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Question Thought Process

In this report, data will be used to explore how the existence and maintenance of sidewalks could affect nationwide obesity rates. My initial question(s) included, but were not limited to, the impact of caffeine on sleep and the economic indicators that fluctuations in hotel bookings could indicate. Unfortunately due to limited data, those questions were unable to be explored. But, upon investigating government databases, information connecting the states of sidewalks, nationwide walkability index, and obesity rates began to assist in the formulation of a better question. It is important to note that proof of concept in demonstrating a basic understanding and command of this course took precedence over a more complex concept.

The report sought to first, confirm the correlation between better sidewalks and a lower obesity rate, second, find any other factors about the states of sidewalks that discourage pedestrians, and third, estimate any possibilities in change/adaptation of infrastructure. It is likely that though areas with sparse infrastructure may have been proportional to the amount of people in one instance of time, it will no longer reflect that population size in certain cases and deteriorate at a rapid rate with low maintenance. The absence of sidewalks could also be reflective of car culture and the style by which Americans commute to work.