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Honors Mathematics for Liberal Arts

Measuring the Hurt in Newport

Question One.) How are people hurting in Newport?

In the our primary expectation of Newport, we presumed the city and its people would be in far worse condition than what our observations have thus far uncovered. Positive aspects of Newport are well seen and well known to surrounding areas, as the city maintains a rich cultural vibrancy that draws people into the area and places that are historically significant. In retrospect to a measure of central tendency, Newport, we claimed, was below the “norm/average” of surrounding sectors, despite central issues (like median income) improving. Though, since areas are improving and Newport appears to be doing well to an outsider’s prospective, are the people actually hurting? From what we have gathered in class, in some areas, yes, and in other areas, no. The main problems within the community seem to be within the “hierarchy of needs”. With health in mind, the community is lacking in fresh fruits and vegetables due to an overabundance of lead in the area’s soil. Shelter is also an issue, with vacant buildings and many shelter homes taking the place of stable foundations that look more inviting to outsiders. While median income is improving, Cincinnati remains one of the poorest cities in the country, and if an “infection model” could be the case of Newport’s dilemma, it could be that Newport is being affected by the low income there, as the two places are just a river apart. If there is a correlation between the two cities, it could be that Newport is also have correlated issues not only with proximity to issues in other areas, but between the issues themselves.

Question 2.) How can we measure the hurt?

We are always able to construct surveys and inquire the people of Newport how certain issues affect them. While this would only give a subjective point of view, gathering an average from the people of Newport could give an indicator about how they are feeling approximately. Gathering information from the census has been very helpful also, and has provided an objective perspective of the Newport's concerns, despite losing the particular viewpoint of its people in regards to what hurts *them*, specifically. In all regards, it is very difficult to measure hurt, as it is to measure hope or culture. It is also very difficult to construct measures of hurt in Newport since we do not live in the environment and cannot determine the truth from the bias, or understand the complexity of the issues going underway in Newport. However, if the class were to find out how to measure the peoples' hurt mathematically, metrics are stable constructions to at least have a foundation upon measuring any of the like.

Question Three.) How can we compare Newport to other areas?

There are many ways to go about this. Demographically, the class has already measured statistics of Newport and its surrounding areas through Census Tracts, and can again in a wider approach by increasing the radius of locations. Finding areas who thrive in the categories Newport is struggling with can give an interesting comparison between what they are doing to succeed in those areas, and vice versa. We can also compare Newport to other areas economically, socially, and/or politically, and see how these categories affect the environment/condition of the particular society. Another way Newport can be compared to other areas is through cultural and historical contexts to better understand how a community's anthropological relationship to itself can determine the success of a community. This data can then be transferred unto maps, graphs, and other tools, which could help better determine how hurt Newport is.