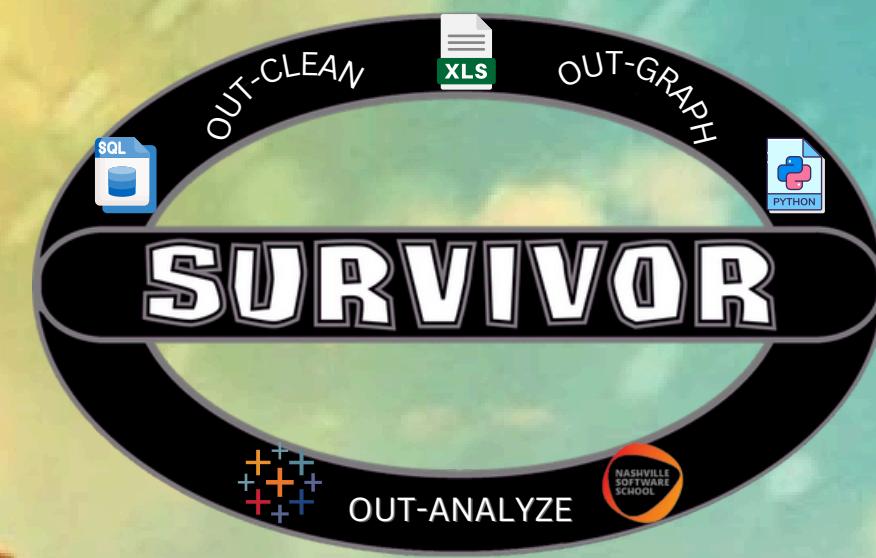




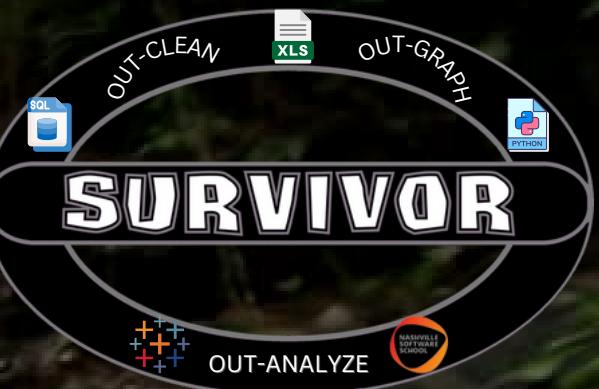
SURVIVOR CONTESTANT PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

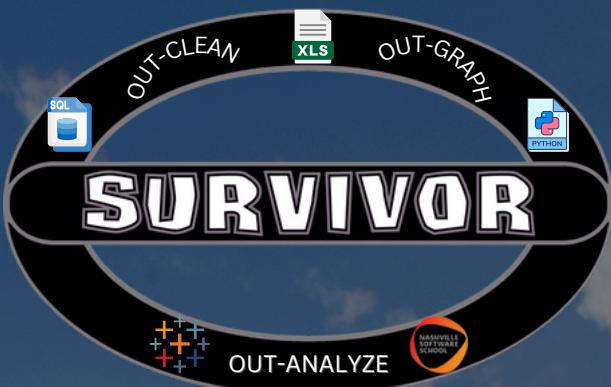
EXPLORING THE ROLE OF GEOGRAPHY, AGE,
AND PROFESSION IN CONTESTANT SUCCESS –
BY DOUGLAS KAPLAN



Overview:

This analysis explores data from 704 Survivor contestants across 46 seasons, focusing on how different factors like age, hometown, and profession influence their performance.





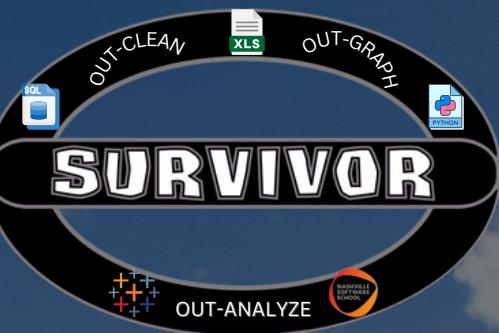
Data Cleaning:

We encountered and cleaned several data inconsistencies. The 'Finish #' column contained various labels such as 'Winner' and 'Runner-Up,' which were converted into numerical values to facilitate analysis.

- Handling missing values in columns like "Votes For Bootee" and "Votes Against The Player."
- Adjusting the format of non-numeric columns.



