Good and Bad Visualization
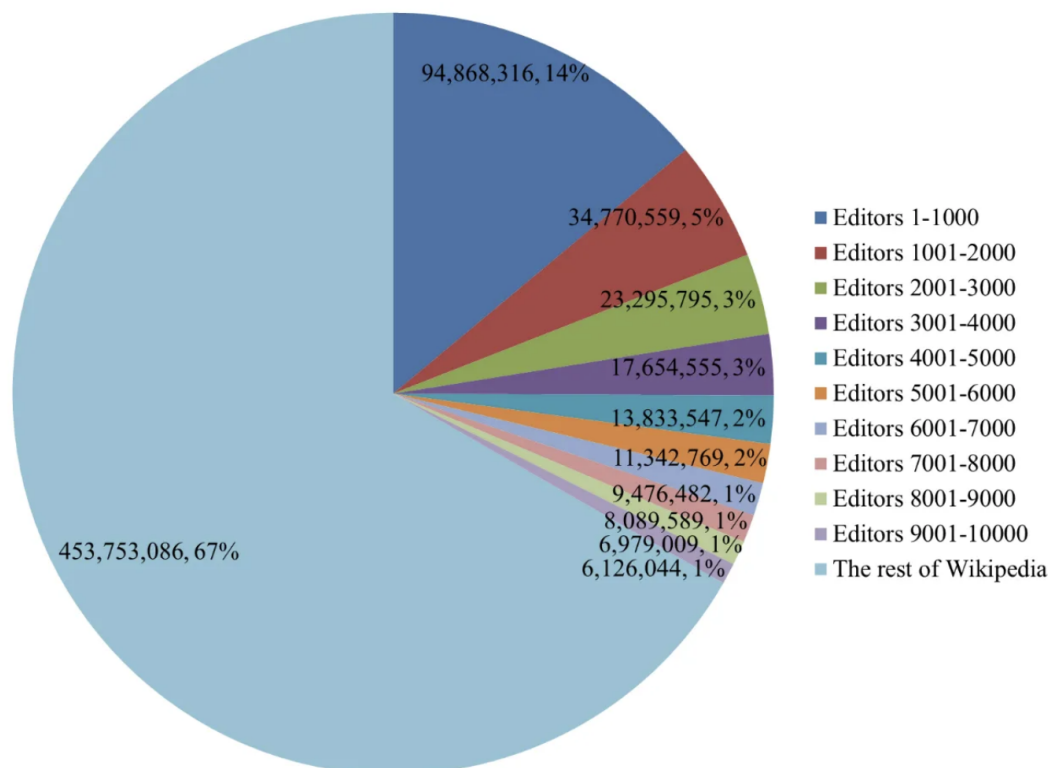- Bad visualization: source article
  - I found it through this post on r/dataisugly
  - The plot is in a Medium article about a Wikipedia contributor who fixes a grammatical error across many articles. The plot is about the number of Wikipedia edits made by different editors.
  - I would rate this plot a 2 (pretty bad)
  - critique: The plot title should be more visible (at the top) to make it clear what the plot is about. The main issue is that a pie chart is not particularly informative, especially when there are many pieces to the pie chart (angles, unlike bars, are hard to compare). The numbers and percentages in the plot aren't easily legible either, especially for the smaller pieces (the author could've truncated the numbers/rounded them to the nearest million, for example). It is also not immediately clear what "editors 1-1000" refers to (I needed a few seconds to realize that this phrase means the top 1000 frequent editors). If the main purpose of the plot is to show that the vast majority of edits are made by infrequent editors, then this plot does accomplish that, but the plot isn't particularly informative beyond that because it is quite hard to read. In terms of improvements, I would make this plot a bar chart (since bars are easier to compare), make the title at the top and larger, and make the legend clearer.
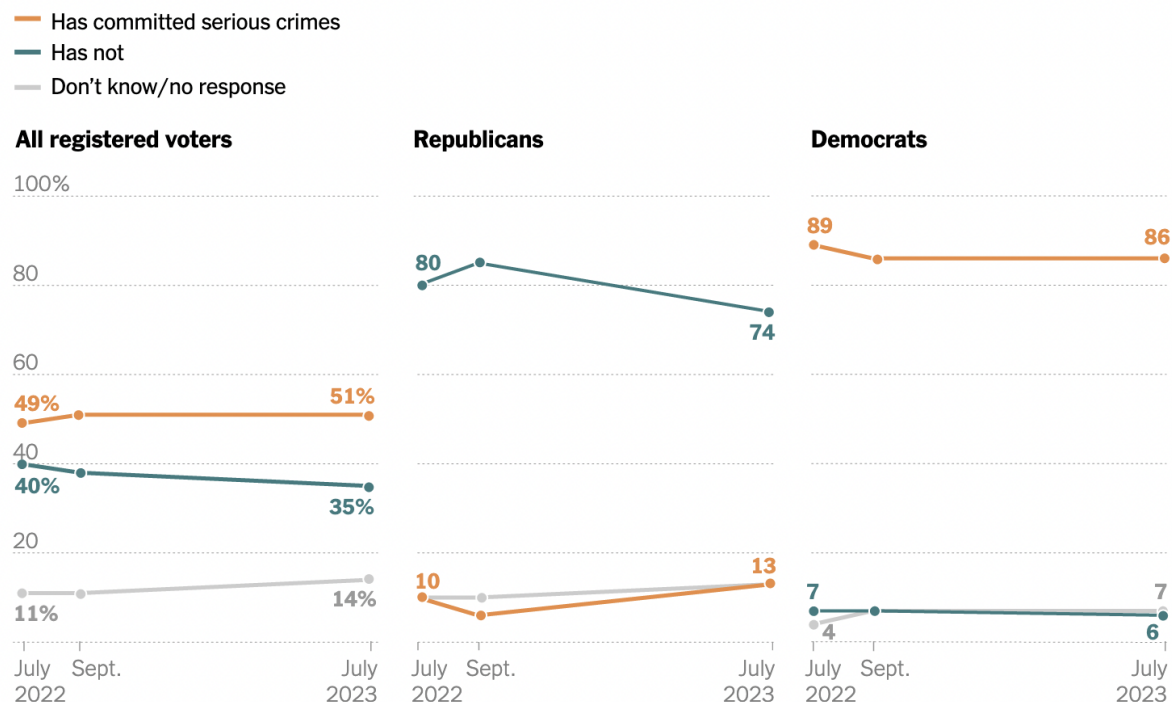

