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How Journalists Use Data in Their Reporting

Presented by: Nisa Khan

Data Reporter, Michigan Radio
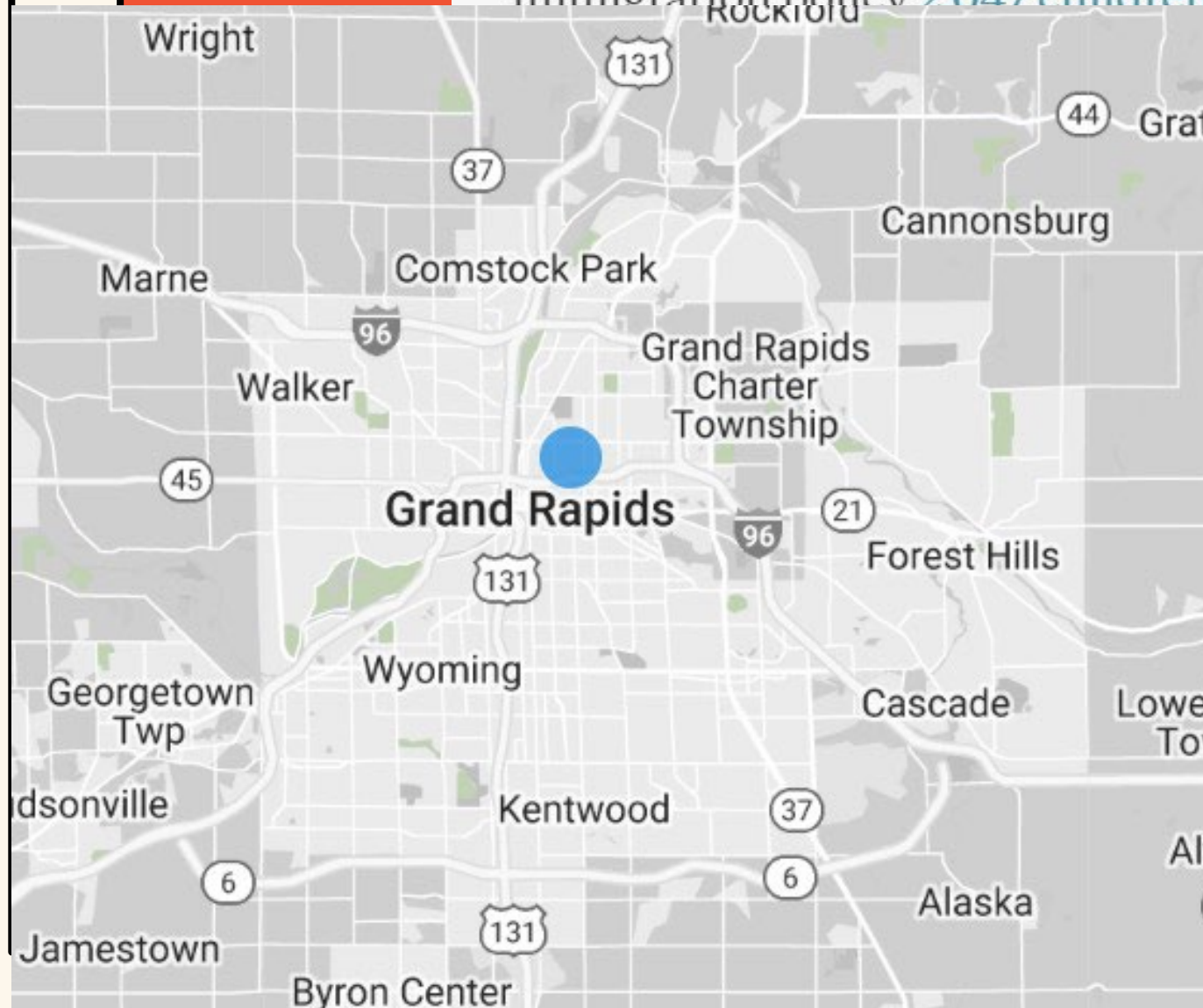
Who are you?

- A data journalist with Michigan Radio
- I did my B.A. in user experience at the University of Michigan
- And my M.A. in journalism at Stanford (Big Local News)
- Research at ProPublica (researched map about shelters)
- Data with the Detroit Free Press
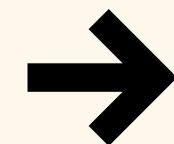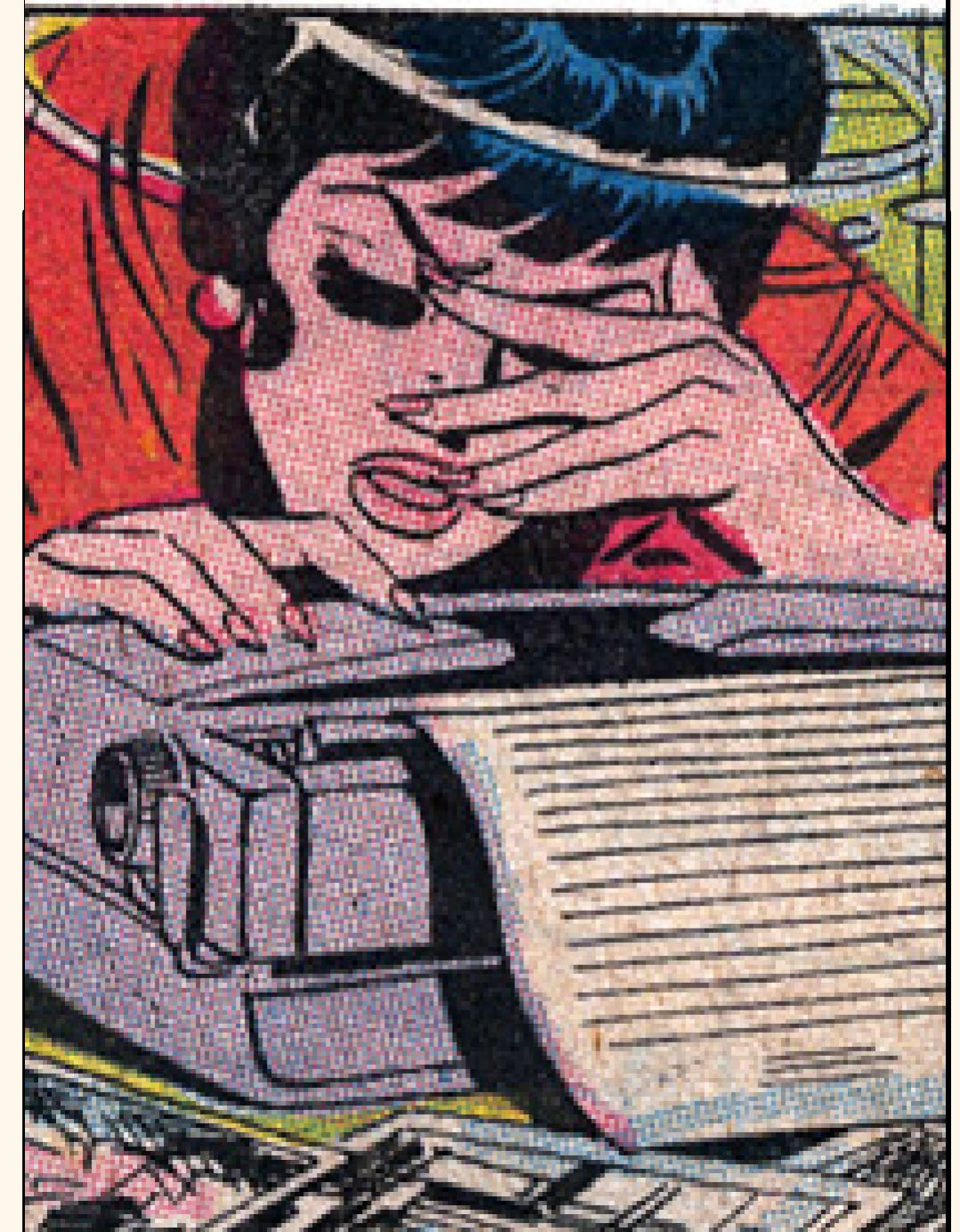
The Immigrant Children's Shelters Near You

