Infectious death: Data comparisons on covid-19 related deaths in the UK

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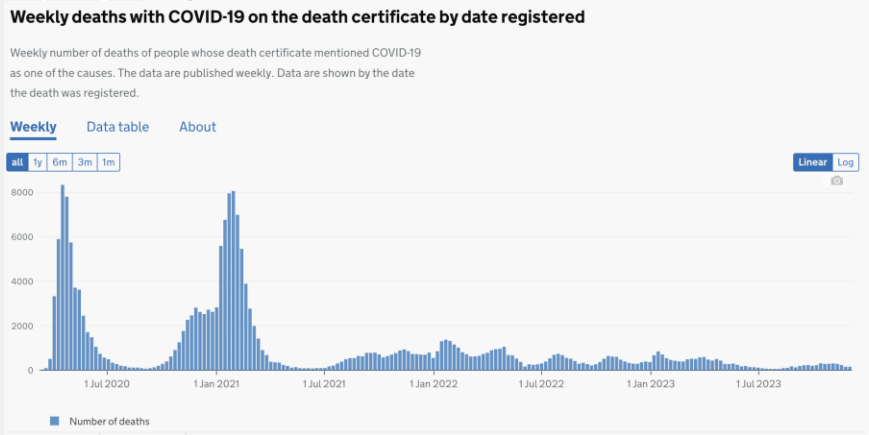
Introduction to the topic

We want to investigate intersectional deaths that occurred in the UK during the global COVID-19 pandemic as it has affected our lives and the future. We want to investigate how reliable datasets are, this being by comparing NHS data, official government data released, and other datasets as during the time data was commonly used to communicate the scale of the pandemic, and the global panic in finding a root cause and cure for the illness.

The datasets we will be working with

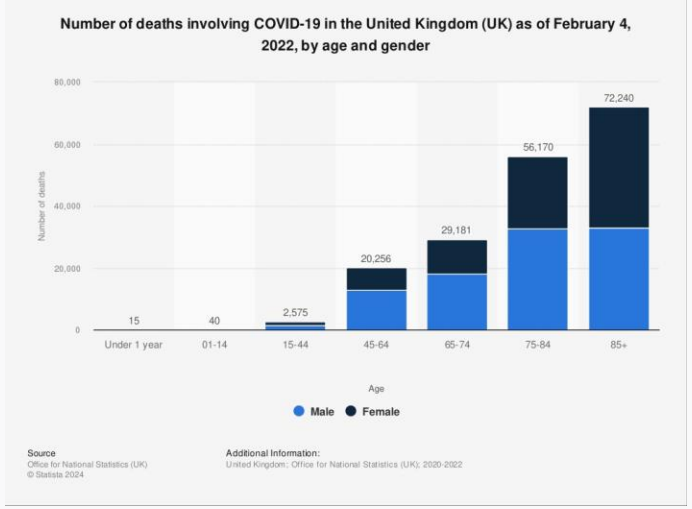
NHS

The NHS database has a range of tables concerned with different aspects of the conditions of the deceased. E.g., age, region, race, and whether people tested for COVID-19.



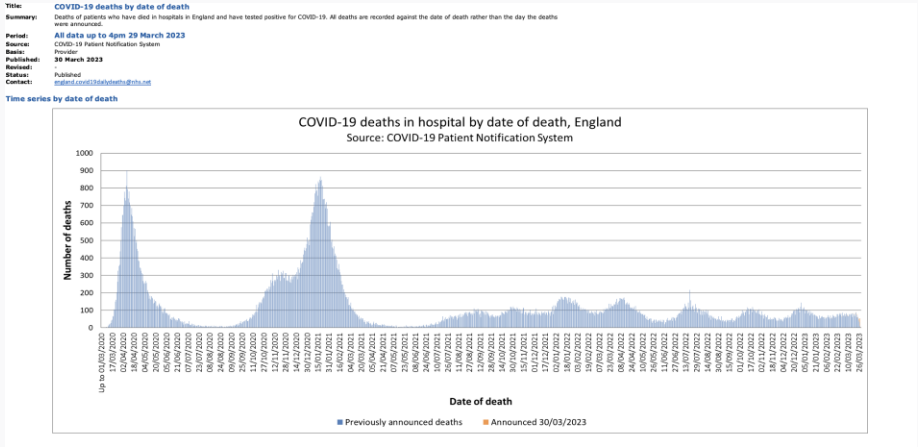
Gov.uk

Objective data surrounding the pandemic, irrespective of any predisposed medical history.



