



# Communicating Results Visually:

## Lessons from the Global Burden of Disease Study

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Abraham D. Flaxman, 10/26/2016



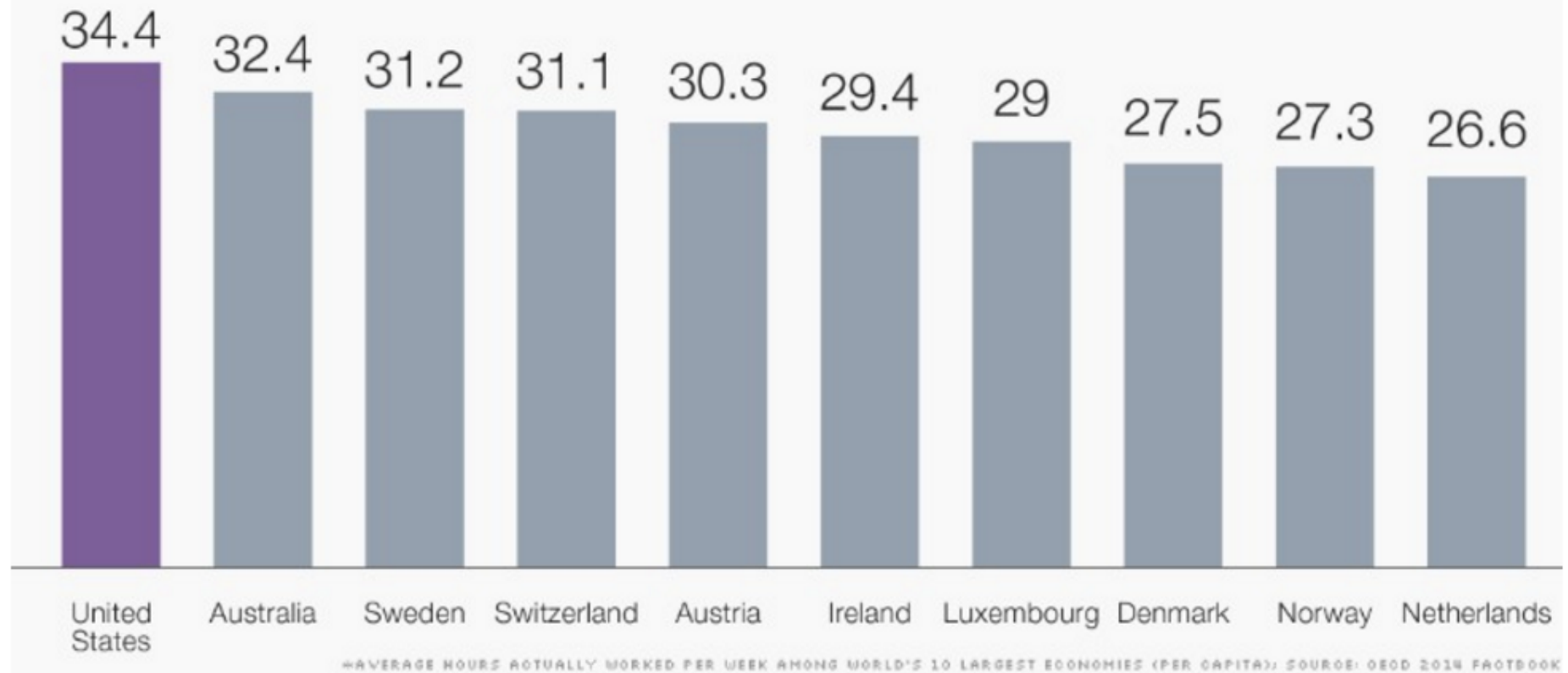
# Who is busy?

<b>Medical Specialty</b>	<b>Hours per Week</b>
Ob/Gyn	54.0
Surgical Specialties	53.1
Medical Specialties	52.9
Internal Medicine	51.4
Family/GP	49.1
Psychiatry	45.4
Pediatrics	45.2

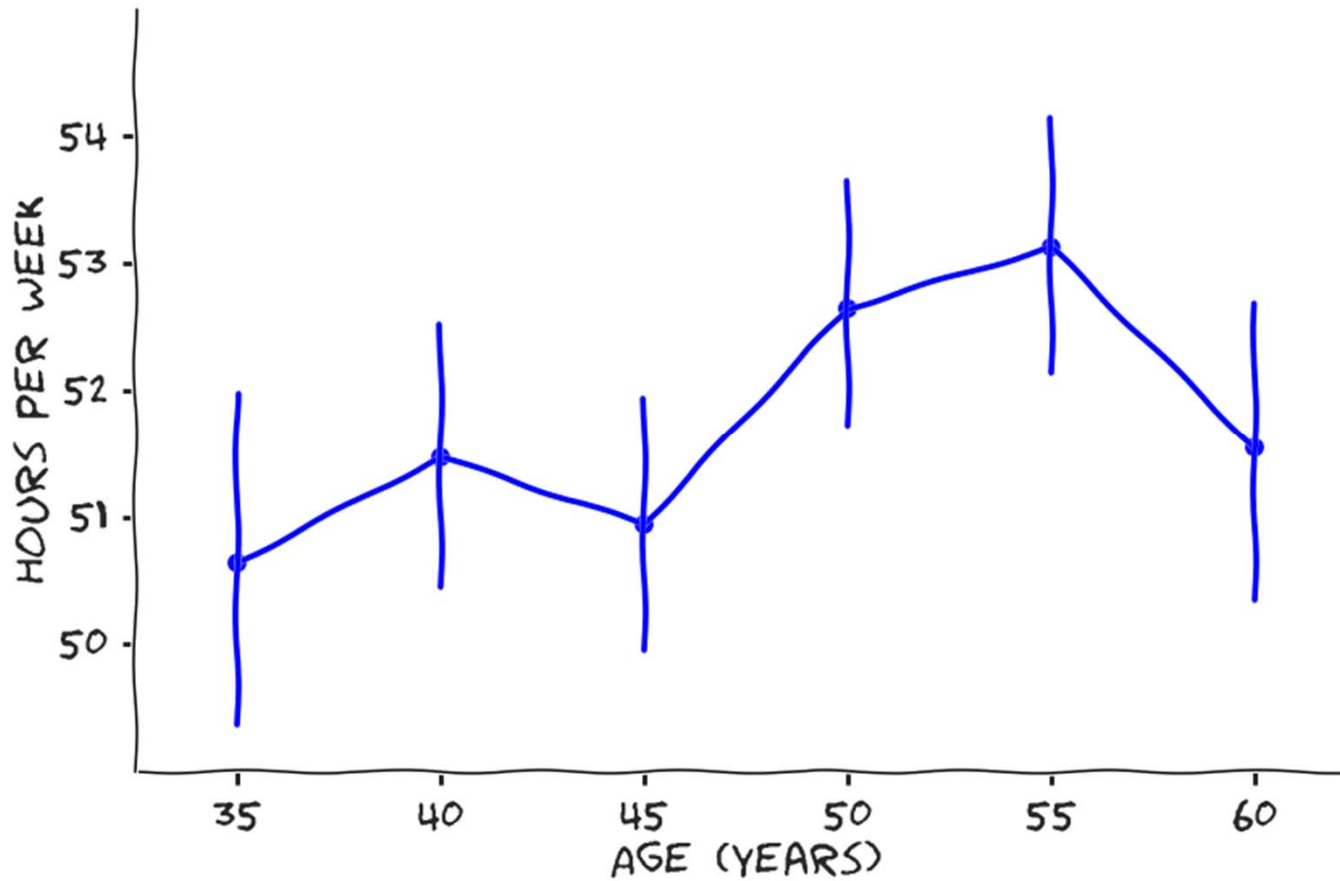
*Source: HSC 2008 Health Tracking Physician Survey*

CNNMoney gives you a little more context about the American worker.

### Americans work the longest hours



# Older members of your audience are busier



Source: HSC 2008 Health Tracking Physician Survey

# Plan for this seminar:

- Common and novel displays from the Global Burden of Disease
- Some principles for choosing between forms for visual displays
- Hands-on practice sketching and critiquing charts
- Resources for further developing your experience and ability with data visualization



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## Global Burden of Disease

[Home](#) | [2013](#) | [2010](#)

### Latest Articles

**DALYs = YLL + YLD**

**Viral hepatitis**  
Data from the Global Disease Burden Study estimate morbidity and mortality from viral hepatitis, and diseases caused by viral hepatitis, by age, sex, and country from 1990 to 2013.

### Executive Summary

The Global Burden of Disease Study (GBD) is the most comprehensive worldwide observational epidemiological study to date. It describes mortality and morbidity from major diseases, injuries and risk factors to health at global, national and regional levels. Examining trends from 1990 to the present and making comparisons across populations enables understanding of the changing health challenges facing people across the world in the 21st century.

### Infographic

*Sustainable Development Goals*

**DALYs = YLL + YLD**

### Interactive visualisations

### Audio

1 2

▶ [Progress Bar] 🔊 [Volume Control]

[Download](#)





## Plan for this seminar:

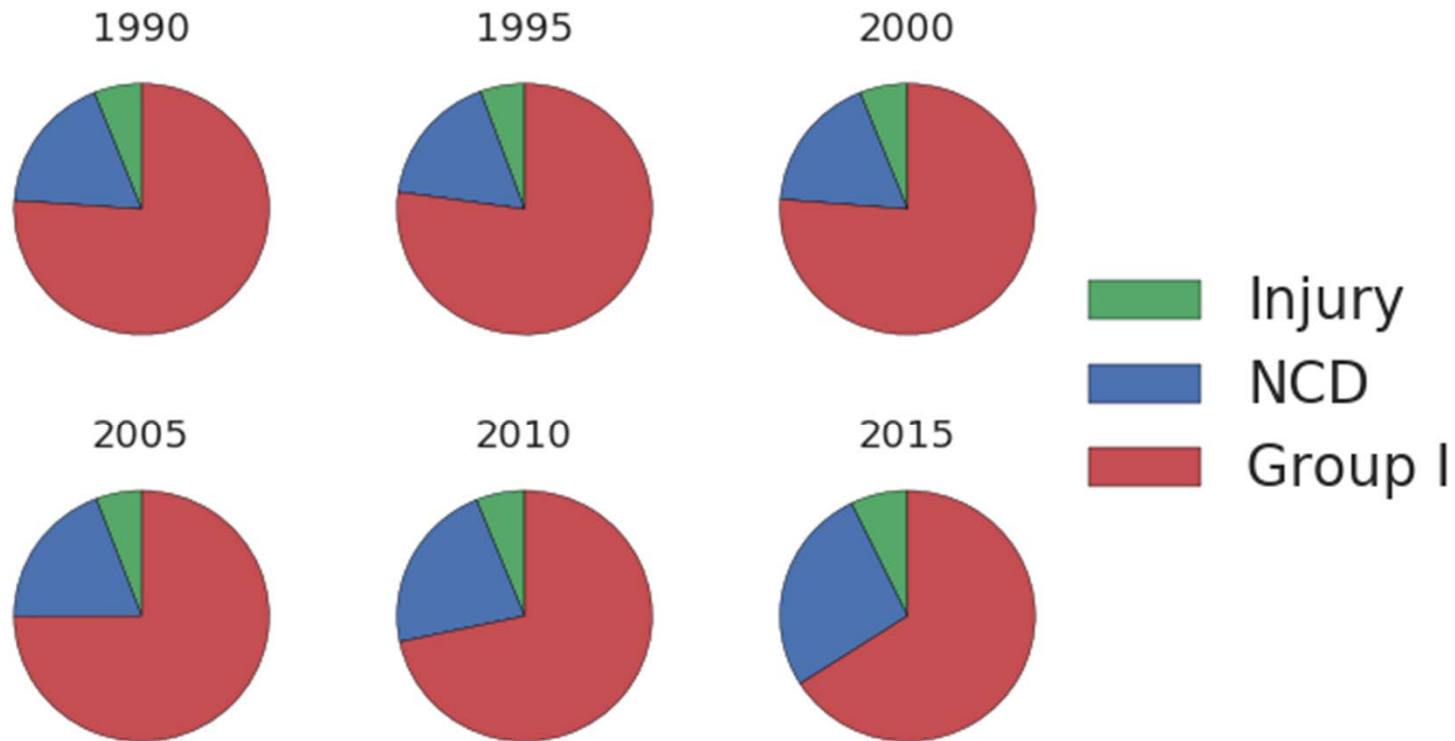
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# Anti-pattern I: TMI Table

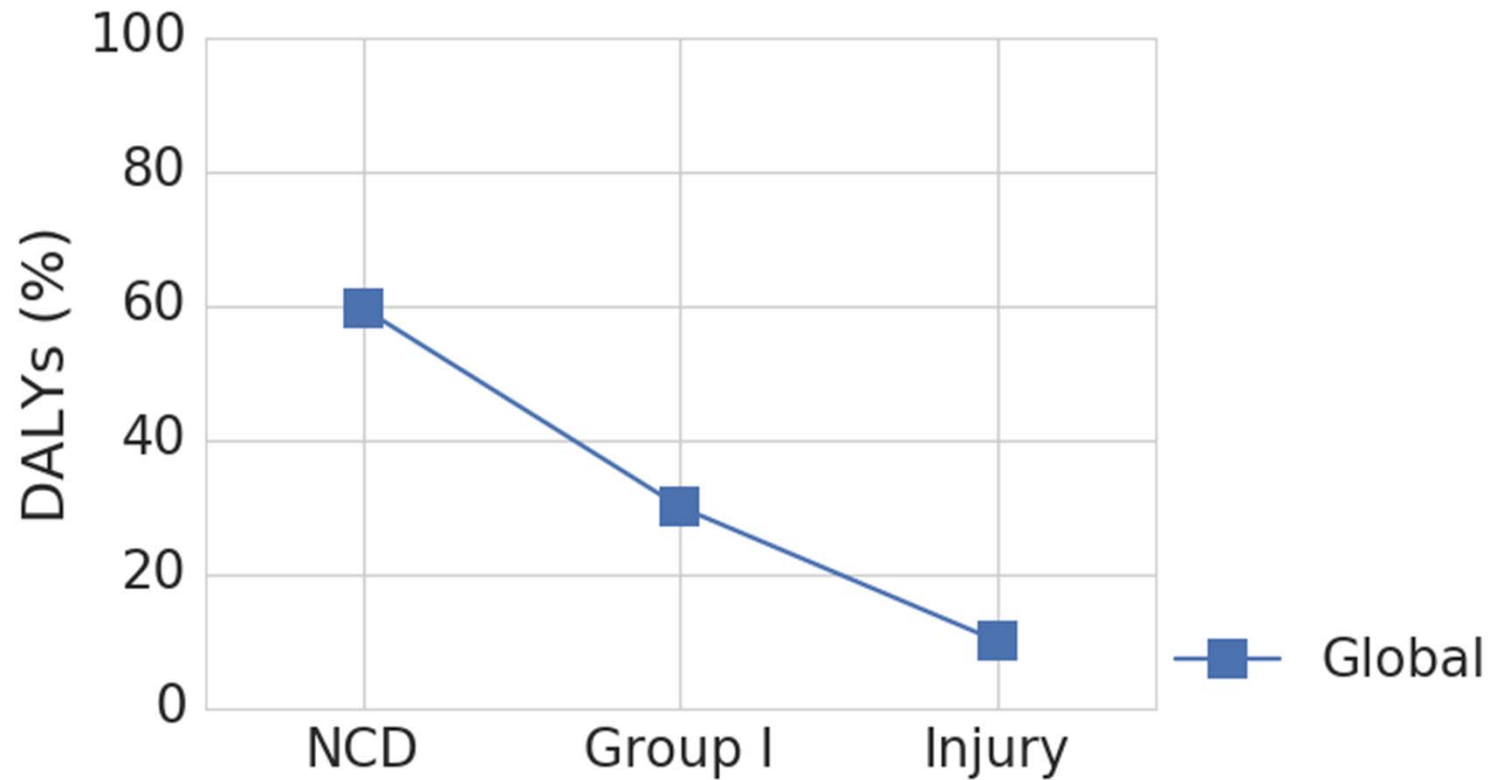
Year	Cause	China	DRC	Global	India	United States
1990	Group I	28.52	76.09	46.73	60.43	8.43
	Injury	14.59	6.07	10.63	8.59	11.85
	NCD	56.89	17.84	42.64	30.98	79.72
1995	Group I	21.36	77.20	43.41	55.93	8.89
	Injury	14.82	5.64	10.73	9.34	11.08
	NCD	63.83	17.16	45.86	34.72	80.03
2000	Group I	15.70	76.25	40.79	51.77	7.09
	Injury	13.85	6.08	10.50	9.53	10.61
	NCD	70.45	17.67	48.71	38.69	82.30
2005	Group I	11.25	74.96	37.94	48.34	6.68
	Injury	12.97	5.80	10.31	9.61	10.92
	NCD	75.78	19.24	51.75	42.05	82.40

# Anti-pattern II: Bury the Lede

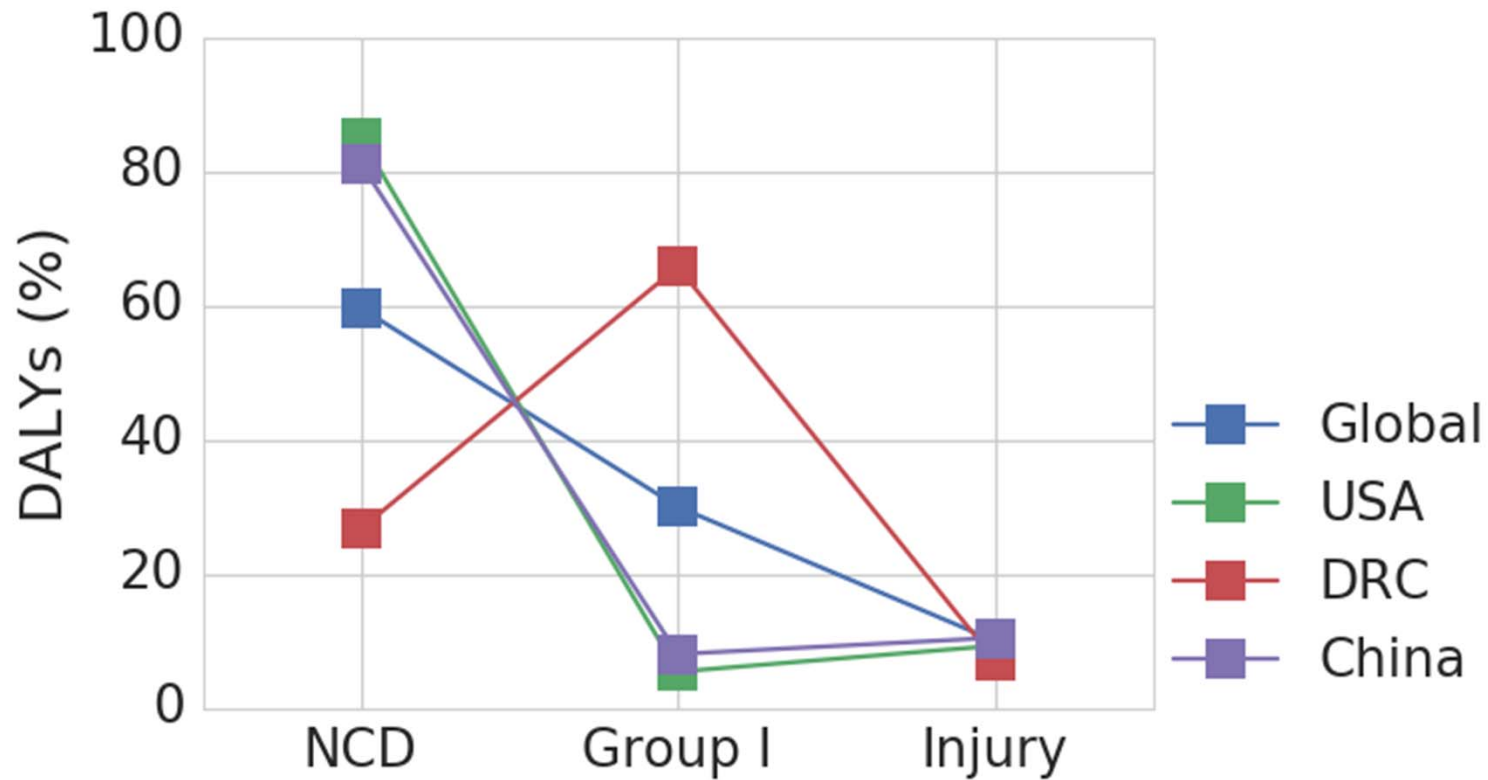
DALYs in Democratic Republic of Congo over time



