Presidential Elections And Covid

# Problem Statement

In the year 2020, with the Presidential elections looming, the response to the global pandemic of Covid was markedly and sharply divided between the supporters of the incumbent and those of the challengers. The scientific evidence that was presented was the same but the messaging as to how the populace was to view the threat and safeguard themselves and others was “politicized”. Many attributed this to the elections in November. The incumbent, as might be expected, had a vested interest in keeping the economy healthy and booming so that his rallies could carry the victorious message of four years of economic growth, low unemployment numbers and growth of industry. He found his chances slipping with the rise of Covid cases, shutting down of home businesses and lockdown and was keen on reopening the country. Social distancing and wearing of masks were two aspects of protection, as mandated by the CDC, that were mainly challenged.

The messaging as set out by the incumbent, appeared to be such as to prod the populace into making light of the pandemic at the beginning stages and then goad them into reopening and going back to business as usual to save the economy from showing the negatives that he feared.

We will be looking into two main sets of data:

1. The county by county support for the incumbent/his party versus the challenger and it growth over the past four years, since the last election.
2. The county by county covid case status (rolling average) as the year progressed – before and after elections.

We will be looking into the possibility of a correlation between the messaging and the response from the supporters of each party, where the number of cases of covid can serve as a proxy as to how much they tend to trust the leadership versus the scientific evidence and guidelines set out by the CDC.

a) Was trust placed in CDC or the leadership?

b) Were people convinced enough to rush back to normalcy or were they guarded?

c) Was the response and reaction truly along party lines and did it impact the health of people?

d) Did the number of people that took the vaccine also display the divide along ideological lines?

## Methodology

We plan to segment the population by three or four segments

1. Counties that changed affiliation from Democrat to Republican in the course of four years since 2016 elections – Blue to Red
2. Counties that changed affiliation from Republican to Democrat in the course of four years since 2016 elections
3. Counties that stayed steady in their affiliation. This can be further subdivided as
4. Those that remained loyal to the Democrats
5. Those that remained loyal to the Republicans

SITES REFERRED TO

<https://www.npr.org/2021/06/09/1004430257/theres-a-stark-red-blue-divide-when-it-comes-to-states-vaccination-rates>  
  
  
**Datasets**

# COVID

[https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#vaccination-**demographics**-trends](https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#vaccination-demographics-trends)

[**COVID-19 Case Surveillance Public Use Data | Data | Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**](https://data.cdc.gov/Case-Surveillance/COVID-19-Case-Surveillance-Public-Use-Data/vbim-akqf/data) (1 kB)

[**COVID Data Tracker**](https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view)

CDC’s home for COVID-19 data. Visualizations, graphs, and data in one easy-to-use website.

<https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#pop-factors_7daynewcases>  
<https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-updates/index.html>

# ELECTIONS

<https://dataverse.harvard.edu/dataset.xhtml?persistentId=doi:10.7910/DVN/VOQCHQ>

<https://electionlab.mit.edu/>

<https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/voting-and-registration/p20-585.html>

<https://guides.dataverse.org/en/5.5/user/find-use-data.html#downloading-via-url>

## Further Study

We can look into rent, GDP and unemployment of counties over time to see if they could have contributed to

1. why the county changed affiliation to party
2. Why the county might have been more inclined to open and ignore CDC guidelines

https://dataverse.scholarsportal.info/guides/en/4.8.6/api/intro.html