

Introduction to Sociology COVID-19 Data Analysis Discussion Forum Guidelines

Topic #1:

View the “COVID-19 Integrated County View”:

https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view?list_select_state=all_states&data-type=CommunityLevels

On the “State or Territory” drop-down menu, click on Oklahoma.

On the “County or Metro Area” drop-down menu, click on Oklahoma County.

What is Oklahoma County’s COVID Community-Level transmission rating (red “high”; yellow “medium”; and green “low”)?

What are the county’s three “weekly metrics”?

Scroll down and look carefully at the other information provided about the COVID pandemic, etc. in Oklahoma County.

Do the same for a couple of outlying counties around Oklahoma County (including the outlying county where you may live, if you do not live in Oklahoma County) and look also at the map of Oklahoma that shows how county-level COVID ratings vary around the state.

How do different counties around the state vary in terms of their COVID level ratings? How about Oklahoma County and the counties around it?

Can you explain anything about that variation based on the counties’ vaccination and “community characteristics” information and what you know in general/already about the various counties?

What can we learn about the ebb and flow of the pandemic in Oklahoma City from the time-series graphs about Oklahoma County, for example?

If you live in the state of Oklahoma, how does what you see in these data and data visualizations vary with how you experienced the pandemic and what you observed about it?

In general: Have you contracted COVID, or even more than once? People you know? Do you know people who died from it? Have you been vaccinated or boosted against the illness? Why or why not?

What do you think we can learn about health, illness, and health care, in general, from these data about Oklahoma County and Oklahoma counties as a whole? And what can we learn about Oklahoma City and the communities in and around it, as well as communities all around the state, in general, from examining and comparing these COVID statistics?

Topic #2:

Click on this U.S. Centers for Disease Control document: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/covid-data/investigations-discovery/hospitalization-death-by-race-ethnicity.html>

How have the rates of COVID-19 infection, hospitalization, and mortality varied by race/ethnicity?

How does the document try to account for these differences? Does the textbook discussion of racial/ethnic differences in health suggest any other possible reasons? Why do you think it is?

Why do you suppose the “Hispanic health paradox” does NOT seem to be in operation when it comes to the coronavirus?

What new can we learn about health and illness, about racial and ethnic inequality and about COVID-19 in particular from what we saw here?

Click on this U.S. Centers for Disease Control document: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/covid-data/investigations-discovery/hospitalization-death-by-age.html>

How have death rates varied by age? Why do you suppose the differences? What do others say (check on the Internet)? Do you know anyone who has had COVID? Anyone who has died? What age were they? Did their health seem connected with their age?

What more can we learn about health differences by age in general and about the coronavirus, in general, from looking at the data?

Section #3:

Look at the World Health Organization COVID-19 data table: <https://covid19.who.int/table>

Use the dropdown menu to access data on the United States and other countries.

Look at the cumulative number of cases and the cumulative number of deaths. Keep in mind that these are NOT rates, but just absolute numbers. Obviously, more populous countries – everything else being equal – will have more cases and more deaths.

How do these COVID numbers for the different countries that you have examined connect – or not - with how these countries compare in terms of overall population?

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_population_\(United_Nations\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_population_(United_Nations))

What do you notice here? How do the rankings of countries by COVID-19 cases and deaths compare with their rankings by population? Is the country with the largest population also the country with the largest cumulative number of COVID cases and the largest cumulative number of deaths? Does the second largest country also have the second largest number of COVID deaths? And so on.

To what extent do the rankings of countries by highest COVID numbers and the rankings of countries by overall population size vary? What might account for some of the differences/deviations, if there are any?

Topic #4:

Go to the COVID 19 Survivor Diaries website “Stories” webpage at:

<https://thesurvivordiaries.com/stories>

Pick any three COVID-19 survivors and then read their diaries/stories (or the selections posted on this webpage).

As you read, look for themes in the diaries: How do the survivors' experiences vary? How do the survivors describe their experiences? What kind of language do they use? What kind of self-presentation, or "biographical work," do they seem to try to do?

Then, having read these three, compare and contrast them. How are these stories' similar or definite? What can learn we about the virus, or about how people tell stories about themselves, from reading these diary materials/stories?