# Data-Driven Storytelling

The Human Factor

Benjamin Bach

March 2019

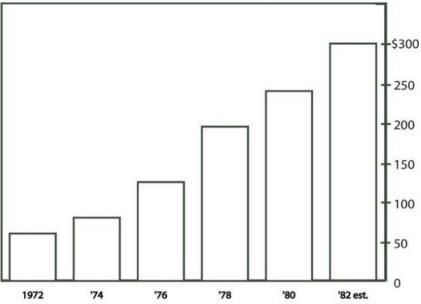
Edinburgh University

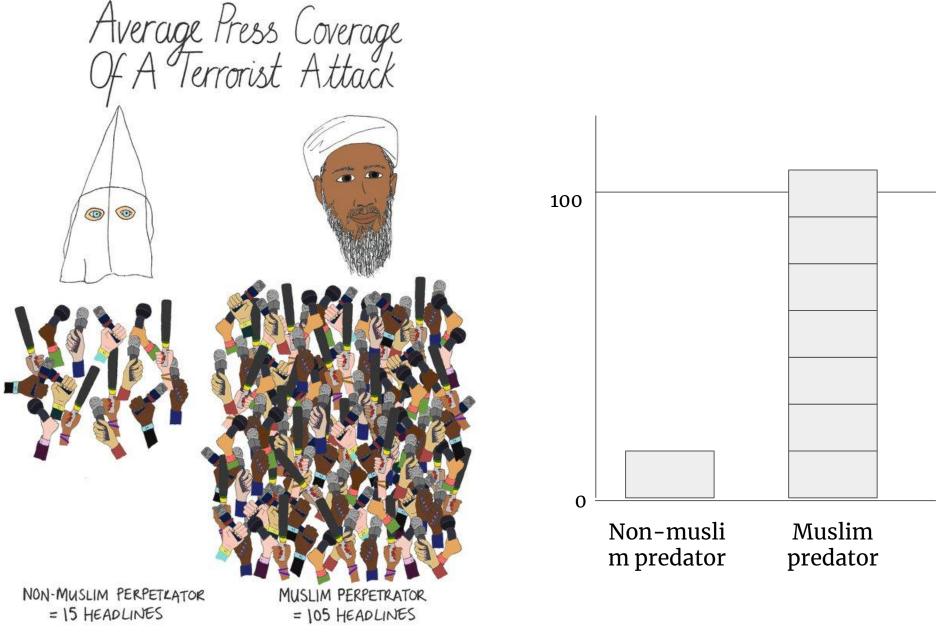
bbach@inf.ed.ac.uk

# **Embellishment**









P1

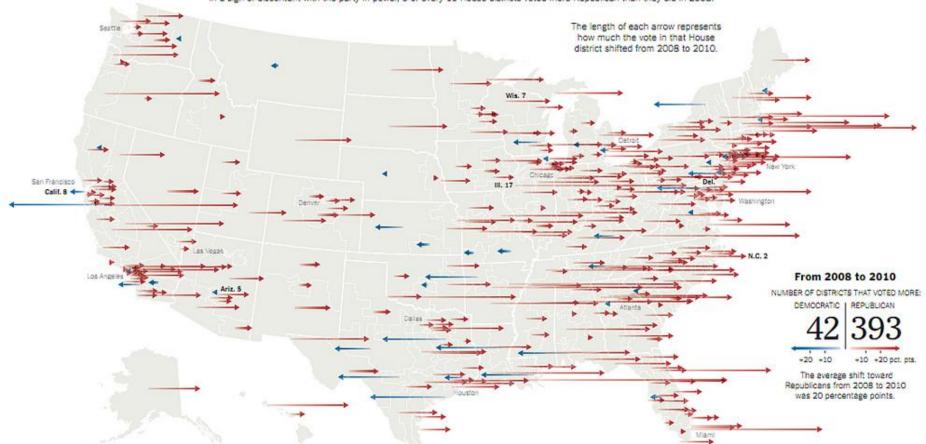
# After the Vote

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2010

#### The New York Times

#### Districts Across the Country Shift to the Right

In a sign of discontent with the party in power, 9 of every 10 House districts voted more Republican than they did in 2008.