Key Glossary Terms:



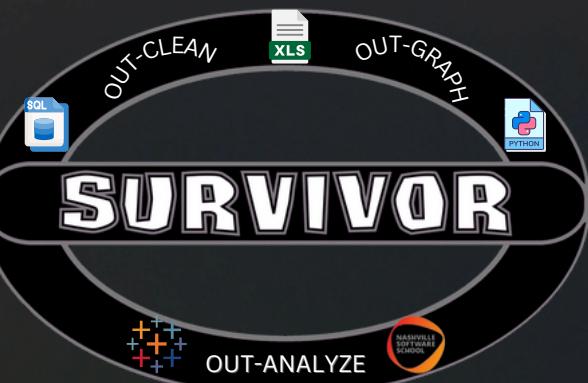
- **ChW:** Challenge Wins. For tribal challenges, a contestant earns a fraction of 1 win, depending on if they participated (no points for sitting out). So in a five-person tribe's win, each participant gets (1/5) of a point, or 0.2 points. Duels at Redemption Island count as half a challenge (and half a win). Individual challenge wins count as a full point.
- **ChA:** Challenge Appearances. Used to calculate ChW%. Fractional for tribal challenges (same as ChW), except sit-outs get charged for an appearance, because they could have participated.
- **ChW%:** Challenge Win%. $\text{ChW\%} = \text{ChW} / \text{ChA}$.
- **VFB:** Votes For Bootee. The number of times the contestant has voted for the person who was ultimately voted out. Applies only to initial votes (no points for revotes in case of a tie).
- **VAP:** Votes Against the Player. The total number of tribal council votes cast against the contestant. Only initial votes count (no penalty for revotes), and a hidden immunity idol (if played) erases the votes.
- **Survival Score (SurvSc):** sum of Challenge Win% (ChW%) + Tribal Council% (TC%) + Jury Vote%, for a maximum possible score of 2 (3 after the finale).
- **Survival Average (SurvAv):** sum of fractional Challenge Wins (ChW), weighted TC Ratio (wTCR), and (eventually) a weighted Jury%. The latter two max out at six points total, for a theoretical maximum score of around 18 or so.



Data Questions:

- How does geography affect contestant performance?
- Is there a correlation between a contestant's profession and their success?
- What age/gender group tends to perform best?

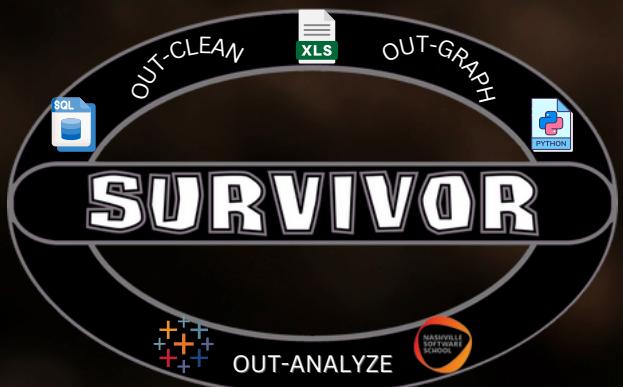




Geographic Analysis:

Contestants from certain states like California and New York appear more frequently in the top 5 finishers, while those from smaller states have more variability in performance.

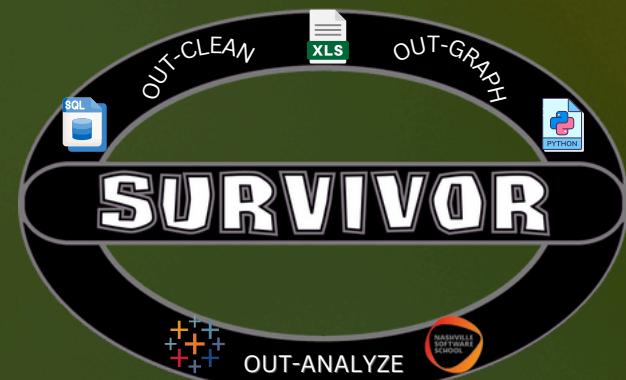




Age, Gender, and Performance:

Older contestants (ages 35+) tend to have lower survival scores but perform better in strategic challenges. Meanwhile, contestants in their 20s show higher physical challenge success rates.





Professional Backgrounds and Success:

Contestants with leadership professions like corporate trainers or military backgrounds tend to perform better in tribal councils, while physically demanding professions correlate with more challenge wins.

Teachers consistently placed in the top 10, while athletes had more variability in their placement.

