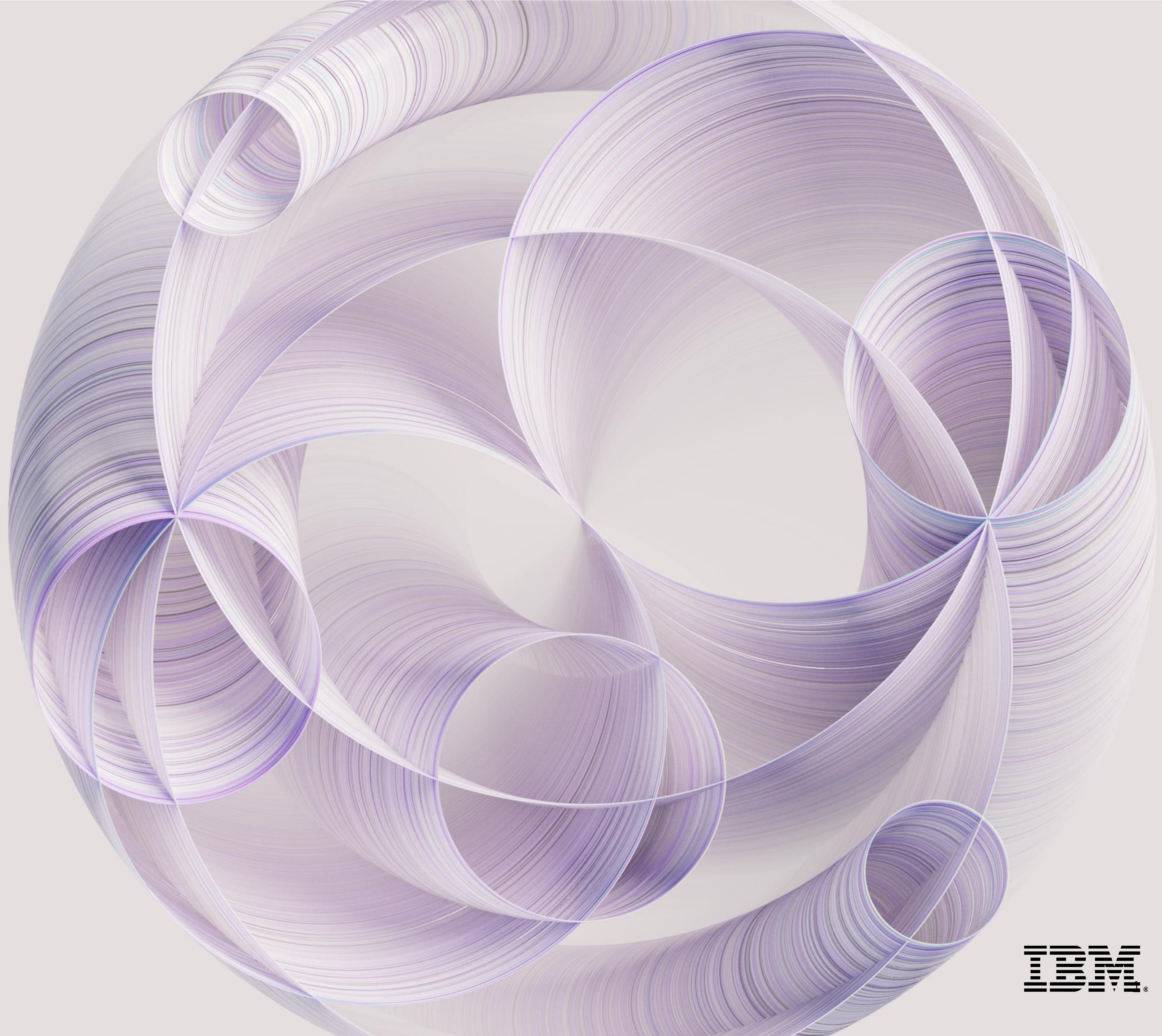


# Storytelling with Data

Module 3



# Your course facilitators and DOH advisors



**Sunaina Menawat**  
Associate Partner  
HHS and Public Health  
State & Local Government  
IBM Consulting



**Mark Freeman**  
Chief Data Scientist  
State & Local Government  
IBM Consulting



**Zeyno Nixon, PhD, MPH, MA** (she/her)  
Manager, Data Visualization Section  
Center for Data Science



**Alexandria Matos** (she/her/ella)  
Informatics and Advanced Analytics Supervisor  
Prevention and Community Health Division



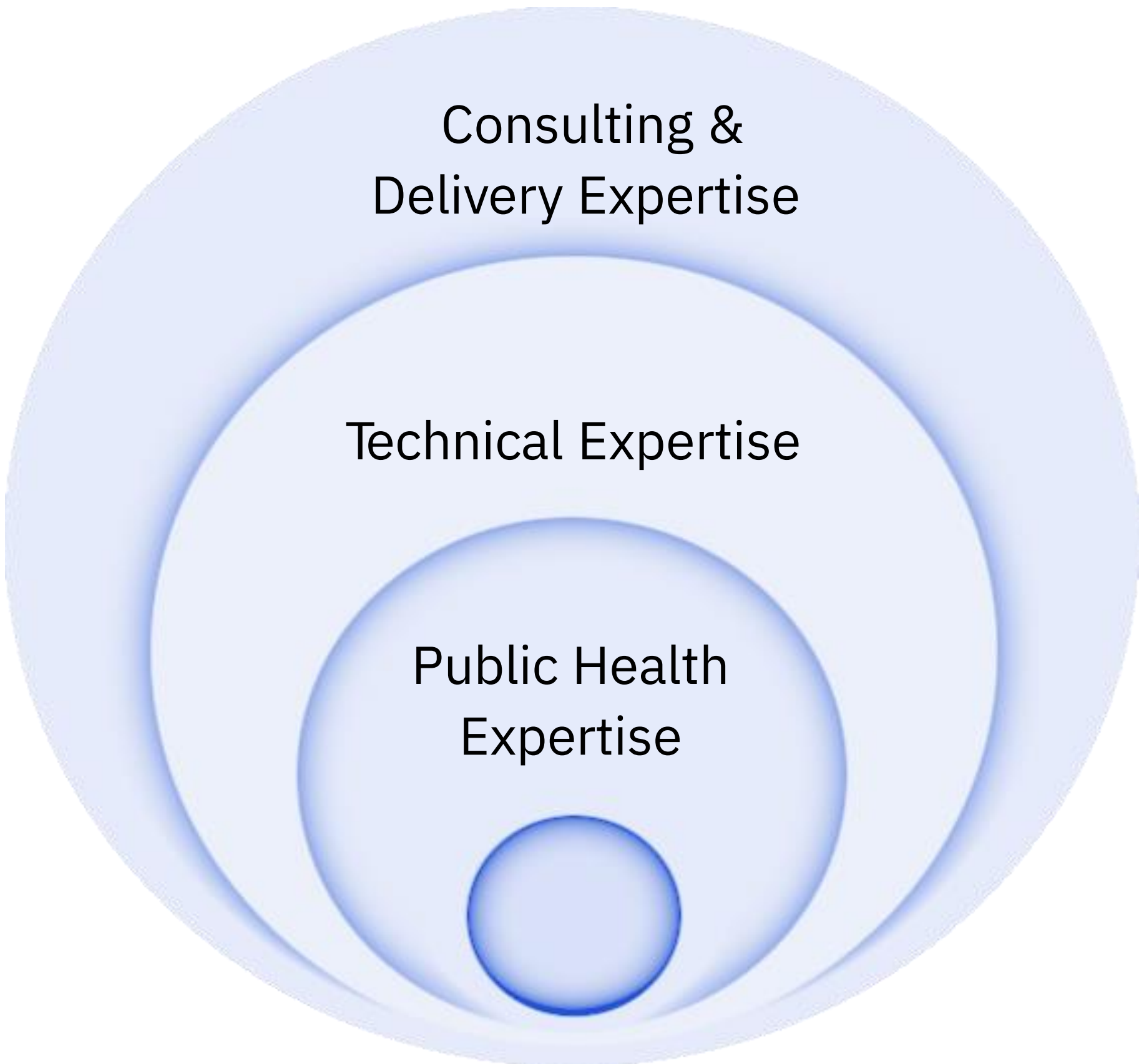
**Francoise Pickart** (she/her)  
Data Democratization Manager  
Center for Data Science  
Office of Health + Science



**Chess Claire** (they/he)  
Data Product Owner  
Environmental Public Health

# We're from the IBM Consulting Public Health Group.

*IBM has served public health agencies since 2003, and health and human services agencies for over 45 years.*



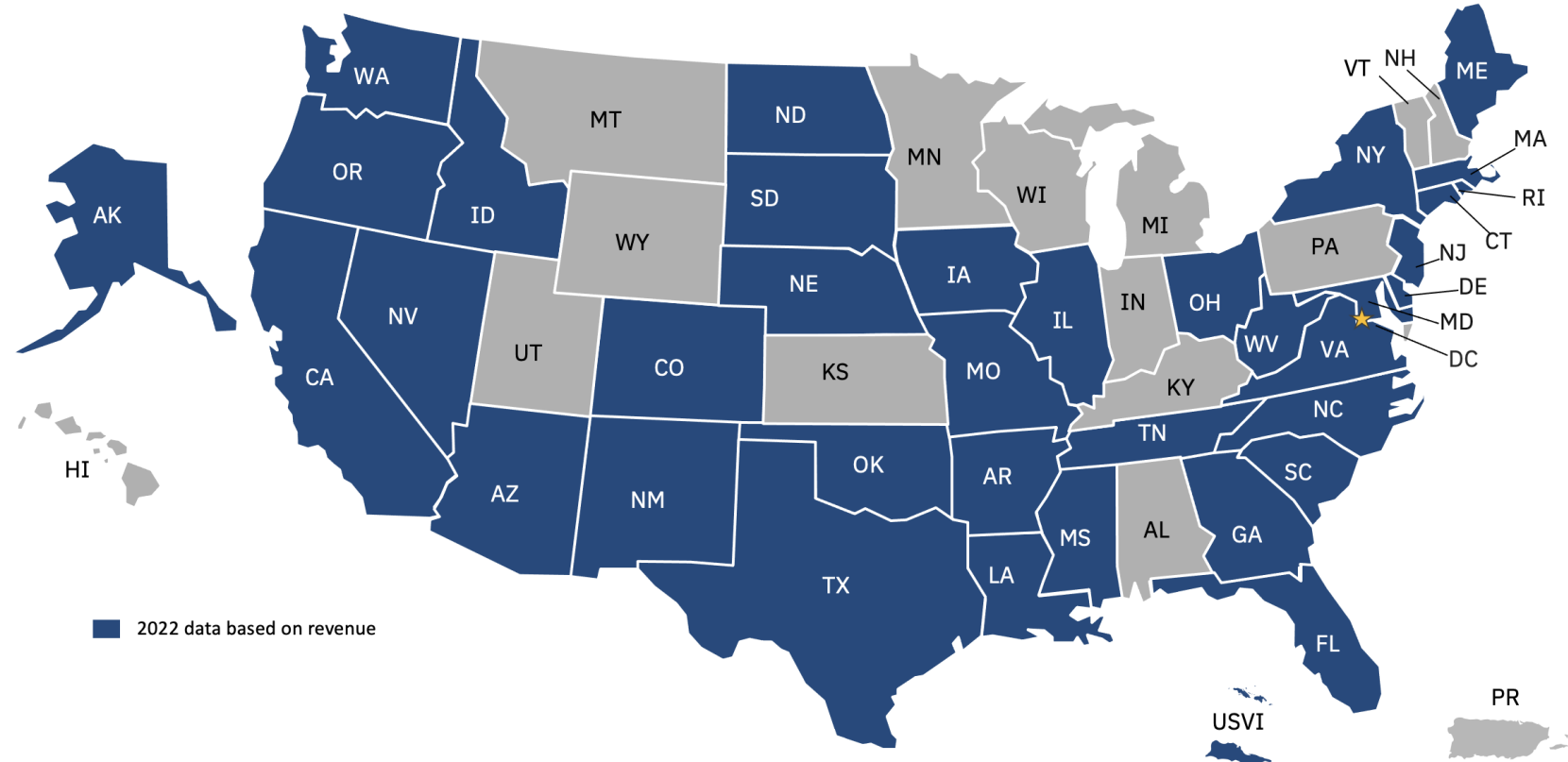
### Key Skills

- Applied Epidemiologists
- Immunization Specialists
- Informaticians
- Data Scientists
- Biostatisticians
- MD, DrPH, MPH, MS

### Areas of Focus

- Infectious Disease
- Immunology
- Community Based Healthcare
- Electronic Health Records
- WIC
- Medicaid Data Warehousing and Program Integrity
- Child Support
- Child Welfare
- Whole Person Care

### Select Partners & Clients



- Contracts Include:**
- Enterprise Data Warehousing (EDW)/Decision Support Systems (DSS)
  - Program Integrity/Fraud, Waste, and Abuse Detection
  - Maintenance and Operations
  - Application Modernization
  - COTS Product Implementations
  - Business Process Transformation
  - Case Management
  - Analytic Consulting
  - Data Integration
  - Enterprise Strategy / Technology Assessment



