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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 a trend in Diabetes and Cancer mortality rates and the average annual temperature swing of the three cities. What I noticed was that the cities with the highest annual temperature swings also experienced the highest mortality rates for those two afflictions. Chicago, with the highest annual temperature swing also had the highest cancer and diabetes death rates. Phoenix, with the second highest came in second in those same categories. Seattle, with the least annual average temperature swing came in lowest in both of those categories.

The only category that did not fully exhibit this trend was suicide deaths. In this category Chicago came in well below the other two cities which hovered right around the national average. While Seattle suicide deaths came in slightly below Phoenix, I do not believe there is sufficient data to show a trend when comparing suicide deaths to weather.  
In conclusion, it seems there could be a correlation between the physical ailments of diabetes and cancer and the average annual temperature swing experience by people in communities. Higher annual temperature swings seem to increase the cancer and diabetes death rates