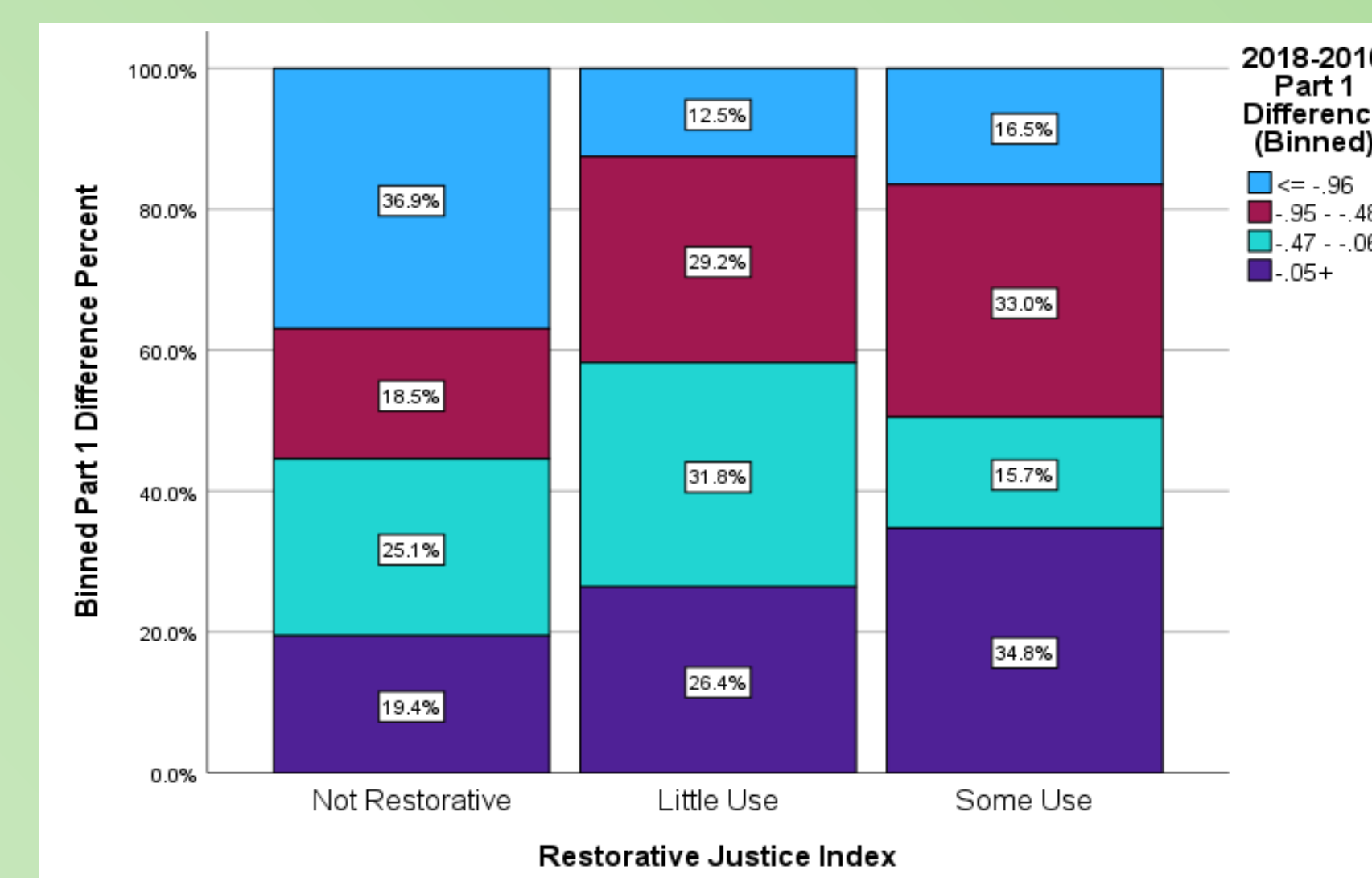
Hypothesis 1: Counties with a higher poverty rate will show a rise in arrest rates



Hypothesis 2: Counties that have less stable funding will see a rise in arrest rates Compared to those with more stable funding



Hypothesis 3: Counties that take a restorative justice route will have more success showing lower arrest rates



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