Capstone Project –The Battle of the Neighborhoods

for Applied Data Science Capstone Course

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INTRODUCTION

This project strives to **identify the Southern California neighborhoods that are at high risk for severe impact from COVID-19**, the disease caused by the novel coronavirus (SARS-cov-2).

Over 2 million cases of COVID-19 have been reported worldwide (as of mid-April 2020) with over 145,000 deaths. This is the biggest global health event in the 21st century and the spread of the coronavirus and its potential impact upon specific communities has become a paramount concern to cities and governments everywhere, including Southern California (SoCal).

Two key factors that have been cited as being correlated to the likelihood of contracting COVID-19 are *population density and availability of hospital beds*. We will look at these factors and use data science techniques to combine relevant data with geographical locations to indicate on a **SoCal map those areas that the data show have highest risk for COVID-19**.

This map and the data behind it will allow civic and other leaders in Southern California to clearly see where they need to take mitigating steps (like arranging for additional hospital beds or imposing social distancing measures) that could save lives.