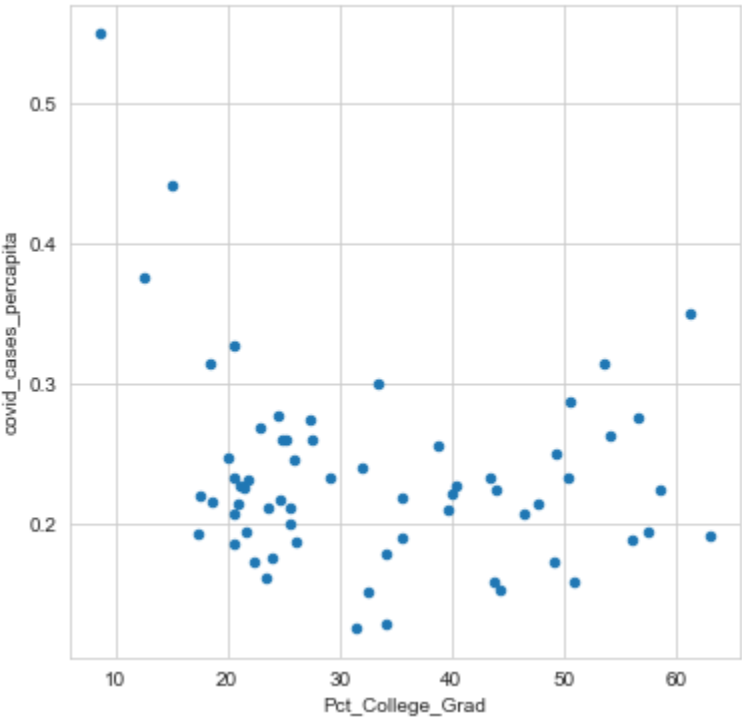


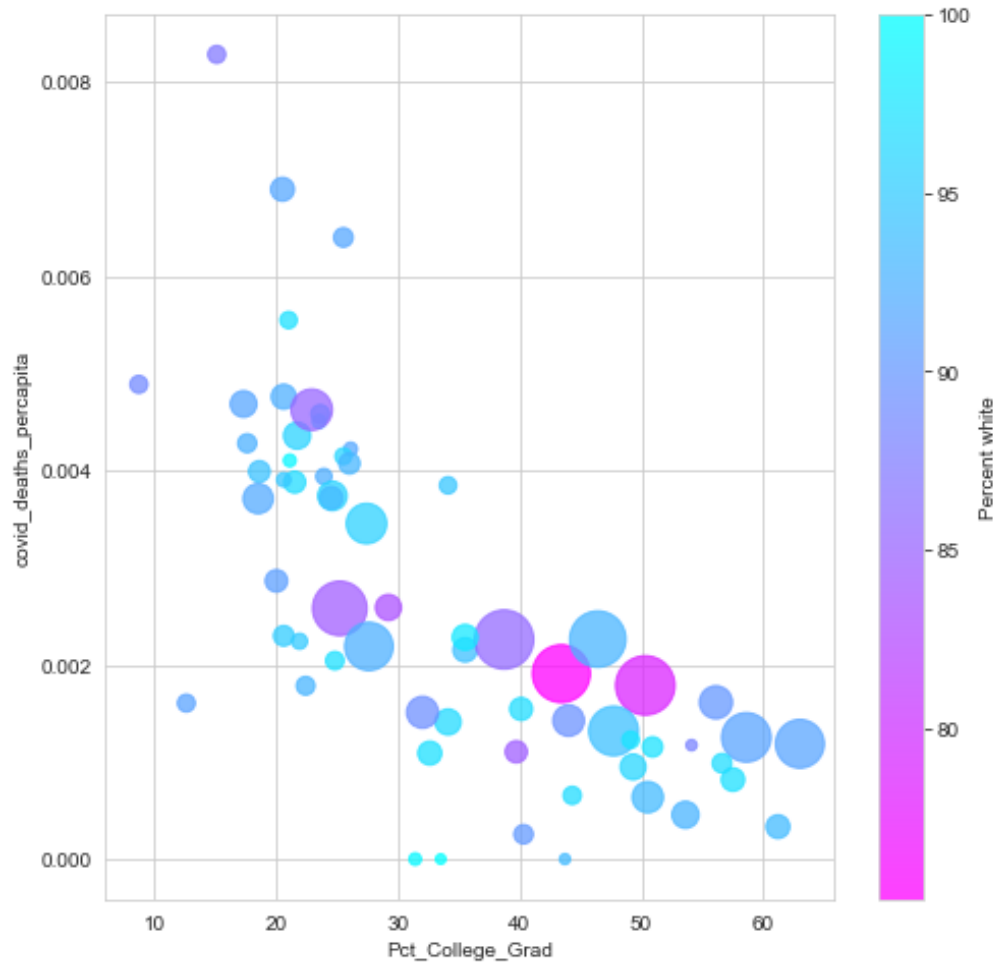
# College Degree vs Lifespan

In today's fast-paced and competitive world, obtaining a college degree has become increasingly important for individuals seeking to establish successful careers and financial stability. However, it would seem unusual to predict that attending college can also have a significant impact on one's lifespan. This research has found that individuals who obtain a college degree tend to live longer and have better health outcomes in regard to COVID-19 deaths than those who do not. In this article, we will explore the various ways in which attending college can lead to a longer and healthier life.

