We need to be careful when looking at analytics from anonymous platforms like GradCafe. One issue is selection bias: people who get accepted, especially to top-tier programs, are much more likely to post about it than those who get rejected. This makes the acceptance rates look much higher than they actually are. For instance, the data shows a 24.32% acceptance rate for Fall 2026, but most competitive programs are actually closer to 10%.

There's also the issue of reporting bias. Since everything is anonymous, there's nothing stopping applicants from inflating their GPAs or test scores, or just sharing their 'wins' while hiding their rejections. We saw this with GRE scores in the dataset, which were noticeably higher than the official averages. Essentially, this dashboard is great for spotting general trends, but it shouldn't be used to predict your own chances. For hard numbers, it's always better to stick to official university statistics.