# Equitable public health data storytelling is guided by do-no-harm principles

01 Critically examine your data

02 Use people-first language

03 Label people, not skin color

04 Labels and their hierarchy have meaning

05 Consider missing groups

06 Use color with awareness and care

07 Consider impact of icons and shapes

08 Connect with those central to your research

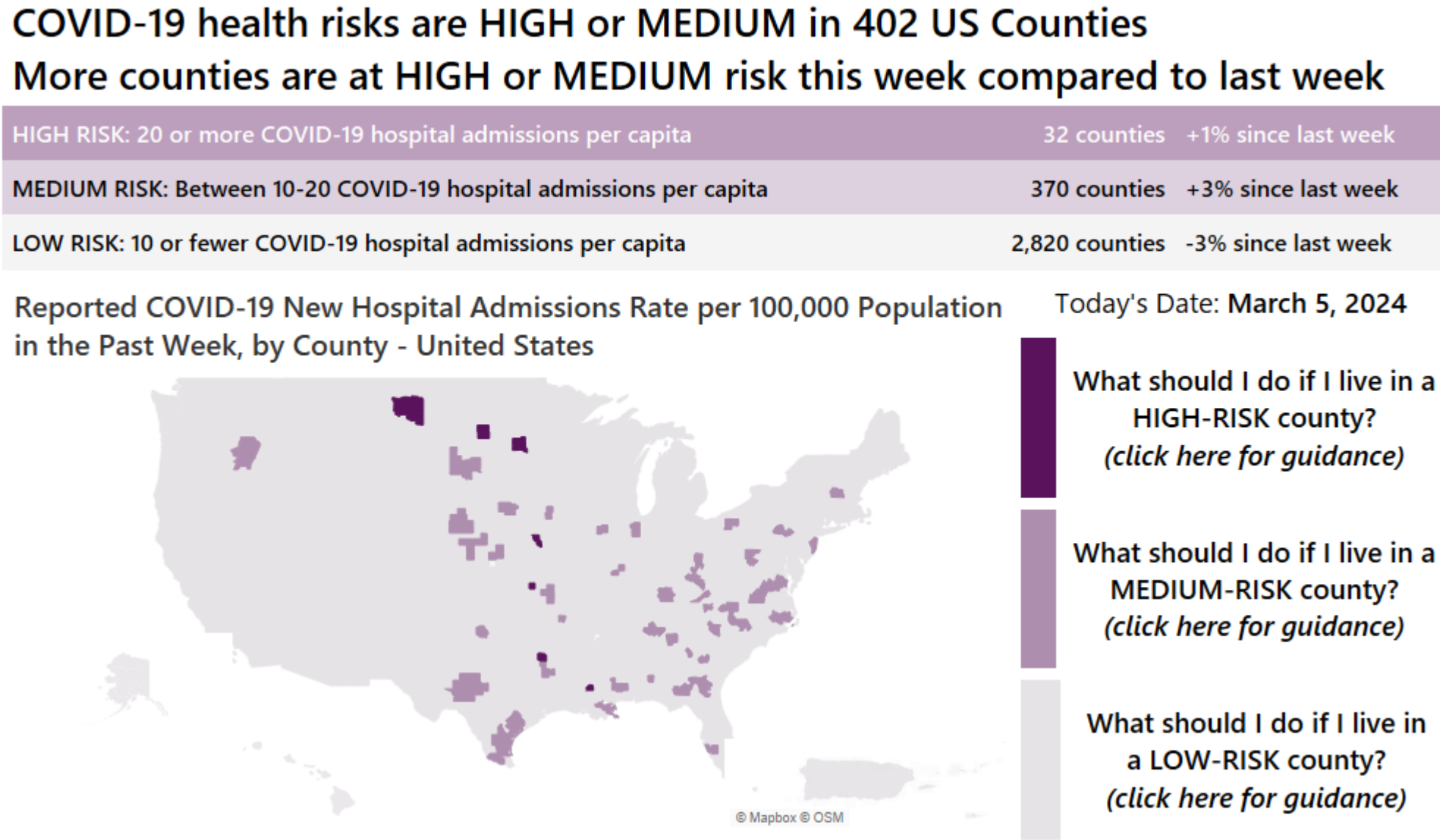
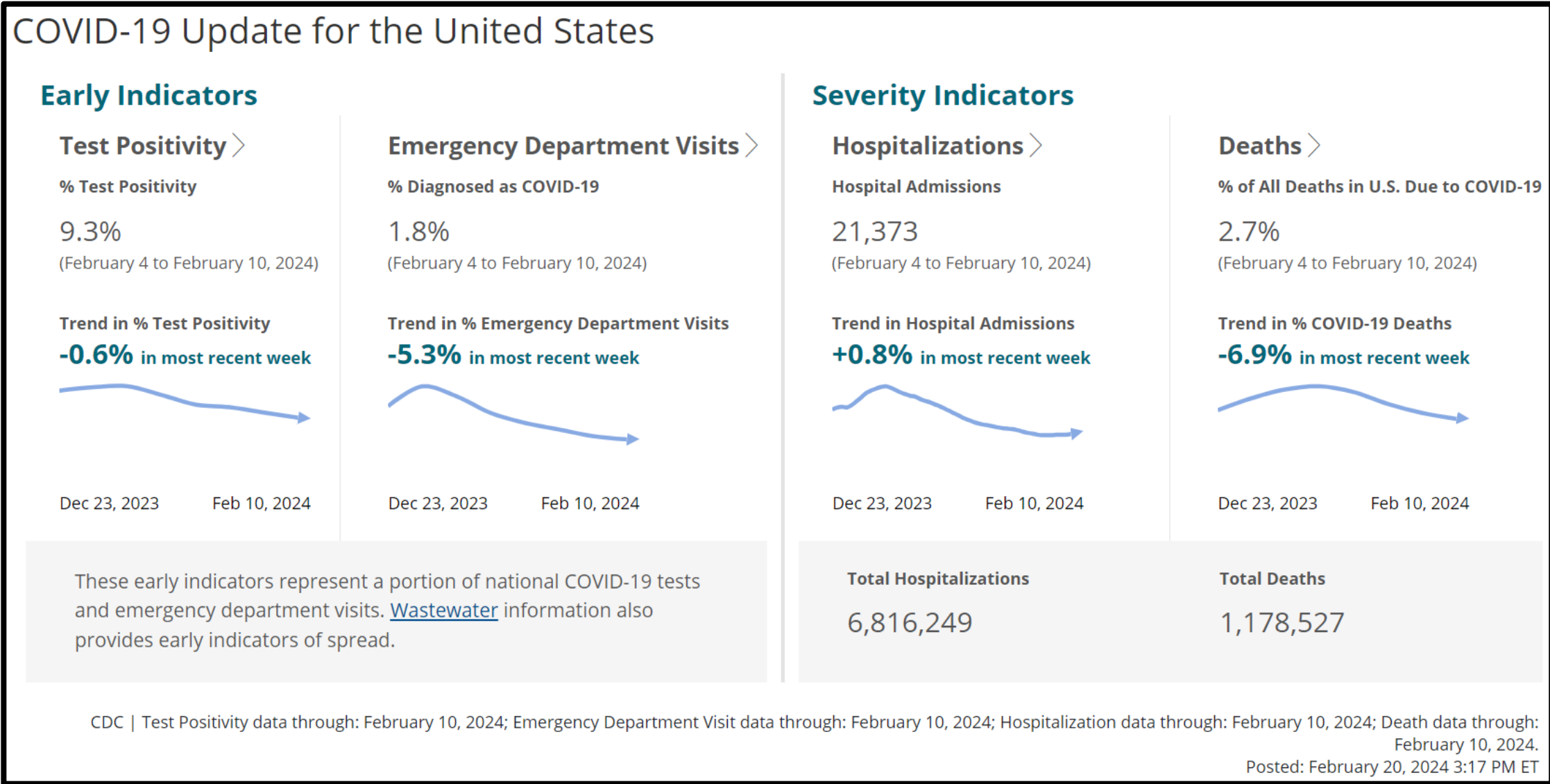
09 Reflect lived experiences

10 Understand your audience's needs

# This Storytelling with Data Training series will teach you how to go ...

From Here

To There



We will teach you storytelling best practices in three sessions or modules

**WEEK 1: MODULE 1**

- Module 1 will show you how to:
- Identify with your audience
  - Craft a compelling storyline

**LAST WEEK: MODULE 2**

- Module 2 will show you how to:
- Draft a data story
  - Get feedback and finalize your story

**TODAY: MODULE 3**

- Module 3 will show you how to:
- Choose methods to deliver your story
  - Incorporate ongoing feedback

## Module 1: Recap

- Identify with your audience
  - Personas
  - Needs statements
- Craft a compelling storyline
  - Four parts of the story
    - Hook
    - Rising Moments
    - AHA Moment
    - Call to Action

### **Share your thoughts in the chat:**

Do you have any questions?

What were your experiences with the practice activities?



# In Module 1, we created a data story narrative for the CDC



## Our COVID-19 Storyboard

COVID-19 risk level in  
<Community> is  
<Low, Medium, High>.

Map of US County risk  
levels color-coded to  
highlight risk.

# US Counties at  
Medium or Higher  
risk in comparison  
to prior week.

Tailored list of  
recommended actions  
based on level of risk.

## An Example Storyline Using the Storyboard

1. **HOOK:** COVID-19 risks are MEDIUM or HIGH in 402 US counties. More counties are at elevated risk this week compared to last week.
2. **RISING POINT:** A cluster of counties in East Texas are at HIGH risk of COVID-19 illness.
3. **AHA MOMENT:** Camp County Texas is at HIGH risk of COVID-19 illness.
4. **CALL TO ACTION:** Residents of Camp County Texas should take the following actions to protect themselves and others from COVID-19 illness ...

## Module 2: Recap

- Align data to storyline
- Align visuals to storyline
- Craft call to action
- Draft your data story
- Get feedback

### **Share your thoughts in the chat:**

Do you have any questions?

What were your experiences with the practice activities?





# In Module 2, we created a complete data story for the CDC



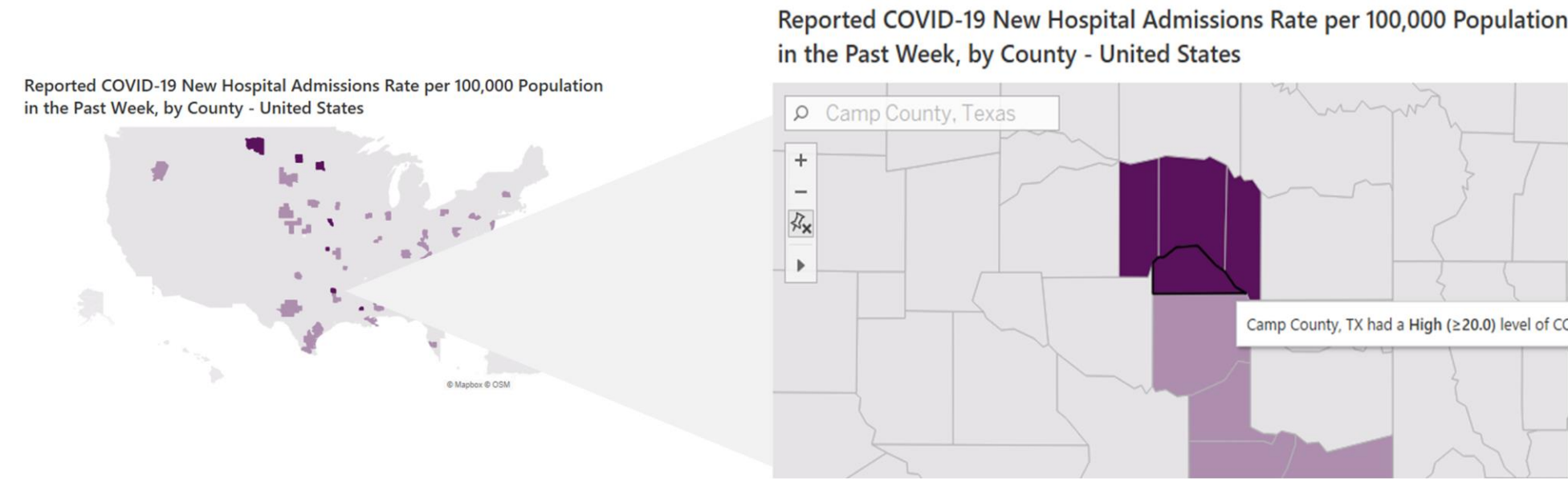
HOOK

COVID-19 health risks are HIGH or MEDIUM in 402 US counties. More counties are at elevated risk this week compared to last week.

HIGH RISK: 20 or more COVID-19 hospital admissions per capita	32 counties	+1% since last week
MEDIUM RISK: Between 10-20 COVID-19 hospital admissions per capita	370 counties	+3% since last week
LOW RISK: 10 or fewer COVID-19 hospital admissions per capita	2,820 counties	-3% since last week

Data through February 20, 2024

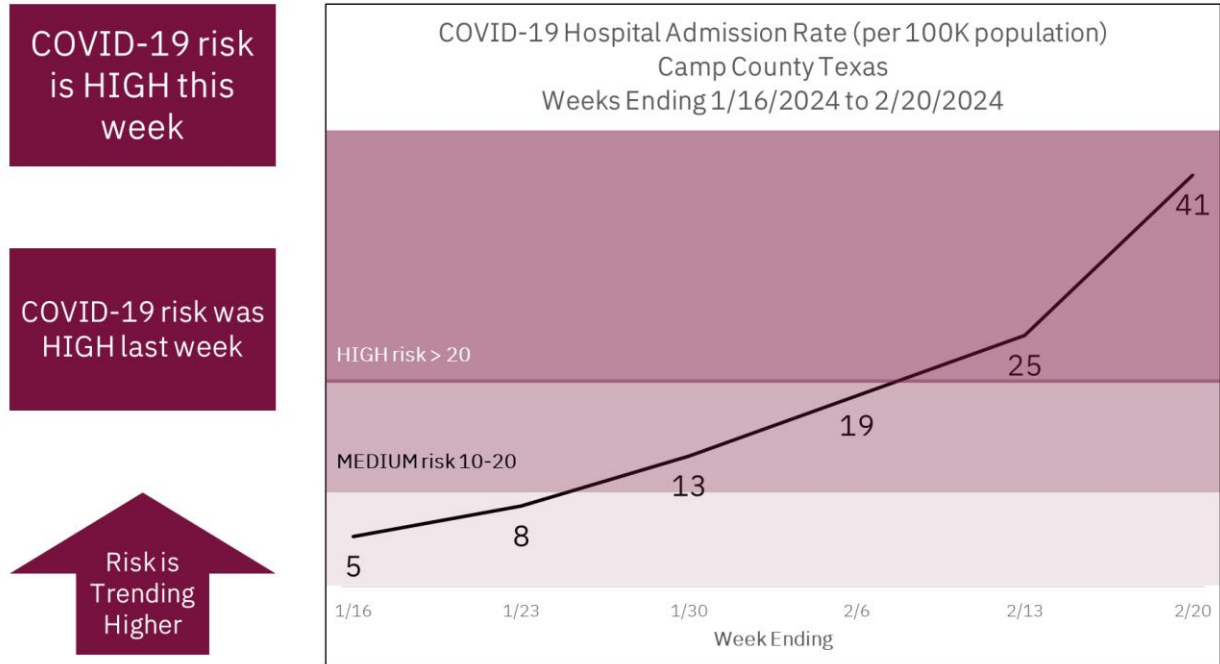
A cluster of counties in East Texas are at HIGH risk of COVID-19 illness.



RISING POINTS

AHA MOMENT

Camp County Texas is at HIGH risk of COVID-19 illness.

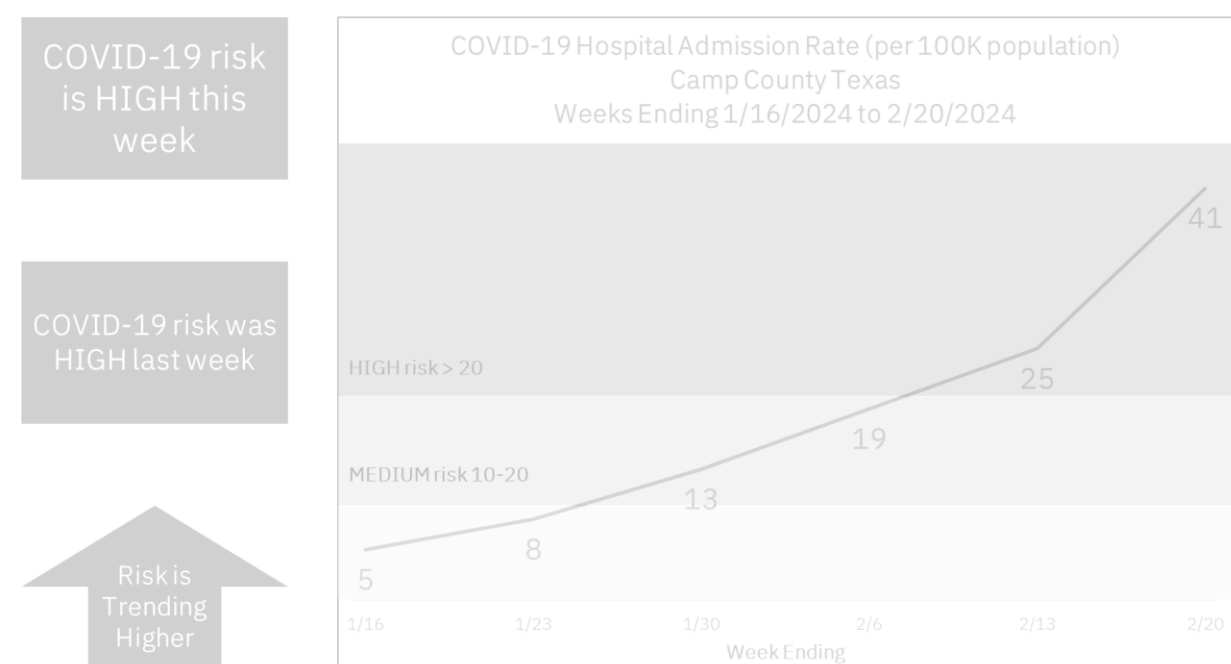


COVID-19 risk is HIGH this week

COVID-19 risk was HIGH last week

Risk is Trending Higher

Camp County Texas is at HIGH risk of COVID-19 illness.



