

Data 227 - Autumn 2021 Black hat / white hat Project

Data Visualization and Communication - Trimble

Due: Thursday, November 4, 2021 12:00pm (noon) (not other dates, as deceptive other sources may have indicated)

Project 1, Black hat / white hat visualization

1. For this assignment, you will create two visualizations of a dataset of your choice, one engineered to obscure some truth of the data and one “honest” presentation of the same data facet.

All of the tools in our toolbox can be used well or poorly, and practicing using them to mislead will make us more savvy interpreters of data.

Some datasets that may lend themselves to deception:

- Washington Post’s DEA Pain pills database
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/2019/07/18/how-download-use-dea-pain-pills-database/>
- Guttmacher Institute public-use datasets on abortion and fertility by geography and year
<https://www.guttmacher.org/public-use-datasets>
- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Open Payments database (pharma compensation to prescribers, dubbed by Propublica “Dollars for Docs”)
<https://openpaymentsdata.cms.gov/>
- Indicators of gender equality from the World Bank 1960-2017
<https://github.com/ZeningQu/World-Bank-Data-by-Indicators/tree/master/gender>

Include

- a figure caption for each graphic, which needs to include provenance information sufficient to identify and locate the dataset.
- a paragraph describing the techniques used to obfuscate the data.
- If you wish, include a paragraph describing your design choices.

You do not have to use any specific tools to produce the visualization (you could even draw it by hand). Please submit the code you use to generate the visualization.