

What is the project focus/overall goal?

The overarching focus/goal of this project is to determine if there is discrimination in banking lending for individuals attempting first home ownership (neighborhood level). This will be determined by examining who is participating in first time home ownership programs and who is receiving loans for purchasing homes. By going through the data with statistics around owner demographics we will be able to conclude if there is discrimination in loan programs specific to first time home buyers in the Boston area.

Why is this project important?

Fair, affordable housing is one of the most important factors for families and individuals- it determines the school zones children are put into and the opportunities available to them. By being able to determine if there is discrimination in loan lending/ banking it will reveal who, how and where the most targeted communities and areas are. This project is impactful to create equitable housing and be able to target key factors used to determine whether or not loan lending is being done ethically and equitably or if it is biased and discriminatory. By analyzing different aspects and using different data sources, it will be shown if there is a discrepancy in bank lending and where it is being most directed and targeted.

What type of data will you collect or be analyzing?

It will be important to rely heavily on Namsor to get estimates of ethnicity and demographics to compare to other areas and then to also take into consideration Mortgage lending to see if there is discrimination in bank lending. Using this data will help develop an overarching idea/question and how to go about breaking it down into a more specific sector.

- Namsor- ethnicity/demographic estimates of current owners
- Property Assessment 2022 and Mortgage Lending Dashboards- estimate property value and finding mortgage lending rates of the area
- Census Bureau Tables, Census Block Groups and the Social Vulnerability Index
- Boston Redlining

What are potential limitations of the project?

The first limitation is the scope of our project; we are looking at housing data on the neighborhood level and only within the past few years. One limitation is that since the method of acquiring the owner's ethnicity/demographic info is a probabilistic estimate, it could cause a slight data discrepancy and not give a 100% certain answer. This limitation due to estimation makes it so that there will be a small margin of error / estimation when coming to our conclusions on factors relating to bank lending. It will however still be possible with this small margin of error to compare the effects of redlining and if this is

still a factor in bank lending programs for first time buyers. The largest limitation overall will be the accuracy of the data selected.

What are your next steps? Divide tasks amongst the team

To get everything going, we will meet and come up with our overarching question and how we want to go about it. This will begin formulating a hypothesis that we can begin to study by analyzing data. Once we have formulated our idea we will begin on the execution of who will look into which aspect. Our main goal will need to be to come up with an executable timeline to assure timely results and make all deadlines going forward for the remainder of the project.

Potential ways it could be broken down: One member will need to be accessing the Property Assessment 2022 data which will be necessary for looking at demographic and income over a distribution of area. One member will need to use Namsor for ethnicity/ demographic estimations and info which are crucial to the essential goal of the project and potentially focus on geographic distribution by zip code and percentages of the housing stock is owned vs what percentage is affordable housing. Two team members can collectively look into the data provided on mortgage lending rates, redlining, the Census, Social Vulnerability Index, and Census Block Groups.

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