

Income Inequality and Educational COVID Response: A pilot study

Allison Herb, BA
Jonathan P. Scaccia, PhD



Results

Gini was not a significant predictor of proportion of discussion $F(4, 12), 2.18, p = 0.13$.

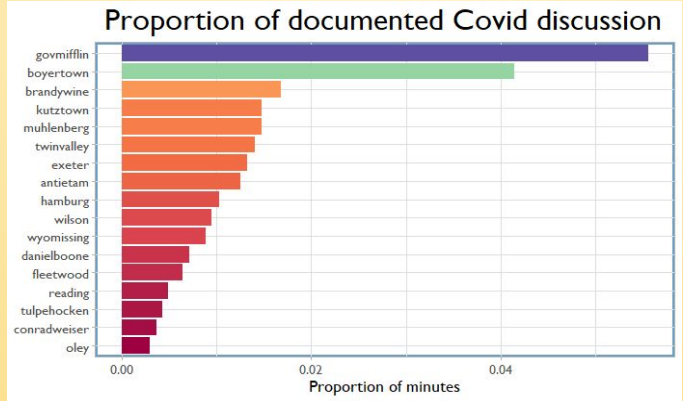
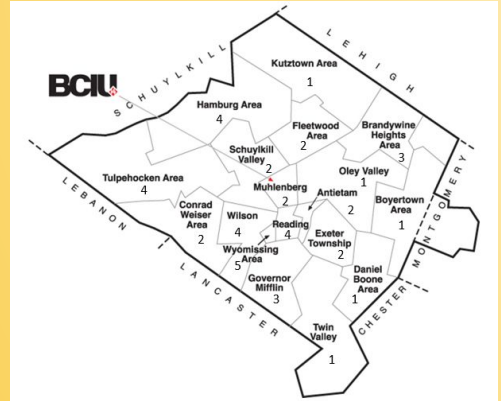
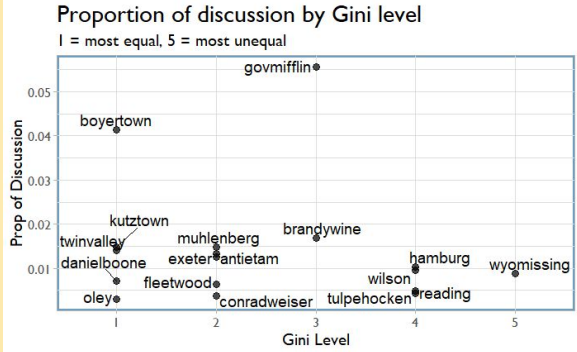
Introduction

- The US educational system has been hard-hit by COVID.
- Many school districts had to switch to virtual learning quickly
- We looked at how schools in our community, Berks County, PA, USA, documented their response to COVID, and whether that was related to income inequality in their district

Methods

We compared 1) the school board meeting minutes for the period when COVID emerged as a significant public health problem in America (March 2020 - current) a 2) measures of income inequality (Gini coefficient) for Berks County PA, pulled from www.policymap.com

We pulled instances of COVID discussion from meeting minutes using the terms covid, corona*, and pandemic. We computed proportion of documented discussion devoted to COVID.



Future Inquiry

This was an exploratory, proof of concept study. We recognize that our data set was quite small. We plan to continue to explore this data through more robust between groups and time series analysis