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Identifying Variation in Community-Level COVID-19 Case Counts and Health Determinants to Promote Safer Behaviors Amidst the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) Reopening

Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) schools have been closed for over a year and concerns remain regarding reopening. The decision on when and at what capacity to return is a difficult one requiring analysis of current infection and vaccination rates. We evaluated the best way to present COVID-19 related data in figures that could be easily understood and utilized by school officials, parents, and students. We used the Healthy Places Index (HPI) to collect data for multiple determinants of health that may have affected COVID-19 rates in different cities in LA county, including crowded housing, air pollution, automobile access, and health insurance. After researching different methods of presenting data of a similar nature to ours, we created multiple visualizations of the data, including exact values of the chosen determinants and percentile rankings of each city compared to the rest of California. After achieving consensus on the best way to present our findings, we will provide the data figures as part of the curriculum for LA Trust for Children's Health's COVID-19 Youth Task Force to teach students how to make use of the visualizations, while inviting their feedback to continue to refine our display.