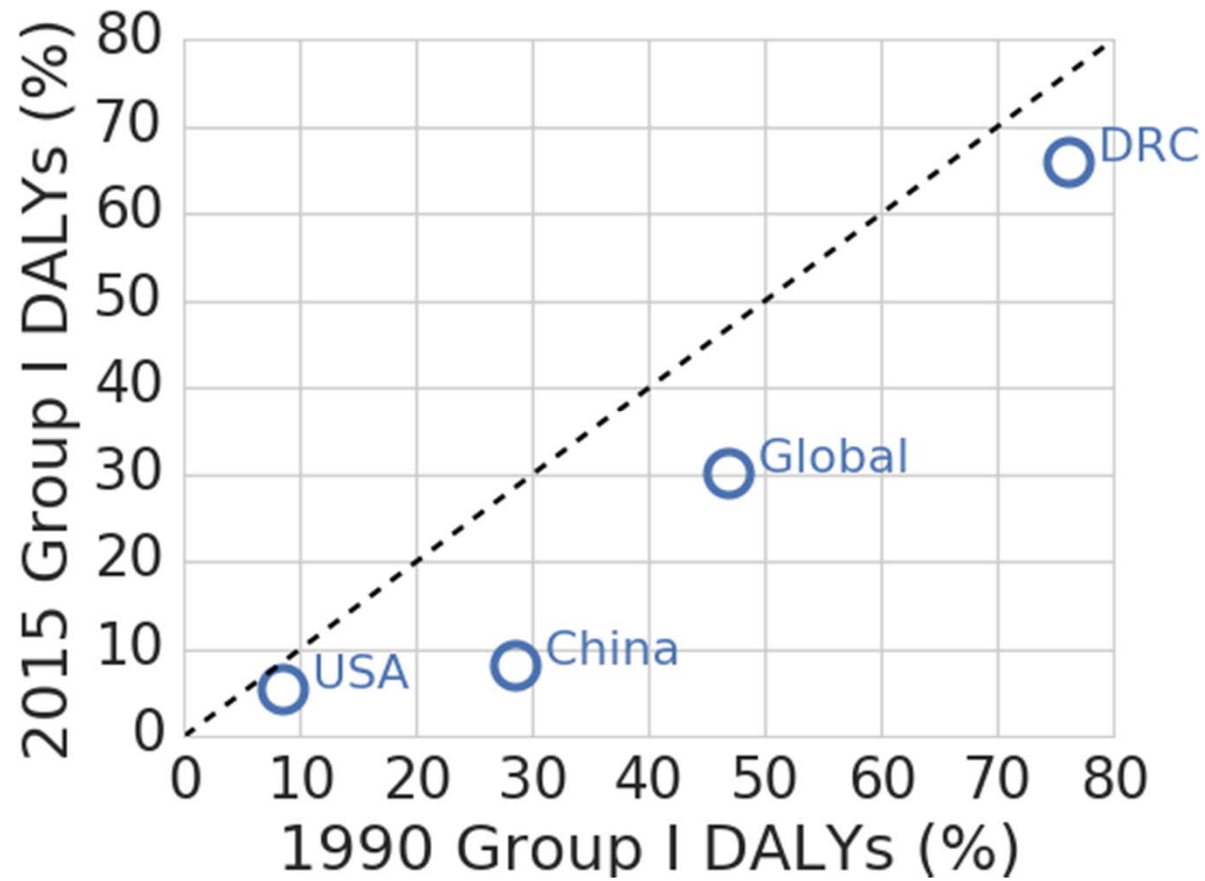
# Anti-pattern III



(but this advice is complicated)



# Anti-pattern IV



# Success Stories

## A Long-Term Trend

A broad survey of data from 181 countries has found that the number of women dying from childbirth or pregnancy worldwide has been declining steadily.

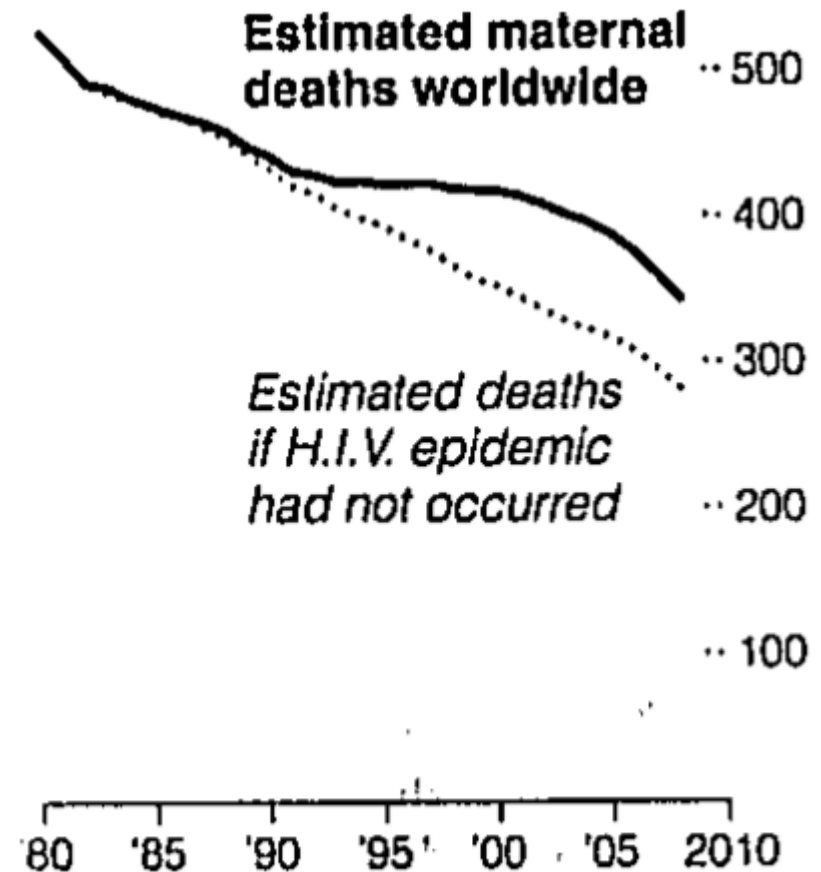
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### PROGRESS OVER DECADES

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Pressure to Delay Report  
Cited — Countering  
Prevailing View

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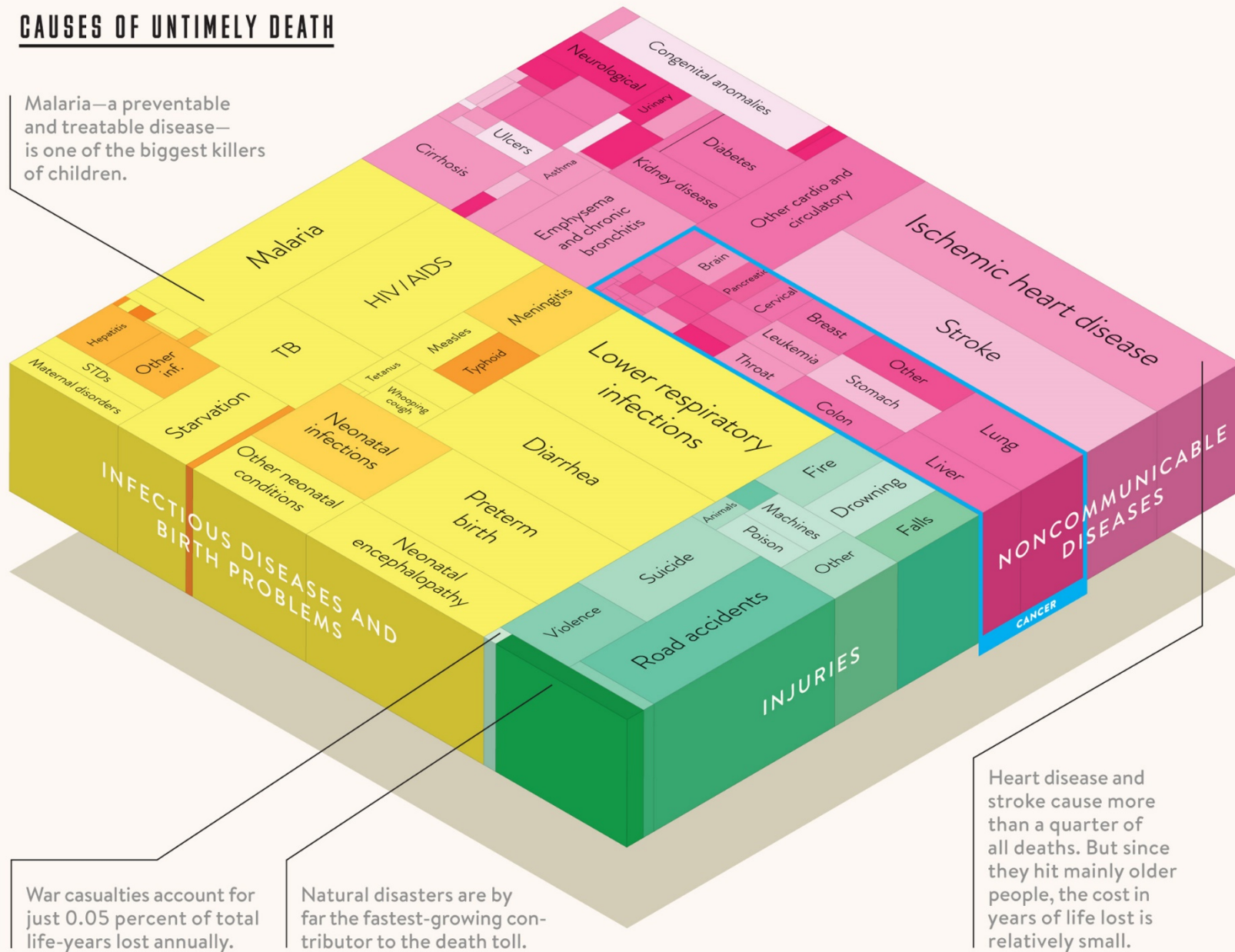


