## **Health and Visual Information**

**Considerations for health communication** 

Michael Simeone, PhD Arizona State University John Snow

1854 cholera epidemic in London



### Key considerations: LRVW

Literacy

Risk

Vernacular

Well-being







### Rise in Usage of Mobile Apps



The time spent on app has gone up by 7 hours in a Year







Mobile Device Usage is Exploding



7.1 billion Mobile Subscriptions in 2014 95.5% of the world population

9.5 billion

The picture can't be displayed.



The picture care



The picture ca



The picture care

# Perception



## What we're good at (Johnson, 2010)

Recognition (expectation)

Comparison

Color

Learning

### What we're bad at:

Reading

Peripheral vision

Attention

**Problem Solving** 

## Summary: Don't forget recall

Recognition (expectation)

Comparison

Color

Learning/doing learned things

Reading

Peripheral vision

Attention

**Problem Solving** 

### Understand/control what audience looks for





## Color

### Paleness, Separation, Size



FIGURE 5.4

Factors affecting the ability to distinguish colors: (A) paleness, (B) size, (C) separation.

Johnson, 2010

### Use other cues to help color along



### FIGURE 5.13

Apple's iPhoto uses uses color plus a symbol to distinguish two types of albums.

### Day / Hour Heatmap



# Visualization of passes in a soccer game



- "[T]his readiness to assume the guilt for the threats to our environment is deceptively reassuring: We
- like to be guilty since, if we are guilty, it all depends on us. We pull the strings of the catastrophe, so we
- can also save ourselves simply by changing our lives. What is really hard for us (at least in the West) to accept is that we are reduced to the role of a passive observer who sits and watches what our fate will be. To avoid this impotence, we engage in frantic, obsessive activities. We recycle old paper, we buy organic food, we install long-lasting light bulbs—whatever—just so we can be sure that we are doing something. We make our individual contribution like the soccer fan who supports his team in front of a TV screen at home, shouting and jumping from his seat, in the belief that this will somehow influence the game's outcome."
- Slavoj Žižek

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### **Coffee Flavour Wheel**



### Color moves the eyes



### Quiz: Good or Bad?

### Medical Cost of Hip Replacement by State



Time: 47:28s



# **Data Ink and Layering**

Controlling density of information

### What is "data ink?"

Consider:

proportion of a graphic's ink devoted to the non-redundant display of data-information

proportion of a graphic that can be erased without loss of **data**-information

(The Visual Display of Quantitative Information, Edward R. Tufte, Graphics Press, Cheshire CT)

### Clarity from more not less data (relatively)







When the non-data ink is removed or reduced, the data become more manifest and it is easier to find the trending or pattern among them.



(Few, 2006)









### Layers

Density + Object Recognition = Layering



Skull reconstruction based on several individuals but scaled to the holotype.
## Color mov



Harold Fisk, Mississippi River Flood Plain map, 1944

#### News illustrated



HUGO A. SANCHEZ©Gulf News



# **Multiples**

Comparison is the heart of visualization

### Comparisons

Individual visualizations can use comparison as a logic to move the eye to unfold a story

We can also use comparison as a way to predict or nudge views across displays

2000: State-level support (orange) or opposition (green) on school vouchers, relative to the national average of 45% support



Orange and green colors correspond to states where support for vouchers was greater or less than the national average. The seven ethnicheligious capetories are mutually exclusive. "Evangelicals" includes Mormons as well as born-again Protestants. Where a category represents less than 1% of the voters of a state, the state is left blank.

#### American Football Conference

AFC EAST	<u>w</u>	L	I	<u>PCT</u> ~	HOME	ROAD	DIV	CONF	PF	PA	DIFF
** - 🔫 New England Patriots	12	4	0	.750	7-1	5-3	4-2	9-3	468	313	+155
寿 Buffalo Bills	9	7	0	.563	5-3	4-4	4-2	5-7	343	289	+54
Miami Dolphins	8	8	0	.500	4-4	4-4	3-3	6-6	388	373	+15
New York Jets	4	12	0	.250	2-6	2-6	1-5	4-8	283	401	-118
AFC NORTH	w	Ŀ	I	PCT Y	HOME	ROAD	DIV	CONF	PF	PA	DIFF
AFC NORTH z - • Pittsburgh Steelers	<b>w</b> 11	<b>∟</b> 5	I O	<u>РСТ</u> ~ .688	<b>НОМЕ</b> 6-2	ROAD	<b>DIV</b> 4-2	CONF 9-3	<u>PF</u> 436	<u>PA</u> 368	<u>DIFF</u> +68
z - 💓 Pittsburgh Steelers	11	5	0	.688	6-2	5-3	4-2	9-3	436	368	+68



		2013 Se	ason			
Team 10		• • • •	••••••			•
Team 11			• •			
Team 3		• • •	••••••	••••	•	
Team 2	•	• • • •	• •	•	•	
Team 4		• • • • • •	•••••			
Team 7		• • •	•	••••••		
Team 9		••• •• •	••••	•		
Team 12		• • • • •	•	•		
Team 6	•	• •••	•••	•		
Team 8		••••	•• •• •	•		
Team 13			••			
Team 1	•	••••••	••••			
Team 5	•		••••			
	50	100	15 score	50	200	









#### What does it all mean?

Linear relationship between data and scenario

Colors have emotions

Clarity is relative

Keep percentages and ratios consistent

Percentages better for more educated audiences

No decision without comparison

Color, Ink, Multiples are means not ends