COVID-19 risk is HIGH this week

COVID-19 risk was HIGH last week

Risk is Trending Higher

Those residing in or traveling through Camp County should take the following precautions:

- Wear a high-quality [mask or respirator](#).
- If you are at [high risk of getting very sick](#), consider avoiding non-essential indoor activities in public where you could be exposed.
- If you have household or social contact with someone at high risk for getting sick, consider self-testing to detect infection before contact, and consider wearing a high-quality mask when indoors with them.
- [Stay up to date](#) with COVID-19 vaccines.
- Maintain [ventilation improvements](#).
- Avoid contact with people have suspected or confirmed COVID-19.
- Follow recommendations for [isolation](#) if you have suspected or confirmed COVID-19.
- Follow the recommendations for [what to do if you are exposed](#) to someone with COVID-19.

CALL TO ACTION

# Module 3: Deliver your story and incorporate ongoing feedback

How should we share this story with our audience?

Please share your thoughts in the chat

## **Module 3: Deliver your story and incorporate ongoing feedback**

3.1 Methods to Deliver Your Story

3.2 Mobile Content

3.3 Dashboards

3.4 Presentations

3.5 Methods to Obtain Audience Feedback

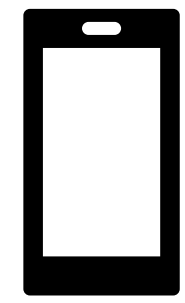
3.6 Incorporating Feedback

3.7 Bonus Tips!

3.8 Course Recap



# 3.1 A few common methods to deliver your data story



## Mobile Content

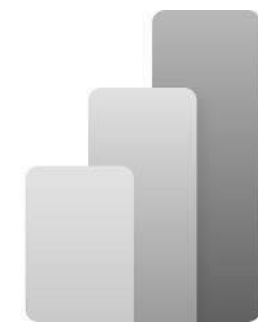
The most common method for general purpose data storytelling to large external audiences (e.g., concerned citizens).

### Advantages:

- Highly scalable to large audiences
- Aligns with how the public receives on-demand information
- Enables audience-adaptive data stories

### Disadvantages:

- Often difficult to incorporate compelling narrative
- Limited flexibility to customize data stories
- High development cost



## Dashboards

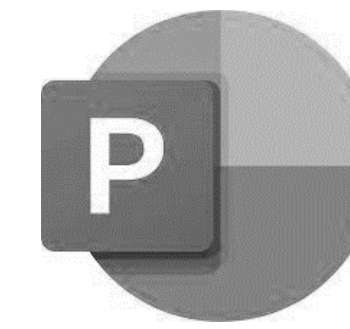
Another common delivery method for general purpose data storytelling to large external audiences (e.g., concerned citizens).

### Advantages:

- Highly scalable to large audiences
- Data stories can be delivered interactively to accommodate the needs of multiple audiences
- Stories can update automatically with new data

### Disadvantages:

- Often difficult to incorporate compelling narrative
- Limited flexibility to customize data stories
- High development cost



## Presentations

The most common delivery method for internal audiences and targeted external audiences (e.g., community groups).

### Advantages:

- Low production cost
- Enables highly customizable combinations of narrative, data, and visualizations
- Easily adaptable to the needs of different audiences

### Disadvantages:

- Not scalable to larger audiences
- Content is not generally interactive
- Stories need to be updated (semi)manually

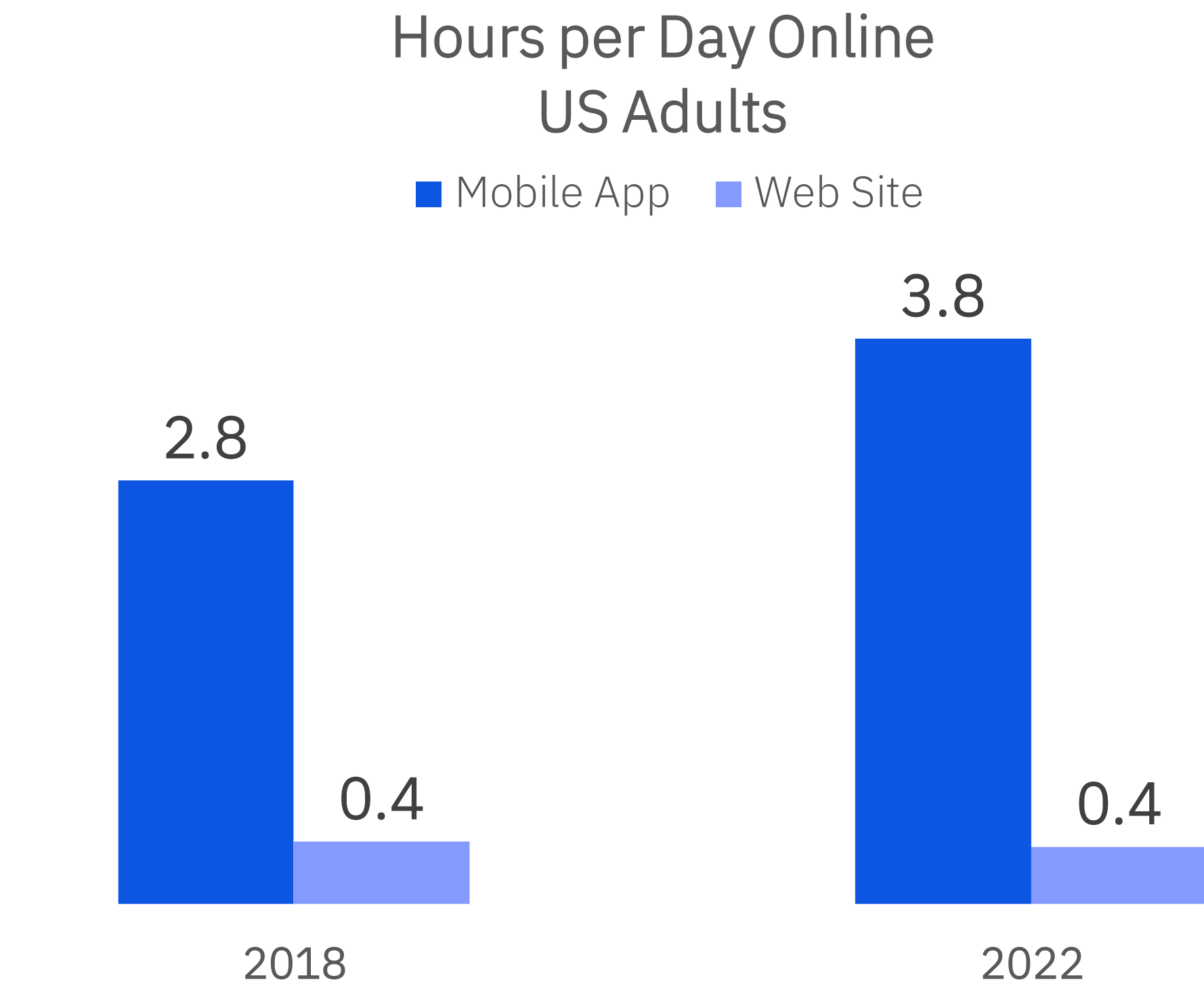
## Share your thoughts in the chat:

- What other methods are there to delivery data stories?
- What are advantages and disadvantages of these methods?

## 3.2 Common methods to deliver your data story: Mobile Content

*Use best practice mobile application design principles to reach your audience where they are most online.*

- 1. Adapt to Less Real Estate:** Adjust your dashboard design to fit within the confines of a smart phone interface. Don't simply replicate your web design on mobile.
- 2. Simpler Visualizations:** Complexity that works well on a web-based dashboard will not be usable in a mobile app.
- 3. Touch-based Interactivity:** Mobile users will touch (instead of click) interactive elements. So interactive elements need to be big enough to be usable with a touch.
- 4. Copy Successful Designs:** Mimic the design of widely used mobile apps that your users will already know how to use.

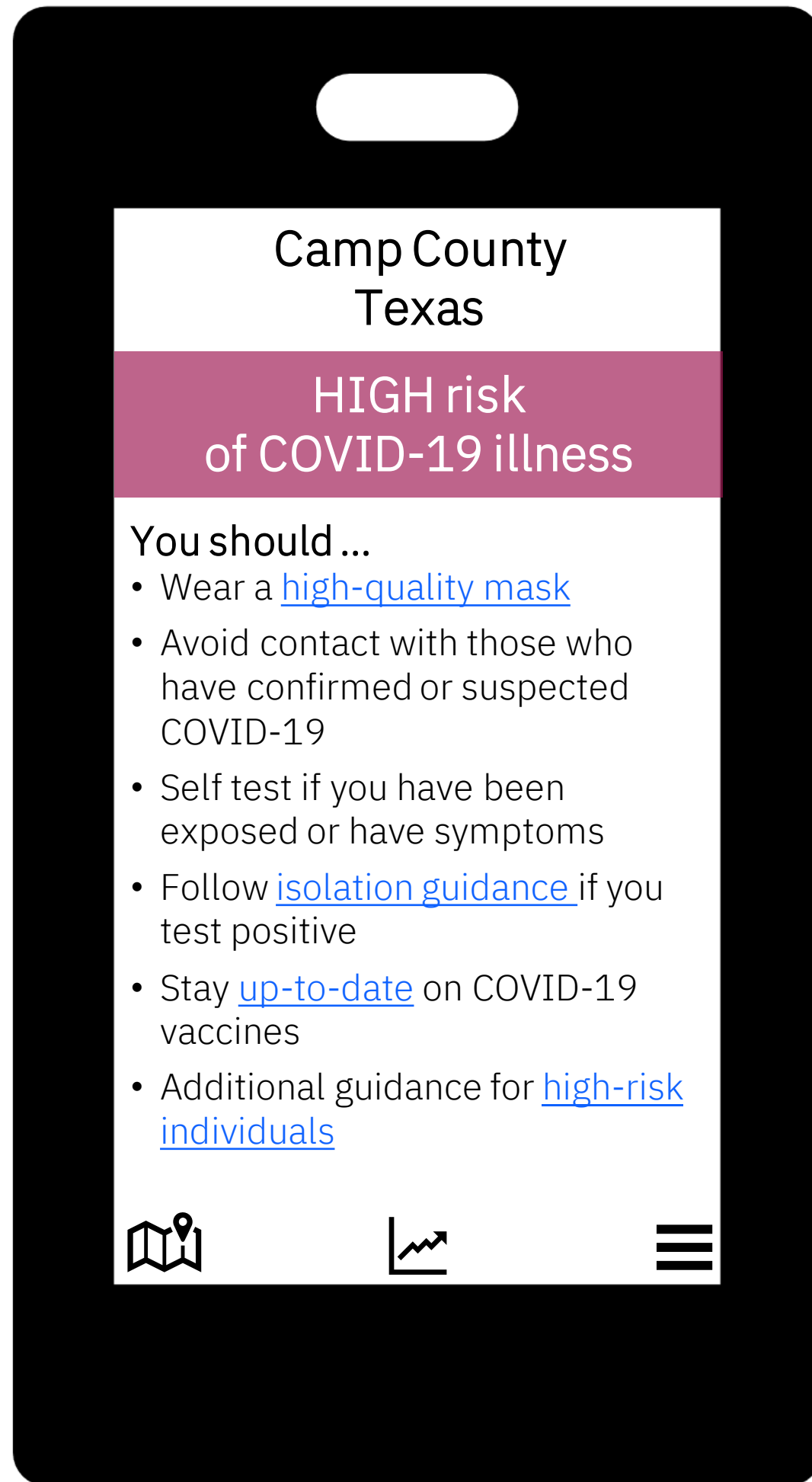


SOURCE: eMarketer.com

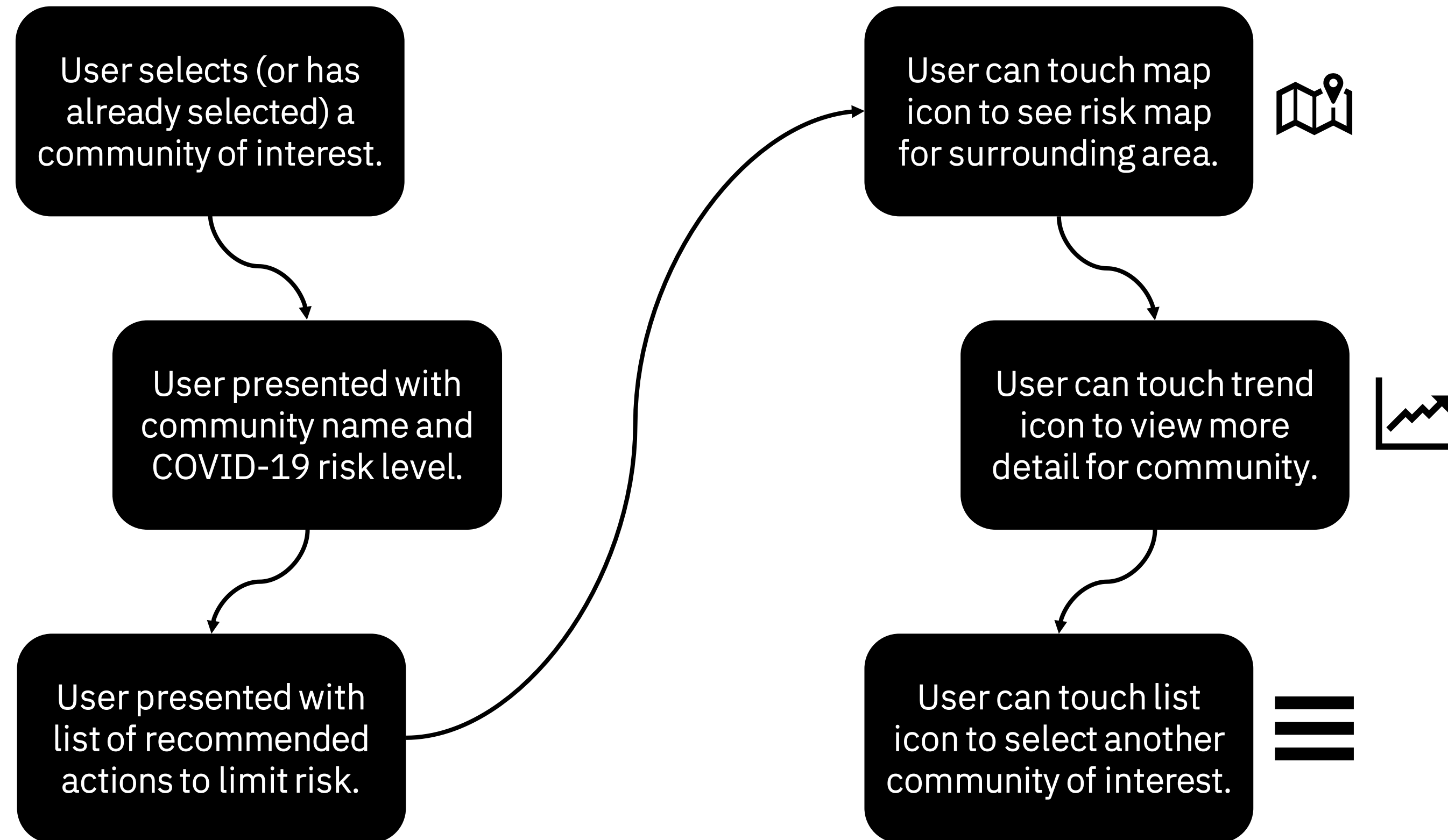
Share your thoughts in the chat:

- What do you think about using apps to share data stories?
- Do you think it's any better than sharing a web dashboard?

