

COMMUNICATING STATISTICS AT THE TIME OF DATA REVOLUTION

5th session of the OIC Statistical Commission, Ankara, 12-14 May 2015

Economic And Social Commission For Western Asia



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Data Revolution

- Fast growing demand for data
 - Fast growing data availability
 - Ease of access
 - Development of ICTs
- 
- Users are more concerned about getting data than about their quality
 - Competition for official statistics grows fast
 - Official statistics adapts slowly

Reliability of various information sources

“Community sharing”

- Unverified
- “Leading view” bias
- Lack of stability
- Lack of focus



WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia



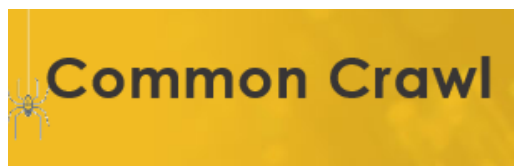
“Authoritative authorship”

- Concept and structure
- Consistent sources of facts
- Known authors (qualifications)
- Stable and focused



Communicating Statistics at the Time of Data Revolution

Attempted statistical data communities



Big Data

- Abundance of data available in the cyberspace
- Successes vs. failures
- Big data are older than they appear
- Opportunities:
 - costs efficient,
 - lessen burden....
- Challenges:
 - representativeness, coverage, quality, accessibility,...



Looking back to values of Official Statistics



- Thousands of years of accumulated experience and wisdom
- Methods and techniques based on a solid scientific basis
- Relevant to policy issues, addressing national development
- Impartial –ethical principles
 - *ISI Declaration of Professional Ethics*
 - *Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics*
- Public service – public good



Data Revolution – statistics for public use



Liberty: *Access to data should be open without restrictions*

Equality: *Data must be released simultaneously to all users*

Fraternity: *Data are a public good, and have to be shared among all actors in statistics*

Communicating Statistics at the Time of Data Revolution

Adjusting to user needs – multiple channels



Aggregate data – on-line databases

- Easy to use portal
- Structure (SDMX Statistical Domains Classification)
- User driven data manipulation (pivoting, aggregates...)
- Downloadable formats
- “Mobile” version
- Customizable alerts



Communicating Statistics at the Time of Data Revolution

Key indicators – fast and easy access

- Key indicators on home pages
- Pre-arranged database tables
- Dashboard
- Apps for smartphones



Highlights – tell the story behind data

- Addressing laymen (media, private individuals,...)
- Single topic, only few data items/series
- Simple language
- Simple graph

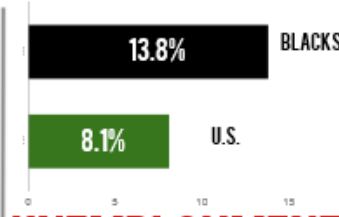
Fragile State **Black America**

Infographic created by Theodore R. Johnson and KaNisa Williams

The Fund for Peace's Fragile States Index (FSI) attempts to identify troubled states by assessing, among other indicators, the distribution of economic development; rates of poverty, unemployment, and incarceration; and the provision of services like health care and education.

Evaluated on some FSI metrics,

BLACK AMERICA RESEMBLES A FRAGILE STATE



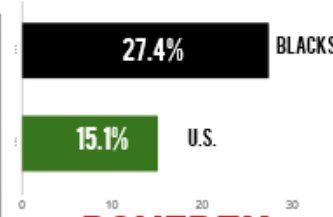
UNEMPLOYMENT

U.S. figure is inclusive of black Americans

BLACK AMERICA WOULD BE ONE OF THE WORST 30 NATIONS

HIGHER THAN MANY STATES ON THE FSI HIGH ALERT LIST

Source: The World Bank, International Labor Organization (2012); Bureau of Labor Statistics (2013)



POVERTY

U.S. figure is inclusive of black Americans

BLACK AMERICA HAS A HIGHER RATE OF POVERTY THAN WAR-TORN IRAQ.

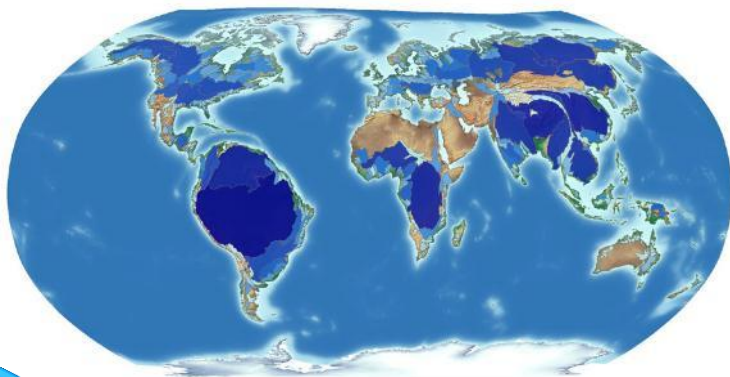
Definitions of poverty vary greatly by nation. Poverty in affluent nations is a much higher standard of living than poverty in indigent ones.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2012), CIA World Fact Book.



Visualisation

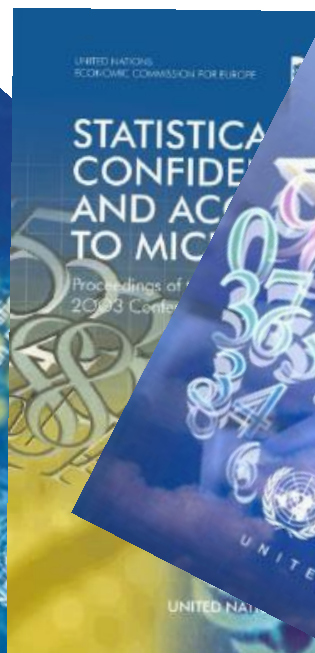
- A good image can tell more than thousand words
- Dynamic graphs
- Customizable graphs
- Maps and cartograms



Communicating Statistics at the Time of Data Revolution

Access to protected microdata

- Valuable resource for researchers
- Analysis beyond the limit of the usual production
- Public Use Files
- Safe Access



BETTER DATA – BETTER LIVES

20 October 2015

Economic And Social Commission For Western Asia



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WORLD
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20.10.2015

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