2026 ASA South Florida High School Data Challenge
Organized by the American Statistical Association (ASA) South Florida Chapter
Submission Deadline: February 20, 2026 (11:59pm EST)

The ASA South Florida Chapter invites **high school educators** to encourage their students to participate in the **2026 ASA South Florida High School Data Challenge**, an applied data analysis and visualization competition using real data.
Competition website and materials: https://luminwin.github.io/ASASF/

Student Eligibility
- Open to **any high school student worldwide**; Students compete only against other high school teams
- Students may participate **individually or in teams of up to 4**; Each team may submit **one entry**

Dataset
Students will work with a curated dataset derived from the **2024 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES)**, containing:
- **1,200 individuals** and **97 variables**
- Health, nutrition, demographic, and behavioral measures
- A noise-perturbed HDL cholesterol outcome to protect privacy while preserving realistic structure

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Two Participation Options (Students Choose One)
1. Prediction Track
Students attempt to predict HDL cholesterol values using the provided data.
- Submission:
    - `pred.csv` (predicted values)
    - Short report (≤4 pages) describing approach and reasoning

2. Visualization Track
Students create visualizations to explore patterns and insights in the data. No modeling or programming required
- Submission:
    - 1–4 page PDF: At least two clear charts or graphs with brief explanations

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Awards & Recognition
- **One winning high school team** will receive **$150** and be invited to present their work as a poster at the **2026 American Statistical Association (ASA) Florida Chapter Meeting**
- **Top 20% of teams** will receive **certificates of recognition**
- Participation provides students with exposure to a professional statistics organization and an authentic data-science experience

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Submission
All submissions are collected through an online form *(File uploads require Google login due to Google Forms requirements.)*

Educator Notes
- This competition aligns well with courses in **statistics, data science, AP Statistics, computer science, and STEM enrichment**
- Teachers are welcome to support students through guidance and instruction, but submissions must represent **students' own work**
- The challenge may be incorporated as a class project, extracurricular activity, or independent study

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Contact
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