

Kamryn Parker

06 March 2021

DATA-LA 485

Professor McGinnis-Brown

Project 2

Introduction

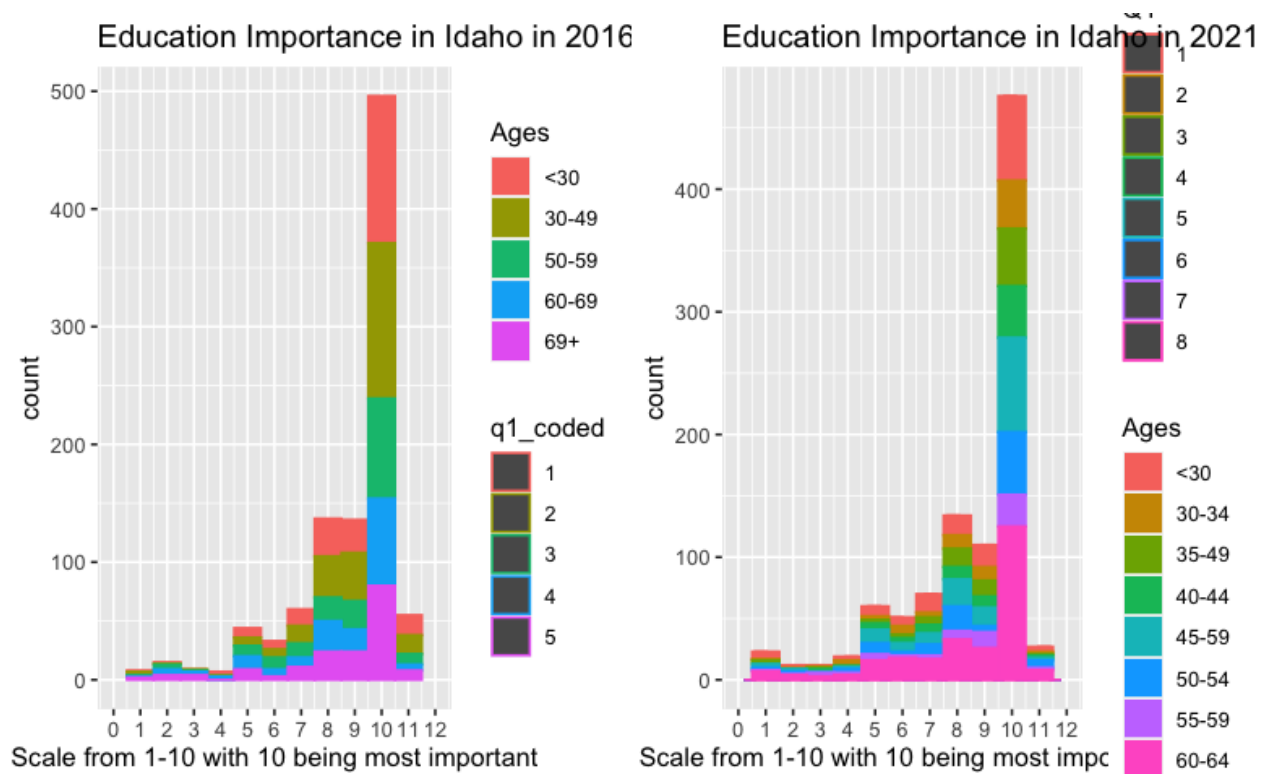
Education is one of the single most important parts of life. So, having equitable access to education and learning resources is essential to a successful future. Idaho has not always had the best track record with their education system. Consistently ranking in the high thirties out of all states and territories in recent years. It is important Idahoans have a voice in trying to improve their state's education. Which is why, there have been yearly surveys, since at least 2016, sent out to Idahoans to get their opinions on different things that impact the state including, education.

Methodology

I used data collected from a statewide each year since 2016 to base my analysis on education in the state of Idaho. Each data set had about 1,000 respondents. To start, I subset the questions to only deal with answers about education and ages of the respondents. I then used the `drop_na()` function to get rid of any non-answers. When I did this at first, I noticed that some of the data frames lost all of their data. To fix this issue I went through and found each question with majority NA and changed the NA to 0, 3, or, 5 to correspond with each question's "Did not answer" option. This helped significantly in sorting my data. I decided to filter the data in this order because that way if people didn't answer other questions but answered questions about education, they wouldn't be excluded from my education focused data set.