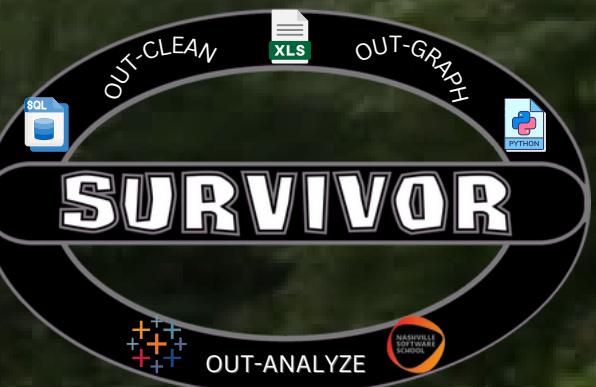




Challenge Performance:

I found that challenge performance is highly dependent on a contestant's challenge win percentage. Contestants who won more than 30% of their challenges generally made it to the top 5.





Key Findings:

- Geographic location and profession play a role in contestant performance.
- Age affects physical versus strategic performance.
- Consistent challenge performance is a strong predictor of final placement.



Survivor Records:

Idols found/ played: Single-season

4

Rick Devens

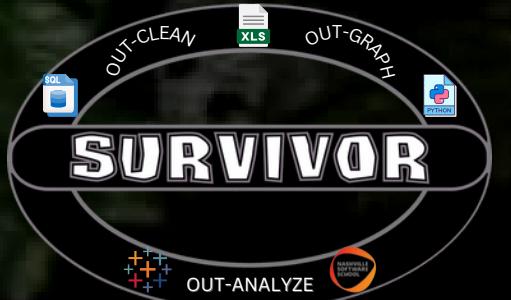
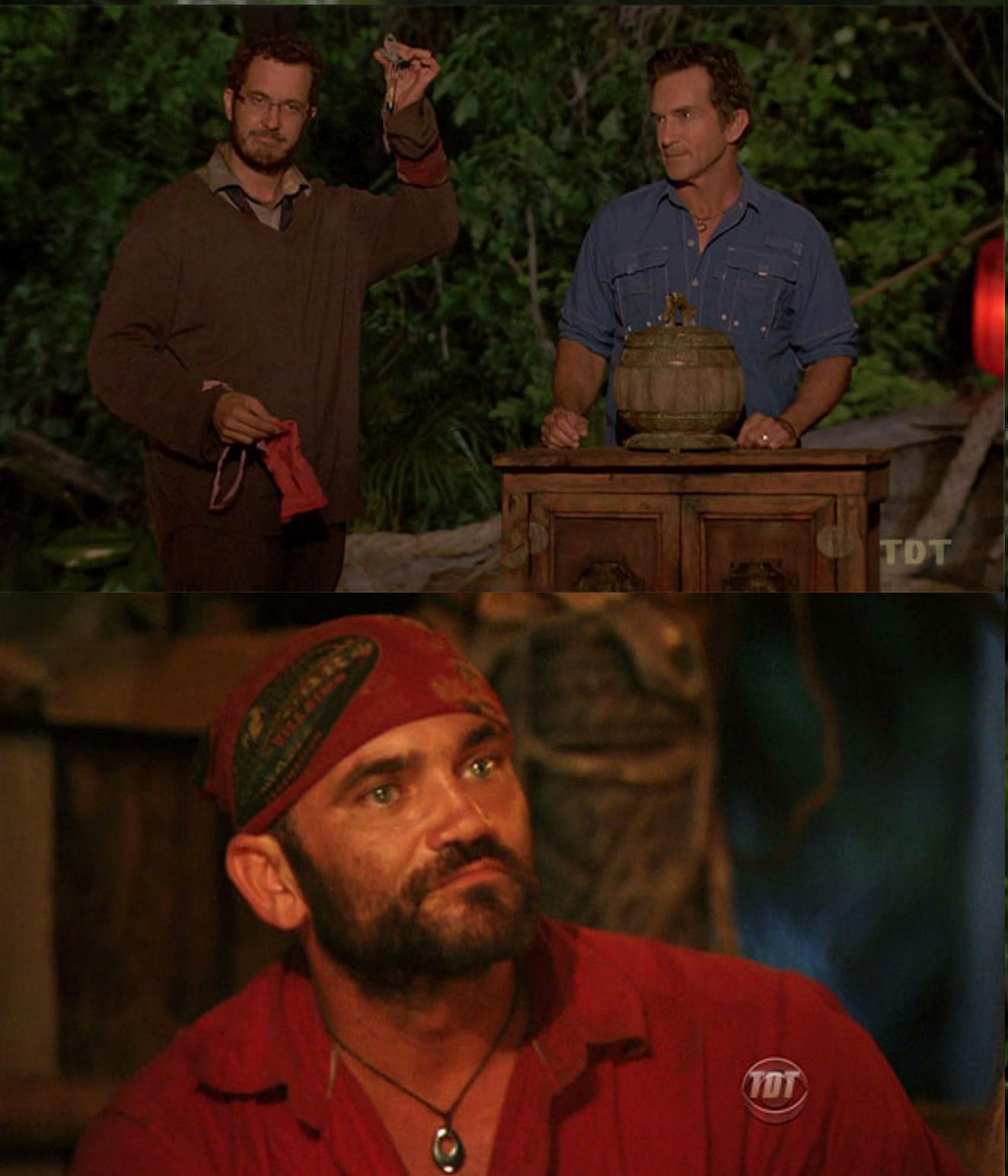
S38: Edge of Extinction