Statista.com

Used to gather vague data of Covid deaths within the UK to lead to an open-ended outlook on data collection and how it comes 'pre-cooked'. Also, the aesthetics/ visualisations of data vary the most on Statistica.



Relevant information around the topic

- Changing circumstances: As time has gone on, people have started to test less, and therefore we are only able to tell whether they died as a result/ whilst they also had Covid, through death certificates – making the data less concise and more open to ambiguity.
- Government laws and regulations stated that even if you test positive for COVID you are no longer needed to self-isolate and return to work. So, a lot of people would stop testing.

Visualisation aims

We are looking to create 2/3 graphs that include elements such as isotypes to relay the serious information in more open-source ways by allowing images to translate data that may be overwhelming.

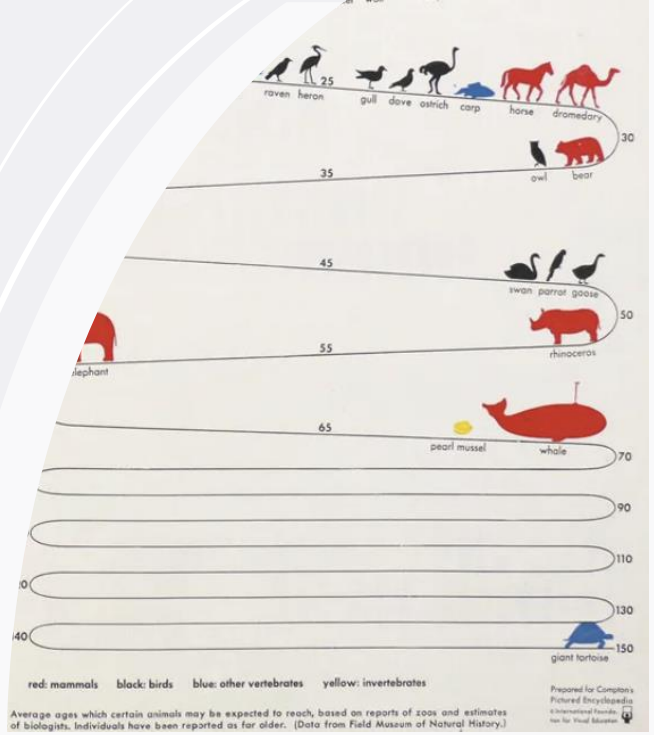
In this way, we also aim to have different types of graphs such as timelines and pie/ bar charts to show the different sources of the datasets which will be used, and to provide a multi-levelled understanding of the topic.

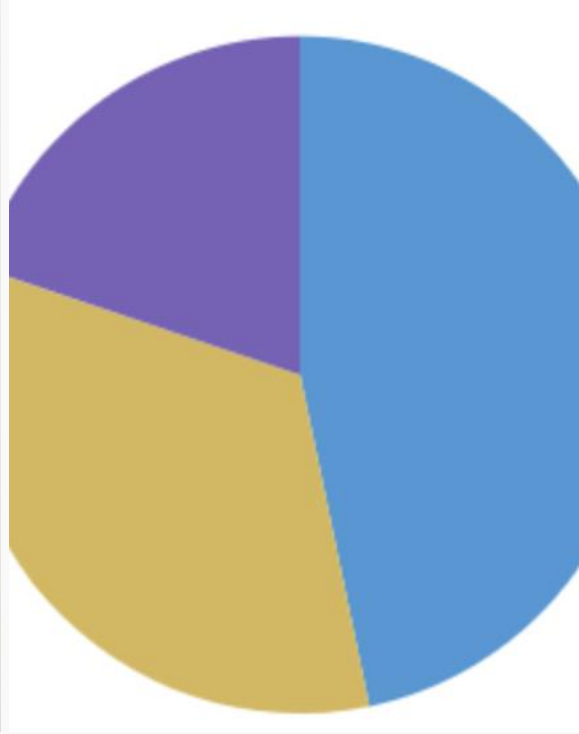
We will be using a mapping graph to showcase the overall deaths within the UK; there will be two colours representing the compared datasets (NHS & Government) CSV files to indicate the areas of the UK's death density, we will have a key to showcase which is what.

