Section 3: Week 5: Mining Theories Through Data Problem

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As the city of Boston continues to grow, the Mayor has recognized that not all citizens are equally gaining those rewards. The dichotomy of the metropolitan area has led to distinct clusters, disproportionally filled with wealth or crime. Nearly one in five residents live in poverty and does not have a path to improve their situation. Instead, Walsh asks the community to imagine a different Boston, one that within a generation creates access to affordable housing, regulates climate change, and wage inequality (Kovatch et al., 2017). This transformational process not only raise the standard of life for Bostonians, it also encourages investment through tourism and economic expansion. Meeting their ambitious goals requires a strategy to track progress and ensure the progressive agenda is unfolding correctly. The Boston Planning and Development Agency (2017) publishes several Key Performance Indicators (KPI) around each of the major pillars of the plan, in addition to estimating January 2000 to present. This approach produces a highly efficient hierarchical reporting structure that aligns the mission with specific questions and supporting evidence. For instance, the objective *Reduce Housing Cost Burden for Bostonians* qualifies success as low-income residents are not living paycheck to paycheck, and quantifies it through the ratio of wages to housing costs. According to their chart, the ratio has held steady for low-income residents between 45-50% since 2000. When a population does not have disposable income, they are at high risk that minor incidents can become life-impacting. Consider the cascade of events from a 150$ auto-part failure, a broken leg, or a sick child—each scenario forcing the person to take on debt, further compounding their problems, and getting further from the finish line. These human problems need solutions, but what moves the needle the most in the least amount of time? Merely writing a blanket check or applying broad policy can be ineffective without addressing the crux of the issue.