Reflection Write Up

Our experience working on this project has been both rewarding and challenging. Learning how to use Tableau to analyze and visualize data was a satisfying experience and we feel good that we now have a new skill to add to our resume and to utilize in the future. However, it was not without its difficulties as we encountered some bumps along the way. Our project focused on the life expectancy data of Maryland from 2007-2017. This dataset came from the from the Maryland Department of Health. When we got the data we didn’t expect to have as many gaps and missing data as it did. Our data was missing data for certain demographics such as White Hispanic, Native American and Asian populations. This is very significant data as White Hispanic make up 18.7%; of Maryland's population and Asians alone makes up 6%, and Native American is .7%. The exclusion of this data doesn’t paint a clear picture of the life expectancy in Maryland. In addition the gender was not included as a variable in our data set and that is usually information that is included in demographics. So because of their limitations this data really only shows how Black and White residents compare in Maryland.

Something that we noticed in the data is that Baltimore City had the lowest life expectancy and Montgmomery County had the highest life expectancy. We also noticed that our data only compared the life expectancy of Black and White residents in the county, highlighting the social and economic disparities that have caused the black life expectancy to be lower. Our findings suggest that further research is needed to understand the factors that contribute to life expectancy. For instance, we could investigate the relationship between income, education attainment, and life expectancy.

Before we created our tableau dashboard we had many graphs that we created. We had to narrow down and analyze what was significant about the graphs when deciding to put it into the Tableau dashboard.

The information that was gathered from our data visualization could be used to look into other factors that have a relation to life expectancy such as what are the incomes, and education attainment that is linked to life expectancy. There also could be some insight to obtain into how public health interventions affect life expectancy, including sanitation, food safety, access to vaccines, and health promotional efforts.

Overall, this project has taught me a valuable skill in data visualization and analysis. It has also given me an opportunity to explore the significant health disparities that exist in Maryland. It was also really cool to be able to work with data about Maryland because we live in close proximity or in Maryland. We really enjoyed learning a skill that was more technical and we think that this was more in our comfort zone.

**DashBoard Link Aliyah:** <https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/aliyah.adegun/viz/LifeExpectancy_16803314466820/Dashboard1>

**DashBoard Link Keona:**

[**https://public.tableau.com/views/KeonaBanks/Sheet1?:language=en-US&:display\_count=n&:origin=viz\_share\_link**](https://public.tableau.com/views/KeonaBanks/Sheet1?:language=en-US&:display_count=n&:origin=viz_share_link)