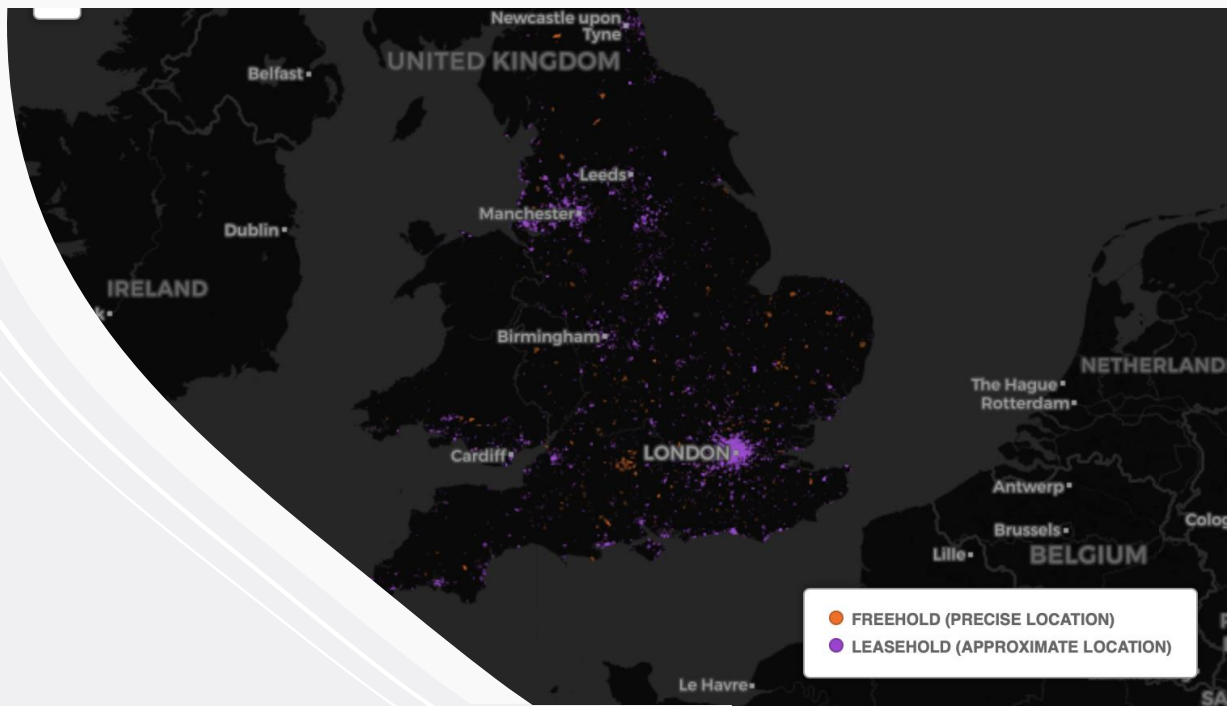
We will have an isotype graph to showcase the deaths affected by gender; using images representing the genders and arranging them to show the quantitative data in a clear way.

We will be using a pie chart to visualise ethnic diversity, as well as a bar chart to show the varying ages of COVID victims.

The final visualisation will be a line graph as a timeline of overall deaths during the pandemic (2020-2022).







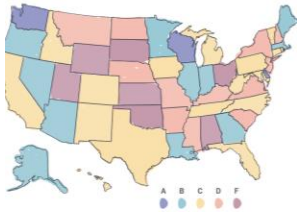
Aesthetic choices

The colour theme will be based on accentuating the two major datasets we will be drawing the information from. The NHS will will be coded in neon blue, and the government in a light shade of green. As an extension of this, the rest of the one-page scroll-down website will be clinical-themed white and grey tones to resemble a hospital as a signifier of COVID-19. For example, each 'ward' will be a different intersectional approach to the data.