Idols found/ played: Career

5

Russell Hantz

S19, S20, S22



Survivor Records:

Advantages played: Single-season

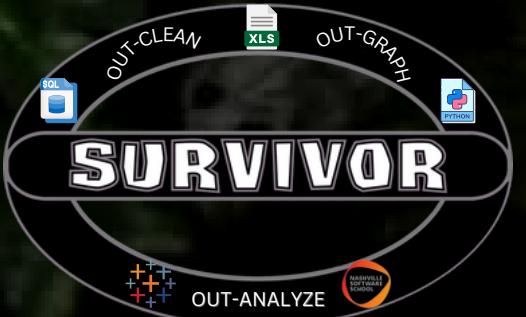
3

Drea Wheeler
Survivor 42

Votes Against the Player (VAP): Single-season

19

Laura Morett
S27: Blood vs. Water



Survivor Records, Challenge Stats:

Individual immunity wins: Single-season

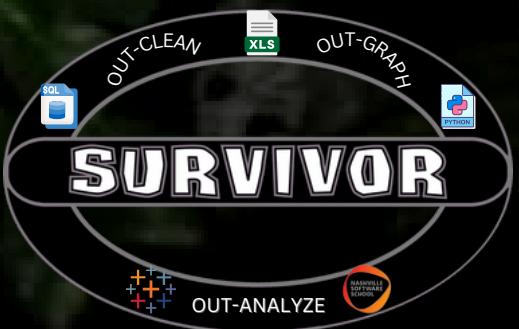
5

Ozzy Lusth, S13; Tom Westman, S10; Terry Deitz, S12; Colby Donaldson, S2; Mike Holloway, S30; Brad Culpepper, S34

Individual immunity wins: Career

10

Boston Rob Mariano
S4, S8, S20, S22, S40



Survivor Records, Challenge Stats:

Individual challenge wins: Single-season

8

Terry Deitz

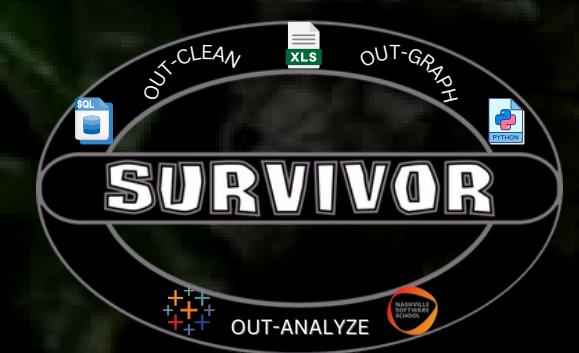
S12: Panama

Individual challenge wins: Career

10

Boston Rob Mariano

S4, S8, S20, S22, S40



Survivor Records, Tribal Council-Stat Leaders:

Times voted out: Single-season

3

Ozzy Lusth

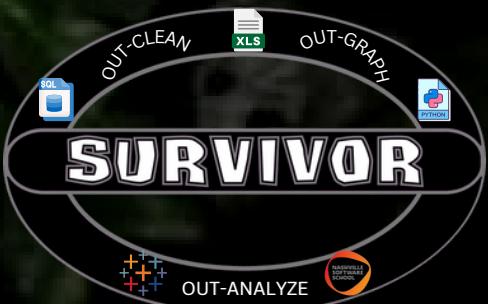
S23: South Pacific

Times voted out: Career

5

Ozzy Lusth

S13, S16, S23, S34



Survivor Records, Days Played Leaders:

