Hi Shaina,

Thank you for letting me review your visuals! Here are my comments:

Three areas of strength I noted in reviewing your code:

(1) I was really impressed by your data-wrangling at the very beginning – I was very impressed by how you created your datasets by joining a number of other datasets, and then how you exported your datasets as .csvs to make importing simpler in the future.

(2) Your organization for this project was incredible – all of you code was very easy to follow, and I really liked how you made notes about what you wanted to change and then executed several versions of that visualization to find something you were happy with.

(3) I really liked how you tackled your themes. You are definitely not afraid to tinker with the theme() function and change individual aspects of the visualizations, which I really admire as someone who mostly sticks to the pre-set themes. By doing this customization yourself, I think you were able to execute some very impressive and striking visualizations that really communicate data well and stand out from other visualizations I’ve seen.

One thing I learned from reviewing your script:

The theme\_set() function in the set up block – I had no idea that you could generally set the theme for all of your visualizations right away! That is really powerful for changing the default theme to something better, and I will definitely be incorporating it into my own work. ☺

Comments (and suggestions) for each of the visualizations:

Visual 1:

* I really like this visual! Your improvements were great, and your final product is really polished and professional. I especially like the annotations on the plot themselves.
* One very minor suggestion might be to adjust your tickmarks on the x-axis. Since you already say “from 2005-2015” in the title, I think it would be more effective to present all of the dates in the ’05, ’07, etc. format that you are already using from 2007-2013, rather than having some that are spelled out, and some that are abbreviated.

Visual 2:

* This is another great visualization! I think it does a really clear job of communicating the length of drug use and how that distribution has changed over time.
* One minor suggestion – if you include the following code, it removes the extra space below 2001 and makes the plots a little less condensed vertically. I don’t have good advice for picking the numbers – I just played with it until I got something that I thought preserved your graph without leaving too much space.
  + Code: scale\_y\_discrete(expand = c(0, -1.1))

Visual 3:

* I think the version of this visual for the scientific community might be my favorite of your visuals! I love the dark theme, and I think you have done a really great job of clearly and effectively displaying the information in a way that is also visually appealing. My only suggestion would be to change the colors for the titles (drug type, cocaine, etc.) as they got lost (blended in) when you switched to the dark theme, but that is very minor.
  + Suggested code (within the theme() argument): strip.text = element\_text(colour = "gray80")
* I also really like how you adapted this visual for the general public in a way that is much more approachable by removing the error bars, while still maintaining the same information. That said, I kind of miss the colors for each education level! I know it is double encoding, but I also think the visual is really appealing and sort of draws you in with the color coding by education level on a dark background (just something to consider).

Visual 4:

* I like this visual too – I know it is more preliminary, but I think it is interesting to see how ethnicity and education relate to substance abuse, especially when presented in tandem with the third visual.
* If you do end up using this visual, my suggestions (which I’m sure you would have done anyway) would be to change the colors to something prettier and color-blind safe. It might also be interesting to try a plot similar to the general public version of visual 3, where you just color the variance by ethnicity.

I hope this was helpful (and made sense!). Don’t hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about anything. - Kivalina