Featured Projects

9 State Grades: A Data Availability

ailable is your state's data? **Click a state to learn mor**



How fast is COVID-19 spreading? Any signs of slowing down yet?

chart **helps you see when the trend starts to turn up/down** for COVID-19.
can see a state or county with mouse-over or selecting from drop-down menu.

chart indicates many states and counties are **slowing down in infections and hs**.

r states and counties are exhibiting a similar slowdown trend. It's important to this may represent a change in testing and reporting trends, or a slight ease in how quickly COVID-19 is spreading.

watch closely if this trend continues over the next few weeks to draw any lusions.

See Visualization

broadstreet

COVID-19 Data Project

Home | Map Gallery | Special Interest Projects | About Us | Download Data

Today's world generates data at an unimaginable pace, making it nearly impossible to keep up. That's why we started the volunteer driven **COVID-19 Data Project**, to help you and your communities stay safe!

The **COVID-19 Data Project team volunteers** + **BroadStreet** are committed to procuring the most reliable data for the United States because improving our knowledge will be the key for securing our future.

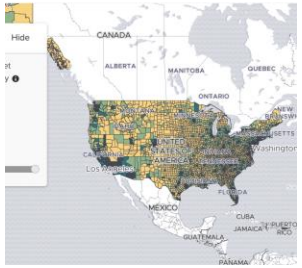
Our project has collected created research-ready, local-level data into three datasets:

- COVID-19 cases and mortalities

Map Gallery

see how the country is doing visually. These maps report the num
50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Mortality infor
our cursor over the first map. The second map demonstrates how
cases and deaths relate to community risk factors as defined by t

9 Total Confirmed Cases & De



Due to the data being 'pre-cooked' in terms of context during the pandemic relaying death rates as events unfolded, a 'time-series plot graph' is described as being 'a mysterious and isolated wonder in the history of data graphics' (Tufte, 1983, p.28) in the same way the pandemic created a whirlwind that forever changed the world.

Therefore, by finalising our project using a time-series graph to overview the total number of COVID-related deaths in the UK (noting how the toll decreases over time), we aim to allow audiences to feel a sense of camaraderie and nostalgia for the turbulent time.

Tufte, E.R. (1983). *The visual display of quantitative information*. Cheshire, Ct: Graphic Press, p.28.

Additionally, themes of intersectionality revisits the early days of data collection and what it means to make data open-source to the public. As our topic impacted everyone – from personal accounts to content consumed during the peak in social media activity – relays some potential limitations of the project as 'working with unconventional sources, often at scale, means handling documentation that can vary hugely in medium, format, resolution and verifiability'. (Dyer and Ivens, 2020)

Dyer, S. and Ivens, G. (2020). What would a feminist open source investigation look like? *Digital War*, pp.4–5. doi:https://doi.org/10.1057/s42984-020-00008-9.

Issues we may face

Technical problems – coding multiple graphs/ visualisations to be placed on a singular page may lead to messy code and overlap one another.

Keeping a coherent theme on the entire 'page' - Due to a focus on intersectionality, an influx of data could overwhelm and problems of varying detail for each subsection.

Objective data – As we are comparing two large and centralised datasets that have been disputed (regarding the uneased atmosphere during lockdowns and 'breaking the law'), the data used could be untrue/ skewed to unintentionally serve the values of the NHS and Government and not of sharing data on an open-source way.

Production timeline

Compile	Compile CSV files/ data sets and organise them in consecutive order or appearing on the page.
Design	Design page layout – start working on the collaborative 'blog' of thoughts and reflections during the making process and incorporate this across the page.
Create	Start making all visualisations/ graphs and infographics whilst researching each subsection to provide supporting evidence.
Organise	Organise each section to be in the desired order, and tweak any final touches to the overall page e.g., aesthetically/ coding issues.