Herpes at Coachella: Trouble in Paradise
Mapping alcohol’s effect on the herpes outbreak at Coachella
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INTRODUCTION

Coachella is one of the most popular music festivals in the world with hundreds of thousands of attendees each year. In 2019, however, there was a very sharp spike in herpes cases in the surrounding area over the two weekends that the festival was occurring. The website HerpAlert, an online resource that helps diagnose and treat genital herpes, went from a normal 12 cases per day to 250 cases per day on these two weekends. “A whopping 2,23 times more likely to get an STD. These new cases. Given our initial hypothesis, we have proven our theory that alcohol does have a major effect on the spread of STDs, which makes sense given published research. Though our model is relatively accurate, there are assumptions that we made which could be reconsidered in further research. First, this research has been performed on genital herpes, HSV-2, but oral herpes, HSV-1, is much more common and much easier to spread. Second, future research could also account for the different sexes and also the different types of sexual transmission, such as same-sex transmission and transmission based on type of sex. We have grouped men and women together, but they do have slightly different rates of both herpes transmission and oral herpes, HSV-1, is much more common and much easier to spread. Second, future research could also account for the different sexes and also the different types of sexual transmission, such as same-sex transmission and transmission based on type of sex.