

Group / topic being reviewed: B. School Shootings

Reviewer name: Ryan Skelly

INTRO: What is the purpose of this work? (i.e. what problem are they trying to address / what questions are they asking).

This group looked at the ongoing increase in school shootings that occur in the US each year. They hoped that by properly analyzing data, they could draw helpful conclusions and insight on how to improve upon the predicament.

METHODS: What data sources is the group using? What variables are they comparing? Are they doing any data pre-processing (e.g. cleaning, normalizing, transforming, etc.)?

The group analyzed which states and regions had the most school shootings, and the correlation between the number of guns and political affiliation of each state, compared to the number of school shootings. They sourced data from many state information resource distributors and the Washington post.

ANALYSIS & FINDINGS: What stood out to you about the group's findings? Was there any data presentation / visualization that was particularly helpful?

I was surprised that there wasn't a stronger correlation between Republican voters and school shootings. Areas with the largest amount of guns I would have thought would be easier for a school shooting to take place, due to them being readily accessible, although this clearly wasn't the case.

DISCUSSION: What stood out to you about the group's discussion (i.e. their interpretation of their findings)? Do you think conclusions are justified by their data / analysis?

The California discussion was shocking. I hadn't known that one of the largest blue states had more lenient gun laws, than other red states. These findings definitely were useful in the bigger picture, and was good evidence for the call to action. I liked the added survivor story, although it was quite gruesome.

Group / topic being reviewed: E. Education Costs

Reviewer name: Ryan Skelly

INTRO: What is the purpose of this work? (i.e. what problem are they trying to address / what questions are they asking).

This group looked at college students' college tuition costs, and why it is so high. They hoped to quantify why it has been increasing over time and find potential avenues to reduce said costs.

METHODS: What data sources is the group using? What variables are they comparing? Are they doing any data pre-processing (e.g. cleaning, normalizing, transforming, etc.)?

This group analyzed the general tuition and enrollment data from large state run institutions as well as private colleges. They also looked at wage data and the risk vs rewards aspect.

ANALYSIS & FINDINGS: What stood out to you about the group's findings? Was there any data presentation / visualization that was particularly helpful?

I found the inflation of public school tuition costs from 1968-2015 absurd. 300% inflation shows colleges truly have raised exorbitantly in price, and goes to show why this is a common and popular issue.

DISCUSSION: What stood out to you about the group's discussion (i.e. their interpretation of their findings)? Do you think conclusions are justified by their data / analysis?

The tie in with incorrect ROI and Weapons of Math Destruction was well put. From the data shown, the conclusions the group had were quite in line with the findings, and were extremely relatable to the situation I currently find myself in. I also thought their action plan was well thought out, and mentioning FAFSA/NAFSA was well warranted.

Group / topic being reviewed: C. Vaccine Rates

Reviewer name: Ryan Skelly

INTRO: What is the purpose of this work? (i.e. what problem are they trying to address / what questions are they asking).

This group analyzed global vaccine rates to gauge areas that may suffer from inadequate knowledge of health services. This was done highlight the need for proper education and the use of vaccine based healthcare methods.

METHODS: What data sources is the group using? What variables are they comparing? Are they doing any data pre-processing (e.g. cleaning, normalizing, transforming, etc.)?

The group looked at vaccine rates of common diseases, and the correlation between these rates, and the rates of literacy in countries. The group used entirely UNICEF data for all data used for the analysis. There was no mention of needing pre-processing to utilized the data.

ANALYSIS & FINDINGS: What stood out to you about the group's findings? Was there any data presentation / visualization that was particularly helpful?

I thought the correlation between vaccine and literacy rates were a good comparison, and made for a useful talking point in the conclusion. I had also thought that African and Middle Eastern populations would have had less of the overall population with vaccines although that wasn't the case.

DISCUSSION: What stood out to you about the group's discussion (i.e. their interpretation of their findings)? Do you think conclusions are justified by their data / analysis?

I thought the groups conclusions were inline with their findings, and was cool that most of their original hypotheses coincided with their ending conclusions. The discussion was good, although I would have liked a few more examples of secondary accounts/information. The call to action was also well structured at liked the humbling word about our first world perspectives compared to many less fortunate regions.