# 3.2 Mobile App Example: Mimicking the Weather App



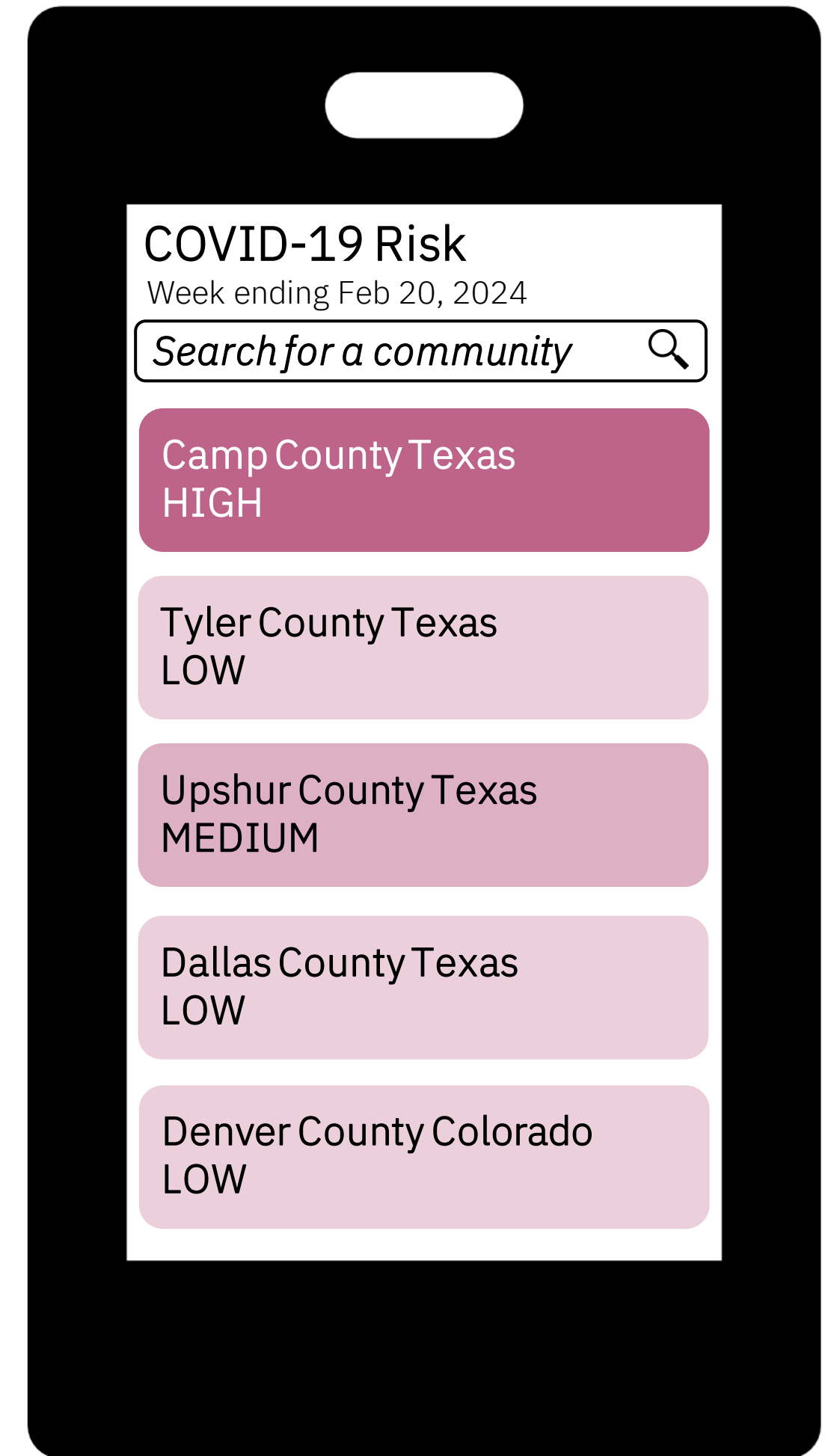
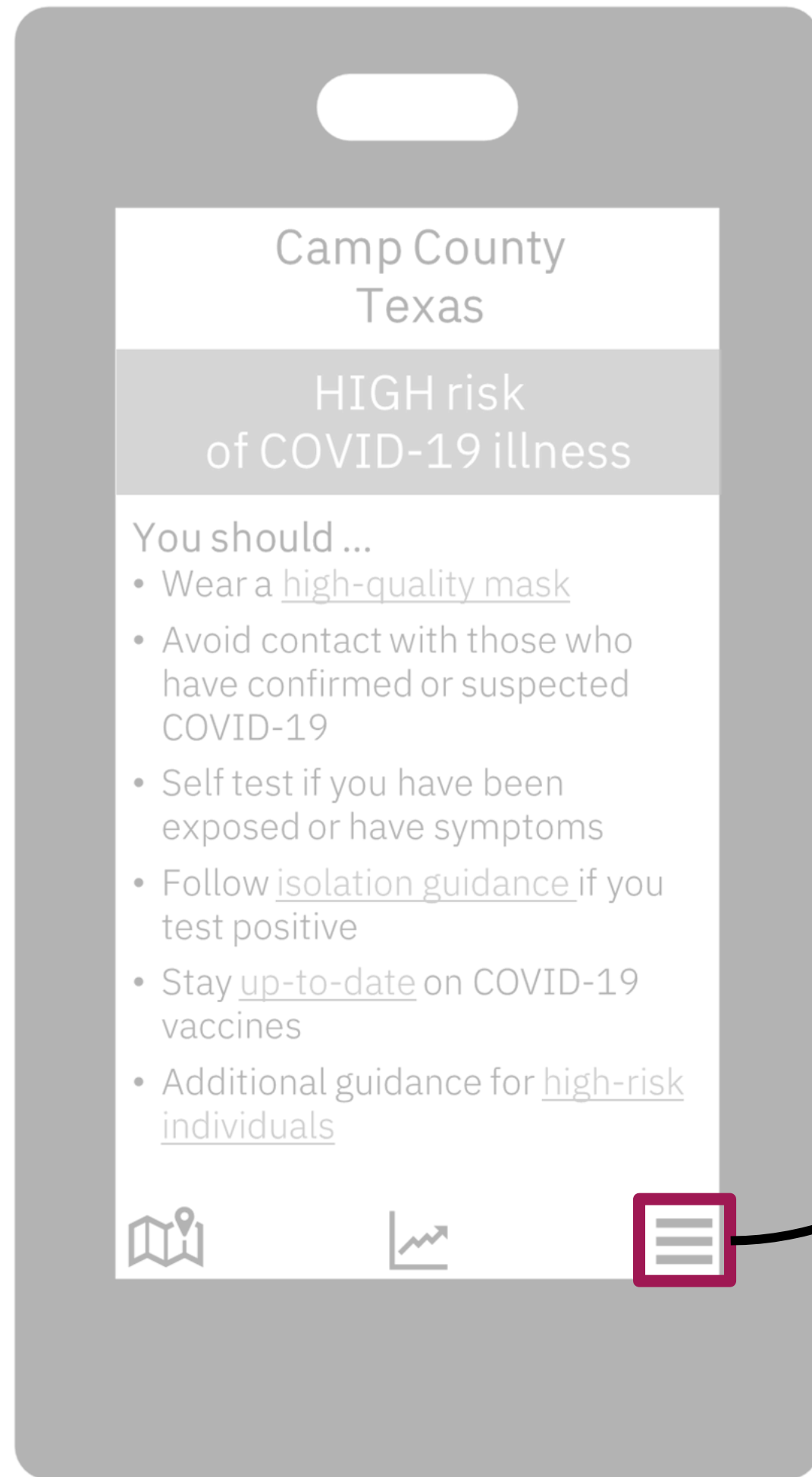
## Mobile App User Story



# 3.2 Mobile App Example: Touching the List Icon



User can touch list icon to select another community of interest.



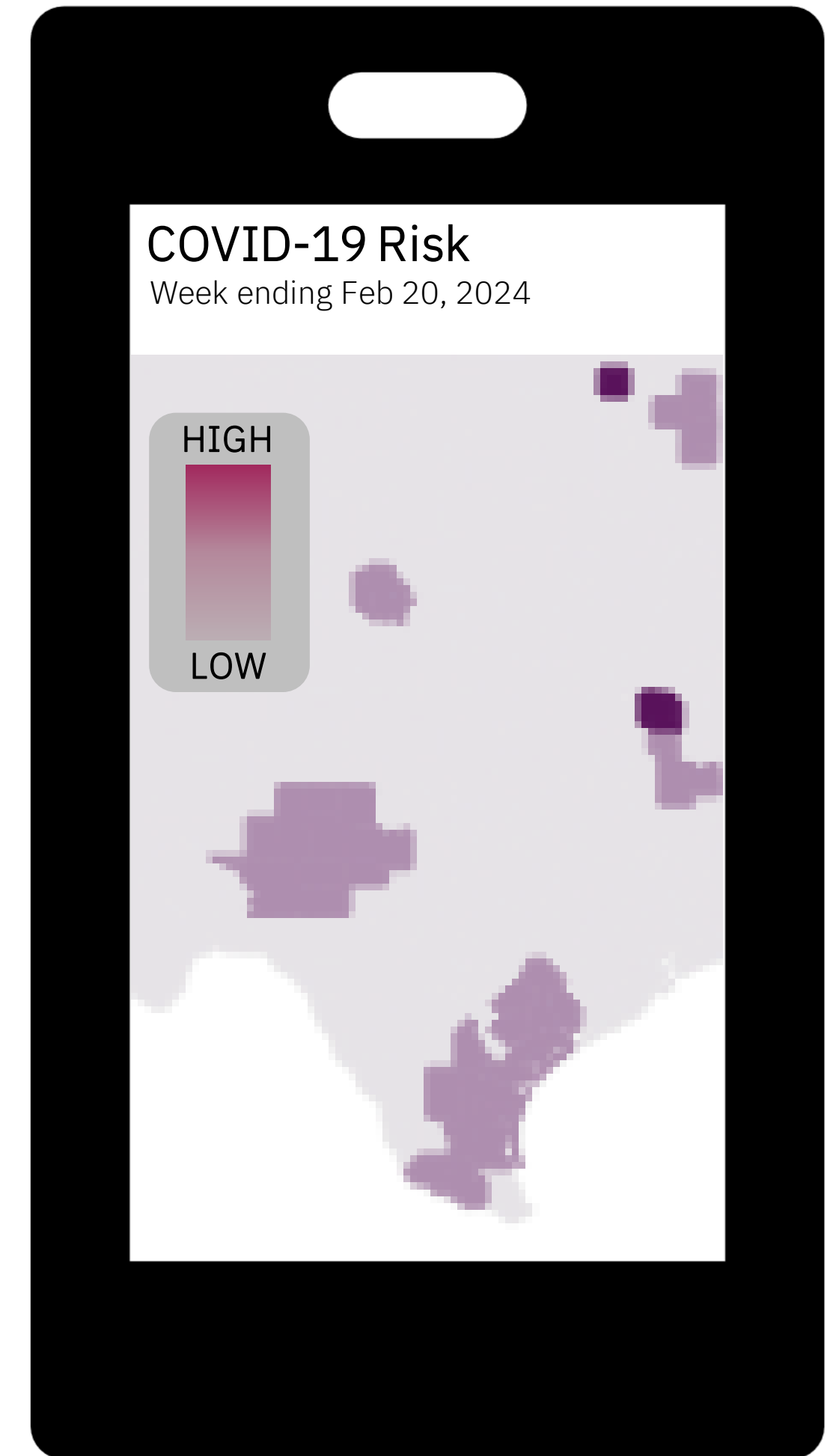
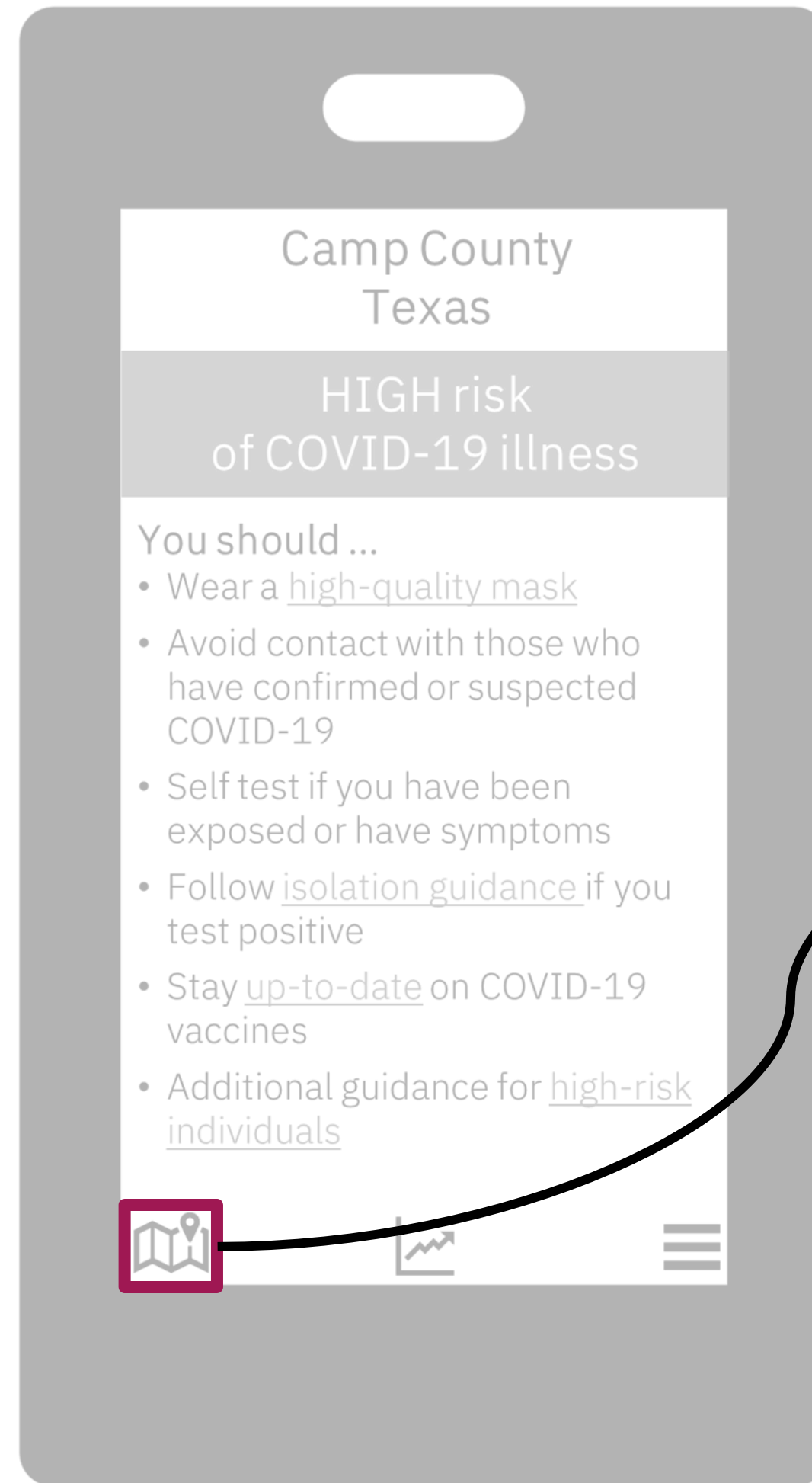
Share your thoughts in the chat:

- What mobile app do you use to obtain data and insights?
- What do you like about them? What do you wish was better?

