

Racial Dot Map

<http://demographics.coopercenter.org/DotMap/>

or search Google for "racial dot map"

Analyzing the data in the Racial Dot Map

Use the questions below to help you analyze the data in the racial dot map (you don't have to answer all of them).

What is this visualization about?

What information is shown in the map? Where does this data come from?

Make 5 observations about the data you see in the map.

What is one thing that is unsurprising to you? And, one thing that is surprising?

Zoom in on San Francisco:

What do you notice?

Find an area of SF that is mostly one color. Find an area that has more than one color.

What is one question you have about San Francisco, based on what you've seen in this visualization?

Find another city and compare/contrast it to SF.

Is there any "missing data"? I.e. - information that you might expect to be included based on the topic of the visualization, but which would not be included in the dataset because of what the data is actually measuring and how it was collected?

Thinking critically about the Racial Dot Map as a visualization

Who do you think the intended audience is for this visualization? Why?

How do the color, shape, and position of what you see in the visualization relate to the data?
What is an alternative option they might have chosen?

What is effective about the choices of color/shape/position? What is ineffective?

How might the design differ if they wanted to print in a newspaper? Or, print it as a poster?

What task is this visualization good for? What task (related to this data) would it be terrible for?

Compare/Contrast to other visualizations

Here are 4 other visualizations that have to do with race and location in the United States.

Visualizing the Racial Divide - http://vallandingham.me/racial_divide/

Parable of the Polygons - <http://ncase.me/polygons/>

American Panorama - <https://dsl.richmond.edu/panorama/redlining>

Race by Percent of Population and County: <https://imgur.com/cQWZfwA>

Choose one to compare/contrast to the Racial Dot Map.

What do you think the goal is of the second visualization? How is this similar or different from the Racial Dot Map?

How is the visual encoding of the data different? This includes things like color, interactivity, animation, shapes, etc?

Do you think these differences are effective given the seeming goal of each visualization?

Does anything surprise you about the design of either visualization? What might you do differently?