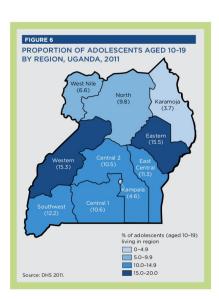
While Republicans increased their share of the vote in California 8, Nancy Pelosi's lead still increased in the absence of a strong third-party candidate. Arizona 5 shifted right about 20 points — enough to switch the seat to Republicans. David Schweikert defeated the Democrat he lost to in 2008.

The shift in Wisconsin 7 was about average for an open race. Here, Sean P. Duffy, a Republican district attorney, won by 8 percentage points.

One of the largest shifts was in Illinois 17, where Republican Bobby Schilling, a pizza business owner, beat Phil Hare, a two-term Democratic incumbent. Only a few districts voted more Democratic. In **Delaware**, the shift helped John Carney defeat Glen Urquhart for the seat held by Michael N. Castle since 1993. Renee Ellmers delivered one of the Republican Party's narrowest gains in **North Carolina 2**, a district that Democrats won by 36 percentage points in 2008.

# Text +picture

physical social political and economic structures of a region can place residents at varying risks for vulnerability. Areas susceptible to violence or natural disaster pose clear threats to individuals. An individual's environment also affects his or her development and behavioral choices. Resources available in the physical and social environments create the contexts within which decisions are made about health, education, and employment. Political and social environments also dictate whether resources are accessible to all adolescents. An examination of the residential distribution of adolescents provides a baseline for comparing geographical patterns of vulnerability. Within Uganda, by type of residence, the majority of adolescents (87 percent) live in rural versus urban areas. Figure 6 shows the distribution of adolescents aged 10 to 19 living in Uganda. Regional distributions show Karamoja contains only four percent of the adolescent population. Kampala with a much denser population contains 4.6 percent of the population. The Eastern and Western regions contain the largest proportions of the adolescent population.



#### Household factors influencing vulnerability

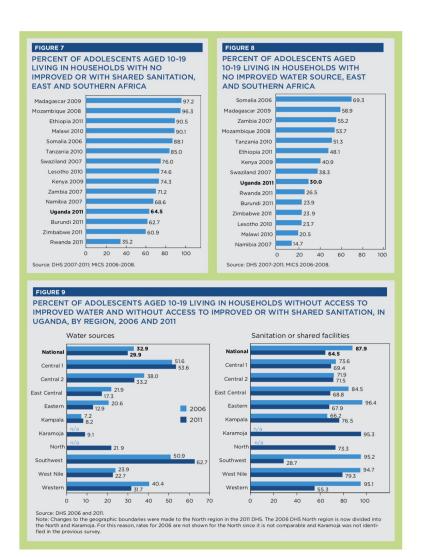
Household-level factors have direct impacts on the well-being of adolescents. Households are the primary setting where adolescents live and engage in activities. For this reason, the household environment and the people who live there have significant impacts on the lives of adolescents. Physical conditions of the home influence the health of residents. Family structures and demographic characteristics of household members affect the knowledge, decisions, behaviors and interactions in the environment of the adolescent.

#### Access to improved water sources and

Unsafe water, inadequate sanitation, and poor hygiene are among the five leading risk factors responsible for one quarter of all deaths in the world (WHO 2009). Unsafe water supplies and inadequate sanitation in homes increase exposure to water-borne diseases and can cause diarrhea. Ensuring access to clean water sources and sanitation is key to maintaining hygiene and health. Improved water sources are those that either naturally protect water from contamination or are constructed to do so. These include piped water, public taps. standpipes, boreholes, tube wells, protected wells and springs, and rainwater collection, Improved sanitation includes constructs and systems that prevent fecal contamination. These include flush or pour toilets, ventilated pit latrines, pit latrines with slabs, and composting toilets (UNICEF 2013b).