By Decca Muldowney, Alex Mierjeski, Claire Perlman, Lilia Chang, Ken Schwencke, Adriana Gallardo and Derek Kravitz, June 27, 2018

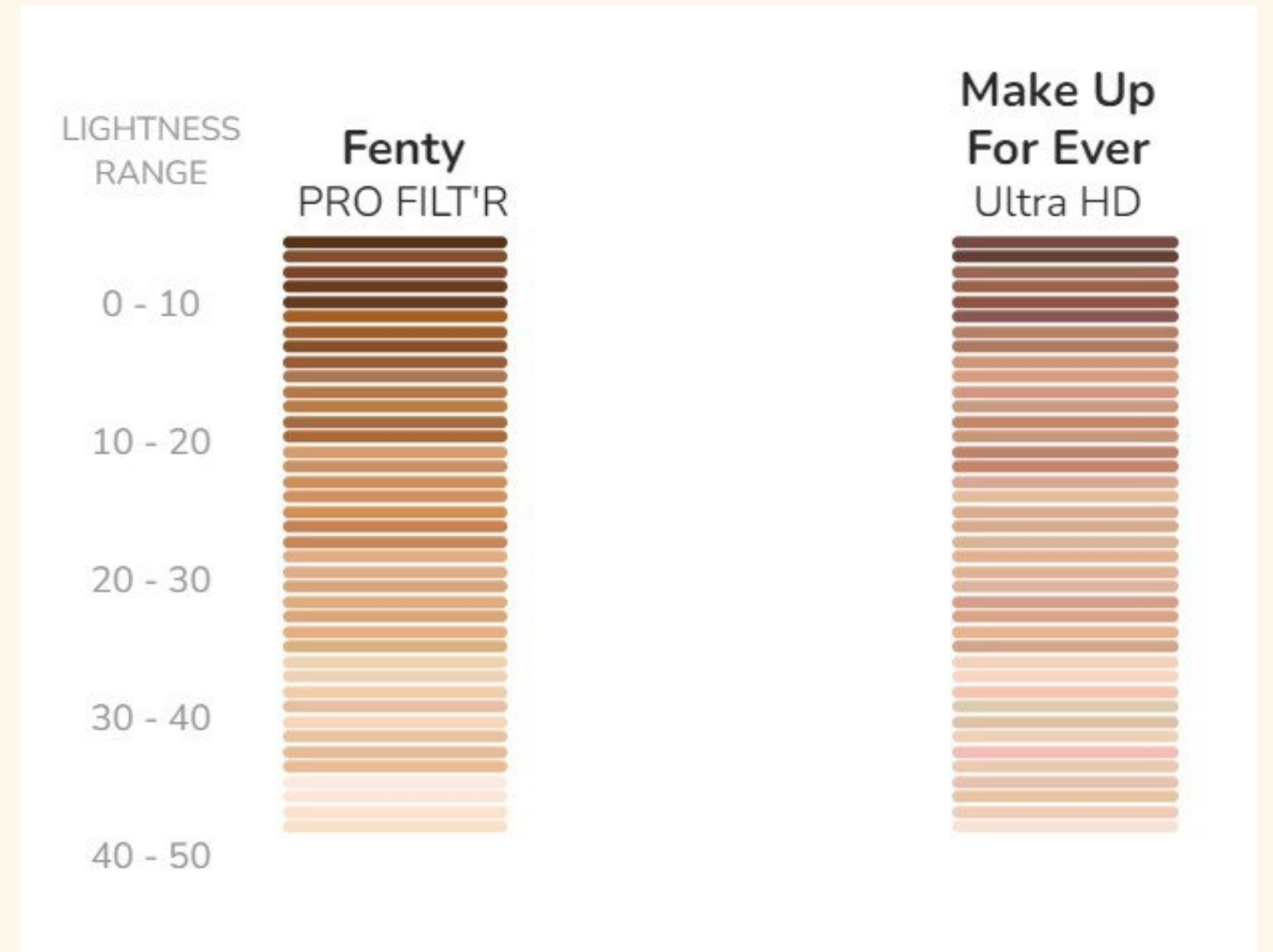Under President Trump's new "zero tolerance" immigration policy 2,047 children remain separated. They are now held in the federal nonprofit groups.

Stories that inspired me

The Pudding, 2018

BEAUTY
BRAWL

How inclusive are beauty
brands around the world?

