**Executive Summary**

*Birthing is a biologically natural process, yet in the Western world it has become a “scary and unnatural process”. Having personally seen and experienced the difference between birthing at a birth center, hospital and home, I wanted to see what difference if any, different birth settings had on the birth outcomes. I gathered my information from the CDC’s website.*

**Motivation**

*When I moved to Cleveland, OH I was surprised at the lack of alternate birth options to hospital births. I had coached a friend through two beautiful natural births in a small birth center and had dreams that when it was my turn, I would also birth in the comfort of a not hospital yet safe place.*

*When I became pregnant with my first child, I looked into other options rather than birthing in a hospital but was dismayed that those options did not exist in Cleveland. I searched out midwives and doulas and ended up doing a homebirth for a myriad of reasons and was happy overall with my choice.*

*Since then, I have always been interested in learning more about the process of birth in the Western world, specifically how the use of interventions can block our bodies natural abilities and create more complications as well as the drastically high number of maternal deaths and complications compared to other developed countries in the world.*

**Data Question**

*I want to look to see if there are better birth outcomes when birthing in birth centers rather than hospitals. I would like to compare this data using mother’s age and payment type as indicators.*

**Minimum Viable Product (MVP)**

*My final capstone will include a visualization comparing outcomes of birthing in birth centers versus hospitals. The intended audience will be for birth educators to get a better understanding how they can help create a more natural birth and thus reduce the rates of complications.*

**Schedule (through 4/29/2022)**

1. Get the Data (3/28/2022)
2. Clean & Explore the Data (4/15/2022)
3. Create Presentation of your Analysis ()

* Should be a presentation, but could include a Jupyter Notebook or dashboard in Excel, Tableau, or PowerBI

1. Internal demos (4/22/2021)
2. Demo Day!! (4/29/2022)

**Data Sources**

[*https://www.nber.org/research/data/vital-statistics-natality-birth-data*](https://www.nber.org/research/data/vital-statistics-natality-birth-data)

*https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data\_access/vitalstatsonline.htm*

**Known Issues and Challenges**

*Some anticipated challenges are not finding enough data to support my question. I was looking at the more detailed CDC data but was unable to extract the file into readable data.*