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UP206A
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Mini Group Assignment - Week 4

Project title and link to proposal

Project title: Measuring Impacts of LAPD Laser Zones on crime reduction and gentrification

*Because our project topic has changed significantly over the past week, we are providing a short description of our new research question and topic below:

Research Question: Did LAPD's Operation Laser actually decrease crime in South LA from 2010-2018? What effects did Operation Laser have on displacement and gentrification in the area?

The lack of current eviction data in Los Angeles has shifted our research to looking at LAPD Laser Zones in South LA. We will be conducting a spatial analysis looking at business closures, landlord speculation, and crime rates within the boundaries of the Laser Zone area codes 90043 90044 90037 in South LA.

Roles (only for groups): Give each team member a title, and define what role each team member will play, and how each person plans to contribute to the project. While this may be subject to change, it is a good idea to define this early in the project to clarify "who is doing what."

Gerrlyn Gacao:

- Analyze Data Sets (zip codes 90043 90044 90037)
 - Crime
 - Business closures
- Census Analysis
 - Income
 - Educational attainment

Cynthia Bourjac:

- Analyze Data Sets (zip codes 90043 90044 90037)
 - New development in the area
 - Property acquisition by landlord

- Census Analysis
 - Race
 - Educational attainment

Shared

- Eviction data analysis (zip codes 90043 90044 90037)
- Communication and updates with Stop LAPD Spying

Status update: Report on the general mood of the team, and provide details as to what is working, and what is not.

For the past few weeks, we had some difficulty narrowing down and refining our topic -- we wanted to work on a project involving residential or economic displacement that could also contribute to actual advocacy work being done in the community. This, of course, became more complicated when it came to ensuring there is sufficient data to explore and analyze. However, after seeking guidance from Sylvia Gonzalez and connecting with MURP alumni working on related research, we finally found a topic that feels tangible and meets our project goals mentioned above. We're really excited about it as this work will contribute to research that Stop LAPD Spying is starting to embark on. By joining the Stop LAPD work, we will have access to eviction data in the designated zip codes and data about the 6 landlords that own the area.

Other than refining our research question, figuring out the best way to collaborate via JupyterHub/GitHub has also been challenging. We weren't sure how best to work on the same Jupyter notebook to finish group assignments, but have now realized that we just need to perform a git pull function of the notebook file. We also had some issues with pulling Census data that did not include a FIPs code column which prevented us from plotting it on a map, but now know to do a quick survey of the csv files before importing them into the Jupyter notebook.

Data update: Provide a short narrative on where you are with the data sources you will incorporate in your project. Provide links as necessary.

Since we were not too sure about the final direction of our project, we decided to use the last couple assignments to find census data we knew we would need regardless of the topic. This ended up being a good route to take. We currently have the following data:

- 5-year American Community Survey data, 2014-2018; LA County by census tract
 - Educational attainment
 - Race
 - Income
- LA County Census tracts

We still plan to include the remaining data sets:

- Crime
- Business closures
- New development in the area
- Property acquisition by landlord
- Eviction data (zip codes 90043 90044 90037)

Data sources

Racial demographics in LA County by census tract, American Community Survey, 2018 5-year estimates:

<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?t=Race%20and%20Ethnicity&g=0400000US06.140000&tid=ACSDT5Y2018.B02001&hidePreview=false>

Income levels across LA County by census tract, American Community Survey, 2018 5-year estimates:

<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?t=Income%20%28Households,%20Families,%20Individuals%29%3AIncome%20and%20Earnings&g=0500000US06037.140000&tid=ACSST5Y2018.S1901&hidePreview=false>

California counties and cities COVID-19 infection rates:

<https://github.com/datadesk/california-coronavirus-data/blob/master/latimes-county-totals.csv>

Concerns: There should be a lot to be concerned about at this phase of the project. List those concerns and classify them as "Major concerns" and/or "Minor concerns."

Major concerns:

- Data for "new development in the area" may be difficult and time consuming to find and compile, given the short timeline of the project
- We're still not able to properly "share" JupyterHub notebooks via a git pull function for whatever reason
- At the moment, still unsure of availability of business closure data in the area of focus (what type of data is available? Can we map it? How current is it?)
- Can we assume that if there is an increase of crime, that it is directly related to heightened surveillance through the designated Laser Zones?

Minor concerns:

- We might be listing too many variables to analyze together and may need to cut down in the future
- How best to visualize the data to tell a story we might discover
- How to have a strong starting point with this research so that it can be expanded beyond this class
- What is the most effective way to demonstrate displacement due to police activity?