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5.11.21
4.032

Progress / Notes from last iteration

- Attempted to use landfills adjusted to population - saw no change in trends
- Spoke to a friend who is working on a research project to compile county demographics on a national scale for advice
- Found a new database (NHGIS) that shows racial demographics by zip code
- Cleaned up code and attempted to use different file structure with new tabs — had to abandon because the tabs do not reference each other :(
- Added zip code data to code — the zip code file has ~30,000 lines of data whereas the other files are ~3,000 - this broke my code, takes 10 or so minutes to run
- Now working to implement all algebraic functions in excel to download the relationships i care about directly
- Worked on comparing demographic percentages to median as opposed to mean (different criteria for highlighting a landfill), got very different trends

Findings: Number of landfills located in areas with a [White/Black/Hispanic/Asian/Indigenous] population above the national average

- County model:
 - White: 1022 Black: 292 Hispanic: 191 Native American: 166 Asian: 97 Multiracial: 271 Pacific Islander: 278
- County model with landfills adjusted to county population:
 - White: 1016 Black: 294 Hispanic: 194 Native American: 168 Asian: 96 Multiracial: 276 Pacific Islander: 282
- Zip code model with landfills adjusted to zip population:
 - White: 1612 Black: 513 Hispanic: 480 Native American: 482 Asian: 262 Multiracial: 766 Pacific Islander: 336
- Zip code model with landfills adjusted to zip population and MEDIAN demographic comparison as opposed to mean:
 - White: 733 Black: 1533 Hispanic: 1521 Native American: 1637 Asian: 1609 Multiracial: 1507 Pacific Islander: 802
 - Data for indigenous demographic might be a bit skewed because the median is zero!
 - This is a really interesting finding, almost exactly the reverse trend as I was seeing earlier. Need to think more about what it means to compare to the mean vs median and what story that tells!
 - Does this reveal the 'true' trend that America treats minorities like garbage (pun intended), or is there something biasing in the calculation of median that favors lower population percentages?