# 3.2 Mobile App Example: Touching the Map Icon



User can touch map icon to see risk map for surrounding area.

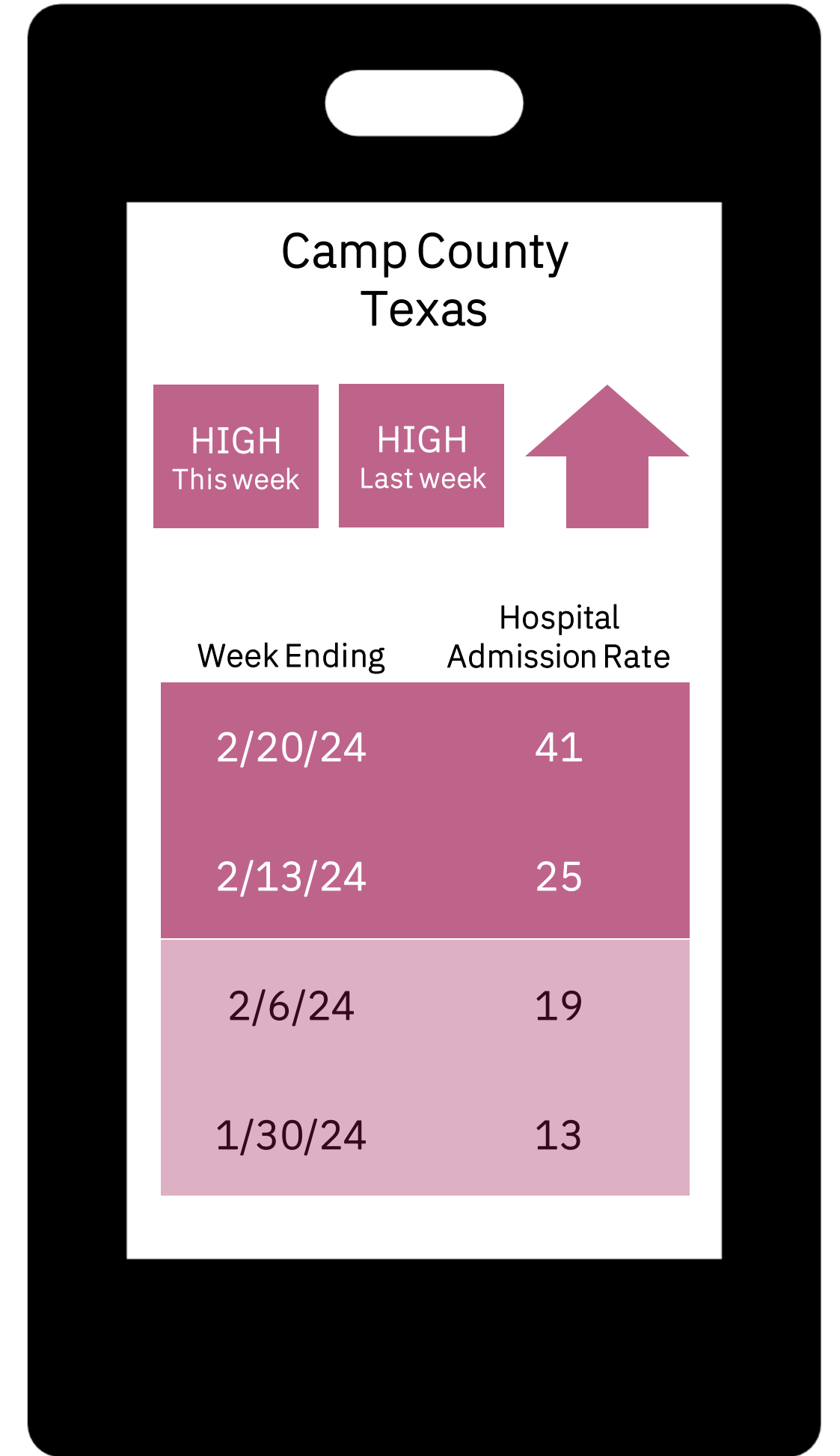
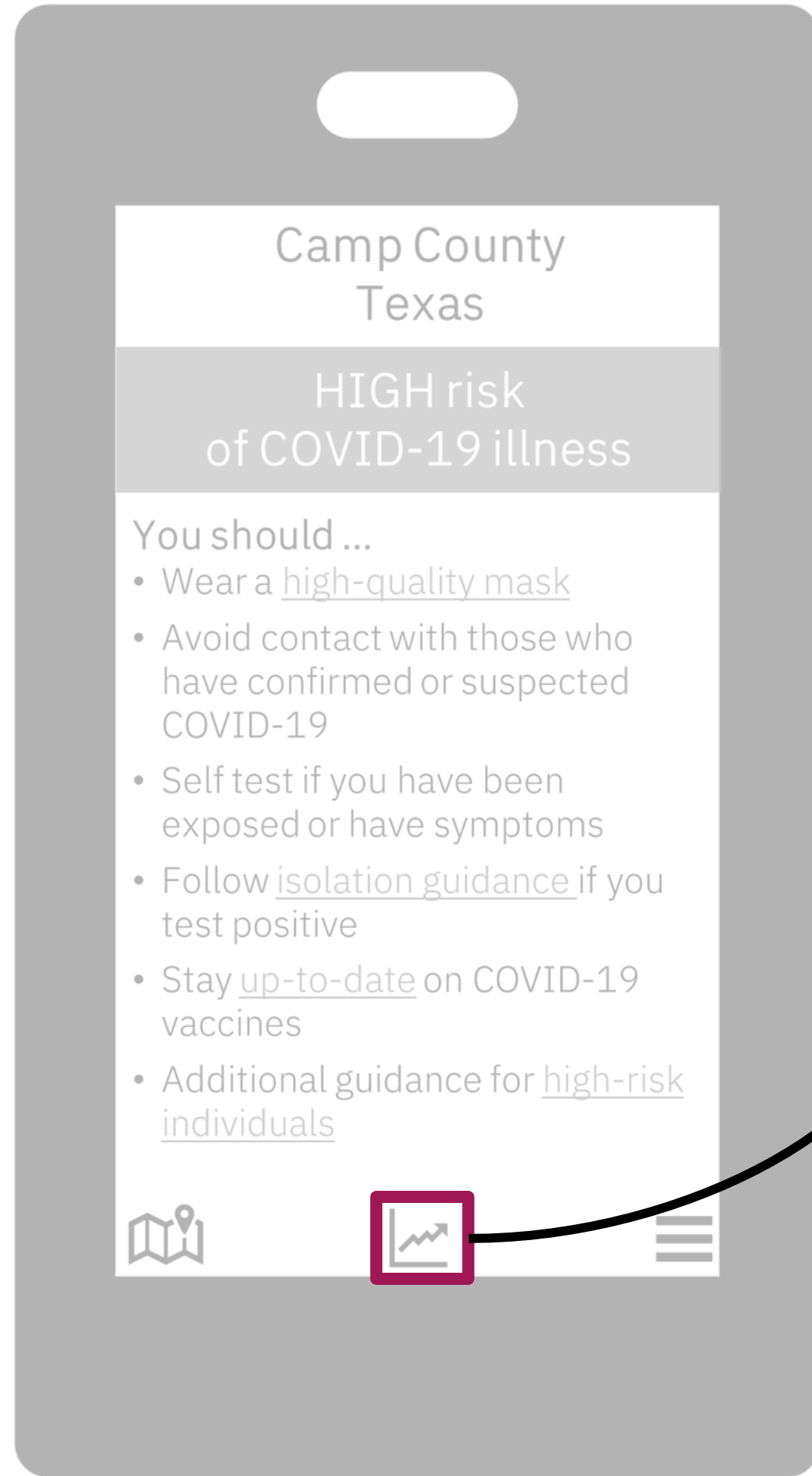




# 3.2 Mobile App Example: Touching the Trend Icon



User can touch trend icon to see more detail for community.



## 3.3 Common methods to deliver your data story: Dashboards

Use best practice dashboard design principles to tell a compelling data story to a wide audience.

- 1. The 5 Second Rule:** Tell the data story on the dashboard landing page. Tell the story so that the user can get the main idea within 5 seconds.
- 2. Inverted Pyramid:** Lead with the most important information on top followed by less important information on the bottom.
- 3. Keep it Simple:** Keep your data and visualizations focused on the data story narrative. Don't overload the dashboard with data and visuals not key to your data story.
- 4. The Right Visuals:** Use simple-to-understand fit-for-purpose data visualizations so that users can quickly grasp intended insights.
- 5. One Click Away:** If you use links to supporting details, keep all that additional information one click away from the dashboard landing page.

*“A dashboard is a visual display of the most important information needed to achieve one or more objectives; consolidated and arranged on a single screen so the information can be monitored at a glance.”*

Stephen Few  
*Information Dashboard Design: The Effective Visual Communication Of Data*

# 3.3 Dashboard Example: Landing Page

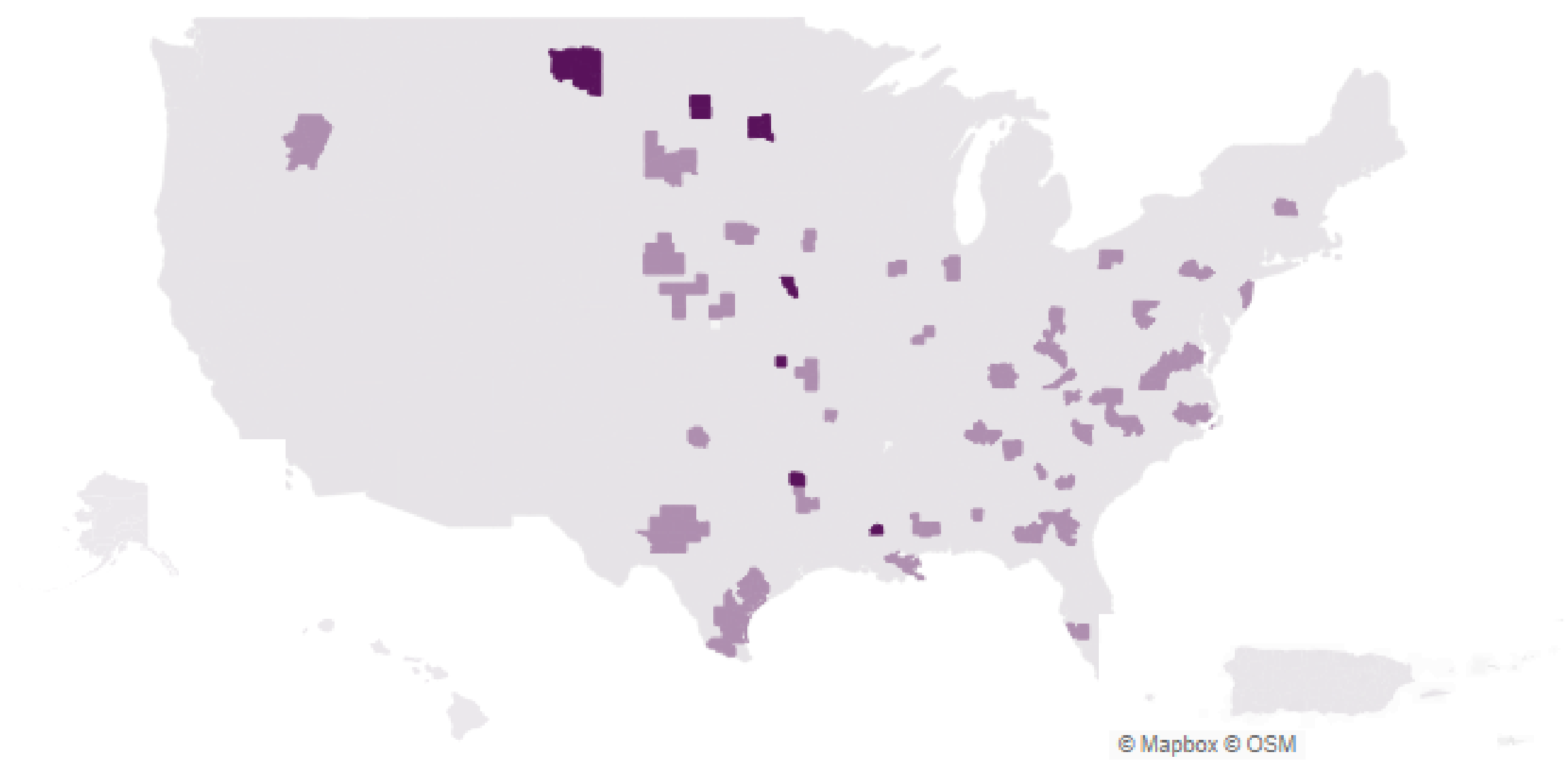




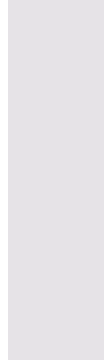
## COVID-19 health risks are HIGH or MEDIUM in 402 US Counties More counties are at HIGH or MEDIUM risk this week compared to last week

HIGH RISK: 20 or more COVID-19 hospital admissions per capita	32 counties	+1% since last week
MEDIUM RISK: Between 10-20 COVID-19 hospital admissions per capita	370 counties	+3% since last week
LOW RISK: 10 or fewer COVID-19 hospital admissions per capita	2,820 counties	-3% since last week

Reported COVID-19 New Hospital Admissions Rate per 100,000 Population in the Past Week, by County - United States

Today's Date: March 5, 2024



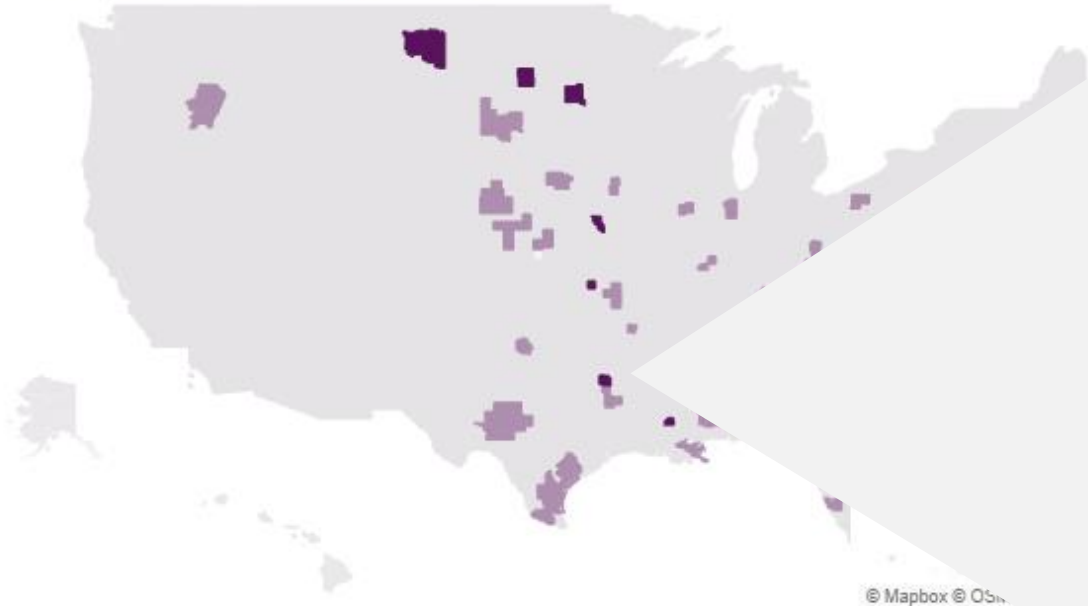
-  What should I do if I live in a HIGH-RISK county?  
*(click here for guidance)*
-  What should I do if I live in a MEDIUM-RISK county?  
*(click here for guidance)*
-  What should I do if I live in a LOW-RISK county?  
*(click here for guidance)*

You can add links to technical notes or additional information (e.g., wastewater trends) at the bottom of your landing page.

