Contrasts in Affordable Housing Measures

The subject of our research is the contrast in affordable housing measures, specifically, the government-backed housing initiatives and income/rent-controlled properties, in Maryland and Seattle. These key areas are chosen due to their unique strategies and implementations of affordable housing measures.

Our main research questions that delve into the contrasting story of affordable housing measures are:

● How does the emphasis on rehabilitation projects in Maryland contrast with the approach of new development projects in Seattle?

● What contrasts exist between the government-backed housing projects in Maryland and the income/rent-controlled properties in Seattle in terms of property and location densities?

● How do the characteristics and densities of affordable housing units differ between Maryland and Seattle?

● What are the contrasts in the effects of government involvement (through bonds and funding) and income/rent control measures on the density and characteristics of affordable housing units in Maryland and Seattle?

Background Information:

● In 2023, Seattle successfully passed the I-135 Social Housing initiative, forming a public developer responsible for the development of social homes serving individuals earning 0 to 120% of the Area Median Income (AMI). The aim is to create affordable, mixed-income communities without the influence of the private market.

● Meanwhile, Maryland is cited as a precedent for Seattle's social housing initiatives, with a focus on government-backed housing projects, often involving the rehabilitation of existing housing units.

● There is a lack of unified research on the impacts and results of affordable housing measures, particularly on the density and characteristics of affordable housing properties and projects. This gap motivates our research on the contrasting affordable housing measures in Maryland and Seattle.

Our visualization plan involves the creation of comparative bar graphs and scatter plots, highlighting the contrast in affordable housing measures and their impacts.

Preliminary findings suggest that the nature of affordable housing projects in Maryland and Seattle is starkly different. Rehabilitation projects in Maryland, often government-backed, tend to have a higher

number of units. On the other hand, Seattle's focus on income/rent control leads to a higher number of projects, but with fewer than 10 units subject to income/rent control.

Also, while both regions have affordable housing units spread across various ZIP codes, Maryland has some ZIP codes with only a few units, whereas Seattle exhibits multiple units across all ZIP codes.

Our research will also delve into the intersections analysis, identifying commonalities and differences in affordable housing data between Maryland and Seattle.

The early takeaway from our research suggests that while government-backed initiatives in Maryland result in higher unit densities, Seattle's emphasis on income/rent control results in a more extensive spread of affordable housing units across locations.

The contrast in affordable housing measures between Maryland and Seattle brings to light the varying impacts of different strategies, offering insights into the development and implementation of effective affordable housing initiatives. Our ongoing research will provide more in-depth analysis and findings on this subject.