Source: *The Lancet*

THE NEW YORK TIMES

# CAUSES OF UNTIMELY DEATH

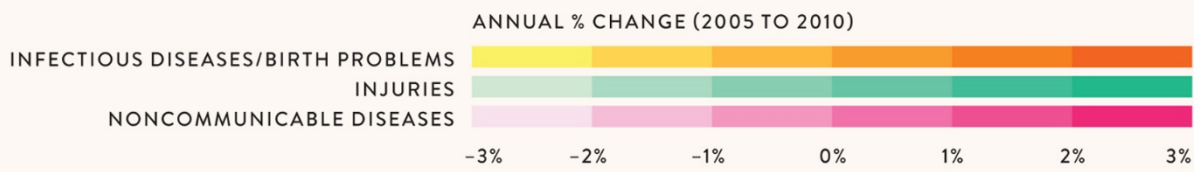
Malaria—a preventable and treatable disease—is one of the biggest killers of children.



War casualties account for just 0.05 percent of total life-years lost annually.

Natural disasters are by far the fastest-growing contributor to the death toll.

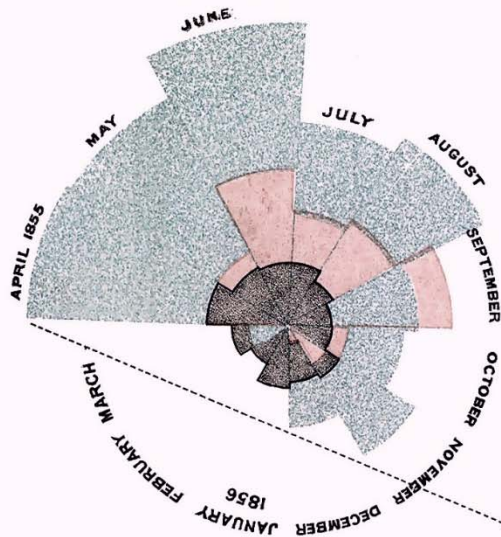
Heart disease and stroke cause more than a quarter of all deaths. But since they hit mainly older people, the cost in years of life lost is relatively small.



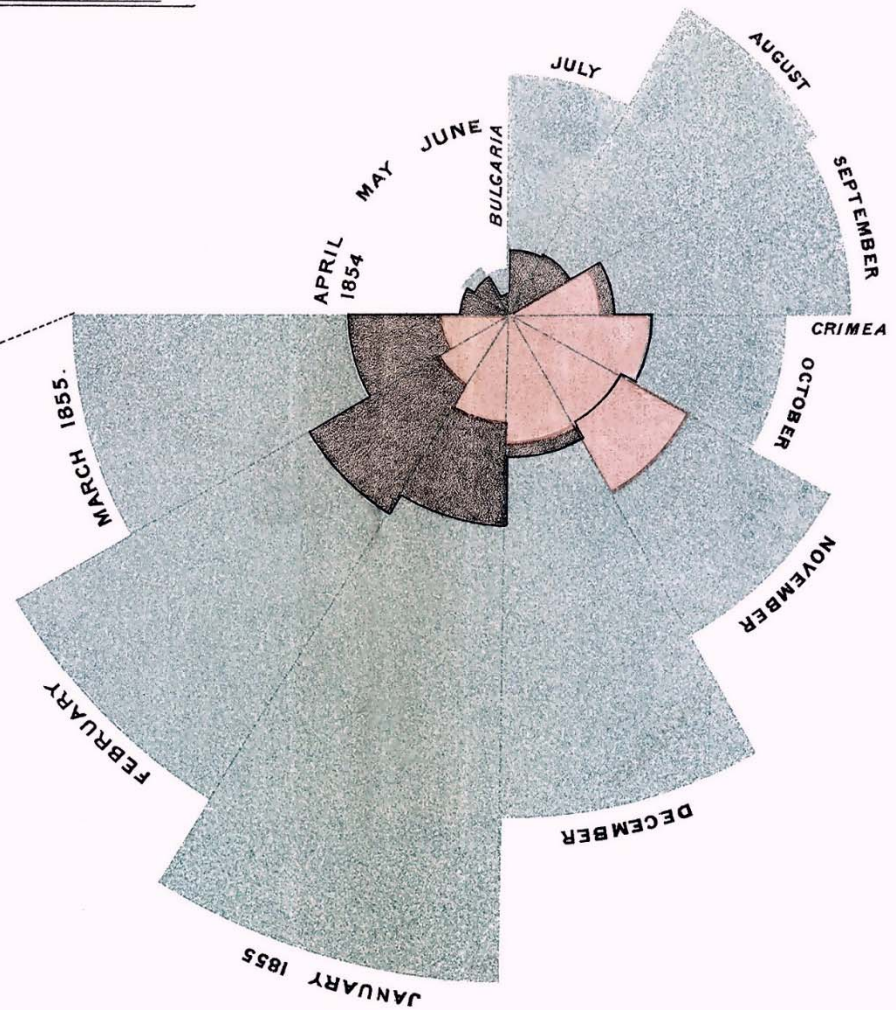


## DIAGRAM OF THE CAUSES OF MORTALITY IN THE ARMY IN THE EAST.

2.  
APRIL 1855 TO MARCH 1856.



1.  
APRIL 1854 TO MARCH 1855.



*The Areas of the blue, red, & black wedges are each measured from the centre as the common vertex.*

*The blue wedges measured from the centre of the circle represent area for area the deaths from Preventible or Mitigable Zymotic diseases; the red wedges measured from the centre the deaths from wounds; & the black wedges measured from the centre the deaths from all other causes.*

*The black line across the red triangle in Nov<sup>r</sup> 1854 marks the boundary of the deaths from all other causes during the month.*

*In October 1854, & April 1855, the black area coincides with the red; in January & February 1856, the blue coincides with the black.*

*The entire areas may be compared by following the blue, the red & the black lines enclosing them.*

## Plan for this seminar:

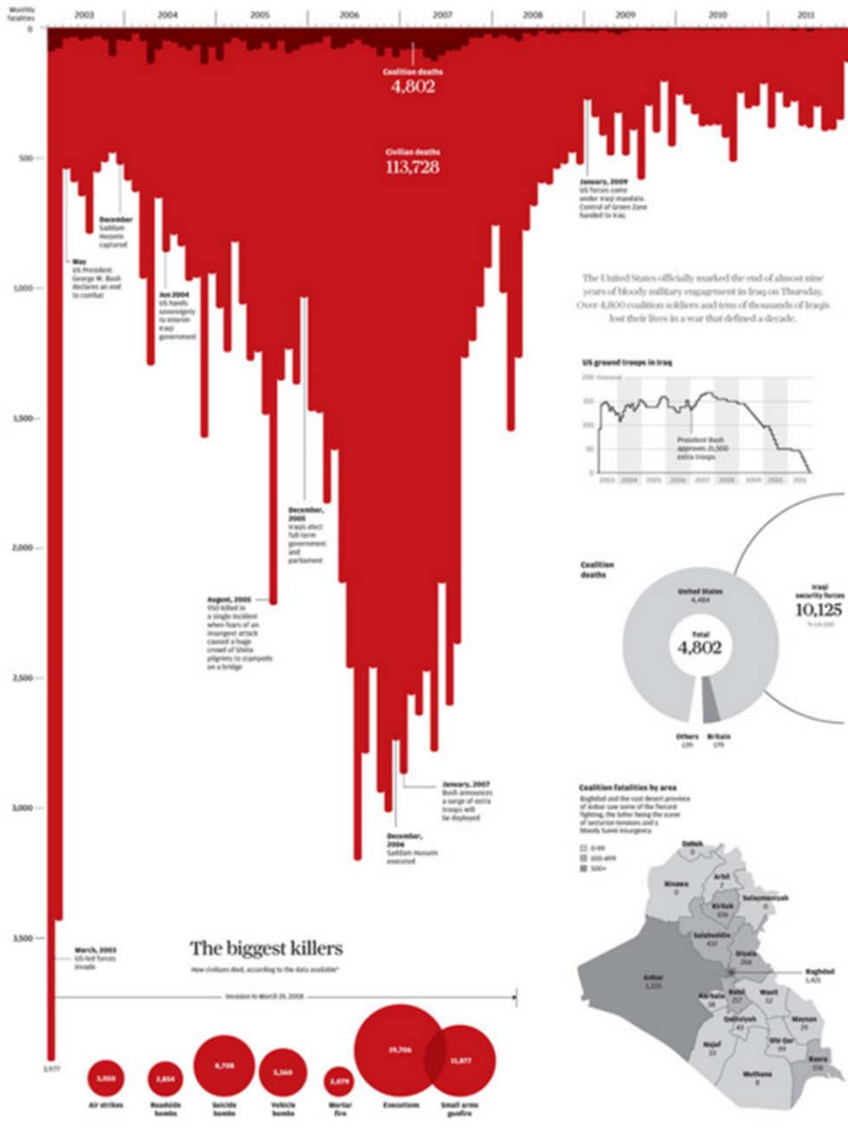
- Common and novel displays from the Global Burden of Disease

