Peer-graded Assignment: Graphics Lies, Misleading Visuals

Submit by February 11, 11:59 PM PST

Important Information
It is especially important to submit this assignment before the deadline, February 11, 11:59 PM PST, because it must be graded by others. If you submit late, there may not be enough classmates around to review your work. This makes it difficult - and in some cases, impossible - to produce a grade. Submit on time to avoid these risks.

ⓘ It looks like this is your first peer-graded assignment. Learn more   ✕

Instructions

My submission

Discussions

A confusing case of recidivism rate by offenses

Read Alberto Cairo's work, Graphics Lies, Misleading Visuals

Locate an example of a misleading visual that uses one or more of the mechanisms for misleading that Cairo outlines in his book chapter: (1) Hiding relevant data; (2) Displaying too much data and obscuring reality; (3) Distorting data through visual forms.

Please upload an image of this visual using a widely accessible graphic format (e.g., PDF, .jpg, .png)

🗋 prison-10.jpg ✕
How prison works
Recidivism Rate of Prisoners Released in 1994   Ⓖ

Briefly describe the context for the visual by addressing the following questions:

1. What is the source of the visual? (e.g., URL or bibliographic citation)

2. Who is the intended audience (i.e., decoders)? How do you know this?

B   *I*   ☰   ☷   % Link
Source of the visual: Ed Grabianowski "How Prisons Work" 24 January 2007. HowStuffWorks.com. <https://people.howstuffworks.com/prison.htm> 31 January 2018

The intended audience of the image is the general public because is howstuffworks is an educational website that provides its audience content on how many things work (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HowStuffWorks). It uses various median to achieve public education on how stuff works: website, podcast, and TV channels. |

1. Identify the specific component(s) of the visual that is/are misleading

2. For each part(s) of the visualization that is/are misleading, identify the mechanism that is used: hiding relevant data to highlight what benefits us; displaying too much data to obscure reality; using graphic forms in inappropriate ways (distorting the data)

3. Explain how the mechanisms are used to mislead

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The attached visual presents the recidivism rate of prisoners in a pie chart inside a handcuff. The pie chart was used to show the various percentages of recidivism rate for the various different type of offences.
The use of pie chart is misleading for the type of data that is presented because the recidivism rates do not add up to the all released prisoners rate - which a pie chart would suggest. The graphic forms were used inappropriately (distorting the data) to suggest that the recidivism rate for different offences are somehow related to each other and can be added up, but this is an inappropriate use of pie chart. Instead, this data can be much better presented in a bar chart. If the author needed to show a pie chart which displays the prevalence of recidivism, the numbers should be the number of recidivist by offence type.

Optional: Describe any additional issues you found with visual that did not fall under Cairo's three misleading mechanisms.

The use of the handcuff did not contribute to better understanding of th~~e~~
the author to increase visual appeal. Unfortunately, the ignorance of evi~~dence~~
chart type while introducing chart junk - greatly reduce the effectiveness
delivered - large number of recidivist in our prison system.

The use of the handcuff did not contribute to better understanding of the recidivism rate and is simply a way for the author to increase visual appeal. Unfortunately, the ignorance of evidence-driven communicator misused the chart type while introducing chart junk - greatly reduce the effectiveness of the message that was intended to be delivered - large number of recidivist in our prison system.

✔ I, **Bo Wen**, understand that submitting work that isn't my own may result in permanent failure of this course or deactivation of my Coursera account.

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