How Social Factors Impact Awareness of Washington Traffic Laws

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Overview

- We narrowed our scope to focus only on the 15 questions about the legality of different traffic laws
- Took the accuracy of each person's response (Perception) to get a score between 0 (no accuracy) and 1 (full accuracy).
- Each score on the following graphs is the mean score for a particular year and social attribute.

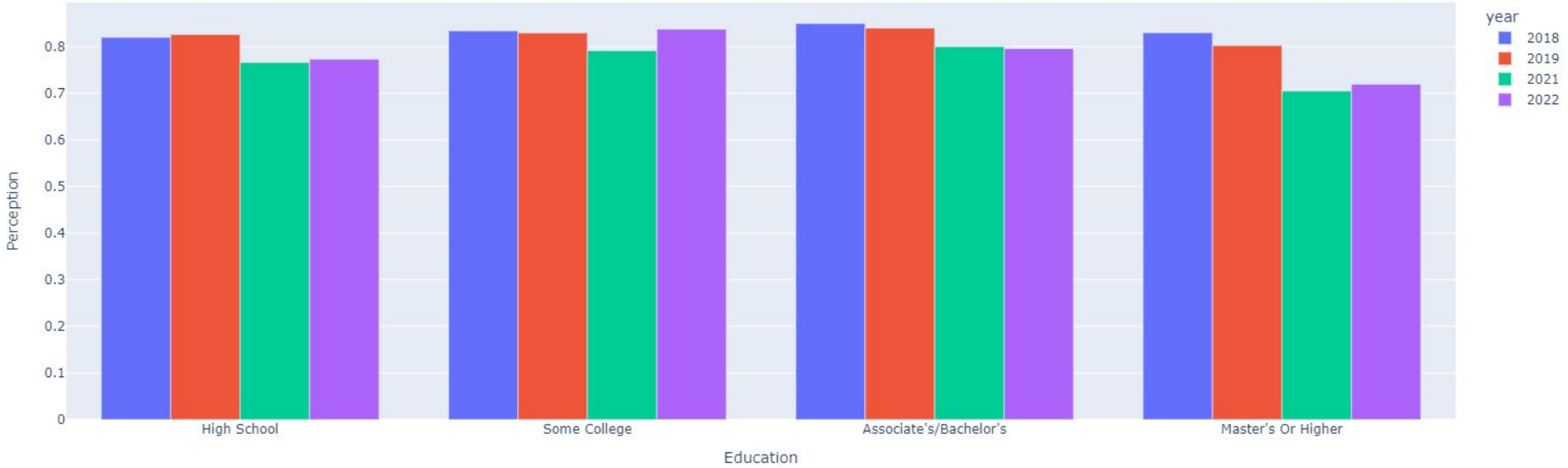
Example Question:

Currently in Washington State, is it legal? Or is it illegal, to…

Type an address into GPS while driving?

