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Is The Grass Greener? Let’s Find out.

In order to see if access to public parks had an effect on mental health we looked at the suicide rate for each city. The data showed that Chicago had the lowest suicide rate, with 7.3 suicides per 100,000 people. This comes in 5.3 below the national rate of 12.6. Phoenix had a rate of 11.9 while Seattle had a rate of 14.6

For physical health we decided to look at the mortality rate for both cancer and diabetes per 100,000 people. For cancer the national rate was 163.2 people per 100,000. Chicago came in above that with 187.2. While Phoenix and Seattle both fell below the national rate at 108.4 and 143.9 respectively.

Diabetes national rate was 21.2 people per 100,000. Chicago once again came in above the national rate with a rate of 21.5. Seattle led the pack with a rate of 18.6. Phoenix’s rate was slightly below the national rate at 20.2.

Crime was selected to be a variable to evaluate if crime was a deterrent for people to not go to the park for exercise opportunities and improve overall health.  
Chicago had the highest amount of crime per capita, for all four years, when compared to Seattle and Phoenix.  Both Chicago and Seattle remained constant during 2015 to 2017.  Chicago had an average of 9954 crimes per capita and Seattle had a per capita average of 2865 crimes per capita.  
Chicago’s crime per capita rate appears to have an inverse relationship with respective to the historical suicide rate

Phoenix has the lowest amount of crime per capita.  Phoenix is also low in cancer deaths and trending low in deaths by diabetes.  
Seattle is roughly mid-range between both Chicago and Phoenix for most of the historical data regarding health.  
Based on current findings there is not sufficient data overall to state that there is a strong correlation between health and crime rates.

When comparing the weather data to the health data, I noticed no real trend in Diabetes and Cancer mortality rates and the average annual temperature swing of the three cities. Chicago, with the highest annual temperature swing, had the highest cancer and diabetes death rates but the lowest suicide deaths. Phoenix, with the second highest average temperature swings came in with the highest Suicide, second highest diabetes, and lowest Cancer deaths. Seattle, with the least annual average temperature swing came in second for cancer and suicide, and with the lowest diabetes deaths.

In conclusion, it seems to be no real correlation between the average annual temperature swing experience by people in communities and deaths from diabetes, cancer, and suicide. While Seattle, with the least average temperature swing also displayed the least extreme suicide, diabetes, and cancer death rates, it wasn’t enough data to accurately determine there is a correlation between temperature and these death rates.