

2026 ASA South Florida Student Data Challenge

The American Statistical Association (ASA) South Florida Chapter invites submissions for the **2026 ASA South Florida Student Data Challenge**, recognizing outstanding student work in statistical modeling and data visualization using real-world public health data.

Participants will analyze a curated dataset derived from the **2024 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES)** and submit work in one of the competition tracks described below. Selected winners will be invited to present posters at the **2026 ASA Florida Chapter Meeting**.

Eligibility

The competition is open to **high school, undergraduate, and graduate students worldwide**.

- Submissions may be **individual or team-based** (up to 4 members)
- Students compete **within their academic level**; for team submissions, the competition level is determined by the highest academic level among team members
- High school students are eligible for **two award categories** (prediction and visualization)

Dataset

The dataset includes **1,200 individuals and 97 variables** sampled from NHANES 2024. The outcome variable is a noise-perturbed version of HDL cholesterol designed to preserve realistic structure while protecting confidentiality.

Competition Tracks

Prediction Track (High School, Undergraduate, Graduate)

Participants develop models to predict HDL cholesterol for a held-out test dataset.

Required materials:

- `pred.csv` containing predicted values
- A report of **no more than 4 pages** describing modeling and validation

Visualization Track (High School)

Participants submit a **1–4 page PDF** with at least two visualizations and brief explanations. No modeling is required.

Awards

- **\$150 per winner**, with four winners total:
 - High School – Prediction
 - High School – Visualization
 - Undergraduate – Prediction
 - Graduate – Prediction
- Winners will present posters at the [**2026 ASA Florida Chapter Meeting**](#)
- **Top 20%** receive certificates of recognition
- **Top 10%** receive a waived meeting registration fee

Submission Deadline

All submission materials MUST BE RECEIVED via the [submission form](#) by **February 20, 2026, at 11:59 PM EST**

Competition details: <https://luminwin.github.io/ASASF/>. Technical resources are hosted in the [GitHub repository](#).

Contact

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