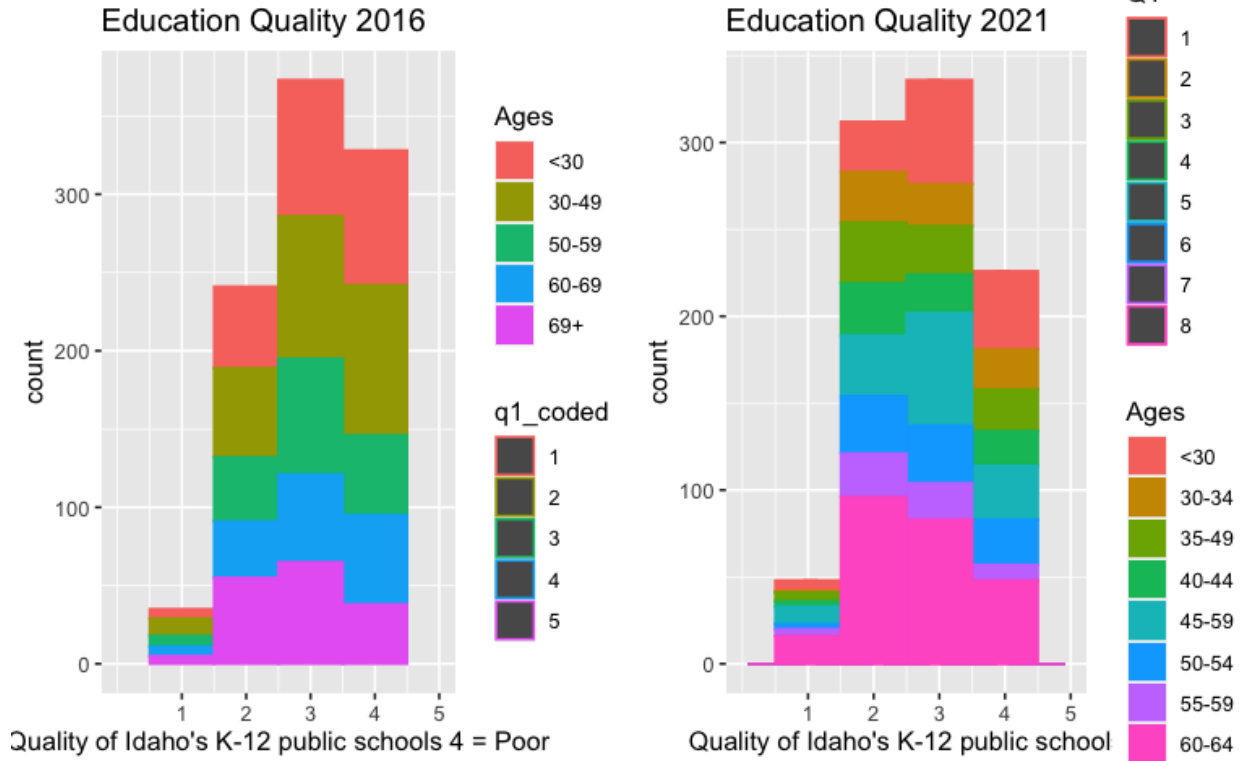
Overview

To begin my analysis, I wanted to look at the Idaho general public's opinions over time to see if there was any change in how they felt education was an important thing for the State Legislature to address. One thought I had, was that I would think most Idahoans would think that Education is an important issue that Legislature should be addressing. Plots from surveyors' answers on this question can be seen in figure 1. The plots are from 2016 and 2021 to show the change in answers over the span of 5 years.



(fig. 1)

The other piece of data I wanted to analyze was what Idahoans thought the quality of education was in Idaho. I thought that as years progressed there was going to be a general increase in people's opinion on education because, hopefully there are better resources going into each new year. Plots from surveyors' answers on this question can be seen in figure 2. The plots are from 2016 and 2021 to show the change in answers over the span of 5 years.



(fig. 2)

Implications

Looking at fig. 1 it can be seen that there is not much of a change in people's opinion of education importance and that majority of citizens believe it is of upmost importance or at least somewhat important. With figure 2 it is clear why surveyors may think education is one of the most important issues Legislature should focus on. From the data many people believe the education quality to only be "fair". However, it should be noted that in 2016 more people thought the education quality was "fair" or "poor" whereas in 2021 more people found the education level to be "fair" or "good".

While it is good that people are starting to think Idaho's education quality is increasing it still doesn't make up for the fact less than 50 surveyors in both studies of about 1,000

observations found the education quality to be excellent. This shows that majority opinion of Idaho's education quality is less than ideal.

This data isn't definitive of course of all Idahoan opinions but it should be used as a large enough sample size to be seen as significant to Legislature to make strides in improving Idaho's education overall.