

Info Seeking HW

World Marriage Data 2012

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Nowadays in many developed countries, many are choosing not to get married. In one online article, I was shocked to learn so many young adults prefer not to get married in Japan. Only 39% of Japanese men and 59% of women want to get married, compared to 67% and 82%, respectively, three years ago in 2013 (Ryall). There are many reasons that can contribute to this alarming trend, such as economic impact, modern freedom, and quality of life. During my trip to Taiwan this past summer, I was able to visit a close friend, who told me that the amount of money many fresh college graduates make in their lifetime will not be enough to buy an average apartment-style house. It would certainly be difficult to support a family if one cannot afford to own a house and deem himself financially independent. With the increase of population, land is turning scarce and housing prices rise dramatically. Perhaps that's the one of the reasons Taiwanese nowadays are choosing to marry late or not get married at all.

This dataset provides information for gender or social science researchers. It serves as the forerunner of the many studies they have in mind regarding marital status across different nations. It is also a great resource for anyone who is interested in learning about historical marriage trends.

Potential Questions:

- 1) Is there a significant difference of divorce rates between developed and underdeveloped countries?
- 2) What can we learn about people's marital status in the 21st Century than that of 40 years ago?
- 3) People in some countries have low divorce rate, but does that necessarily mean they are happy with their marriage? (Additional data required, such as the World Happiness Report 2015 – see citations)

University of Maryland's Global Terrorism Database

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Prior to downloading the data content, users are required to fill out a form which documents their basic information, such as email address and home address. START (National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism) grants its users the non-exclusive, non-guaranteed right to search, browse, and view all contents in its web interface.

Ever since the September 11 incident, terrorism attack has become a much debated topic in the United States. Airline security screening procedures has become more strict and comprehensive. Safety is a priority for the welfare of a country.

Information provided in this dataset include all degrees of terrorism in different parts of the world, from 1970 up to 2015. It can be analyzed and served as groundbreaking insight for the military and defense industry, such as the US Air Force, CIA, and US Department of Defense. Patterns observed from the data might help strategize military tactics to avoid future terror attacks. It can also to be used for presentations to politicians and even the US president, who is held responsible for signing the legislations.

Potential Questions:

- 1) In what ways can the US contribute to help minimize terrorist attacks?
- 2) Which countries have been the main target of terrorist attacks in the past decade?
- 3) What is the most common forms of attack in the modern world, and are they any different from those of few decades ago?

Kiplinger's Best College Values

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The table provided in this webpage displays a list of universities that are ranked by value. The term “value” can be defined in many ways. Here, Kiplinger used data from Peterson's Undergraduate Database to summarize their list based on factors that contributes to academic quality. Monetary factors such as Student's Indebtedness, Cost of Tuition, Financial Scholarship, and Salary Yardstick (median of all students who graduated from the particular college 10 years ago) serves as a critical measurement. Kiplinger divided the table into 3 subcategories: Public Colleges, Private Universities, and Liberal Arts Colleges. This data is interesting to me because I am a fresh graduate student. I am curious to find out where my university stands in terms of providing me with the best education, and at the same time know I will get my money's worth. “University of Maryland, College Park” is ranked at #77; under the Public Colleges subcategory, it is ranked #7 for in-state students and #11 for out-of-state students. Not bad!

Besides helping me, this table will also helpful guide for all the prospective university students. Many students are accepted into Ivy League colleges, yet end up not accepting the admission offer because of unaffordable and burdensome tuition cost and lack of financial aid programs. The data can also help parents gain a sense of understanding in terms of where their children's institution stands, average financial air and/or scholarship their children can receive, and how much salary they will be making compared to that of their peers.

Potential Questions:

- 1) Do students who graduated from urban universities (in or close to major cities such as New York, DC, LA) earn more salary than the rest?
- 2) Does financial aid play a big role in reducing the average debt at graduation?
- 3) Is it true that private universities, though more expensive than public colleges, offer a better value for students in the long run?

Citations

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Information on more than 150,000 terrorist attacks. (n.d.). Retrieved September 13, 2016, from <http://www.start.umd.edu/gtd/>

Ryall, J. (2016, June 23). Why fewer Japanese are seeking marriage. Retrieved September 14, 2016, from <http://dw.com/p/1JBhw>

The Kiplinger Washington Editors (Ed.). (2015, December). Kiplinger's best college values. Retrieved September 13, 2016, from <http://www.kiplinger.com/tool/college/T014-S001-kiplinger-s-best-values-in-private-colleges/index.php?table=all>

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