Things to consider when choosing a data set for your projects:

- make sure that your data is rectangular, it should look like a spreadsheet and it should have rows and columns.
    - something with probably hundreds of rows and at least 10 or 12 columns if you want to have enough data to visualize
    - avoid really big datasets, which would be something maybe like more than a 100,000 rows and maybe more than 1,000 columns
    - so an Excel file, comma-separated values file, tab-separated values file, or SAS or SPSS file.
    - avoid using json files. Unless you have some kind of spatial data, which is a geojson file, if you're trying to make a map.
- find something that has a codebook, the codebook describes what the variables mean and how they're coded
- it's nice to have data that has a hierarchical component or maybe a geographical component. For example: voters in states, prisoners in jails, customers in cities, students in schools (having categorical or ordinal variables)
- It's useful to have data that has a temporal component, so observations across time, so that you can make line charts (having time series variables)

Here are some suggestions for datasets sources:

- https://www.data.gov/ - The US government's central data website, with link to data from many federal agencies
- https://www.census.gov/data.html - US Census data
- https://data.unicef.org/ - UNICEF
- https://www.who.int/data/gho/data/indicators - World Health Organization data
- https://healthdata.gov/ - US health data
- https://www.kaggle.com/datasets - another inventory of data sets of various kinds and topics
- https://data.europa.eu/euodp/en/data/ - the European Union Open Data Portal
- https://www.worldvaluessurvey.org/wvs.jsp - The World Values Survey, international survey data