1: Legal
2: Illegal
3: Unsure

Perception vs Education

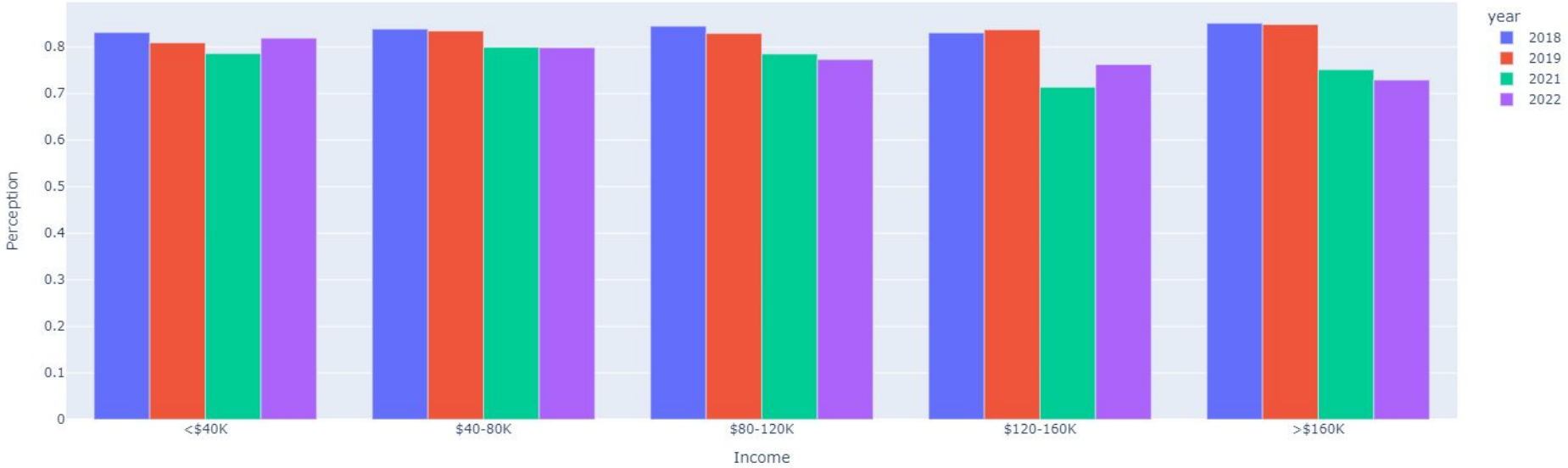


Observations and Conclusions

- Over time, accuracy on the legality questions dropped
- COVID-19 hit in 2020, less people were on the road
- Small variation across education levels - accuracy on legality questions drop as education level increases

Variation is minimal across the different groups, but these small details may reveal which social groups/classes need more educational resources.

Perception vs Income

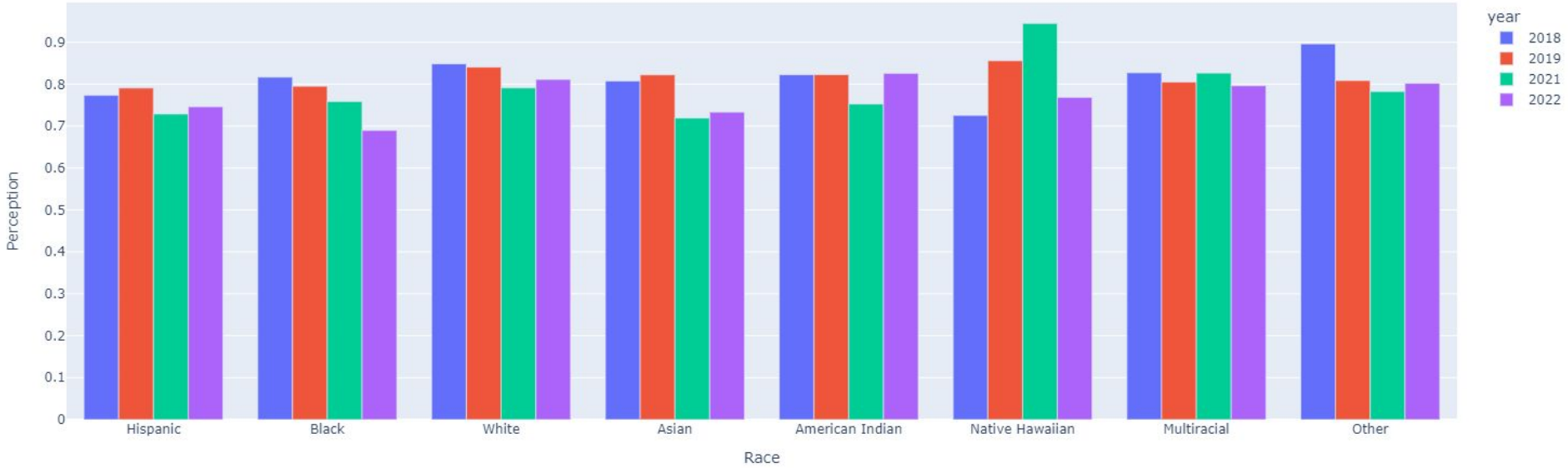


Observations and Conclusions

- Accuracy as time passed dropped
- In 2018-2019 accuracy increases as income increases, while in 2021-2022, accuracy decreases as income increases.

Variation here is also minimal, but as time has passed, people with lower income answered the questions more accurately.

Perception vs Race



Observations and Conclusions

- The general trend indicates that as time passed the accuracy dropped among racial groups.
    - A few outliers that didn't follow this trend were American Indian, Native Hawaiian, and the Multiracial category.
- Different racial groups had varying levels of accuracy. Some groups were overall more accurate than others. This may be due to language barriers within different racial groups, or a lack of knowledge because they are new to the US.

Variation among is also rather small, but the data indicates that for the majority of groups, as time passed, respondent's accuracy declined.