Team IC22011 Abstract

For our project, we analyzed The Armed Conflict Location and Event data set in order to draw conclusions about political violence and protests in the United States. Over the period of January 1st, 2020 through January 22nd, 2022, we attempt to answer four main questions: how the number of events has changed over the period of data collection, how specific areas have changed relative to others, how the types of events have changed over time, and how the types of events differ between regions. We notice clear correlations between the timing of major national events and the amount of protests occurring. Additionally, we see a pattern in the type of events being tracked. Throughout the entire period studied, we see that the events were largely made up of peaceful protests by various political and social organizations. This is true even during periods where the total number of events skyrocketed. However, certain areas diverge from this trend more than others which is where we focus the majority of our analysis. In doing so, we hope to better understand the processes and triggers which cause public discourse to devolve from peaceful protests to violent conflict. In our presentation, we will utilize a collection of trend-line graphs and national maps to illustrate the findings and give direction for future research.