ps1

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1. describe a locality (e.g. city, county, zip-code); use your own data; again if you do not have a dataset, have a look at links from the class slides, and pick something; state explicitly what exactly data you are using and what the variables mean (be as specific as possible; if description is lengthy, put it in the appendix)
2. i should add that much of ps can be qualitative/descriptive :)
3. it is not sufficient to just copy some information from a website (say city-data or census)
4. you may also add some qualitative info: eg relate data to what you know about the place; eg where you grew up and/or where you live–do data say what what you know about the place? any surprises?
5. there needs to be some human value-added: it needs to be your idea, copying data from website is not enough; it needs to look like a mini piece of research with some interesting findings
6. eg compare some localities and/or do it over time, identify some interesting patterns and /or use data from several sources

2

1. calculate LQ, or something similar, more advanced than just copying raw number from a website

old ps1 comments

- be specific; show numbers!
- think about the phenomenon–is it big or small?
- it depends on the comparison! all numbers mean nothing without a comparison/base-case/yardstick
- say, is my income of $40,000 big or small? ; yes in Camden, not in NYC (given median) ; yes for a HS dropout, not for a PhD (given median) ; yes for a person in 20s, not in 40s (given median) ; yes in rural China, not in Beijing (given median) ; yes in 1870, not in 2012 (given median)
- and you can repeat the above given your family/field etc
- show most meaningful quantities
- number of single-parent families, number of poor etc
- should be adjusted for population!
- all over time $ values should be adjusted for inflation! ; when you present something ask yourself "so what?" ; why does it matter ? how it matters? how i can rephrase/redo it so it's more meaningful
- what's new ? what's unexpected ? otherwise, what's the point of creating n-th document that reiterates what everybody knows
- surprise me; in-depth analysis, or broad approach (several disciplines), unique data, etc
- show me some sophistication
- do something that only a PhD can do
- eg a basic impact analysis of, say a policy enacted, eg govt takeover of Camden–may start with a graph ; eg 1918 pandemic is an "intervention" `https://www.stata.com/features/overview/i/graph-editor-life-graph.png`
- RD ; `http://www.socialresearchmethods.net/kb/quasird.php` ; `http://changingminds.org/explanations/research/design/regression_discontinuity.htm`

general directions (always the same):

- submit ps into Sakai's dropbox by the beginning of the class on the day it is due (ps are due in one week from the date being posted unless stated otherwise
- preferably submit as pdf or txt (word sometimes mutates contents)
- note, if something unclear, you may ask questions in your ps, and i will answer in class
- if class is small, be prepared to briefly present the ps, no need for slides, can just use submission pdf, but be ready to explain and answer questions