WHAT NOT TO DO: DATA REPRESENTATION

Sure, looking at what to do is helpful, but sometimes looking at what not to do can be of even greater help. So, what shouldn't you do when representing data through visuals?

In general, when representing data through visuals:
- Avoid pie charts unless you only want to visualize the percentages of 3-5 items. Visualizing the percentages can be confusing when numbers are close and can mislead viewers.
- Avoid stacked bar graphs. They are confusing and it may be challenging for the viewers to know what's going on.
- Don't limit your options; there are dozens of different options to represent data.
- Don't confuse correlation and causation. There is a difference and it's a big one. Be careful with your words when explaining your visuals.
- Don't forget, in bar graphs, the bars should be separated with small gaps. Otherwise, it's hard to look at.
- Don't use too many bright colors in your data representation. Too many bright colors will distract from your data, which you want to highlight.
- Don't use tables when there are too many numbers. Tables are better when numbers are limited.
- Don't forget, in tables, present your numbers in the simplest format (rounding up to avoid decimals, and avoid scientific notation).
- Don't forget your title.
- Don't forget your axis labels with graphs and charts.
- Don't forget tables and legends.
- Avoid making your graph or chart 3D. If used, it must be used carefully because 3D visual effects can distort the data and confuse the viewers.
- Don't forget about color blindness. It would be wise to check your graphs with an online color blindness checker, such as Vischeck.
- Don't overload charts with useless data.
- If you're making a comparison with multiple charts, don't change the type of visual halfway through the comparison.