I would like to look into local jurisdiction’s public safety budgets and the funding trends over the last few years. I would likely find this data online on the jurisdictions’ websites for their budget process as well as through direct inquiries to the jurisdictions. Some questions I’d like answered are: have calls to defund the police resulted in a decreased budget allocation over the last few years? How much money goes into body-worn cameras and is this contributing to an increase in budget? Has more of this money gone into diversion methods and community co-responder models? I expect to see a continued rise in funding levels, but would also expect to see a rise in funding of programs meant to reduce incarceration rates.

I’m also interested in looking at home ownership. I know this is a topic that’s been looked at a lot, but I’m hoping to answer: who are buying homes right now? For first time homebuyers, where are they buying, and at what price? Is there a correlation between first time homebuyers and having young children? I’ll look at various data sources that have collected this information, and also at data that first time home buyer programs have collected about their participants. I’m expecting home buyership to lean towards older adults, over the age of 35, with children, and outside of urban areas. Based on feedback, I’d also look at census data to compare homeownership from the 2020 census with 2010.