**Assignment: Please prepare a 1-2 page summary of something(s) you found on the topics below for next week. Not for grading; I’ll ask a few of you to speak on this next class.**

**Blogs: Explore one or two of the blogs or web resources listed in the lecture notes, Readings, or in Resources. Find a few examples of kinds of graphs you find interesting or worth exploring more.**

I explored the website listed on slide 22 from the first lecture depicting the amount of plastic used over various amounts of time (Scarr & Hernandez, n.d.). I really appreciated how there was a visual, dynamic graph, as that is very captivating. I also appreciated how there were different graphs that provided visual representations of the amount of plastic used every hour, day, month, year, and over 10 years as compared to various landmarks and cities. Such comparisons really helped me visualize and truly understand the amount of plastic used in each of these time frames. Viewing these graphs have motivated me to explore how I might be able to use these types of dynamic graphs and visual comparisons to depict my own research findings, which looks at alcohol use and related problems (Scarr & Hernandez, n.d.).

**Good/bad graphs: Explore the literature in your area, say several issues of one journal. Find one example of a data display (graph or table) that communicates particularly well, and one example of a display that communicates badly.**

Figure 1 from Our World in Data on Alcohol Consumption is an overall good example of a data display in the form of a graph (Ritchie & Roser, 2024). The graph is colour coded and the labels are very clear and are on the same panel as the world map. The graph does not use direct labelling, since they do not write the number of litres of alcohol consumed on top of each country on the world map, and therefore the viewer of the graph still must look at the legend. However, since the legend uses a gradient of colours, with lighter colours indicating less alcohol consumption and darker colours indicating more alcohol consumption, the graph is quite easy to interpret. In addition, it would not be possible to write the number of litres consumed by each country on top of every country on the map because many countries are too small to fit this writing, and doing so might also overcrowd the graphic and potentially make it more confusing to interpret. It is important to note that this graph might be more difficult for someone to interpret if they had a visual impairment. On another note, I appreciate how the graph is interactive when viewing it on the actual website, allowing me to see alcohol consumption per country per year, anywhere from the year 2000 to 2019. This allows for an easy comparison between years (Ritchie & Roser, 2024).

**A map of the world

Description automatically generatedFigure 1**

Figure 2 from the Government of Canada website is not a great graph in my opinion (Government of Canada, 2020). It does not include labels on the X axis for the bar graphs, so the viewer does not know what year the graph is referring to. In addition, the title of the figure indicates that the graph shows the prevalence in percentages of alcohol use from 2008 to 2017, which is a total of 10 years, but the actual graph only has 8 bar graphs. Therefore, the viewer does not know what bar graph corresponds to which year (Government of Canada, 2020).

**A bar chart with numbers and text

Description automatically generatedFigure 2**

**References**

Government of Canada (2020, December 21). *Alcohol use among Canadians*.

<https://health-infobase.canada.ca/alcohol/ctads/>

Ritchie, H & Roser, M. (January, 2024). *Alcohol consumption*. Our World in Data.

<https://ourworldindata.org/alcohol-consumption>

Scarr, S. & Hernandez, M. (n.d.). *Drowning in plastic.* Reuters Graphics.

<https://www.reuters.com/graphics/ENVIRONMENT-PLASTIC/0100B275155/>