Data Analysis:

Questions to Answer

Does generation/age-range more accurately explain suicide rates? across the world

vs. locally?

Within the United States, we can see higher suicide rates among those in the 25-74 year old age range. Further, within this age group, those in the 25-54 year old range have shown increasing rates over the past 20 years. All other age ranges seem to have held to a relatively similar (flat) suicide rate over the past 30 years. The age group with the highest suicide rates in this 30 year study are the 35-54 year old group. We can assume that this age range may be starting to deal with new and high stress factors including balancing careers, family and finances. We can assume

Based on the same data source as above, we also see an overall trend in the United States suicide rate as increasing over the past 20 years. However, between 1985 and 2000, there appears to have been a decreasing trend. It’s interesting to note that the average suicide rate for the world (data only includes 101 countries) is the reverse of the United States. The world average suicide rates seem to have been on a steady incline until 1995 at which point it has been declining year after year. Looking at the vast differences between the world and the US makes us wonder what type of factors in the United States could be affecting the increasing rate. We will look into accessibility and funding into mental health programs.

Suicide Rate Bar charts analysis:

Upon looking at the amount of mental health facilities against the US population for each state, the first item noticed is that Texas is the only state with significantly higher bar for population vs facilities. In fact, the only other state at all with a higher population bar indicator than facility indicator is California. We can understand that this graph doesn’t represent a proportionate amount of facilities vs. population, but when noticing such an outlier, we can ask why does a state with 28 million citizens have merely 300 mental health facilities. Texas does have one of the lower suicide rates in the US, but it’s not significantly lower than the average. Further investigation of this chart, shows that NY, OH, PA, CA and FL have the highest amount of facilities. Logically, these states also have the largest populations.

When we look at this with comparison to the Google Maps density chart, we can see that the mental health facilities are really, populated in urban areas. We see little to no facilities in the mid-west to western rural and mountainous areas. We can assume that the population is less in these areas and the perhaps, remote living with little access to mental health facilities correlates with suicide rates in these states. It just happens that 4 of the 5 states with highest suicide rates indeed fall within these areas.

Scatter plot data analysis: