Project Proposal
By: Scott, Ruweyda, Pritika
INFO 201 B

The topic of income inequality is a fascinating and engaging subject to pitch since it discusses the importance of income disparity and why people should care about the distribution of wealth in society. It covers income disparities and how they influence numerous aspects of life, such as housing costs, cost of living, and education. One of the key elements that makes income disparity an interesting and captivating subject is the cost of living. The cost of necessities such as food, healthcare, and transportation becomes a major worry to each other as time goes on and the gap between rich and low income workers widens. The rising cost of goods and services, along with inflation, will disproportionately affect those with lower incomes, making it harder for them to make ends meet. This disparity in access to necessities for life tells an engaging story about social and economic justice.

Another important factor that is directly related to economic disparity is the cost of housing. The rising cost of housing in many locations has made it more difficult for individuals to afford the rent. This important problem is especially pertinent in urban areas where housing costs are high. While people with higher incomes may afford the choice of a luxurious home, others with lower incomes will find it impossible to buy such a home. Someone will notice this discrepancy and take notice of the challenges that people with low incomes face.

Education is another significant aspect of income disparity which plays a maker role in one's future chance to have the ability to move up the economic ladder. The manner in which access to high-quality education can be significantly impacted by income inequality, and how higher-income households can afford better educational resources like private schools and tutoring, giving their kids an academic advantage over those with lower incomes who will face obstacles in getting their kids a good education or even struggle to find tutors. The topic of Income inequality is compelling because it shed lights on the systemic issues that contributes to income inequality.

The story of income inequality is compelling because it illuminates the structural problems that lead to the unequal distribution of wealth, discusses the cost of living and how difficult it is for people to afford rent, and highlights the importance of education in improving one's chances of moving up the economic ladder in the future. This subject encourages discussion about the system and the unfairness it is experiencing, and It will stimulate questions about the issue, causing them to think about it, begin to care about it, and demonstrate awareness.Many people will be interested in this issue of income disparity since it focuses on and addresses the fundamental feature of social standing as well as the quality and justice in the search of a better life. And how it inspires and encourages people to analyze their beliefs and values in relation to many social and economic aspects, demonstrating how income discrepancies may have far-reaching effects for individuals in society. Therefore, I feel that this issue of income disparity will have a good compelling intriguing topic to debate and that individuals will be interested in the topic.

Data Sources

https://www.census.gov/topics/income-poverty/income-inequality/data/data-tables.html

Dimensions: 469 x 16

This is U.S. Census data collected over the years since 1967. This data includes the percent distribution of the population in one of 9 financial brackets along with the average income, margin of error, and the medium income. It then includes identical data for population groups sorted by race as well.

https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/CUUR0000SA0R

Dimensions: 1330 x 2

This is data from the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis that details the buying power of the U.S. dollar from 1913 up to September, 2023. The units use the Consumer price index with June 1984 being baseline 100. They used city average cost of goods and services across the United States to measure this.

Inspiration/Background

https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2023/income-poverty-health-insurance-coverage.html#:~:text=Real%20median%20household%20income%20was,income%20between%202021%20and%202022.

- Real median household income was $74,580 in 2022, a decrease of 2.3% from the 2021 estimate of $76,330. This relates to our project since we are looking at historical data for income levels.
- Householders under the age of 65 experienced a decline in median household income of 1.4% from 2021, while householders age 65 and over did not experience a significant change in median income between 2021 and 2022. Understanding how median income levels changed for households in recent years is vital is grappling through trends and patterns.

https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2022/04/20/how-the-american-middle-class-has-changed-in-the-past-five-decades/

- Breaking up income levels by class will help us see specific trends within each group. This relates to our project since we can about seeing if there are increases in poverty from decades ago.

- This article also talked about specifically black and older populations to see more interesting patterns in relation to race and age.

https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2126438/

- Talks about income's relationship with mortality rates. Income affects on crime rate. This might help show the role preventing homeless affects everyone.
- Great article for background why we care about income level we can pull from, this can be related to look at poverty from a political stance.

https://united-states.reaproject.org/analysis/comparative-trends-analysis/per_capita_personal_income/tools/0/0/#:~:text=When%20measured%20in%20current%20dollars,1959%20to%20%2465%2C423%20in%202022.

- More data on general trends to make sure our data analysis is on point. Generally good for cross checking/referencing
- Great for ideas on how to visualize state income per capita, data visualization is a required portion and it can be great for comparing different ways we can visualize our data. Understanding how to emphasize Shifting trends in data is an important part of our project.

https://www.census.gov/topics/income-poverty/poverty/guidance/poverty-measures.html

- Understanding how Census Bureau measures poverty is important when our project is related to income levels. We probably will choose to define poverty the same way in our project to keep it consistent.
- This article was useful for learning about ways when poverty cannot be determined. For example people living in work quarters, education institutes, or military barracks. We may choose to use these groups of people or exclude them from our dataset. We may even do a focus on them. We haven't decided yet.