- Some principles for choosing between forms for visual displays

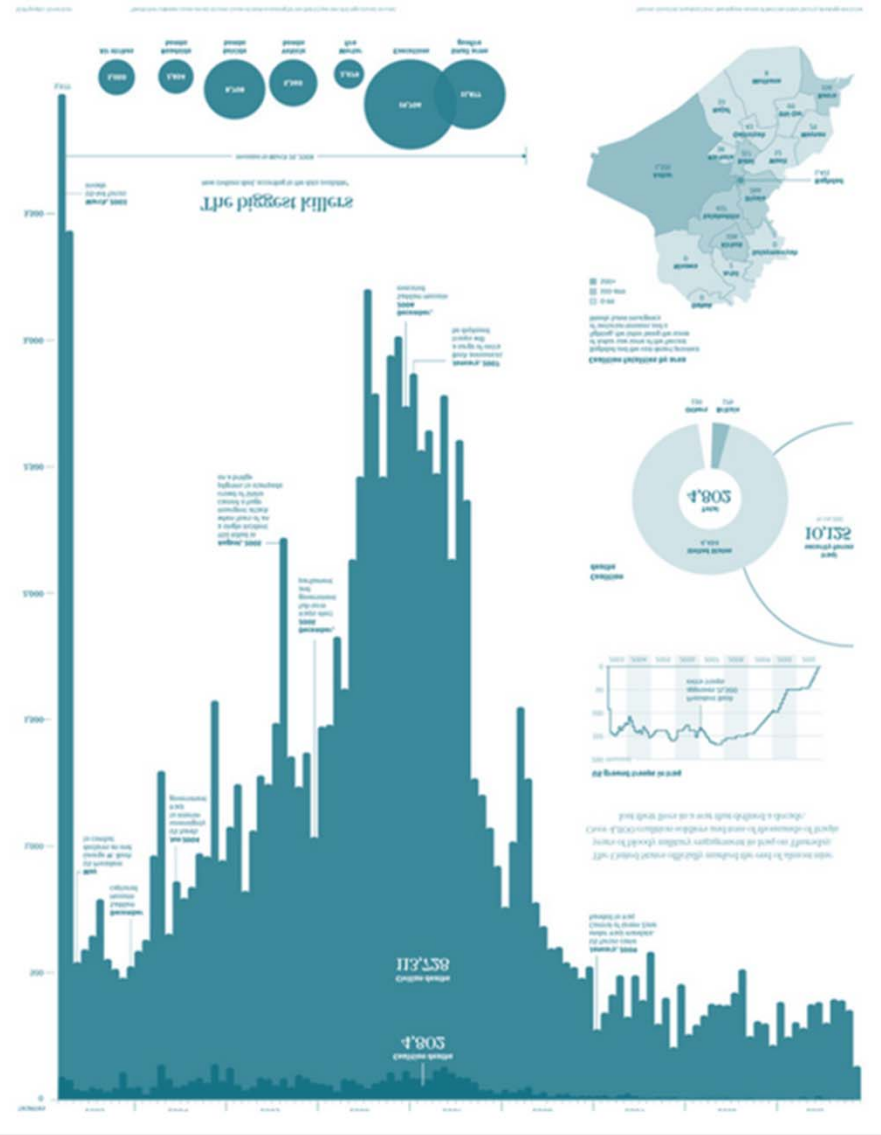
- Hands-on practice sketching and critiquing charts

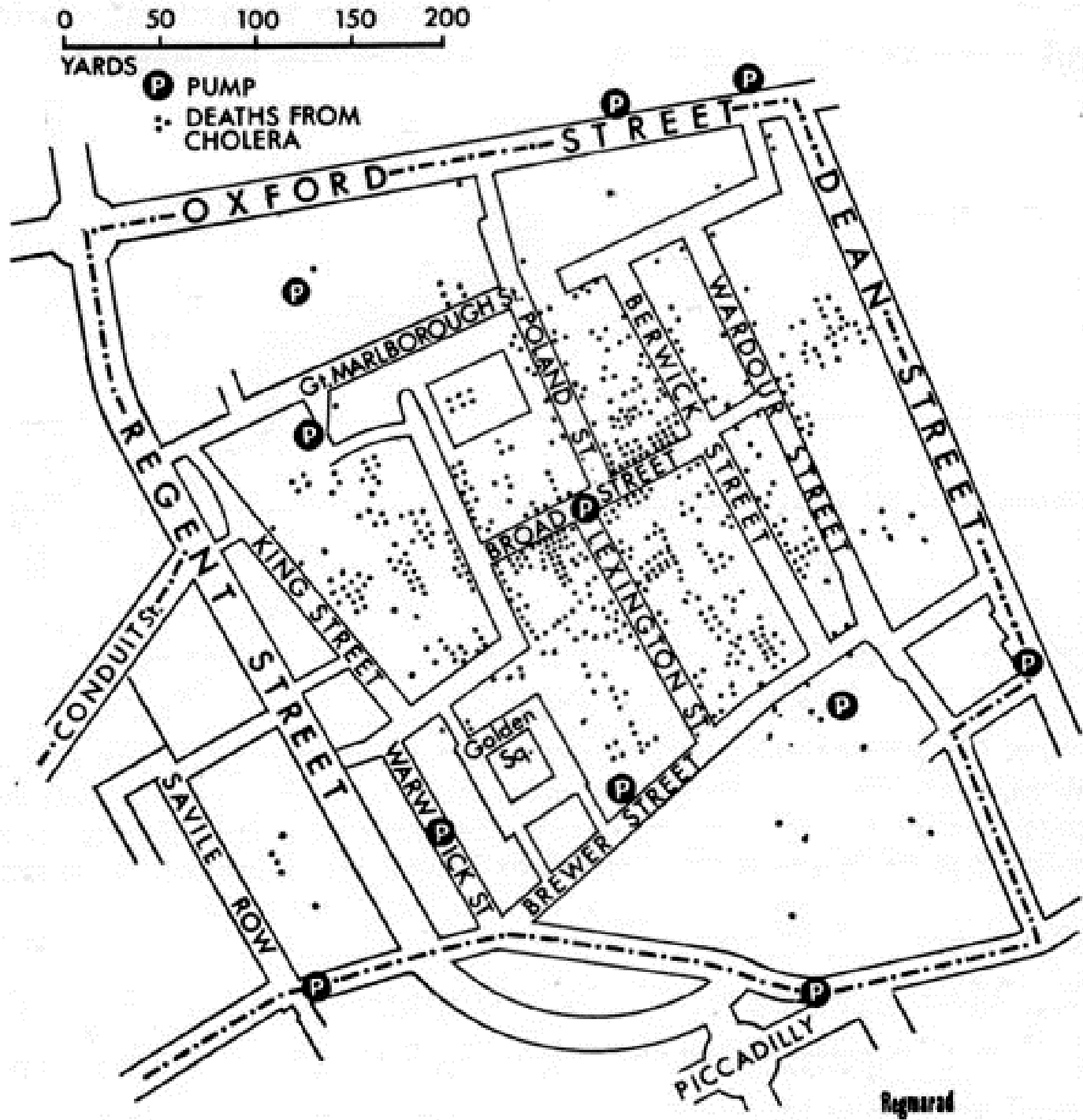
- Resources for further developing your experience and ability with data visualization