Most total days played- Career

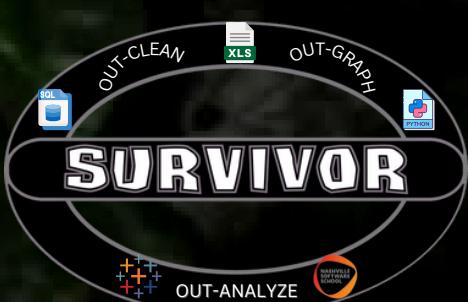
152

Boston Rob Mariano
S4, S8, S20, S22, S40

Most 'exile' days played - Career

36

Natalie Anderson
S29, S40



Survivor Records, Statistical Favorites:

Survival average (SurvAv): Single-season

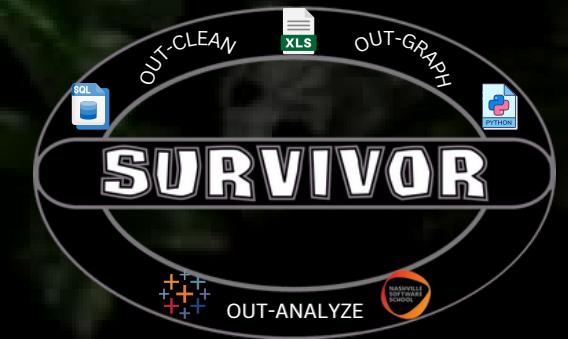
17.81

Tom Westman
S10: Palau

Survival score (SurvSc): Single-season

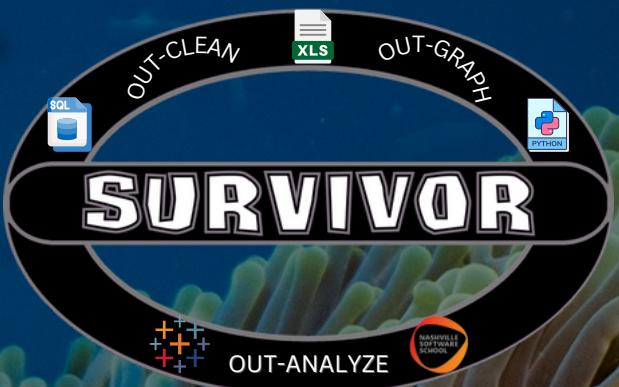
2.26

J.T. Thomas
S18: Tocantins



Conclusion & Future Work:

This analysis provides insights into the diverse factors influencing Survivor success. Future work could expand on this by including more seasons or examining gender-based trends in performance.

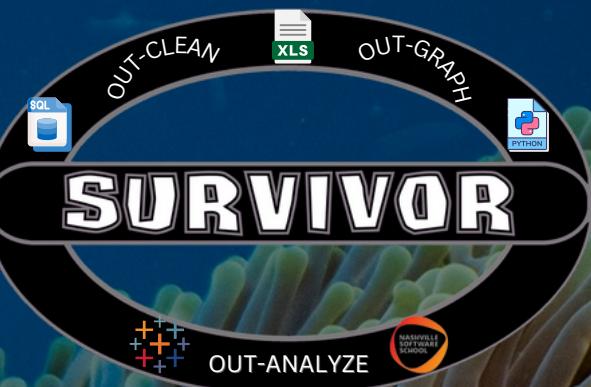


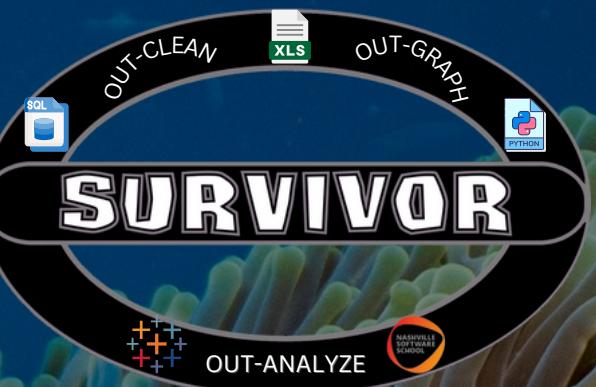
References & software:

Tools : Python, Excel, Tableau, Canva

Data Sources: Wikipedia, TrueDorkTimes, & Survivor Fandom

Image Sources: CBS Pictures





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Thank you very much for your time!

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