

## Week 10

### Q 1-5

1. What is your project about? *(A 1-2 word answer that describes your main focus, e.g., climate change)*

My project is about adolescent attitudes towards mental illness, particularly in the context of Singapore.

I wish to pose to readers the question of why Singapore's youths, in the modern context, are holding such negative attitudes about mental illness by presenting the stigma associated with mental illness via my data story. I wish to provoke readers to think about how such attitudes might manifest in real life.

2. What is the data you plan to use? *(A link to the dataset with one sentence describing it)*

This is the link to the research paper with the datasets I will be using:

<https://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/bmjopen/7/10/e016432.full.pdf>

I will be using data from tables 1-5 which covers the socio-demographic make-up of survey respondents, survey results as well as their PCA analyses.

3. What is the question you plan to answer? *(One sentence that ends with a question mark that could act like the title of your data story)*

What attitudes do youths in Singapore have towards serious mental illness?

4. Why is this an important question? *(Three sentences, each of which has some evidence, e.g., "According to the United Nations..." to justify why the question you have chosen is important)*

According to the United Nations ('COVID-19 and the Need for Action on Mental Health' policy brief), much of the world population experienced distress, uncertainty and other negative emotions associated with COVID-19 infection, potential loss of livelihoods and other effects.

The emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic in recent years has hence shown the need for better mental health support – according to Channel News Asia, the Singapore Association for Mental Health received a 50% increase in helpline calls, comparing the periods of April 2019-Jan 2020 to Feb-March 2020; the pandemic has consequently thus opened up a new age of increased awareness of mental health issues, and it seems as though Singapore society should have progressed since the past years, like that of 2017 (when the research paper for this data story was published).

Yet, there still exists a stigma associated with having a mental illness even today — despite measures put in place to prevent the effects of discrimination against mentally ill individuals, such as the 2020 update to the Tripartite Alliance for Fair Employment Practices which classifies the practice of employers asking applicants to declare mental health conditions in job applications with no good reason as discriminatory, there is still a culture around shame of seeking help; thus, it is crucial for us to reflect on the kind of progress we want to make as a society in terms of eradicating the stigma associated with mental illness.

5. Which rows and columns of the dataset do you plan to use, to answer this question?  
*(Actual names of the values you plan to filter (rows) or subset (columns) the data on)*

The data presented in the paper is already a filtered subset consisting of 940 responses from a database of 1000. The filtering was done via excluding survey responses that were less than 80% complete or unreliable (e.g. duplicate submissions).

Thus, I decided to use entire, specific rows and columns of the tables of results (Tables 1-5) as they would be a suitable dataset. I will not be including data from Table 6 as it does not thematically fit in with the storytelling aspect of my data story,

More specifically, for Table 1, I will be presenting gender, nationality and ethnicity (rows) together with the number of respondents (column) in three donut charts according to each row of data.

For Table 2, I will be using a vertical bar chart to represent the top five words associated with the term “mental illness, using the horizontal x-axis to display them and using the vertical y-axis to represent the number of respondents who listed each word.

For Tables 3 and 5, I will be using all of the rows save for ‘Eigen Values’ and ‘% of Variance’ as well as all of the columns – these will be presented in radar charts, where each chart represents a different loading (e.g Physical Threat, Wishful Thinking) with the corresponding numerical values.

For Table 4, I will be using all of the rows and all of the columns save for the '%' column and representing the data in a horizontal bar chart, where the bars will show the numerical values of each survey item (e.g. "If I had a mentally ill relative, I wouldn't want anyone to know.")

**Diary entry – Talk about what progress did you make, what errors did you face, how did you resolve them. Discuss any new resources or ideas you discovered and plan to use.**

I made progress on my final webpage by looking at CSS templates online and then coming up with a suitable colour scheme that I plan to use in my final submission. I am searching on Stack Overflow about how to make the click of a button change the donut chart being displayed, and I may try out some solutions soon.

A few errors I faced were that some of the solutions to this issue of getting the button click to change the data visual did not work. I tried toggling the chart between 3 donut charts but I could only manage to toggle between the 2 sets of radar charts.

As mentioned, I will be resolving the visual change on button click issue by exploring more online forum solutions. I am also going to try to adapt the buttons which display the date on click to match what I want them to actually do.

A few ideas that I plan to use include changing the overall look of my page by using a CSS template from W3 schools and then changing my code to fit my elements on my existing page.

I took a look at my peer's page and it looked very visually well done, whereas my Week 9 submission was mainly focused on getting things to work and thinking about their functionality for later on. I did not really concentrate on the visual aesthetic yet so I think I will try starting on this.