# Iraq's bloody toll



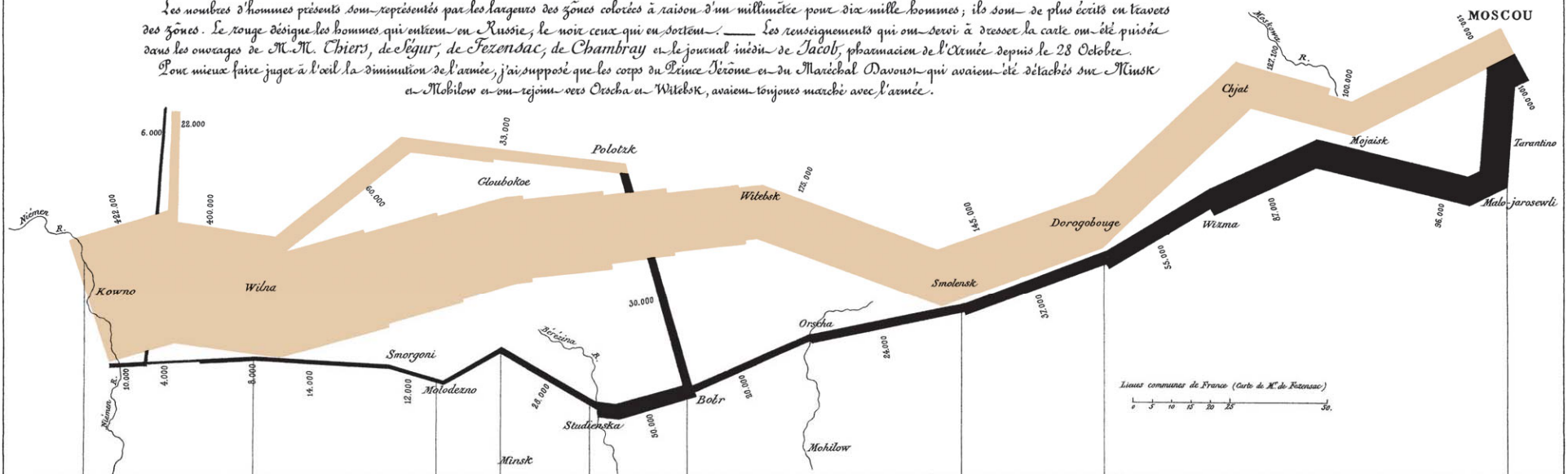
# Iraq: Deaths on the decline





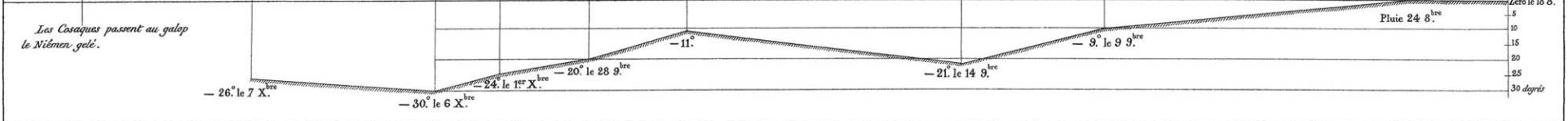
*Carte Figurative* des pertes successives en hommes de l'Armée Française dans la campagne de Russie 1812-1813.  
 Dressée par M. Minard, Inspecteur Général des Ponts et Chaussées en retraite. Paris, le 20 Novembre 1869.

Les nombres d'hommes présents sont représentés par les largeurs des zones colorées à raison d'un millimètre pour dix mille hommes; ils sont de plus écrits en travers des zones. Le rouge désigne les hommes qui entrent en Russie, le noir ceux qui en sortent. — Les renseignements qui ont servi à dresser la carte ont été puisés dans les ouvrages de M. M. Chiers, de Légar, de Fezensac, de Chambray et le journal inédit de Jacob, pharmacien de l'Armée depuis le 28 Octobre. Pour mieux faire juger à l'œil la diminution de l'armée, j'ai supposé que les corps du Prince Jérôme et du Maréchal Davout qui avaient été détachés sur Minsk et Mohilow et qui rejoignent vers Orscha et Witebsk, avaient toujours marché avec l'armée.



Lignes communes de France (Carte de M. de Fieussac)  
 0 5 10 15 20 25 30

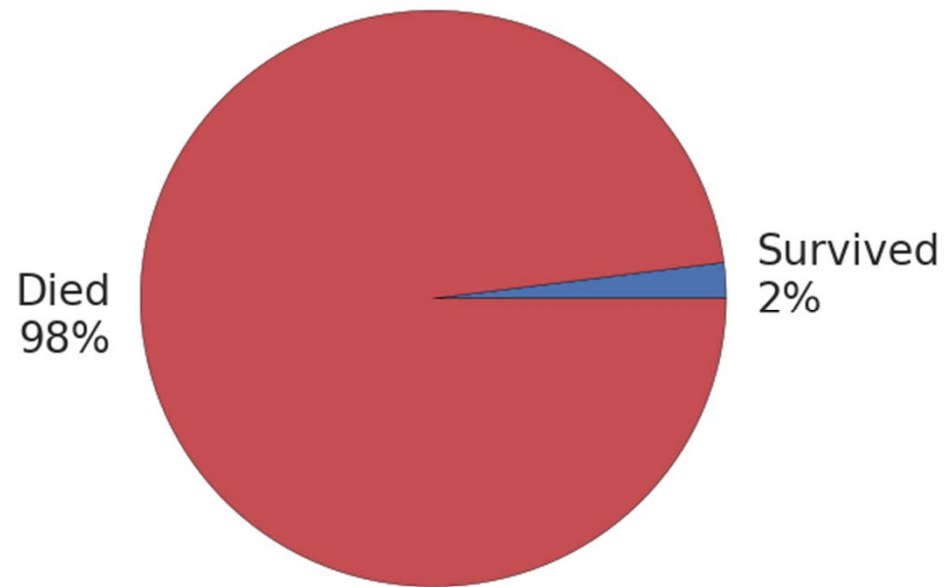
TABLEAU GRAPHIQUE de la température en degrés du thermomètre de Réaumur au dessous de zéro.



Auq. par Rognier, 8. Plac. S<sup>te</sup> Marie S<sup>t</sup> G<sup>er</sup>main à Paris.

Imp. Lith. Rognier et Douillet.

# Summary of Napoleon's Disastrous March



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# Say it with Charts – The Executive’s Guide to Visual Communication

- Gene Zelazny, *Say it with Charts* – there are 5 types of charts
- Can you think of all 5? Can you think of some more? There are more.
- I’ll give you two minutes... go!



# Zelazny's Approach

Comparison of:

1. Components (% of total)
2. Items (Ranking)
3. Time series (Changes)
4. Distribution
5. Correlation (Relationships)

Chart form:

1. Pie
2. Bar
3. Horizontal Bar
4. Line
5. Scatter



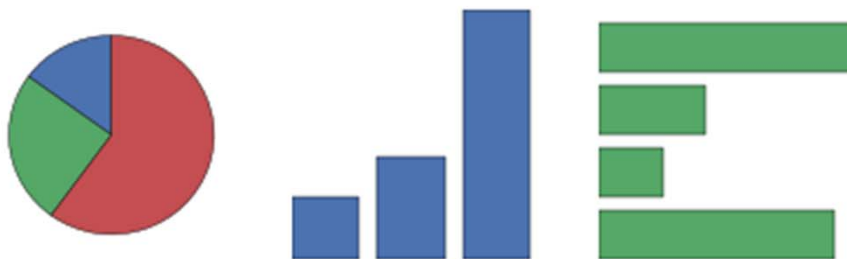
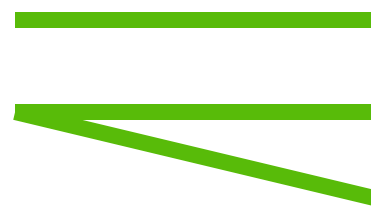
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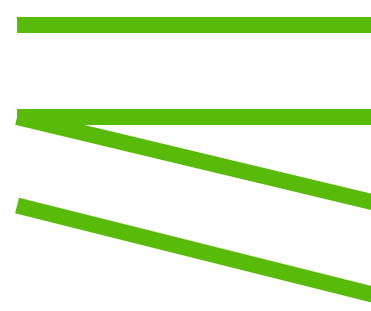
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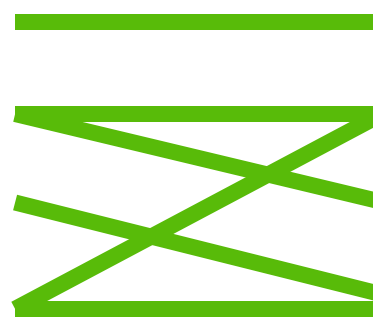
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# Zelazny's Approach

Comparison of:

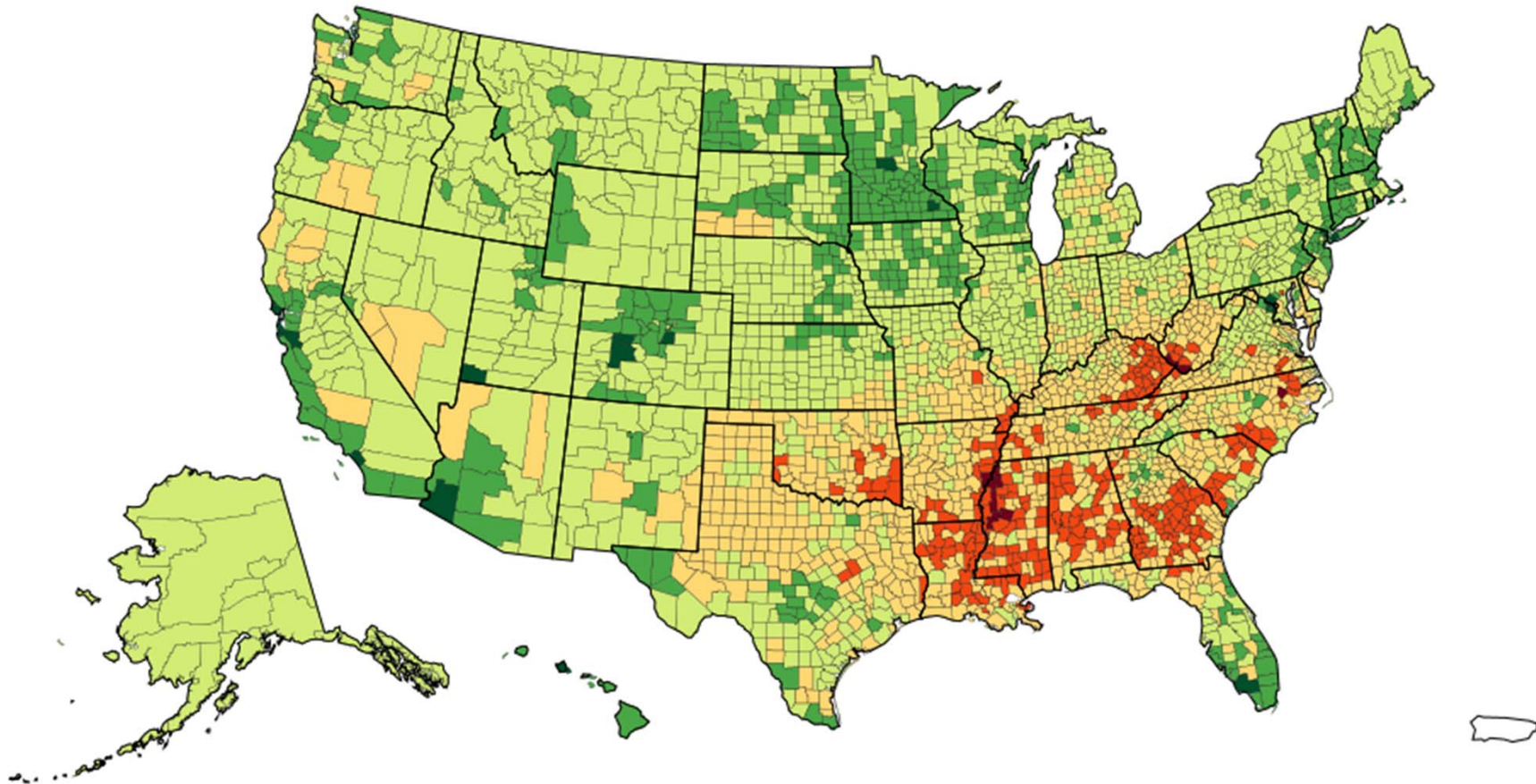
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# Missing: thematic maps