LIGHTNESS RANGE | Fenty PRO FILT'R | Make Up For Ever Ultra HD

0 - 10

10 - 20

20 - 30

30 - 40

40 - 50

- *Culture interest*
- *Data to back up everyday experiences*

Stories that inspired me

The New York Times, 2022

Manhattan's Chinese Street Signs Are Disappearing

Pell Street at Bowery

ONE WAY
PELL ST
NOVEMBER 2017

Pell St
ONE WAY
NOVEMBER 2021

- *Local/human interest*
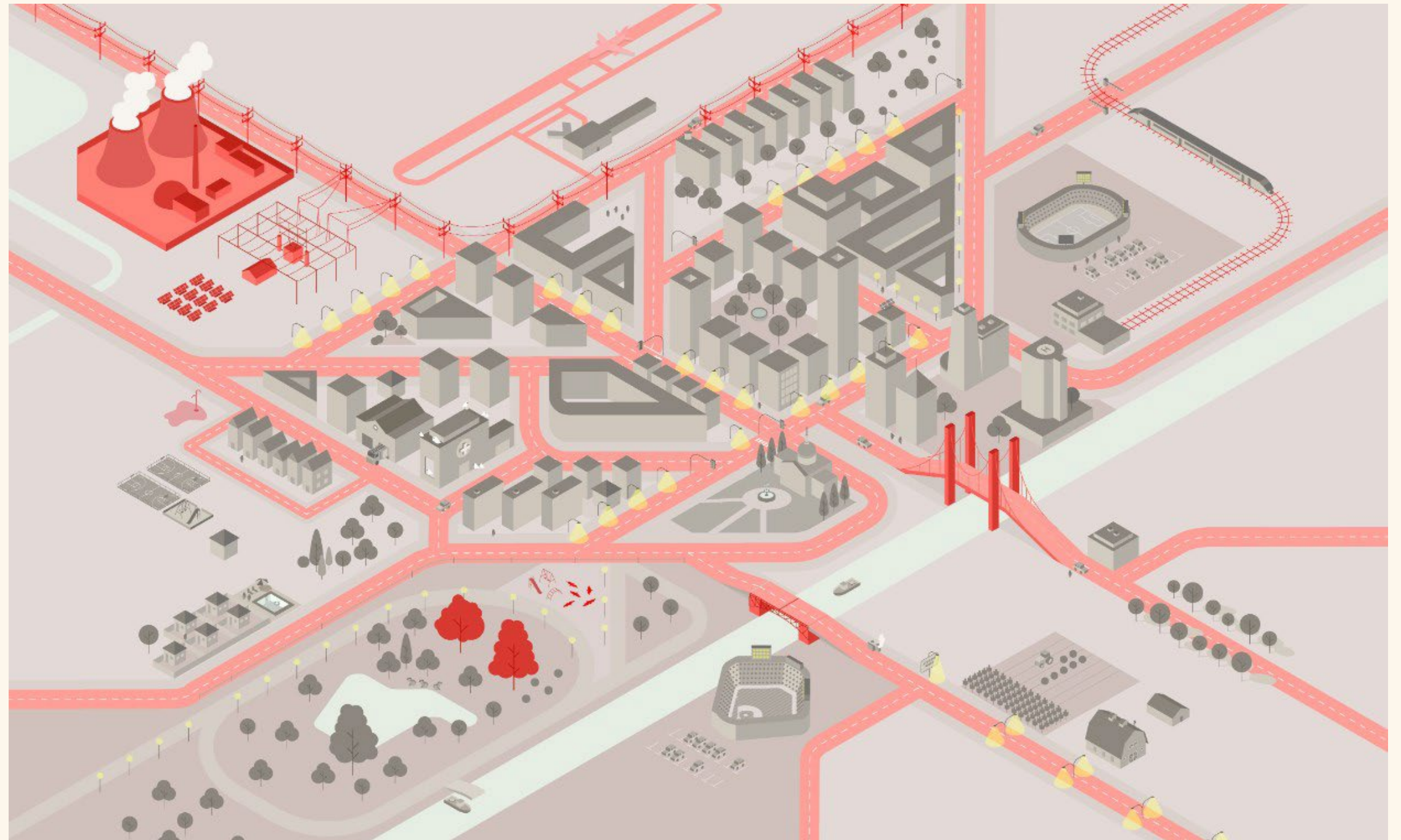- *Creating data to back up ancedotes*

Stories that inspired me

The Washington Post, 2022

We built a fake metropolis to show how extreme heat could wreck cities

- Explanatory journalism using visuals and data
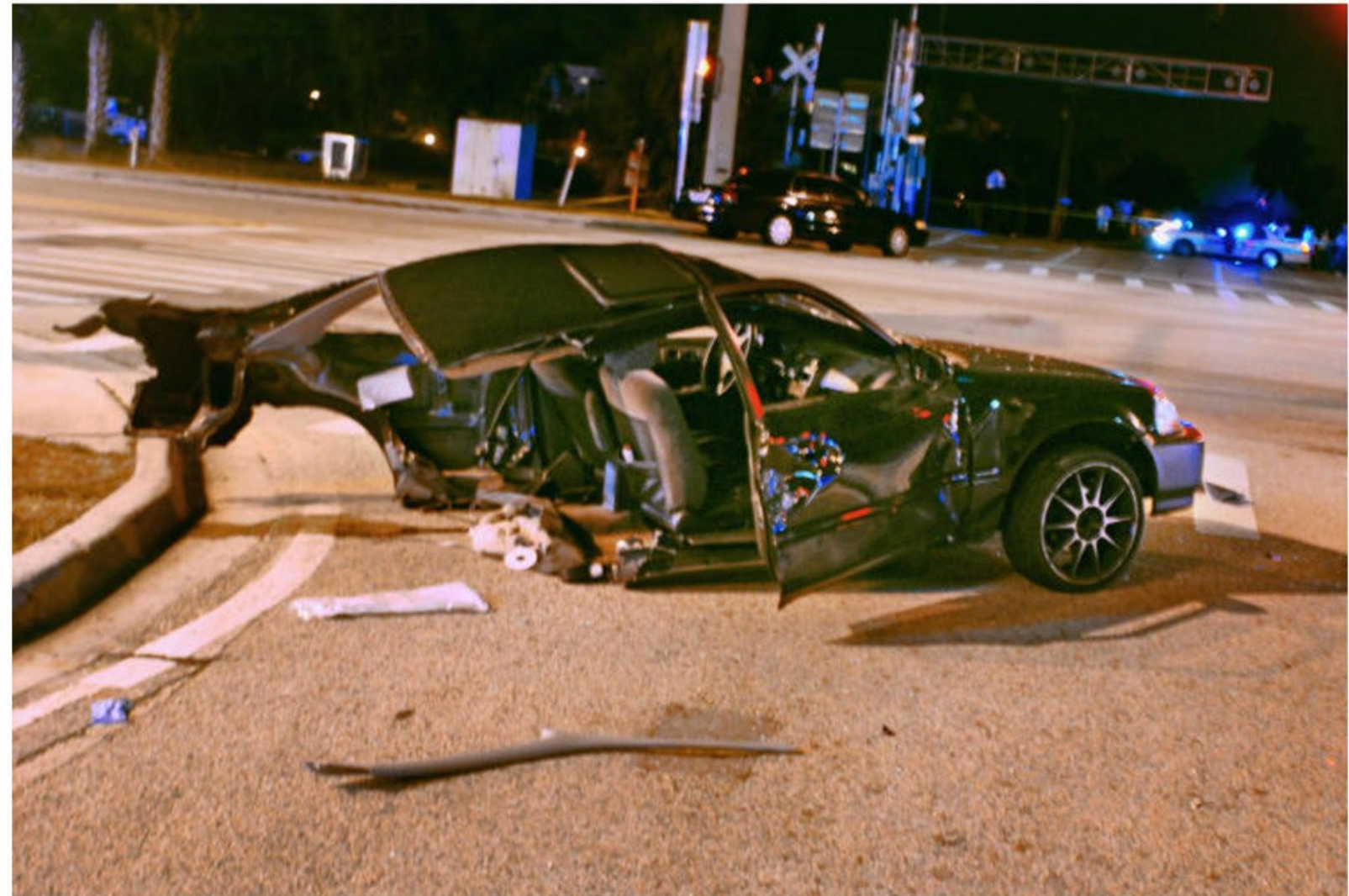
Pivotal data investigation

For its well documented investigation of off-duty police officers who recklessly speed and endanger the lives of citizens, leading to disciplinary action and other steps to curtail a deadly hazard.

