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To the funding committee:

I am writing to apply for the undergraduate research grant provided by your institution. I am interested in studying the “Kaggle Death in the United States” data set, available for download at <https://www.kaggle.com/cdc/mortality>. This data set provides a record of all deaths in the United States between 2005 and 2015. For each decedent, it provides cause of death, and demographic information such as age, race, sex, marital status, education, and resident status. The data set contains 77 columns and over 1 million rows per year. Names and other personally identifying information have been redacted and are not a part of this data set.

This data set interests me because it spans a time frame of relative prosperity and of great economic upheaval (during the Great Recession). I am interested in observing how death in the United States changed throughout this time frame. A understanding of death during economic upheaval may give people an impetus to prepare for the inevitable next recession. An emphasis on survivors in the population, though not explicitly included in the data set, may give us hope for the future.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Sean Carver, Ph. D.  
Professorial Lecturer