

Project Proposal

Story Pitch: Inequality, in its various forms, is a deeply ingrained issue that affects all societies and filters down as the underlying cause to many large scale issues like homelessness. At its core, inequality is defined as “disparities in opportunities, resources, and privileges among individuals and groups”. These disparities can manifest in multiple dimensions, such as economic wealth, education, healthcare, social status, and political power. A recent and ongoing rise in homelessness in our society, specifically the United states, has been a phenomenon that seems to be out of the control of state and local municipalities crippled by inaction and lack of awareness to some of the larger underlying forces contributing to the problem. There is a connection to the rise in homelessness and ongoing wealth inequality that has plagued our society among others things, and the data proves this connection!

Finding Data:

1. Homelessness in the US link
 - a. <https://www.kaggle.com/datasets/adamschroeder/homelessness/>
 - b. This data was collected by HUD Exchange
 - c. There is 86529 rows of data entries
2. Housing Affordability link
 - a. <https://catalog.data.gov/dataset/housing-affordability-data-system-hads>
 - b. This data was collected by the US Department of Housing
 - c. Number of rows varies between each year

Background Research/Inspiration:

- Links:
 - <https://theconversation.com/why-inequality-is-growing-in-the-us-and-around-the-world-191642>
 - Wealth inequality is certainly increasing
 - This form of inequality is contributing to the rise in homelessness
 - <https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/homeless/heres-why-people-think-seattle-will-reverse-course-on-homelessness/>
 - Seattle is too wealthy to ignore homelessness
 - Covid caused a massive spike, however seattle’s wealth is not relevant it is the lack of distribution of that wealth

- <https://www.npr.org/2023/04/11/1168665348/one-camp-at-a-time-a-seattle-group-is-transforming-its-approach-to-homelessness>
 - Homeless individuals feel betrayed by the lack of state and local support in aiding their recovery back to being sheltered
 - There is a stigma with being homeless, this breeds an inequality of its own which filters in how we react and or respond to the people
- <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/rising-inequality-a-major-issue-of-our-time/#:~:text=Wealth%20inequality%20within%20countries%20is,through%20capital%20income%20and%20inheritance.>
 - Inequality is an inevitable component to any society
 - Wealth inequality will only rise with the advent of new technology replacing jobs and increasing housing insecurity
- <https://hbswk.hbs.edu/item/income-inequality-is-rising-are-we-even-measuring-it-correctly>
 - Wealth inequality is displayed in many forms including the rise in homelessness.
 - However, is our measure of inequality correct and can data help show where inequality is contributing too.