Brain-damaged for life
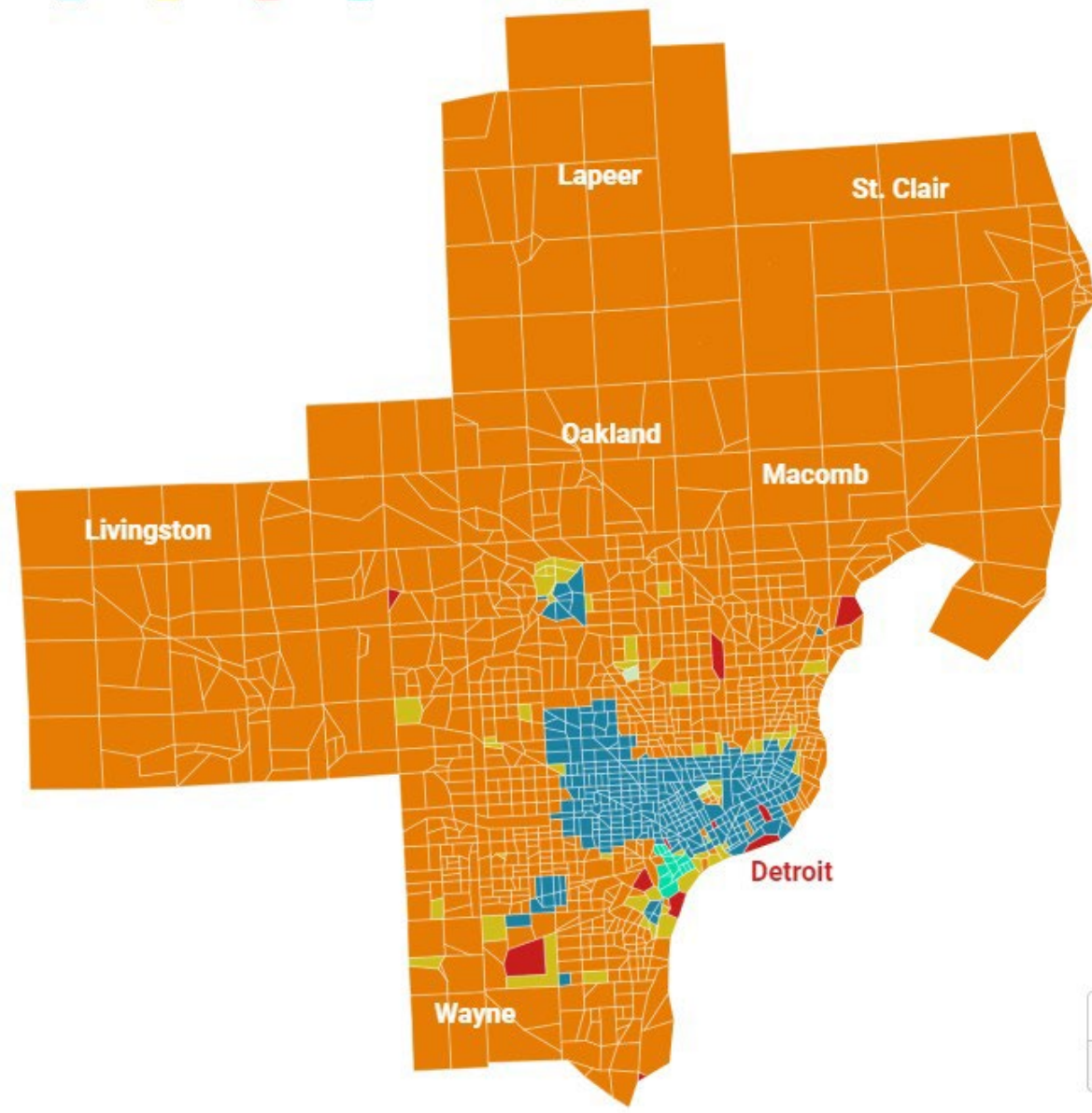
- **Accountability**
- Data backing up anecdotes

2021 investigation

Census tracts in Metro Detroit by majority of race
Hover or click on a census tract to view more information. The zoom button is on the bottom-right corner.

■ White ■ Black ■ Mixed ■ None ■ Hispanic or Latino ■ Asian

- Using data from Reveal, who sued to get this information with other orgs.
- Businesses helps generate wealth in communities
- Didn't collect by race — calculated by majority of race in census tracts.
- Also made a search table.

ver or click on a census tract to view more information. The zoom button is on the bottom-right corner.
%   100.0%
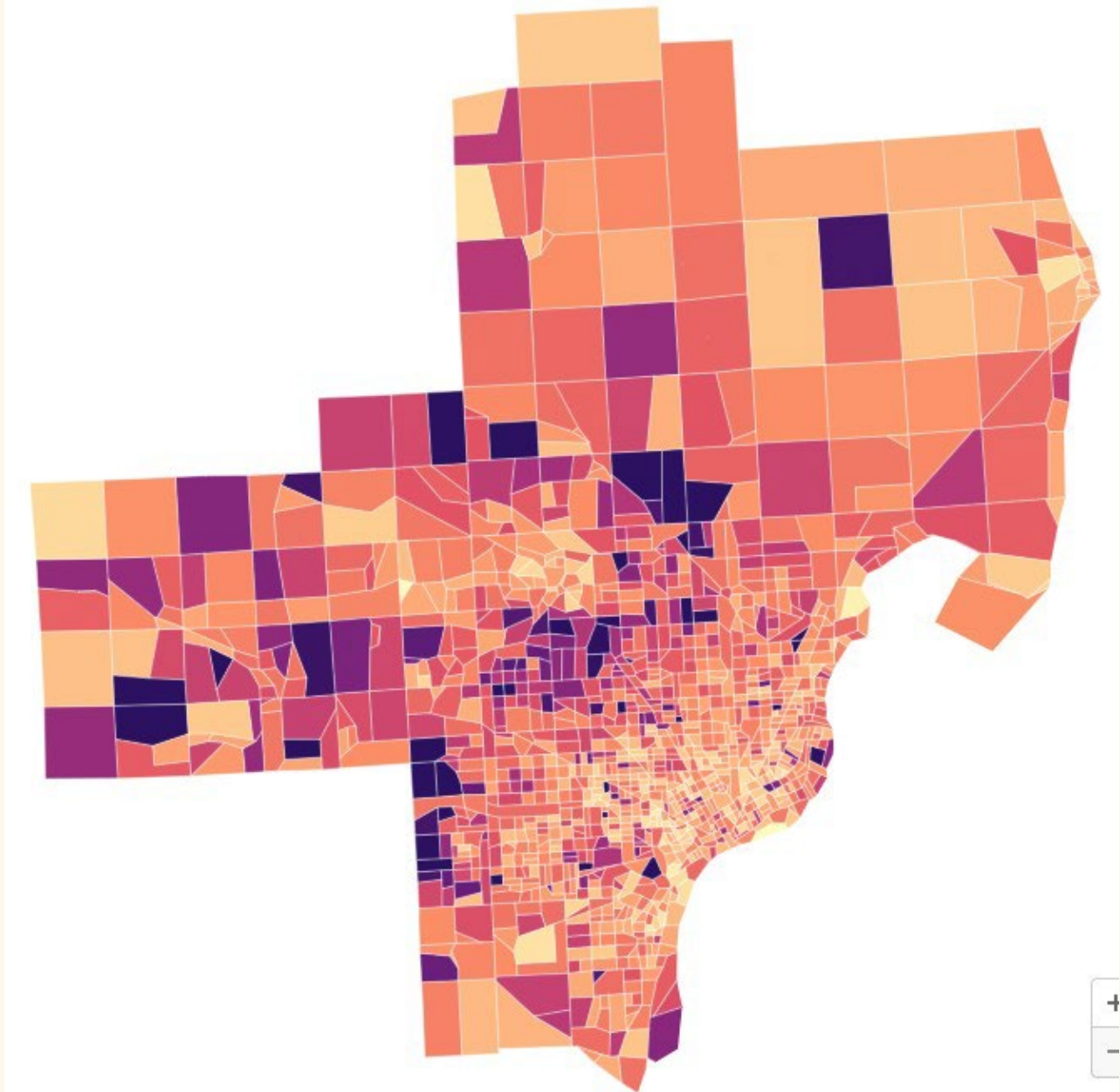
2021 investigation

A year after "defund" protests, most large Michigan cities spending more on police, not less

- Wanted to answer a question we saw popping up, especially after protests.
- Want to use data to confirm/debunk what talking points are.
- Often talk to profs on methodology. I am a slow fact-checker.

