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<https://github.com/nytimes/covid-19-data/tree/master/colleges>

MILESTONE 3: Draft Research Questions

* Compare cases and cases 2021 (clean out colleges that don’t have a cases 2021 value)
* Compare COVID hotspots cross-college in the same region - where are the centerpoints geographically in terms of spread?

1. Using county mask use data and college data, did mask use in counties decrease covid numbers between 2020 and 2021?
   * This is not a research question because it is a ‘yes/no’ question.
   * WHY do you want to know this?
   * What are your questions behind this question?
   * What is the human story that you are looking to tell?
   * Why is knowing this important?
2. Are colleges greatly contributing to the spread of Covid-19 (covid hotspots) and has this contribution changed between 2020 and 2021?
   * Again, these are not research questions because they are ‘yes/no’ questions.
   * See my notes from above.
   * When you start a question with “Are”…. You are likely asking a yes/no question and not a research question.
   * Consider asking: In what ways have colleges….
   * Why has the impact of colleges on the spread of Covid-19 changed between 2020-2021?
3. Are colleges more likely to have worse average covid numbers for their area than their county (i.e. are they local hotspots) or do they provide an insulating bubble to the major impact of the virus?
   * See notes above. These are not research questions.
   * Rethink, reframe…
   * Do not start question with ‘Are’….

3A→ To what degree do college campuses and college culture impact the spread of COVID compared to their respective counties?

* + - In what ways do college campuses…?
    - What is college culture? How do you define this? Who is included in this definition? Who is not? Are there different college cultures? This needs to be clarified.

1. What part did colleges play in super spreader events over the course of the pandemic in 2020 and what is the statistically significance when compared to other pivotal mass gatherings like the Black Lives Matter protests or the January 2021 insurrection.
   * This is an interesting question.
   * Again, make sure you are clear on how you are defining your terms. Which colleges are you considering? Why? Which BLM protests? Why?
   * What are the underlying questions behind knowing the statistical significance? What are the human stories that you are wanting to reveal by looking at this ‘statistical significance’?
   * What are the human stories that you want to reveal with this over-arching question?
2. How are anomalies in covid data related to college campuses?
   * This question needs more clarity and specificity. Can you please unpack this for me? I’m not understanding the question. What anomalies in covid data are you pointing to?
   * Which college campuses are you referring to?
3. Did numbers increase during times of political unrest (ex. BLM, election protests, etc)?
   * This is not a research question because it is a yes/no question.
   * WHY is this important to know?
   * What are the questions behind this question?
   * What is the human story that you want to reveal by looking into this?
4. **How do the differences in COVID data in both colleges and prisons reflect how the institutions deal with healthcare for its respective communities? What does this say about the way healthcare exists in the criminal justice system, vs. a more comfortable environment like a college campus?**
   * This is an excellent research question! This would require you to do some in-depth research, and perhaps require you to find an additional data set.

Question regarding project limitations:

* Would we be allowed to use additional data sets to help us formulate more substantive questions? A few example:
  + <https://github.com/nytimes/covid-19-data/blob/master/prisons/facilities.csv>
  + <https://github.com/nytimes/covid-19-data/blob/master/prisons/systems.csv>
* Exactly to my note above: Yes, use additional data set!

Hi Team A5,

This is a very good start! You have a lot to work here, and I really appreciate you exploring different avenues with your questions. The next step is to decide on which path you want to take. I see three potential paths here: Do you want to explore the theme that question #7 offers (colleges & prisons)? The topic that questions #4 & #6 offer (colleges/protests/capitol riot)? Or the questions that look at colleges vs. greater population? Once you make that decision, then make sure all of your questions are really Research Questions (see my notes). I’m going to ask you to do this work and resubmit as soon as you can.

Prelim grade: 75/100