73.2 - 75.3 years   75.4 - 77.4 years   77.5 - 79.6 years   79.7 - 81.7 years   81.8 - 83.8 years   83.9 - 86 years



W UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation

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Computing

# The First Visual Search Engine for Scientific Diagrams

A machine-vision algorithm has learned to analyze and categorize scientific figures.

by Emerging Technology from the arXiv    May 27, 2016

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**In 1973, the statistician Francis Anscombe devised a** fascinating demonstration showing why data should always be plotted before it is analyzed. The demonstration consisted of four data sets that had almost identical statistical properties. By this measure they are essentially the same.





VizioMetrics

viziometrics.org/?keywords=population%20health&art\_view

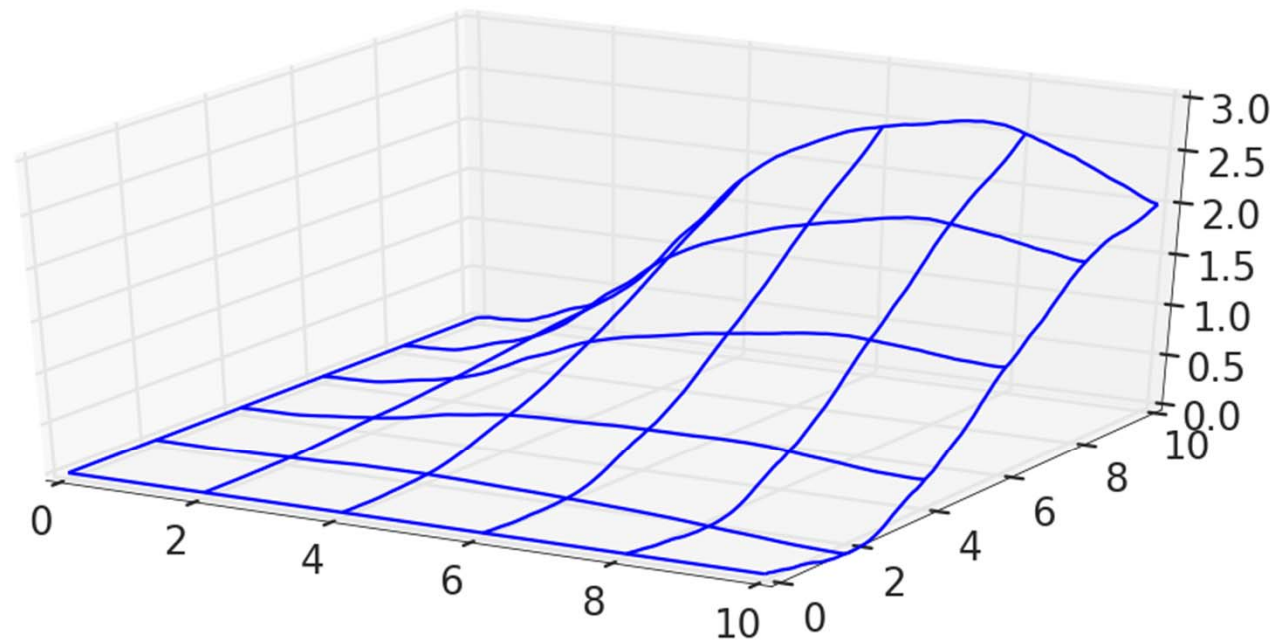
Impact population health Search

Composite Equation Diagram Photo Plot Table

# [bit.ly/2evKcnR](https://bit.ly/2evKcnR)

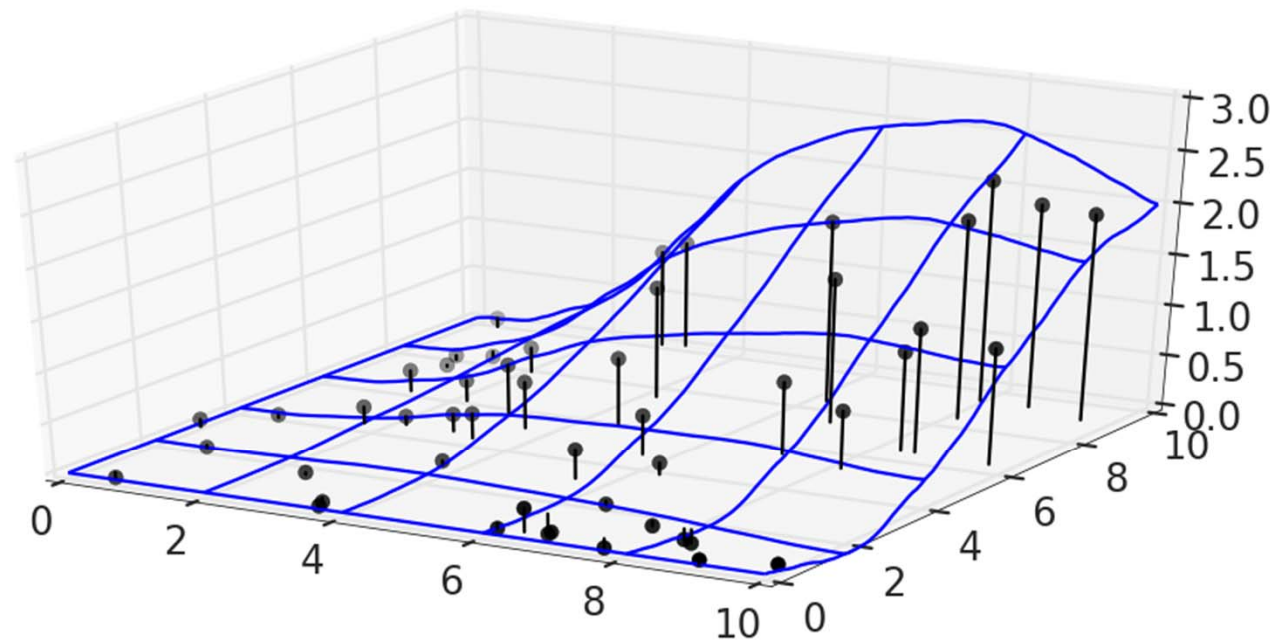
# Three Dimensional Plots

Smooth a Gaussian Field to get values for all pixels on a grid:

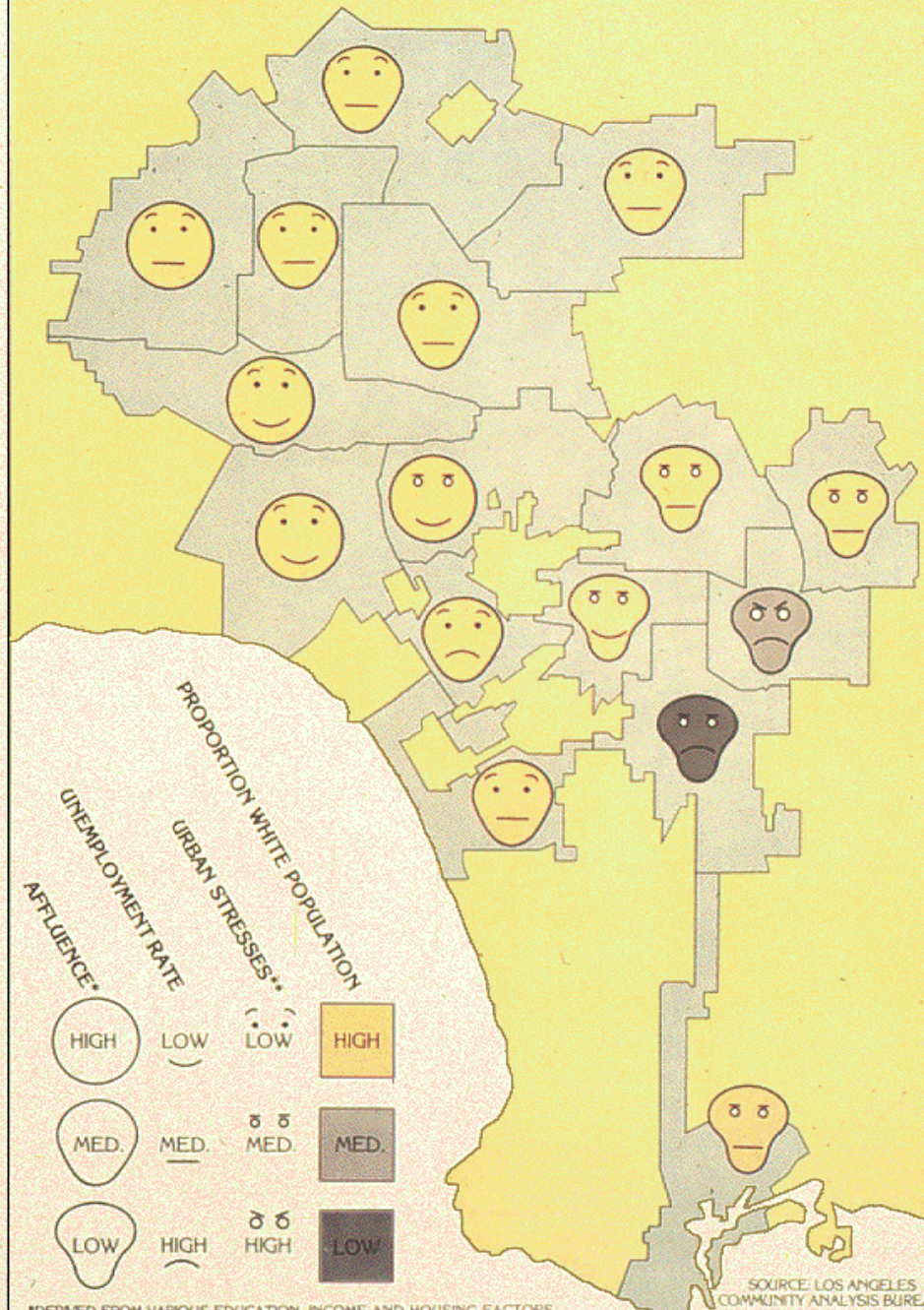


# Three Dimensional Plots

For point data, sample random locations with noise:



