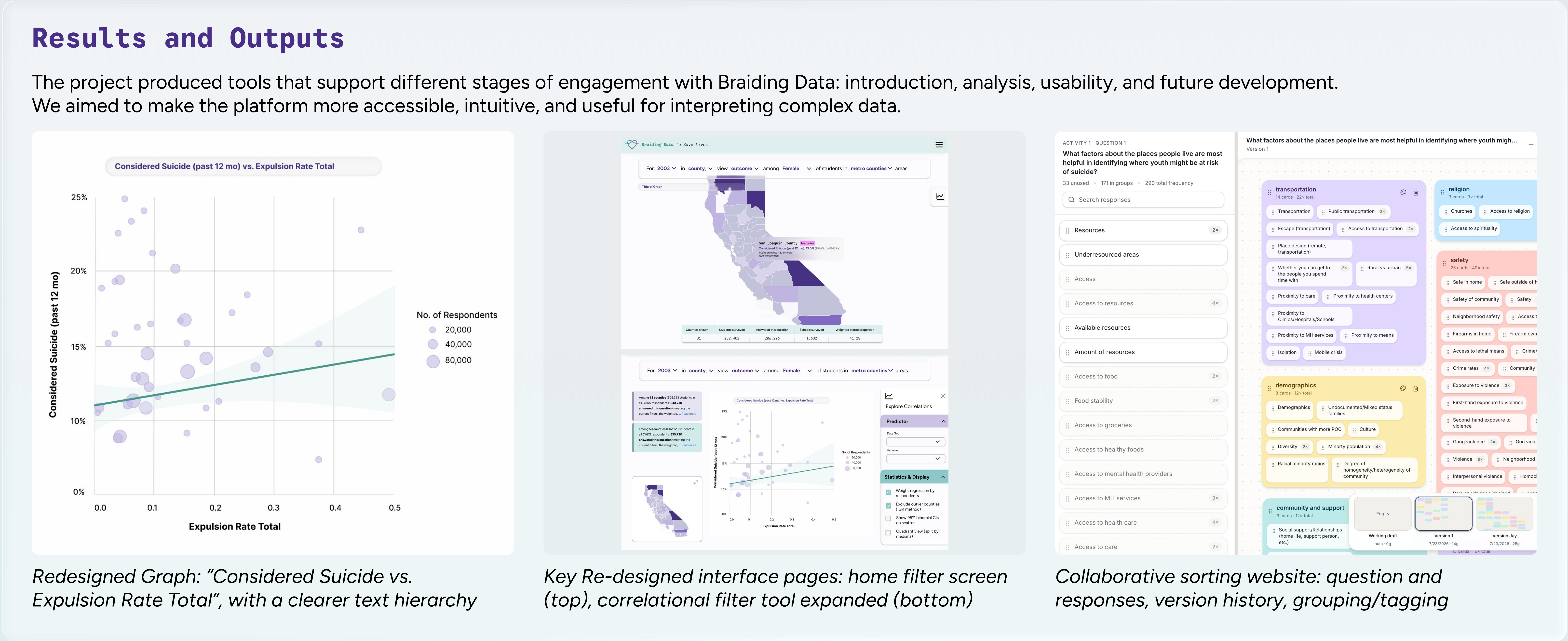
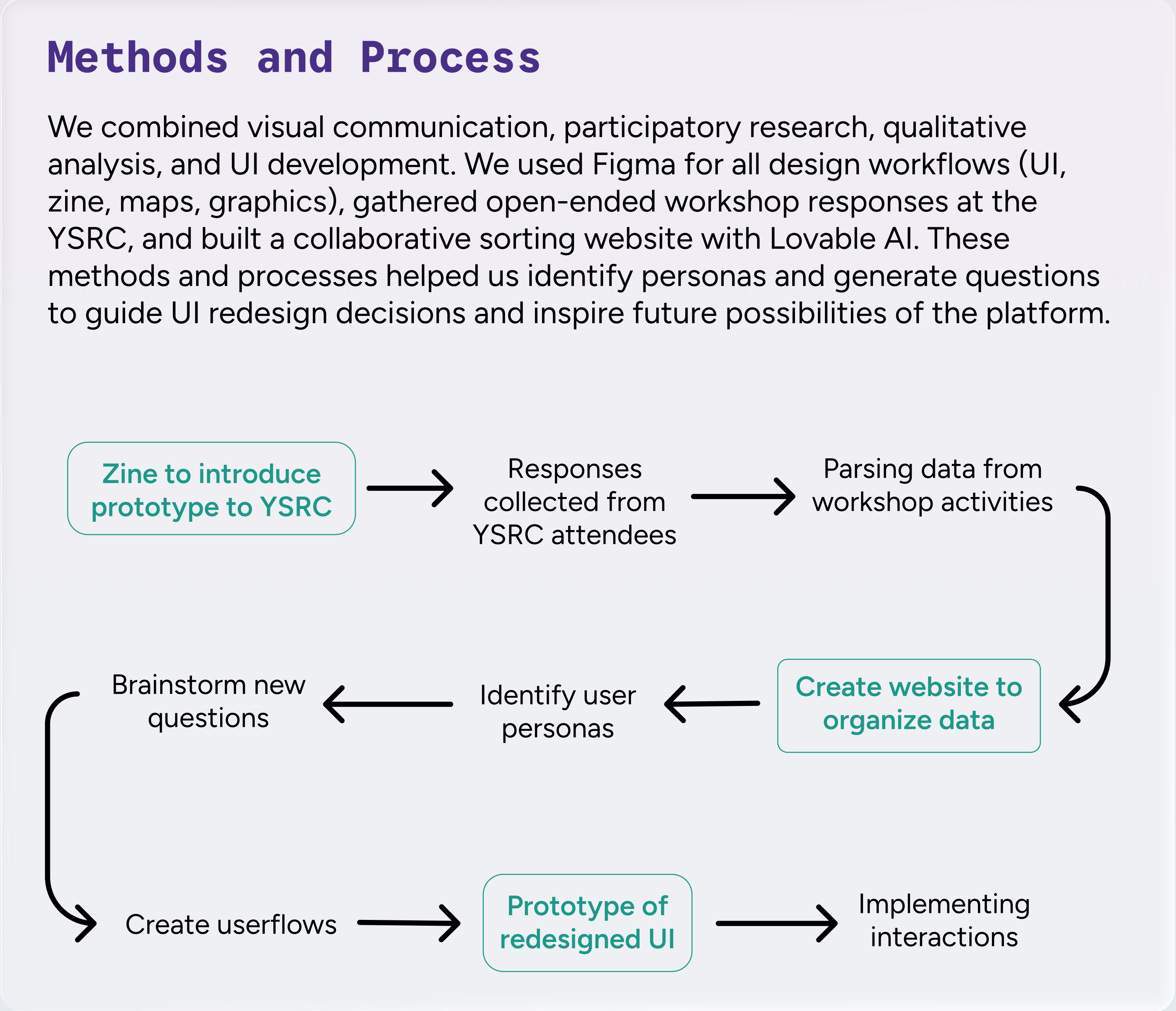
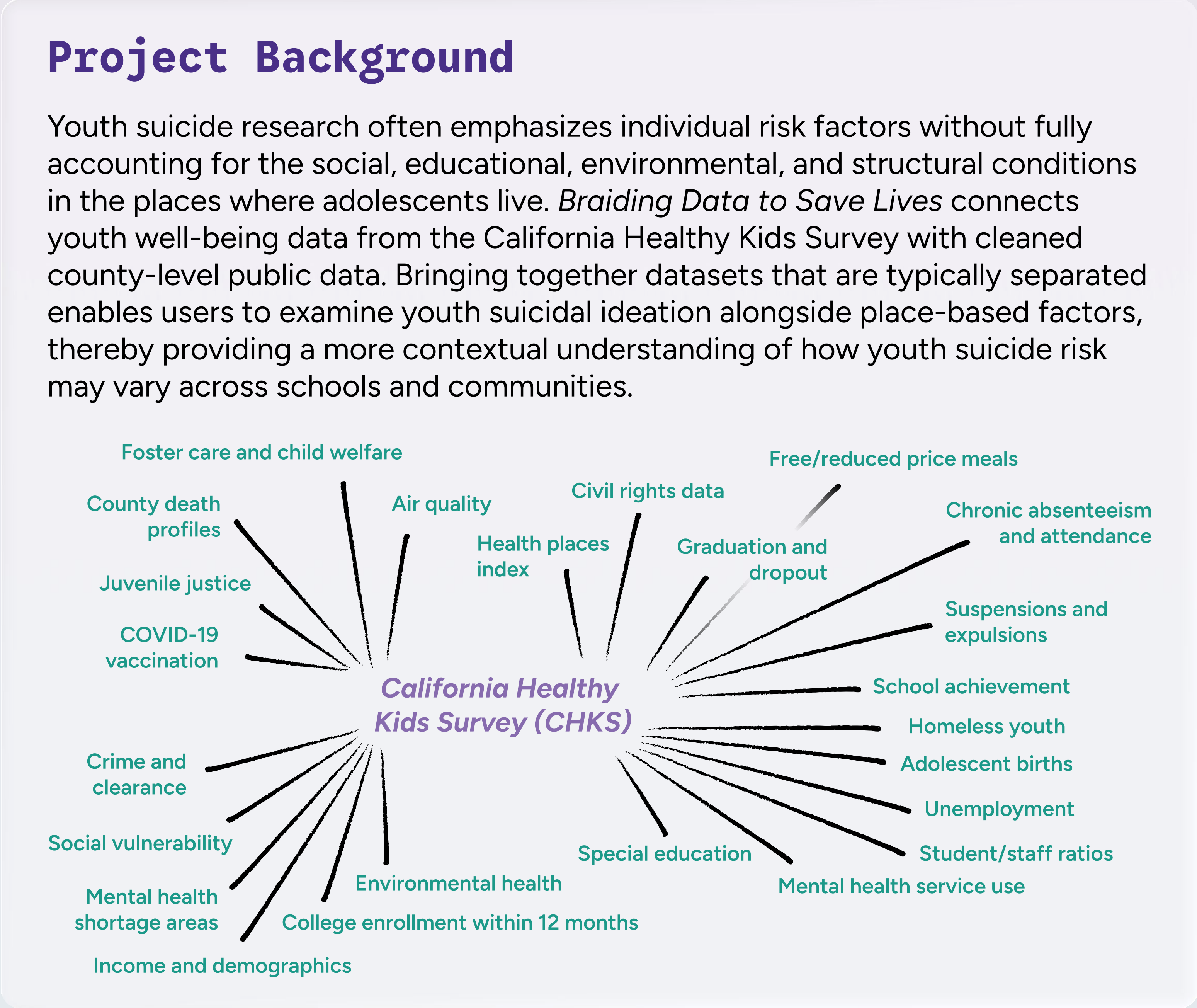


Abstract

Youth suicide is shaped by both individual characteristics and the social, educational, and structural conditions of the places where young people live. This project supported *Braiding Data to Save Lives*, a prototype data platform that connects California Healthy Kids Survey responses with county-level public datasets to examine suicidal ideation in a place-based context. Using a human-centered design approach, we combined participatory research, qualitative analysis, visual communication, and interface design. Feedback from the Youth Suicide Research Consortium (YSRC) informed an educational zine, a collaborative response-sorting website, and a high-fidelity redesign of the platform. Together, these outputs make complex public health data easier to understand, support the generation of new research questions, and provide a foundation for a future public-facing platform.



Conclusion

This project demonstrates how human-centered design can make complex, place-based youth suicide data more accessible and useful to researchers and community leaders. The zine, sorting website, and redesigned interface each support a different stage of engagement, from introducing the platform, to organizing data and brainstorming use-cases for it, to exploring the platform more intuitively. These outputs expand the possibilities of *Braiding Data* and establish a foundation for future development, including the implementation of a public-facing interface. Next steps include user testing and integrating the design with the software to create a functional platform that can be used by a broader audience.

Acknowledgement

The authors thank NYU Tandon School of Engineering's Office of Undergraduate Academics for generous funding of the project.