Comparing general police budgets in FY2021 and FY2022 across Michigan's top cities

Looking at the 20 most populated cities and their general funds. Hover or click over the dot to learn more. A decrease does not necessarily mean effort to defund.
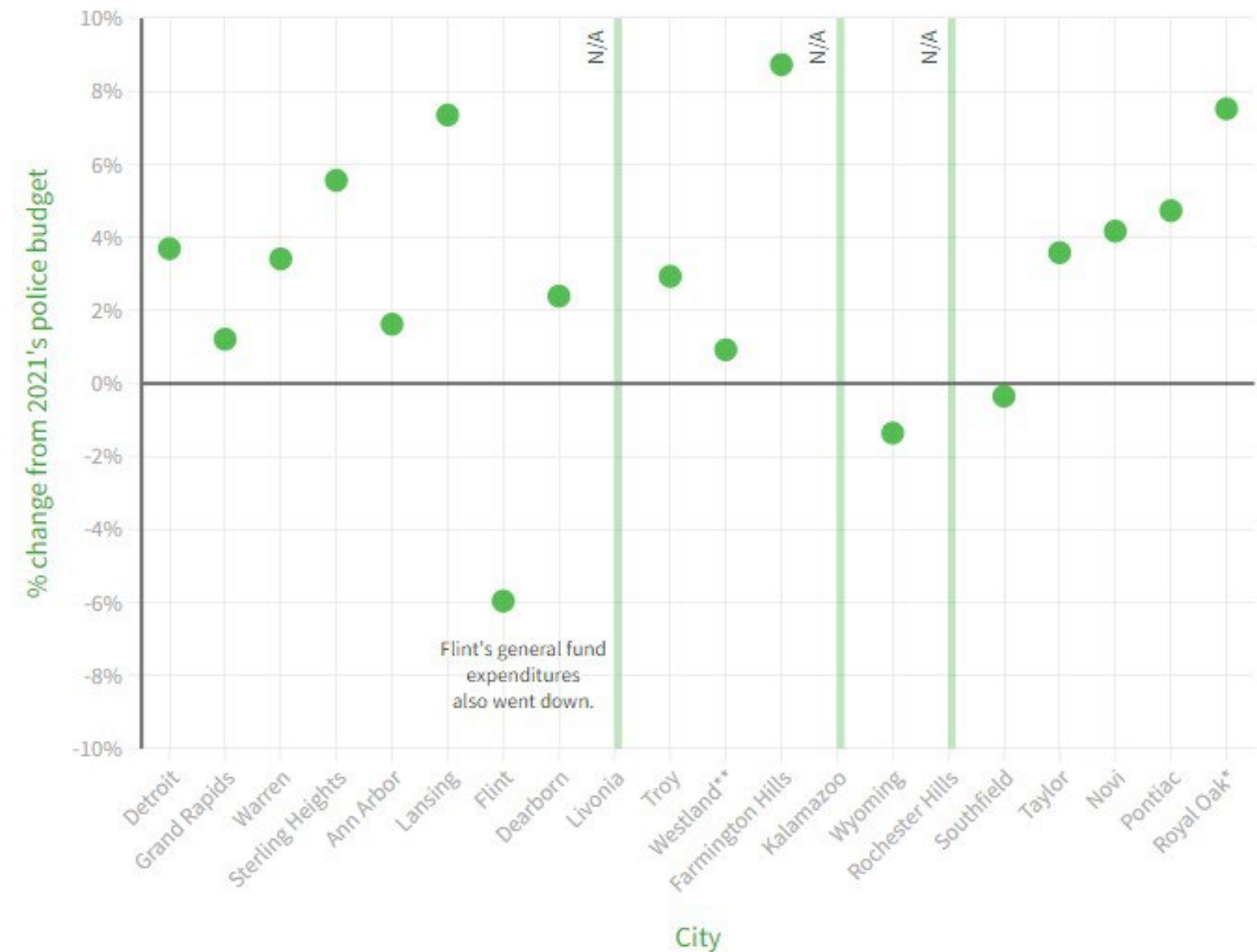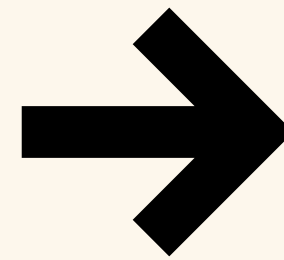
2023 mass shooting tracker

Bills in the Michigan Legislature related to guns

The table updates every morning. Click on the Bill ID to read the full text.

🔍 Search in table

Summary	Bill ID	Sponsor	Cosponsors	Last Updated ▼	Last Action
Penalties for storing or leaving a firearm where it may be accessed by a minor	SB0079	Rosemary Bayer	20 D, 0 R	April 19, 2023	Assigned Pa 0017'23
Updating sentencing guidelines for failing to store firearms resulting in death or injury	SB0080	Kristen McDonald Rivet	20 D, 0 R	April 19, 2023	Assigned Pa 0016'23
Firearm safety exempt from sales tax	SB0081	Jeff Irwin	20 D, 0 R	April 19, 2023	Assigned Pa 0015'23
Firearm safety exempt from	SB0082	Kevin Hertel	13 D, 0 R	April 19,	Assigned Pa 0014'23

🔒 **michigan-radio / bill-tracker** `Private`

<> **Code** ⊙ Issues ⑂ Pull requests ▶ Actions

⑂ **main** ▾   ⑂ 1 branch   ⬦ 0 tags

🐱 **bradgowland** adds datawrapper publish to export task

Sometimes data is not the whole story

Amplify team

The Amplify team's goal is to connect people living in Michigan with the resources and information they need to thrive. Our reporting, how-to guides, and community events will help you become your own best advocate on basic needs like housing, public safety, health and more.
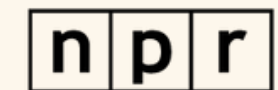
Including real life data viz

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How Amplify prioritize their stories