# 3.3 Dashboard Example: One-Click Away County Detail



Reported COVID-19 New Hospital Admissions Rate per 100,000 Population in the Past Week, by County - United States

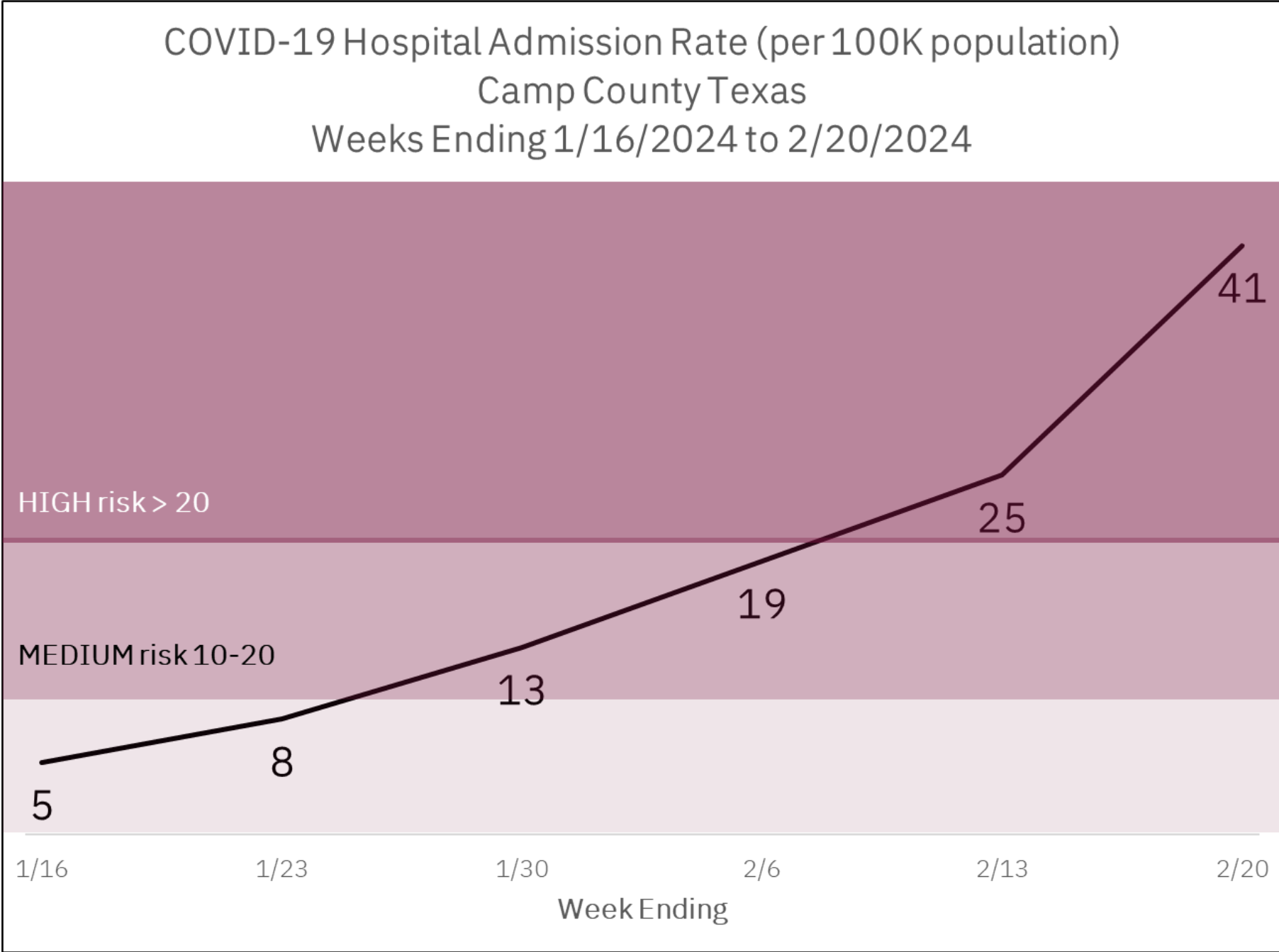


Camp County Texas is at HIGH risk of COVID-19 illness.

COVID-19 risk is HIGH this week

COVID-19 risk was HIGH last week

Risk is Trending Higher



## 3.4 Methods to deliver your data story: Presentations

*Keep your presentation focused on the story line and the key insights your audience needs for improved knowledge and informed action.*



Maintain **focus** on the story line. Don't get sidetracked into adjacent story lines.



Maintain **pace** so you deliver your story in the allotted time. Write a narrative and practice delivery and timing.



Maintain **agility** so you can adjust your story-telling to match the verbal and non-verbal feedback received from your audience.

*“When we’re at the point of communicating our analysis to our audience, we want to have a specific thing you want to explain, a specific story you want to tell.*

*Concentrate on the information your audience needs to know.”*

Cole Nussbaumer Knaflic  
*Storytelling With Data*

Share your thoughts in the chat:

- What do you do to practice a data story presentation?
- What practice methods work best for you?

# 3.4 Presentation Example

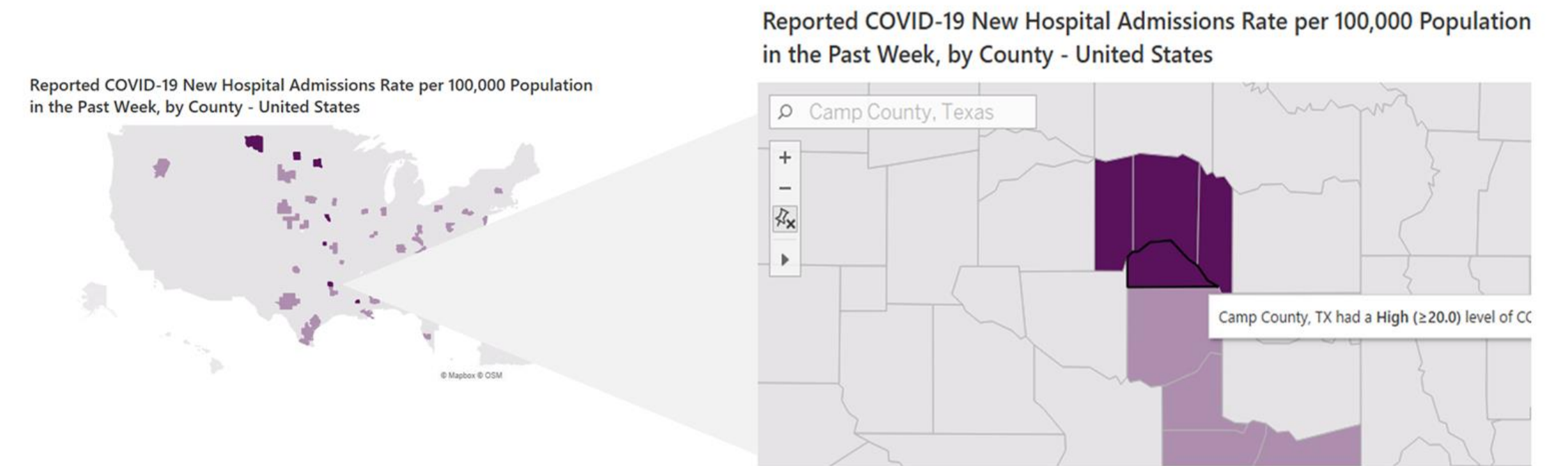


COVID-19 health risks are HIGH or MEDIUM in 402 US counties. More counties are at elevated risk this week compared to last week.

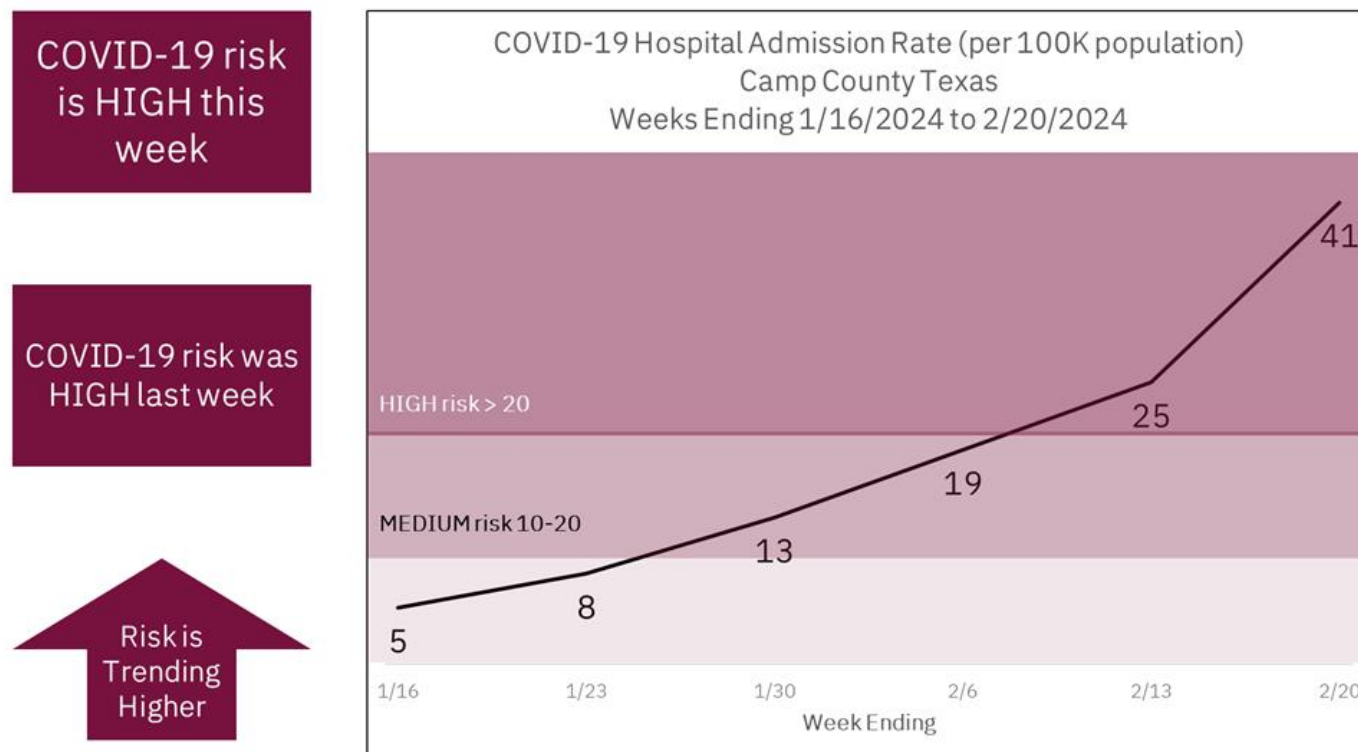
HIGH RISK: 20 or more COVID-19 hospital admissions per capita	32 counties	+1% since last week
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Data through February 20, 2024

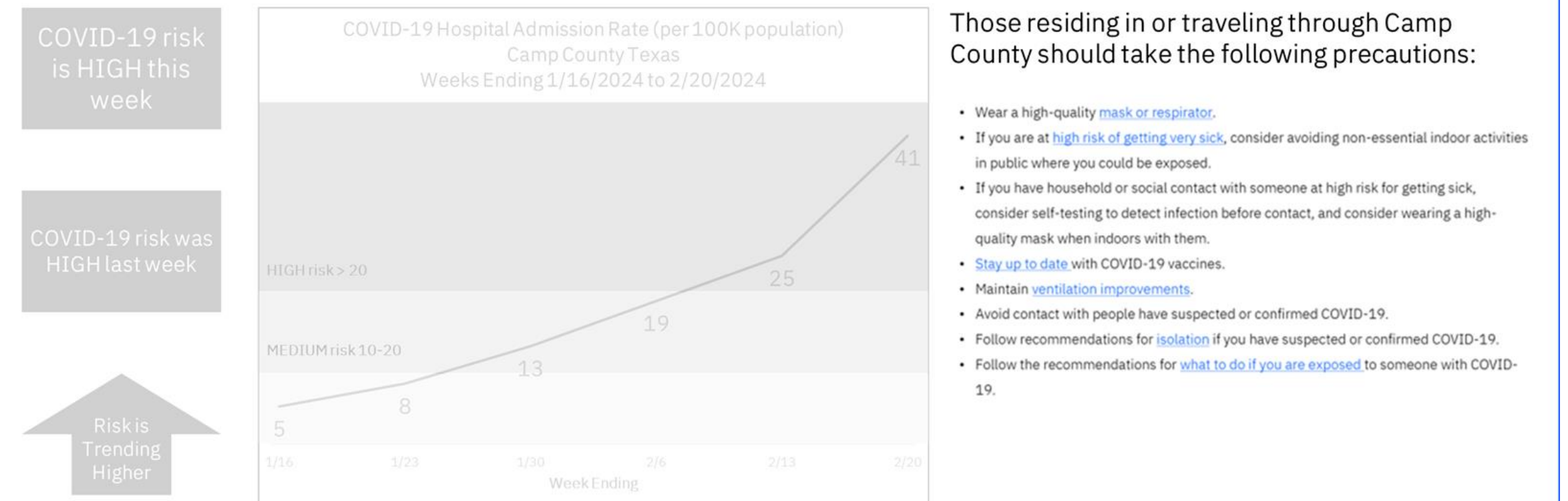
A cluster of counties in East Texas are at HIGH risk of COVID-19 illness.



