Assignment 2: Redesign a Notable Information Graphic

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Data Visualization and Storytelling

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contemporary interactive methods?

For this assignment, I chose Florence Nightingale’s coxcomb diagram because it’s actually quite confusing for me. As a visual person, I see a lot of improvement opportunities. Here is my analysis of the improvements for this diagram:

1. It looks like a pie chart to me, which has been despised among the data vis community (even tho I kind of agree but don’t know why they despise it so strong)
2. The two years are in different sizes, it hard to tell which month has the hightest death.
3. I’m not sure if the one color has an overlapping area with other colors, because it’s been said that all of them are measured from the center, but in this case, you cannot represent the total deaths for every month, and if she could draw the color with an overlapping effect, then it’ll be much clearer. If it’s not overlapping, then it’s good to see the total death, but it’s difficult to see which cause of death has a bigger proportion in the month sometimes

So I started to address these issues on my notebook. First, I want to “flatten” it. I want to make it into something that’s easier to read and understand.

I was thinking to use Jenga blocks to represent the volume of the deaths. I can arrange them into different types of shapes. While I was in the shop hunting for a Jenga set, however I didn’t find any in Walmart, instead, I saw these play doh and thought Oh this might be better, because it’s measurable and dividable so I can cut them into precise pieces to present accurate data. Once I’m done with the assignment, I can give it to my kids to play too. two birds with one stone, what a great idea

Inspiration from <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2023/12/14/opinion/my-life-with-long-covid.html>

<https://www.amycesal.com/daydohviz>

Minecraft to build the bars

Pros: tangible , easy to explain to kids, play around, stack on top of each other to get a sense of the total death each month or the whole recorded period

Cons: easier to be destroyed, not so sustainable, time consuming to make

In this project, I changed the color to represent different types of deaths. For diseases, I choose a dark teal color which is a blue-green mixed color, because germs and virus are usually presented or drawn in this color. For wounds, because it’s wounds, so it involves blood so red is more proper. For the other deaths, I chose black, because in general, black means death.