Data is our north star in finding a story
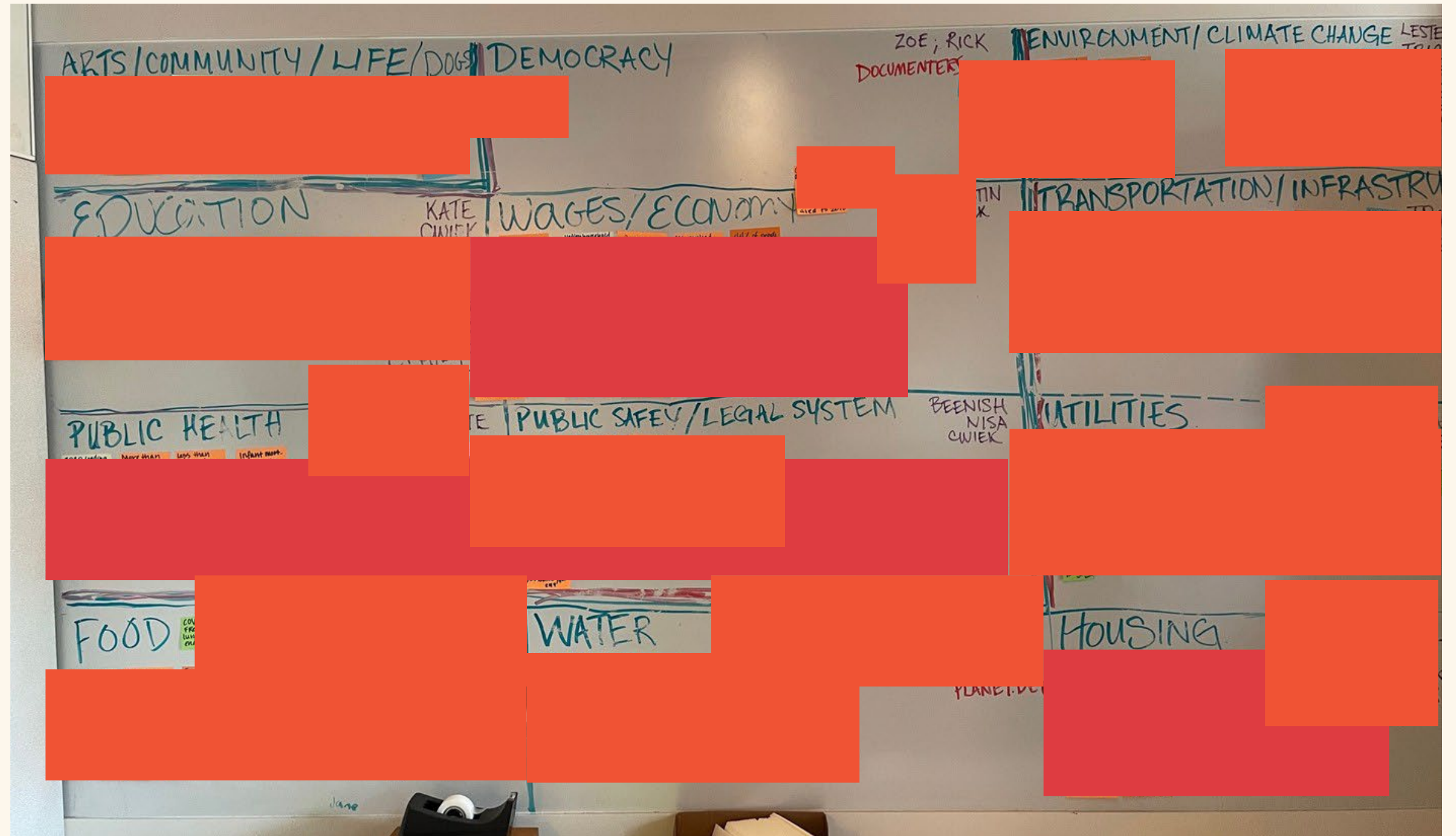
What journalists look for in data drops

Statistics	Adrian city; Adrian, MI Micro Area; Michigan		Alma city; Alma, MI Micro Area; Michigan		Alpena city; Alpena, MI Micro Area; Michigan	
SE:B18002. Residents Paying More Than 30% or at least 50% of Income on Rent						
Renter-Occupied Housing Units:	3,705		1,604		1,659	
30 to 49 Percent	655	17.7%	465	29.0%	502	30.3%
50 percent or More	1,042	28.1%	340	21.2%	153	9.2%

*My experiences, co-workers, and other journalists from various data-based Slack groups

What journalists look for in data drops

We love tools that increase access to information the public needs (just like you!)

Minutes by Dustin Dwyer and
Brad Gowland

www.searchminutes.com

Water lead data 211 (no longer up?)

During COVID, we used Kent County's a lot more than the state's at times

* All measures are based on the county of residence, not where the vaccine was given.

Darker blue counties have higher percent of population fully vaccinated.

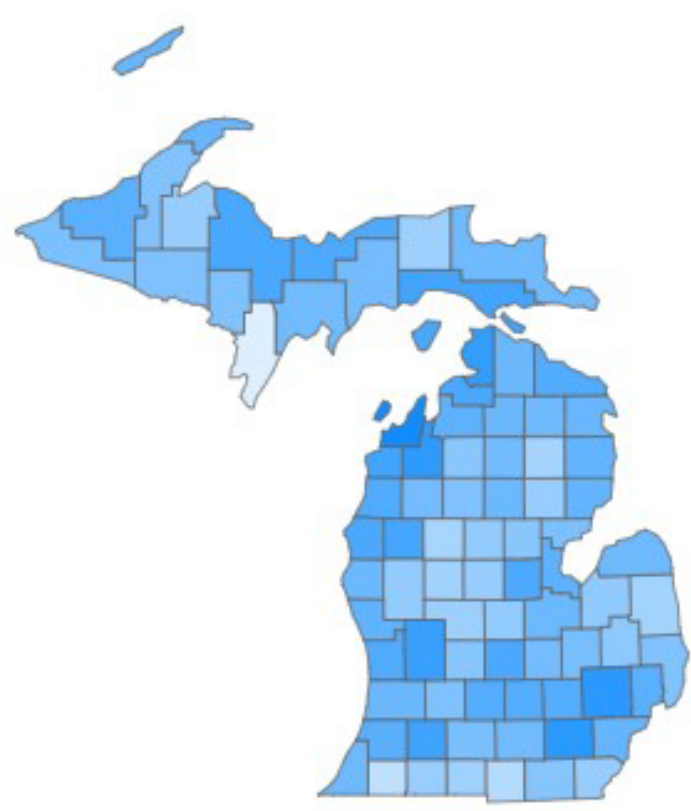| VaccineType	Doses	% of Doses
J&J	396,959	3.39%
Moderna	4,311,759	36.84%
Pfizer	6,995,615	59.77%
Total	**11,704,333**	**100.00%**

Vaccinated % by Sex

County	7 Day Positivity	Doses	Fully Vaccinated	Population Over 5	Fully Vaccinated %
	7.2%	201,974	79,879		Infinity
Leelanau	8.7%	32,042	16,141	20,859	77.4%
Oakland	9.9%	1,726,241	853,118	1,190,128	71.7%
Washtenaw	8.7%	506,978	250,499	349,900	71.6%
Grand Traverse	15.5%	124,211	62,621	88,301	70.9%
Emmet	3.9%	43,605	22,211	31,890	69.6%
Kent	8.8%	841,284	420,550	613,464	68.6%
Wayne	9.3%	1,402,453	691,943	1,010,398	68.5%
Kalamazoo	9.9%	338,095	167,307	249,419	67.1%
Benzie	9.1%	22,202	11,303	16,966	66.6%
Mackinac	0.0%	13,424	6,876	10,360	66.4%
Lake	3.7%	12,779	7,449	11,297	65.9%
Marquette	4.4%	81,496	41,351	63,610	65.0%
Charlevoix	0.0%	31,671	16,242	25,003	65.0%
Mason	6.1%	35,281	17,843	27,595	64.7%
Clinton	16.0%	97,264	48,532	75,233	64.5%
Alger	0.0%	11,037	5,630	8,764	64.2%
Midland	9.5%	100,991	50,373	78,626	64.1%
Ottawa	10.7%	344,906	173,767	274,181	63.4%
Manistee	12.5%	29,074	14,891	23,506	63.3%
Presque Isle	8.3%	14,569	7,627	12,091	63.1%
Eaton	15.3%	131,018	65,518	104,446	62.7%
Total	**8.8%**	**11,704,333**	**5,817,638**	**9,420,409**	**61.8%**

Vaccinated % by Age Group

Incoming Caseload

Incoming caseload trends by county over time

Year	Court Type	Region	Court	County	Comparison Group	Case Group	Case Type	Incoming
All	All	All	All	All	All	All	All	New Filin...