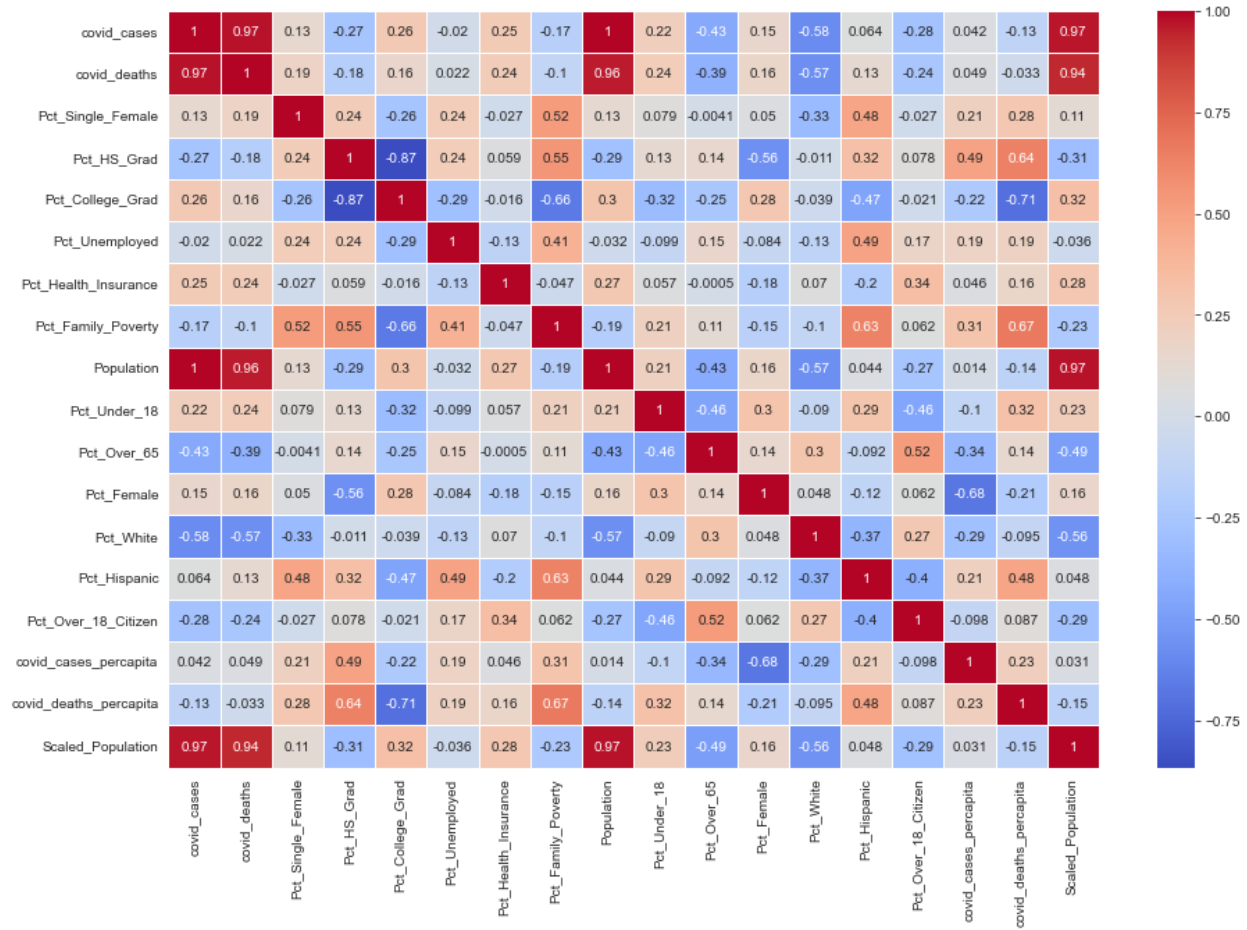
For this research, the data was reduced to only look at the counties within Colorado. This scatter plot shows the relationship between the percent of college graduates in Colorado compared to the COVID cases per capita. As the graph depicts, there is a steep decline in the number of COVID cases per capita as the percentage of college graduates increases. As the graduates become more than 50 percent of the population, the COVID cases increase. This relationship is unusual but can be explained if the population is taken into account. The next graph will show that relationship.



