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IS 445 - ACG/ACU: Data Visualization - Fall 2023

Visualization Report 5

Student: Christopher Mujjabi

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The visualization shows the history of pandemics by Nicholas LePan, published on the visualcapitalist website on March 14, 2020 and obtained on September 26, 2023.

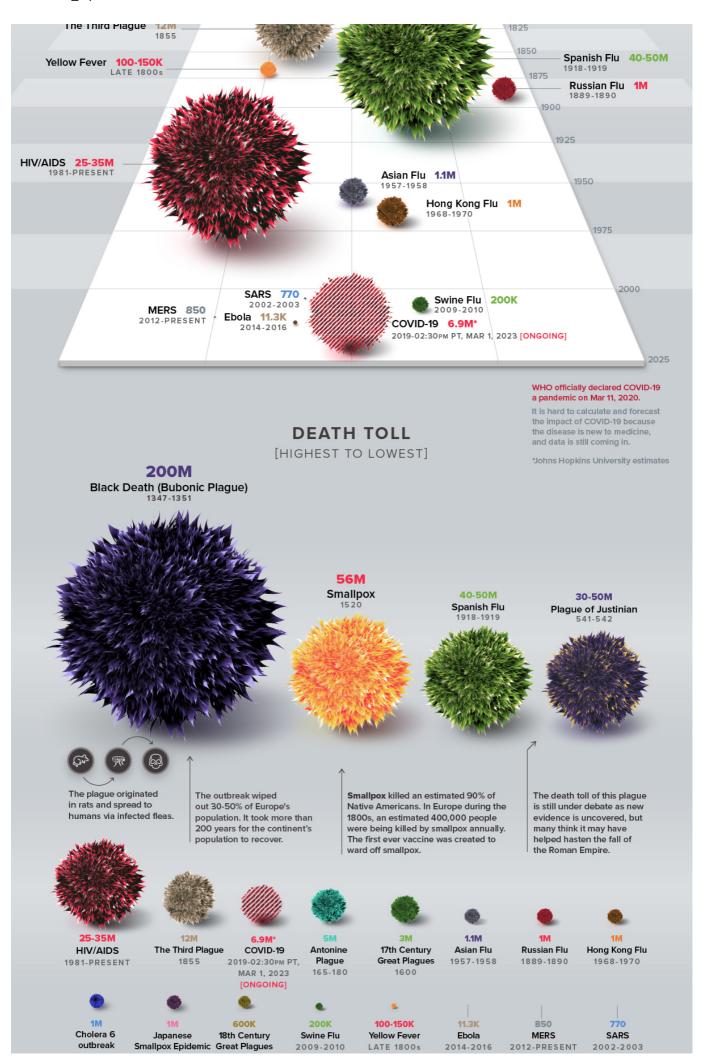
The visualization shows the timeline of the deadliest pandemics in humankind's history, starting from the Antonine plague in 165 to Covid-19 in 2020. I Like this visualization because it is very informative and well-labeled. We can see the year when the pandemic brokeout, the name of the plague and the number of people it claimed (death toll). Using colors to differentiate between different pandemics was also helpful in reading the visualization easily. I also like how they used the symbol of a pathogen/virus to represent the pandemic.

The issue with this visualization was the scaling of the axis, particularly the years and the size of the viruses. Even though it was intentional to use a 3D compressed timeline graph to present the historical occurrence of the pandemics, the size difference makes the recent pandemics more emphasized than the far past pandemics. For example, the size of the virus in the visualization is a function of the death toll of that particular virus. However, based on the 3D timeline, HIV and Spanish flu appear to be way bigger than the Bubonic plague, even though they only claimed 4 to 6 times fewer lives than the bubonic plague.

Also, some pandemics had huge death toll margins where the exact number of lives claimed is unknown. For example, 30-50M for the plague of Justinian, 40-50M for Spanish flu, and 25-35M for HIV. With these huge margins, using the "size of the virus" to compare death tolls is erroneous.

HISTORY OF PANDEMICS PAN-DEM-IC (of a disease) prevalent over a whole country or the world. THROUGHOUT HISTORY, as humans Death toll spread across the world, infectious Antonine Plague 165-180 5M diseases have been a constant Plague of Justinian 541-542 30-50M companion. Even in this modern era, outbreaks are nearly constant. Japanese Smallpox Epidemic 735-737 1M Black Death (Bubonic Plague) 200M Here are some of history's most 1347-1351 deadly pandemics, from the Antonine Plague to COVID-19. 1300 Throughout the 17th and 18th centuries, a series of Smallpox 56M 1400 "Great Plagues" routinely 1520 1450 ravaged cities across Europe. 1500 1550 17th Century Great Plagues 3M 18th Century Great Plagues 600K 1700 1725 1750 Cholera 6 outbreak 1M 1817-1923 1800

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COLLABORATORS RESEARCH + WRITING Nick LePan, Nick Routley | DESIGN Harrison Schell | ART DIRECTION Harrison Schell