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CSE 557A Information Visualization
Assignment #5, 03/27/2018
Report

News Article: "Gun control laws could work, even if they're hard to enforce"

Article Link: goo.gl/yNeb74

Dataset Information:

The data I used in my visualization tracks the Daily Adult Tobacco Consumption in Ireland from
the years 1990 - 2011. The data was sourced from a publicly published report by a private UK
based statistics firm, titled "International Smoking Statistics - Web Edition - Ireland". This report
is linked below. I manually compiled the relevant data, found on **page 14** on the report, in Excel.
I then converted the excel document to a csv using gnumeric. Both the XLS file and the CSV file
are available in my submission.

Report Link: ***http://www.pnlee.co.uk/Downloads/ISS/ISS-Ireland_131105.pdf***

Visualization Discussion

Link: https://finnd.github.io/557a_a5/

I chose a line graph as my visualization in order to exhibit the rapid change, and resulting trend,
in tobacco consumption in Ireland after public smoking laws were enacted in 2003. The reason I
chose this dataset was I felt it would greatly support one of the articles key features: the use
Ireland's enacting of anti-smoking laws, and the resulting decline in tobacco consumption, as a
proof-of-concept that unenforceable laws can still have dramatic effects on human behavior. I
felt that this visualization was important because as a reader of the article, I had a difficult time
believing the author that a ban that was admittedly considered "unenforceable" had a true effect.
However, after examining the smoking data for Ireland before and after the ban, it was obvious
to me that the ban's effect WAS successful. As such, I felt this visualization would greatly add to
the article and solidify the reader's belief in its arguments.

I felt the line graph, with implemented hover, was the best visualization choice as it allows the reader to view the trends in tobacco consumption before and after the ban. Before the ban, it is clear to see that tobacco consumption followed no trend, and simply jumped above and below are relatively stable mean every year. However, after the law's enactment, a clear and consistent declining trend is easily seen. This supports the articles argument that the ban was successful due to changing peoples opinions on social norms - as the ban aged, more and more people began to think that smoking was no longer the norm. By allowing users to hover over the data, they can "follow the trend" themselves with their mouse, and see clear empirical data regarding the article's claims.

I would place this visualization immediately after **paragraph 4**.This is directly after the paragraph where the author explains how people's opinions on social norms affected the cigarette consumption in Ireland. I think including the visualization right after this discussion would provide the "proof" necessary to convince readers of the author's claims in the previous two paragraphs.