This graph is the same as above, but it now includes the scale for the population for each county. This is a better representation of the relationship because it reduces the data down. This new visualization still shows the relationship between COVID 19 deaths per capita and the percent of college grads, but the size now represents size of population per county. Larger counties contain higher percentage of college graduates as well as lower COVID deaths per capita.



This last visualization is a correlation chart for all the county data represented in this research. The higher correlation is represented by a darker red on the color scale and negative correlation is represented with the blue color scale. Some key elements to this visualization that are depicted are the correlation between percent college graduates and COVID deaths per capita. The correlation for college grads is  $-0.71$ , a very strong negative correlation whereas high school graduates have a positive correlation of  $0.64$ , which is a strong positive correlation. This difference in correlations indicates that high school graduates have a higher chance of dying from COVID compared to those who have a college degree. This backs up the original hypothesis that having higher education helps people live longer.



In conclusion, the evidence presented in this research suggests that obtaining a college degree can have a positive impact on an individual's lifespan, particularly during times of crisis such as the COVID-19 pandemic. The data shows a clear correlation between the percentage of college graduates and the number of COVID-19 cases and deaths per capita in Colorado counties. Counties with a higher percentage of college graduates tend to have lower COVID-19 cases and deaths per capita than counties with a lower percentage of college graduates. Moreover, the correlation chart shows a strong negative correlation between percent college graduates and COVID-19 deaths per capita, indicating that individuals with a college degree have a lower risk of dying from COVID-19.

This research has important implications for individuals considering whether or not to pursue a college degree. While the benefits of obtaining a college degree in terms of career prospects and financial stability have been well-established, this research adds to the growing body of evidence suggesting that higher education may also contribute to longer and healthier lives. The findings of this research also suggest that policies aimed at increasing college attendance and graduation rates may have important public health benefits, particularly during times of crisis such as the current COVID-19 pandemic.

Overall, this research highlights the importance of education in promoting individual and public health. By pursuing higher education, individuals can not only enhance their career prospects and financial stability but also improve their overall health outcomes, leading to longer and healthier lives.