Top 5 Counties

County	
Wayne	17,848,663
Oakland	7,271,520
Macomb	4,728,255
Kent	2,270,467
Ingham	2,164,278

County ● Alcona ● Alger ● Allegan ● Alpena ● Antrim ● Arenac ● Baraga ● Barry ● Bay ● Benzie ▶

Court ● C01-1st Circuit ... ● C02-2nd Circ... ● C03-3rd Circ... ● C04-4th Cir... ● C05-5th Cir... ▶
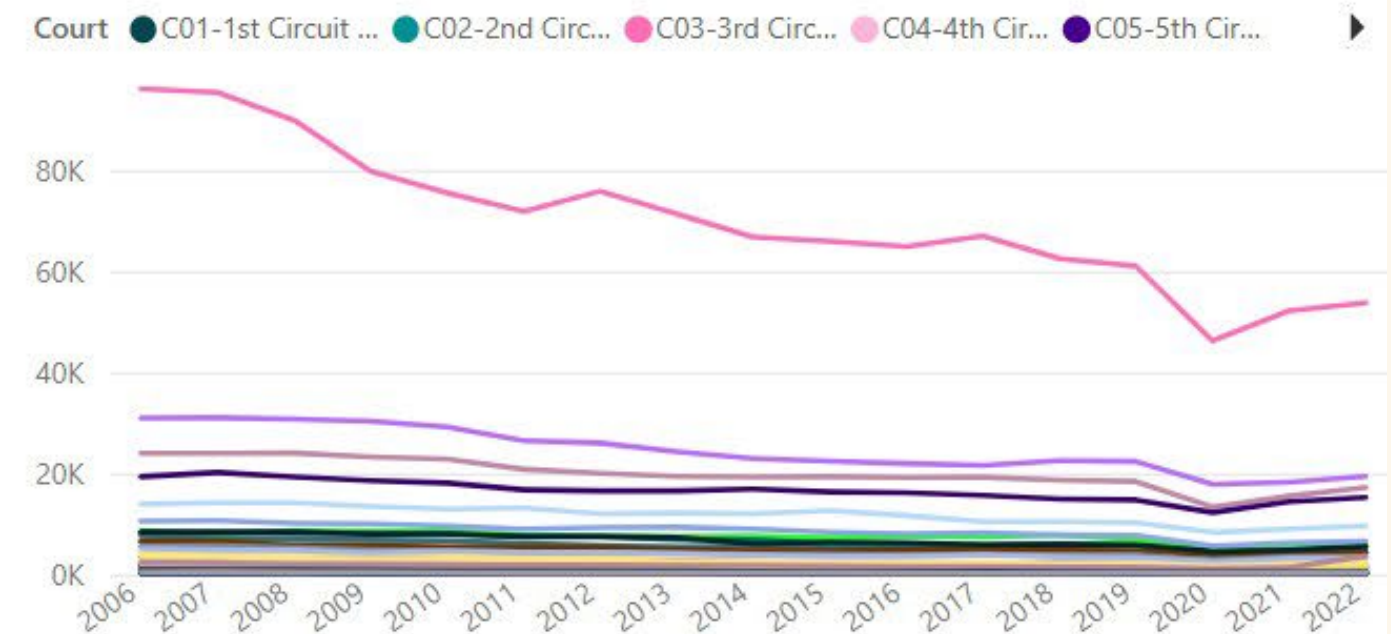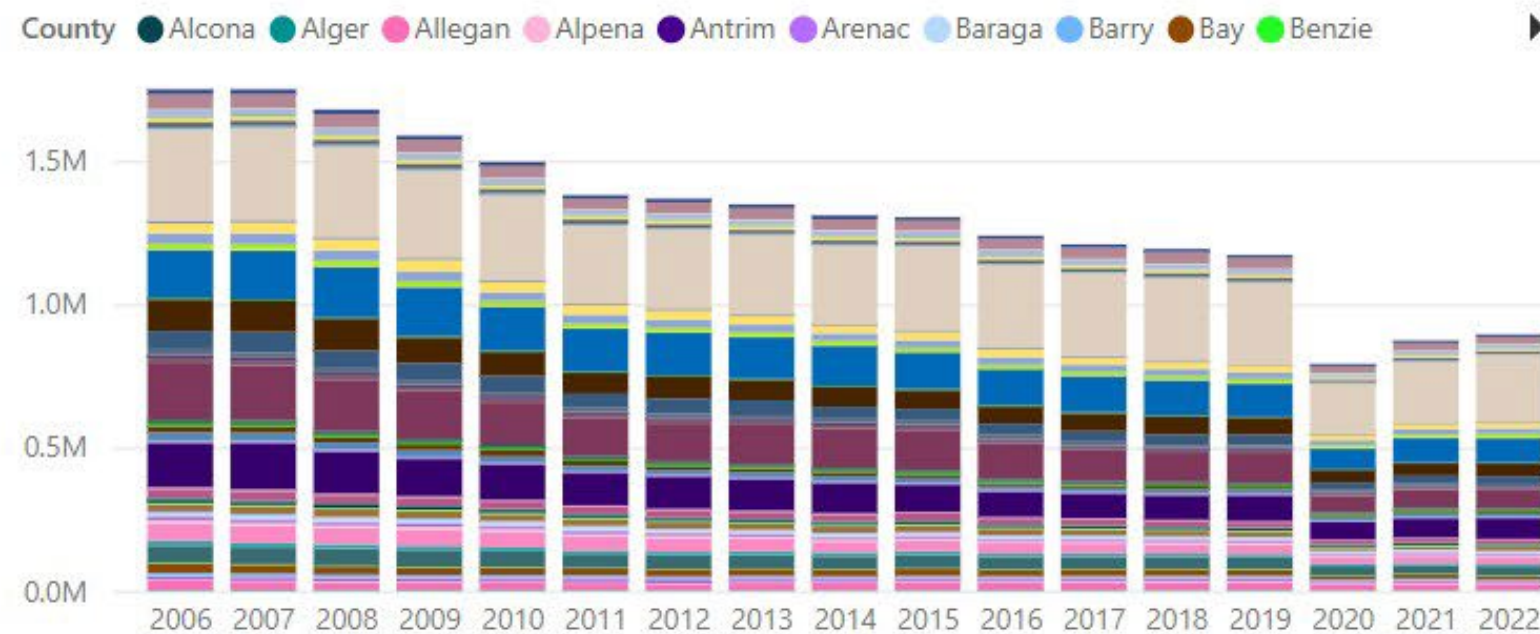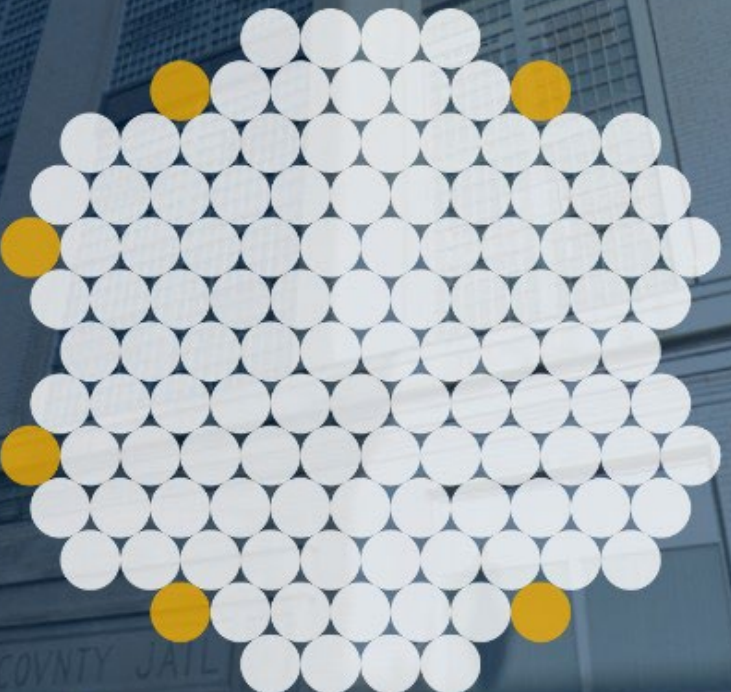
County	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
⊞ Alcona	2,258	2,743	2,247	2,421	2,417	1,849	1,914	1,965	1,709	1,858	2,180	1,989	1,539	1,494	1,362	1,223
⊞ Alger	1,752	1,828	2,002	1,781	1,781	1,917	1,464	1,254	1,343	1,667	1,658	1,693	1,938	2,435	1,456	1,526
⊞ Allegan	29,982	26,676	24,256	23,401	22,629	21,605	20,236	22,244	23,082	24,578	23,226	23,781	24,820	24,766	18,737	20,245
⊞ Alpena	6,381	6,083	6,114	6,302	5,999	5,725	5,526	6,858	6,019	5,896	6,775	7,243	7,259	6,352	4,474	4,994