Camp County Texas is at HIGH risk of COVID-19 illness.



Camp County Texas is at HIGH risk of COVID-19 illness.



You can use technical notes or an appendix to include presentation slides as backup for answering related questions (e.g., “what about wastewater?”)

## 3.5 Incorporate ongoing feedback in your data stories

Feedback is an ongoing cycle of improvement; it does not happen just once.

While you should consider all feedback – you don't have to incorporate all feedback.



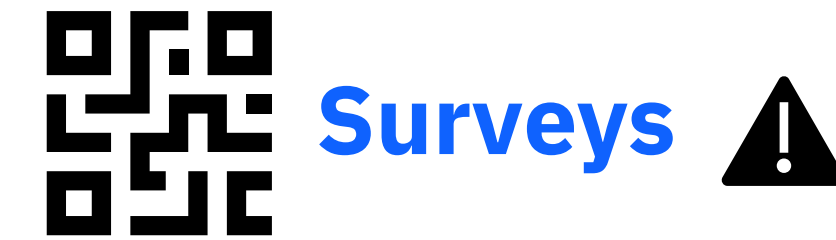
## 3.5 A few common methods to obtain audience feedback



A/B testing is used to conduct experiments on two or more versions of a data story delivered over the web or through an app. Users are randomly assigned alternative versions and user behavior is tracked to identify the version that best achieves the desired outcome. Several free (or low cost) [open-source tools](#) are available to support A/B testing of your data stories.



Data stories delivered over the web can take advantage of native tools (e.g., [Google Analytics](#)) that track audience behavior as they interact with your online data story. These “web analytics” include several metrics that you can use to understand if your story is reaching your audience and if they are engaging with the story to obtain actionable insights.



Low-cost tools (e.g., [Survey Monkey](#)) are widely available to create and deploy surveys. You can create a simple survey and provide your audience a link or QR code embedded in your data stories. This feedback can help you iteratively improve your data story based on specific audience feedback.

### Share your thoughts in the chat:

- What other DOH resources can be used to obtain audience feedback?
- What are advantages and disadvantages of these methods?

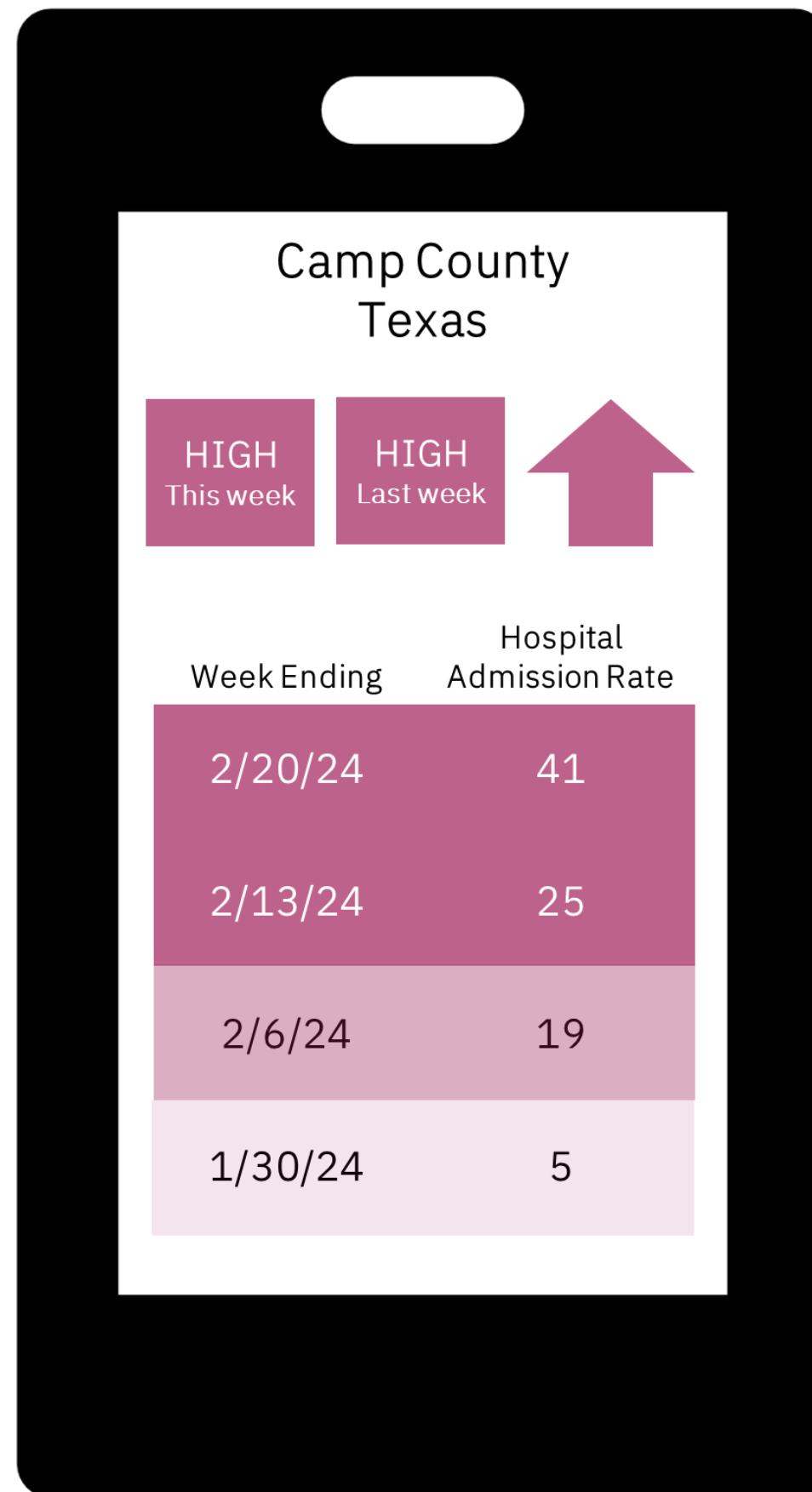




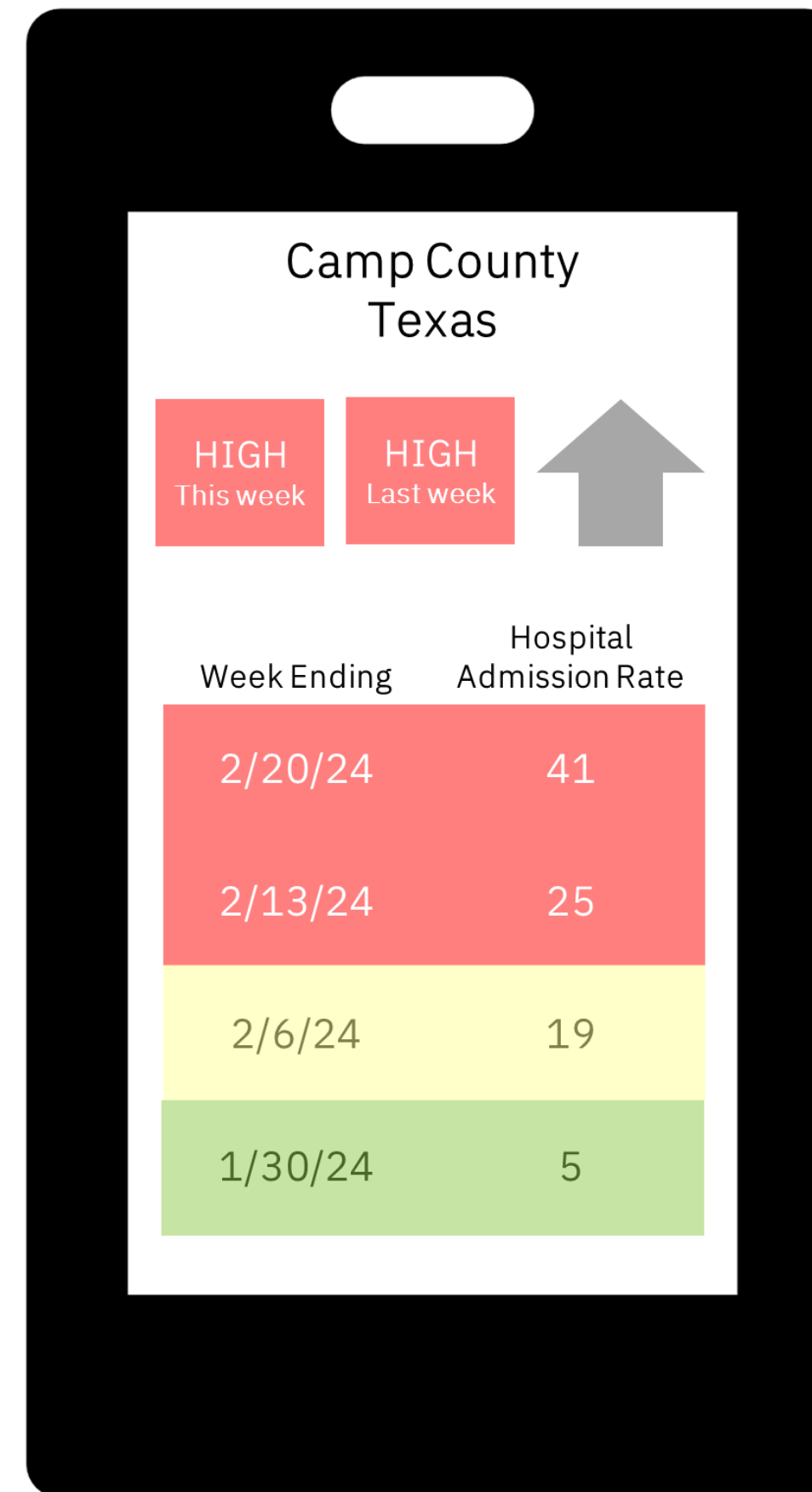
# 3.5 Methods to obtain audience feedback: A/B Testing

*Test alternative presentation formats to see what works best for most of your audience.*

OPTION A



OPTION B



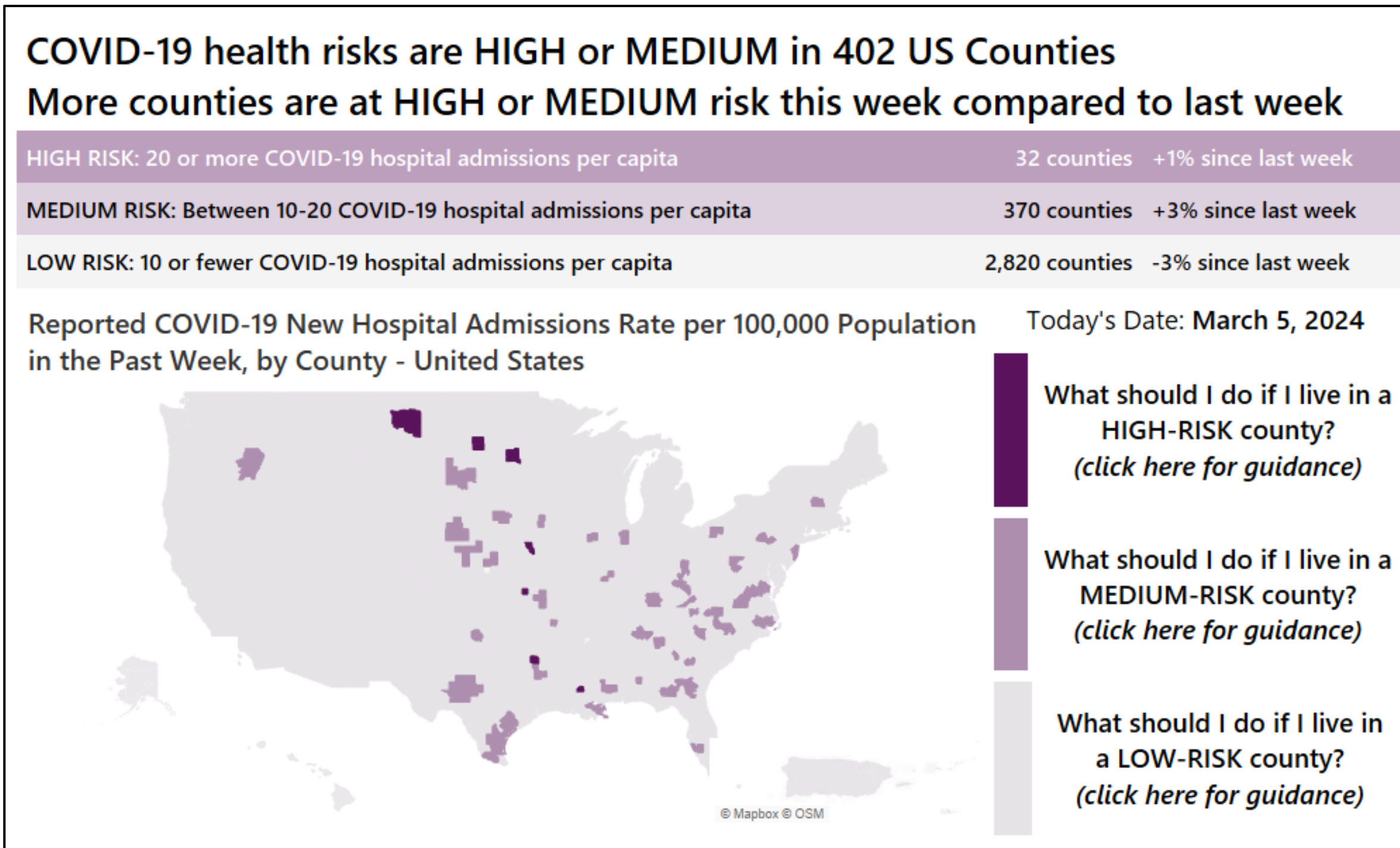
What color scheme do you prefer: Option A or Option B? What makes your preferred option better than the other? Please share your thoughts in the chat.



# 3.5 Methods to obtain audience feedback: Web Analytics

*Look at key usage metrics to assess your data stories delivered over the web.*

## The new CDC COVID-19 dashboard



## Web Analytics Metrics

1. **Pageviews:** tracks number of times a web page is viewed by the audience. Useful for determining if your data story is reaching your audience.
2. **New Visitors:** tracks number of unique visitors accessing a web page for the first time. Useful for determining if your data story has a growing audience.
3. **Return Visitors:** tracks number of unique visitors returning to a web page. Return visits can be an indicator that the data story is providing useful insights to your audience.
4. **Traffic Sources:** tracks the origin of visitors to your web page: what page were they visiting before they landed on your page? Tracking sources can provide insight into best ways to promote your data story and extend it's reach.
5. **Click-Through Rate:** tracks how often visitors are following links to additional information linked on your web page. Click-through rate can help you determine if your audience is accessing the call to action (or recommended healthy behaviors) in your data story.
6. **Bounce Rate:** tracks how often visitors are exiting your web page without accessing additional linked information. A high bounce rate can indicate audience confusion with your data story.

### Share your thoughts in the chat:

- What might be the most useful metrics to track for the new CDC dashboard?
- What metrics would be least useful? Why are they less helpful than others?

# 3.5 Methods to obtain audience feedback: Presentation Surveys



COVID-19 health risks are HIGH or MEDIUM in 402 US counties. More counties are at elevated risk this week compared to last week.

