Explanation of Simple Risk Ratio

Definition

Paragraph text. Iowa is required by statute to use a simple risk ratio for all of the below-mentioned categories. § 300.647(a)(3) defines ''risk ratio'' as the risk of an outcome for one racial or ethnic group in an LEA as compared to the risk of that outcome for all other racial and ethnic groups in the same LEA. Risk ratio is calculated by dividing the risk for children in one racial or ethnic group within an LEA by the risk of that same outcome for all other racial or ethnic groups within that LEA.

Generally, a risk ratio of 1.0 indicates that children in a given racial or ethnic group are no more likely than children from all other racial or ethnic groups to be identified for special education and related services, be placed in a particular educational setting, or face disciplinary removals. A risk ratio greater than 1.0 indicates that the risk for the racial or ethnic group is greater than the risk for the comparison group. Accordingly, a risk ratio of 2.0 indicates that one group is twice as likely as other children to be identified, placed, or disciplined in a particular way.

Iowa has adopted a risk ratio of 3.5 as the threshold for significant disproportionality for all required categories of analysis and will use a single year of data for these determinations.

Example

The ''standard'' risk ratio method compares the likelihood, or ''risk,'' that children in a particular racial or ethnic group in an LEA will be identified for special education and related services to the likelihood that children in a comparison group, usually all other children in the LEA, will be identified for special education and related services.

> For example, consider an LEA that serves 5,000 children, 1,000 of whom are Hispanic. In total, there are 450 children with disabilities in the LEA, 150 of whom are Hispanic.
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> > **The formula is:** (# of identified students from X group/total number of identified students) divided by (# of students in X group/ total # students).
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> As such, the likelihood, or ''risk,'' of any particular Hispanic student in the LEA being identified as having a disability is 15 percent (150 Hispanic children with disabilities/1000 Hispanic children in the LEA * 100 = 15 percent).
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> The likelihood, or ''risk,'' of any non-Hispanic student in the LEA being identified as having a disability is 7.5 percent (300 non-Hispanic children with disabilities/4,000 non-Hispanic children in the LEA * 100 = 7.5 percent). Please note that if the comparison group in the district does not meet the minimum cell size or the minimum n-size of ten, state numbers for the comparison group.
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> As such, in the standard version of the calculation, the risk ratio for Hispanic children being identified as children with disabilities in this LEA would be 2.0 (15 percent of Hispanic children identified with disabilities/7.5 percent of non-Hispanic children with disabilities = 2.0).