# Life in Los Angeles



\*DERIVED FROM VARIOUS EDUCATION, INCOME AND HOUSING FACTORS

SOURCE: LOS ANGELES  
COMMUNITY ANALYSIS BUREAU

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# Sketch as many ways to display this information as you can think of (3 minutes)

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<b>age</b>	<b>sex</b>	<b>race</b>	<b>specialty</b>	<b>hours</b>	<b>it_use</b>
55	M	White	Medical Specialties	41	Available and used
65	M	White	Surgical Specialties	60	Not available
60	M	White	Medical Specialties	55	Available and used
40	F	Black	Internal Medicine	60	Available and used
35	M	White	Family/GP	50	Available and used
...	...	...	...	...	...

---

## Busy, Busy Doctors –TMI Table

Specialty	Hours per Week						
	All ages	Age group					
		<37	40yo	45yo	50	55	60
Ob/Gyn	54.0	56	53	55	59	54	52
Surgical Specialty	53.1	58	55	54	56	56	50
Medical Specialty	52.9	51	52	54	54	55	54
Internal	51.4	51	50	52	52	55	55
Family	49.1	49	50	48	50	51	51
Psych	45.4	46	46	42	46	49	46
Peds	45.2	43	47	43	45	48	48

Source: HSC 2008 Health Tracking Physician Survey

**Now pick your favorite and sketch a big version of it, for sharing (1 minute)**

Specialty	Hours per Week						
	All ages	<37	40yo	45yo	50	55	60
Ob/Gyn	54.0	56	53	55	59	54	52
Surgical Specialty	53.1	58	55	54	56	56	50
Medical Specialty	52.9	51	52	54	54	55	54
Internal	51.4	51	50	52	52	55	55
Family	49.1	49	50	48	50	51	51
Psych	45.4	46	46	42	46	49	46
Peds	45.2	43	47	43	45	48	48



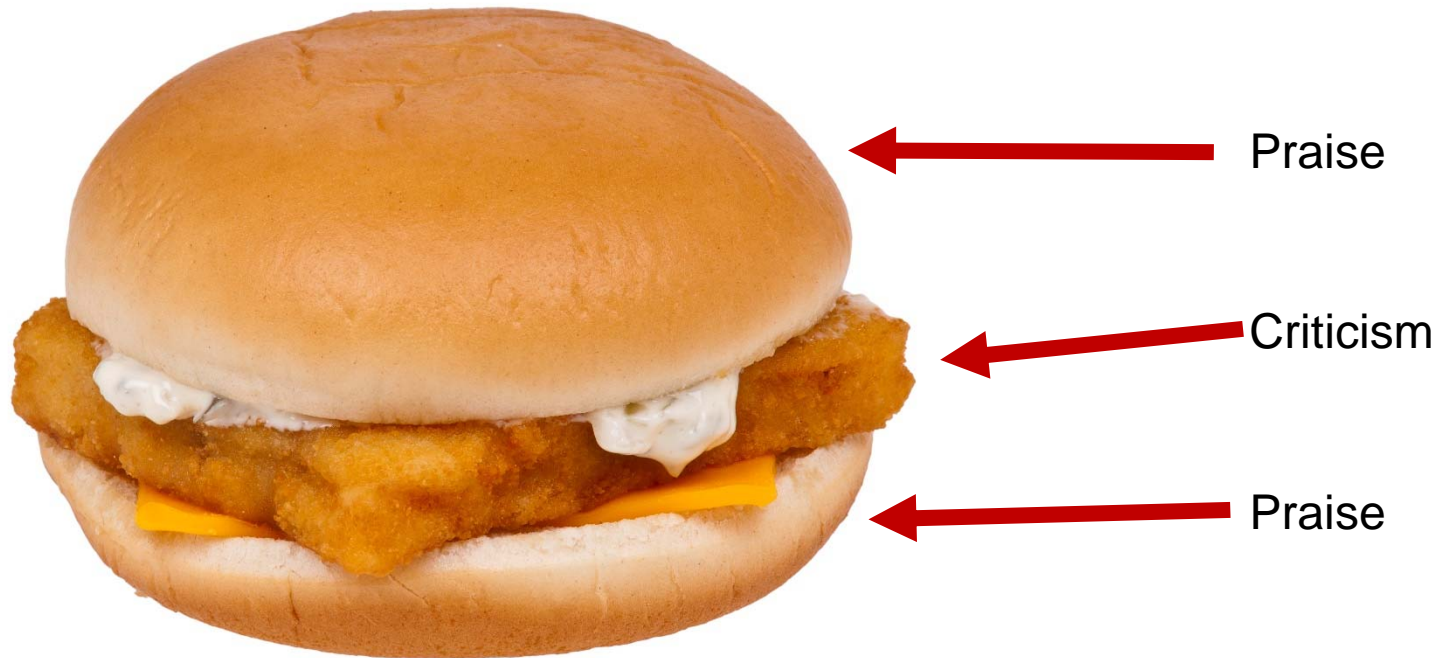
# Choosing between alternatives

- Critique exercise (teams of two, three minutes each)
- Three levels of constructive criticism
  1. Conceptual (What are its goals and does it accomplish them?)
  2. Aesthetic (Overall appeal, objects, iconography, contrast, value, size, positioning, hierarchy, consistency, ...)
  3. Technical details



# How to offer criticism: the sandwich

- Should I not tell you this?



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# Resources for Further Study

## Chart Suggestions Thought-Starter

### Resources at UW

- [Jeff Heer, CSE 512, and Interactive Data Lab](#)
- [Jessica Hullman, iSchool](#)
- [Mike Freeman, iSchool](#)
- [Jake Vanderplas, eScience](#)
- [Chris Adolph, CSSS 569](#)
- [Viziometric search engine](#)
- [Center for Social Science Computation and Research](#)

- [Tableau](#)
- [Microsoft Power BI](#)

### Other resources

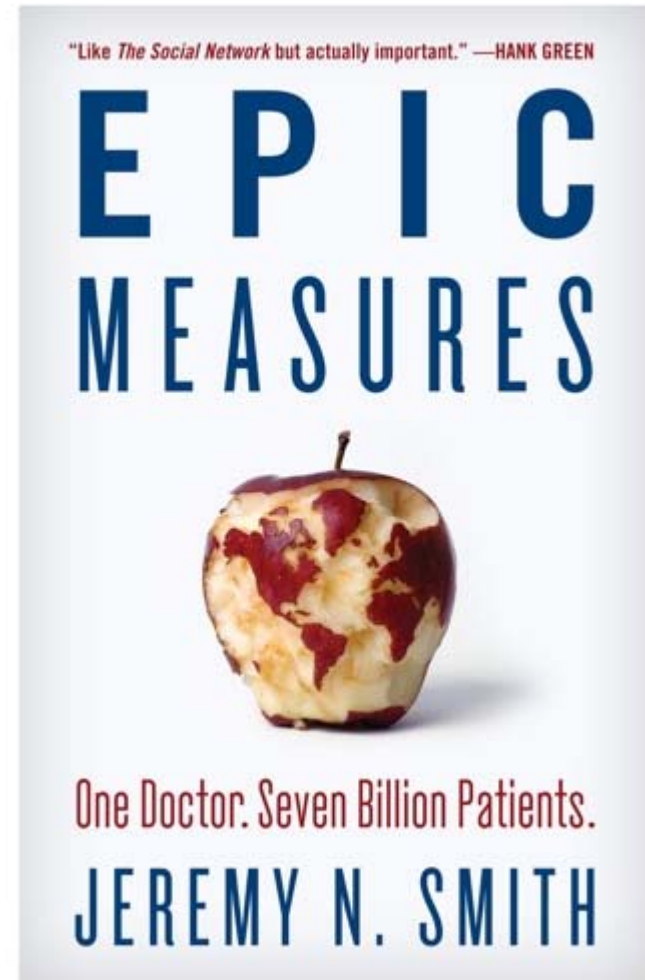
- [Stephen Few](#)
- [@albertocairo](#)
- [ggplot](#), [seaborn](#), better defaults for Stata

I'm always looking for more, please send them to me: [abie@uw](mailto:abie@uw) by email, or [@healthyalgo](https://twitter.com/healthyalgo) on twitter.



Thank you.

Questions?



“Jeremy Smith’s engaging story of a man obsessed with the numbers, and the mortal dramas they tell, reads like a novel and is better than any textbook or survey of this planet’s health.” ---*Paul Farmer*



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