Activity of Top Editors Versus the Rest of the Wikipedia Community Giraffedata, currently ranked 978, is one of the most prolific. Yet the bulk of the site's edits come from infrequent contributors. Credit: Ktr101

- Good visualization: source article

- ○ I found it in an article in the NYTimes. The plot is about whether voters think Trump has or has not committed serious federal crimes, and it depicts opinions over time, from July 2022 to July 2023.
- ○ I would rate this plot a 5 (good)
- ○ critique: This plot is very effective at conveying the central message, which is whether voters think Trump has committed federal crimes. The title is informative and visually attracts attention, and the caption provides additional context (what the survey question is). The legend and color choice make it easier to understand the plots, and so do the dashed percentage lines. I like that the plot shows results for all registered voters, just Republicans, and just Democrats, so it was straightforward for me to make the appropriate comparisons. I wish the plot would indicate why Sept 2022 was an important time point (why was data collected again at this time?); I would include this information if I could improve the plot.

Voter Attitudes About the Trump Investigations

Thinking about the investigations into Donald J. Trump, do you think that he has or has not committed any serious federal crimes?

— Has committed serious crimes
— Has not
— Don't know/no response

All registered voters

100%

80

60

49%   51%

40
40%

35%

20

11%   14%

July   Sept.   July
2022   2023

Republicans

80   74

10   13

July   Sept.   July
2022   2023

Democrats

89   86

7   7
4   6

July   Sept.   July
2022   2023

Based on national polls by The New York Times/Siena College in July and September 2022 and July 2023. • By Ashley Wu

Exploratory vs Explanatory Visualizations

- [You Draw It: How Family Income Predicts Children's College Chances](#)
  - The actual visualization done by the research group is explanatory because it aims to explain how parents' income percentile and % of children who attend college are related to each other. The authors tried to see whether higher-earning parents have children who are more likely to go to college. The plot shows that indeed this is the case: as we move up the parent-income ladder, more children attend college. The likely audience of the visualization is people who are interested in income inequality, social mobility, higher education, etc. The central message is that children who come from more affluent families are more likely to go to college.
- [An Interactive Visualization of Every Line in Hamilton](#)
  - The visualizations are exploratory – they serve to help the audience gain a basic understanding of some preliminary themes in Hamilton's lyrics. The plots don't attempt to explain a certain trend; rather, it seems that the author created the plot to see if there would be any interesting trends, without specific questions in mind. The author tried to look into any relation between characters and sentiments of the lyrics sung by them. I learned about the relationship between Eliza and Hamilton (I knew virtually nothing about the musical prior to reading the article). The likely audience of the visualizations is people who are fans of the musical. The point of view is someone who is obsessed with and very curious about the musical.
- [Bussed out - How America moves its homeless](#)
  - The visualizations in the article are explanatory – they communicate the results of the research on the effect of bussing homeless populations in the US. The authors tried to answer questions like where most homeless people go (cities within the US vs abroad, type of city in terms of income level) and to whom (family, organizations/institutions, etc) and what effects the bussing program has on SF's homeless population. I learned that homeless people tend to travel to cities with lower median income levels and that homelessness rates are high in West coast cities. The likely audience of the visualizations is people who are interested in learning more about homelessness and the bussing program. The point of view of the visualization is to educate readers on the patterns of homelessness and the effects of the bussing program.