Sometimes data comes later

People who have been in Wayne County jail for more than 18 months

Data as of last month. Click on a highlighted circle to hear their story

Source: A Michigan Radio analysis of the Wayne County Sheriff Inmate Inquiry as of the week of Jan. 24. Data goes back to 2018.

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Population | Gender | Age | Race/Ethnicity | Mental Health Services | Length of Stay

Daily Inmate Population for the Last 30 Days - Jail & Tether

The daily jail population is the numerical sum of all detainees in custody per day. The gold color represents Electronic Monitoring Unit (Tether) detainees, and the green color represents detainees physically housed in the Wayne County Jail (Jail).

Five takeaways from Wayne County Jail's new data drop

Michigan Radio | By Nisa Khan
Published November 25, 2022 at 6:00 AM EST

My own personal request: RENT DATA

From KUT

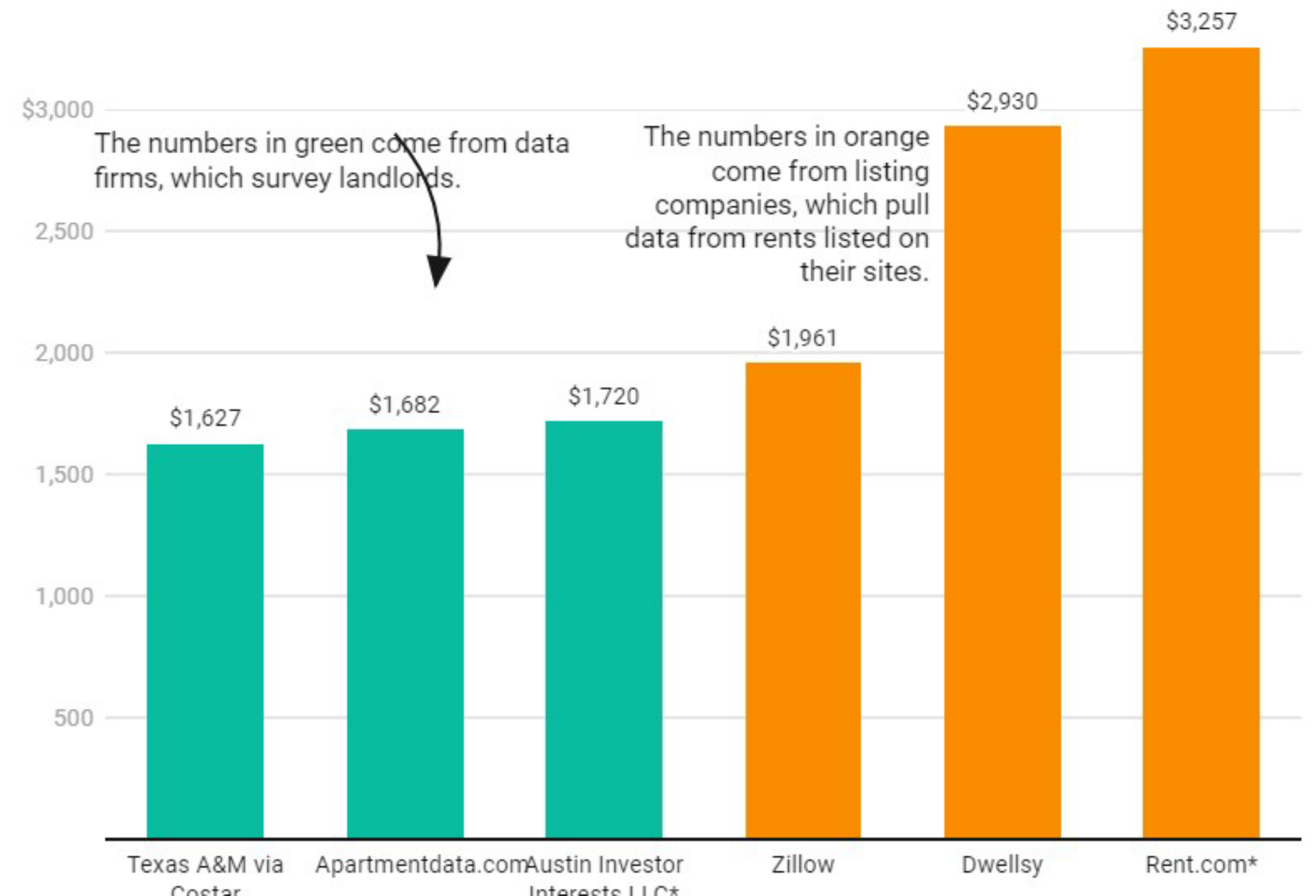## $1,700, $2,900, $3,200 a month? What's the real cost of rent in Austin?

Related reading:
Urban Institute: Rents Are Too High.
Here Are Three Ways to Get the Data
We Need to Fix That.

What did Austin area residents pay in rent this summer?

These numbers represent average or median monthly rents at some point this past summer in the Austin metro, from Round Rock to San Marcos.

The numbers in green come from data firms, which survey landlords.

The numbers in orange come from listing companies, which pull data from rents listed on their sites.

	$1,627	$1,682	$1,720	$1,961	$2,930	$3,257
	Texas A&M via CoStar	Apartmentdata.com	Austin Investor Interests LLC*	Zillow	Dwellsy	Rent.com*

Thank you for listening!

Any questions?

hello world.

Source: Bubblesort Zine