HIGH RISK: 20 or more COVID-19 hospital admissions per capita	32 counties	+1% since last week
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Data through February 20, 2024

A cluster of counties in East Texas are at HIGH risk of COVID-19 illness.

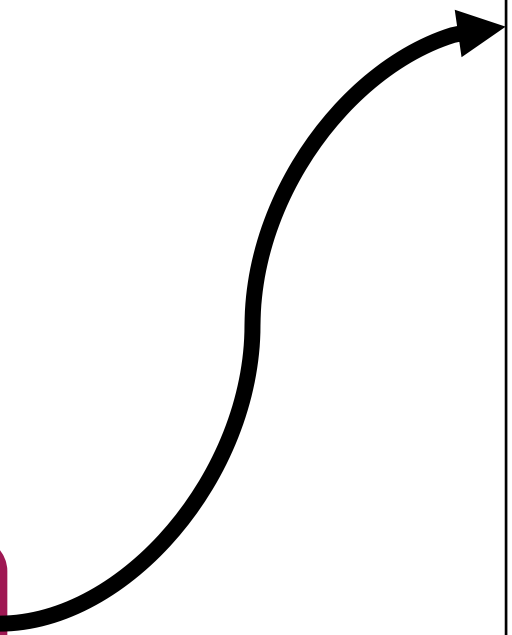
Camp County Texas is at HIGH risk of COVID-19 illness.

Camp County Texas is at HIGH risk of COVID-19 illness.

**Those residing in or traveling through Camp County should take the following precautions:**

- Wear a high-quality mask or respirator.
- If you are at high risk of getting very sick, consider avoiding non-essential indoor activities in public where you could be exposed.
- If you have household or social contact with someone at high risk for getting sick, consider self-testing to detect infection before contact, and consider wearing a high-quality mask when indoors with them.
- Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines.
- Maintain ventilation improvements.
- Avoid contact with people who have suspected or confirmed COVID-19.
- Follow recommendations for isolation if you have suspected or confirmed COVID-19.
- Follow the recommendations for what to do if you are exposed to someone with COVID-19.

Please scan this QR code to provide feedback on this presentation.

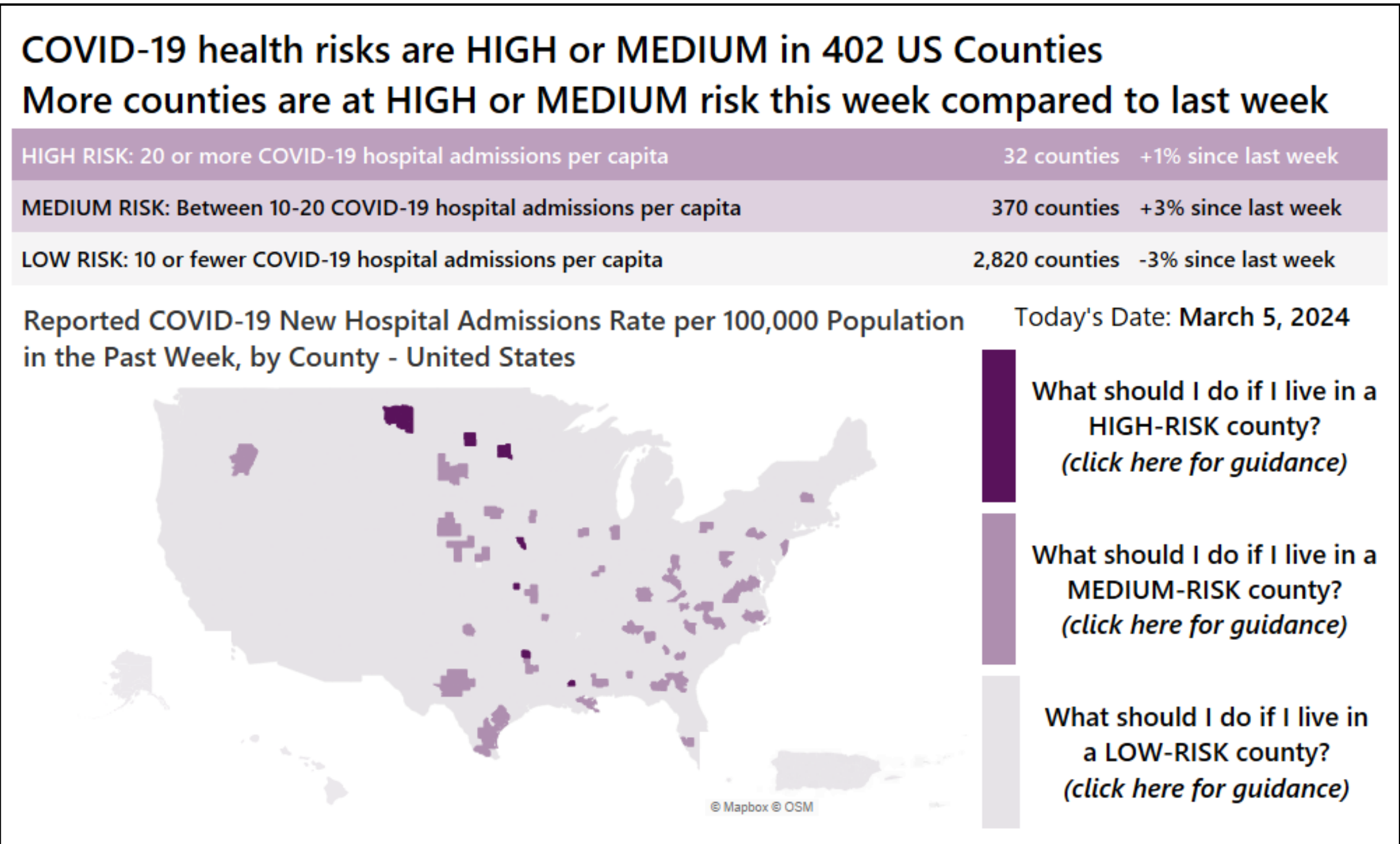


- Please rate this presentation on a scale of 1 to 5 (5 being best).
- What did you like best about this presentation?
- What did you like least about this presentation?

**Share your thoughts in the chat:**

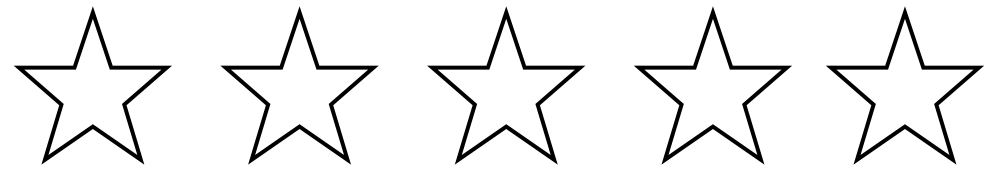
- What other questions might you ask in a feedback survey?
- What do we need to consider when developing surveys?

# 3.5 Methods to obtain audience feedback: Dashboard Surveys



Please [share your feedback](#) so we can improve this dashboard.

1. Please rate this dashboard on a scale of 1 to 5 (5 being best).



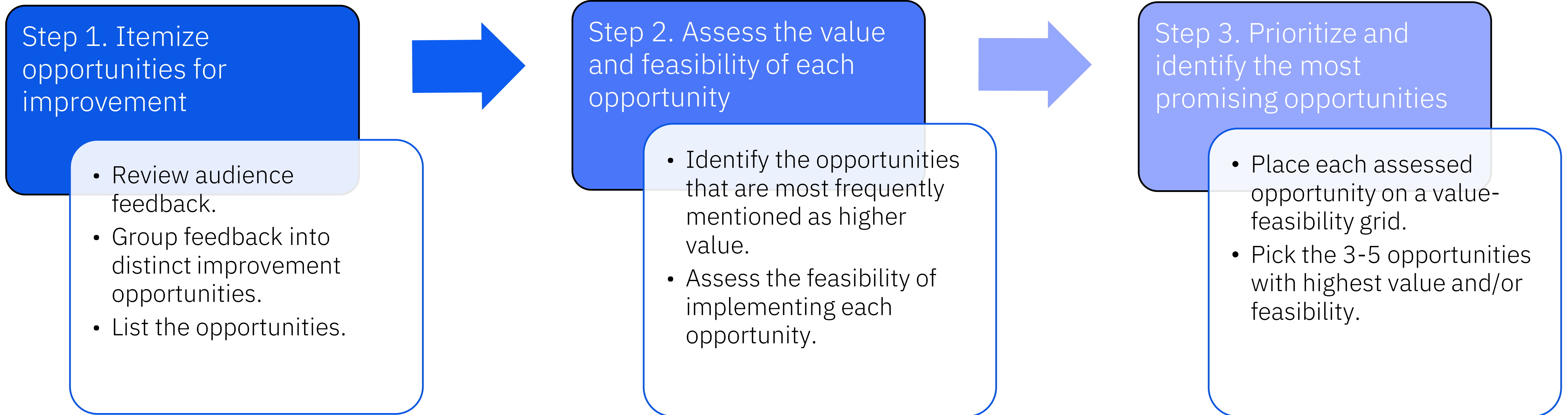
2. What did you like best about this dashboard?

3. What did you like least about this dashboard?

# 3.6 Incorporating feedback for continuous improvement



*Analyze audience feedback to identify opportunities for improvement. Focus effort on the most promising opportunities.*



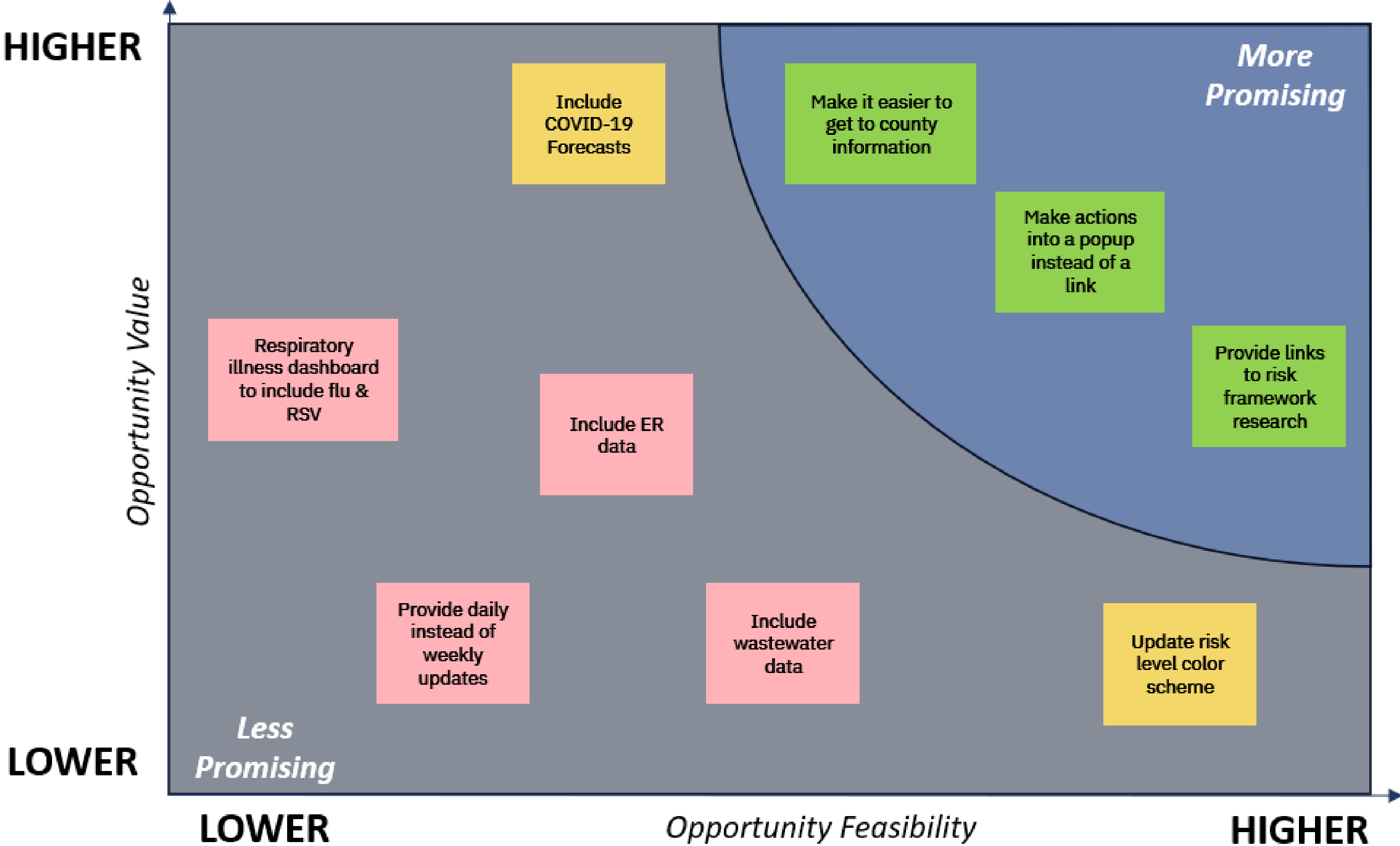
# 3.6 Continuous improvement: Example value-feasibility grid



- Pursue these opportunities NOW:**
- Make it easier to get to county information
  - Make actions into a popup instead of a link
  - Provide links to risk framework research

- Pursue these opportunities NEXT:**
- Include COVID-19 forecasts
  - Update risk level color scheme

- Pursue these opportunities LATER:**
- Respiratory illness dashboard
  - Include ER data
  - Provide daily instead of weekly updates
  - Include wastewater data



## 3.7 Bonus Tips! There is an **Infodemic**.

**Information Overload**

**Knowledge Void**

**Rapidly Spreading**

**Decision Fatigue**

**Preys on Emotion**

## 3.7 Bonus Tips! **What can Science do better?**

- Avoid jargon and remember foundations of knowledge – plain talk!
- Incentivize and prioritize effective communication skills.
- Fight for accurate representation by the media.
- Demonstrate that its okay not to have all the answers.



# 3.7 Bonus Tips!

**Uncertainty will always exist. Don't let it stop you, and tell the truth.**

*“All scientific work is incomplete – whether it be observational or experimental. All scientific work is liable to be upset or modified by advancing knowledge. That does not confer upon us a freedom to ignore the knowledge we already have, to postpone action that appears to demand at a given time.”*

-Sir Bradford Hill, English epidemiologist who pioneered the modern clinical trial and made the connection between the cigarette and lung cancer.

## 3.7 Storytelling with Data is about...



- Humanizing science
- Engaging across disciplines
- Firsthand accounts provide a personal perspective
- Illustrate how science works and how discoveries are made

# 3.8 Course Recap

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## In MODULE 1 you learned ...

- Different methods of audience engagement
- How to create a persona to describe your audience
- How to use needs statements to define the main idea of your story
- How to use a storyboard to create compelling storylines

## In MODULE 2 you learned ...

- How to align data with your storyline
- How to align visualizations with your storyline
- How to combine narrative, data, and visuals to create a compelling draft data story
- You learned how to get feedback to improve your draft data story

## In MODULE 3 you learned ...

- Different methods for delivering your data story
- Different methods for obtaining audience feedback
- How to incorporate audience feedback into continuous improvement of your data story

Thank you for participating in this training series on Storytelling With Data. Please share your thoughts about the course in the chat.

A survey will be emailed to you to provide feedback on this training. Please complete the survey so we can make this training better for future participants.