Housing conditions across East and Southern Africa are largely in need of improvement, and lack of improved sanitation varies by country. In nearly all of East and Southern Africa, over half of adolescents either do not have improved sanitation or share facilities with other households. Conditions are worst in Madagascar and Mozambique where fewer than four percent of adolescents live in households with improved sanitation that is not shared (Figure 7). Rwanda has the lowest proportion of adolescents affected-35 percent-which is still unacceptably high. Lack of access to improved water sources affects lower proportions but is still a problem in the region. In five countries, fewer than half of adolescents have access to improved water sources (Figure 8), Water conditions are best in Namibia, where only 15 percent of adolescents have no access to improved water.

In Uganda, overall access to improved water and sanitation increased by a small but significant percentage between 2006 and 2011 (Figure 9). In 2006, 33 percent of adolescents had no access to improved water; in 2011, it is 30 percent. The proportion of adolescents without access to improved



10

#### Visualization for:

# **Exploration**

Data centered

Lab context

Insights

Expertise

# **Explanation**

Human centered

In the wild

Messages

Novices\*

#### Outline

- What is storytelling?
- When is storytelling necessary?
- How to create stories?
- Which story-formats exist?

# Storytelling

- Putting things in context
- Communication
- Order (of events)
- Memory
- Audience, author, storytelling,
- Story-telling
- Media

# Data-driven Storytelling

- Provide context
  - Persons, collection, importance, questions, ...
- Explain processes
  - Transformation, selection, aggregation, ...
- Explain insights
  - Trends, outliers, groups, comparisons, ...
- Explain visualizations
- Talk to an audience
- Conclude
  - Take home message
- Chose media

# **Story Structure**

# Story vs. Narrative

**Story**: All of the events in a narrative, those presented directly to an audience and those which might be inferred

Narrative: The 'telling' of a sequence of events which shape the events, characters, arrangement of time, etc. in very particular ways so as to invite particular positions towards the story on the part of the audience."

#### **Structure**

**Beginning** 

Middle

End

Introduction Context Problems

• •

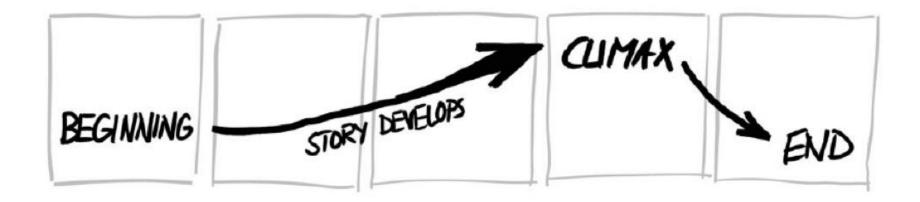
Events, facts, Relations, surprise insights

• • •

Conclusion,
Resolution,
Take-home
Call-to-action,

• • •

# **Story structure: Drama**



# **Story structure: Journalism**

Who, What, where, when, how? Intriguing opening 3-4 sentences

Central information

- + Background and
- + Detailed evidence

Extra related information

# (Interactive) Narrative Structures

#### **Author driven**

Linear ordering

Heavy messaging

No interactivity

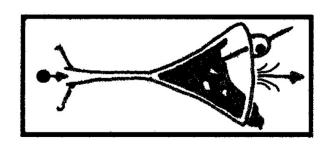
#### Reader driven

No ordering

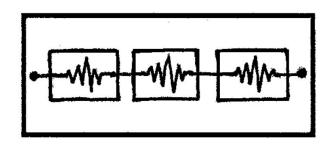
No messaging

Free interactivity

#### **Narrative Structures**



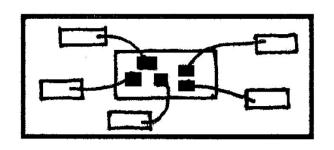
**Martini-glass Structure**Guidance first, then exploration



#### Interactive slideshow

Overall structure

+ local exploration



**Drill-down story**Largely reader driven

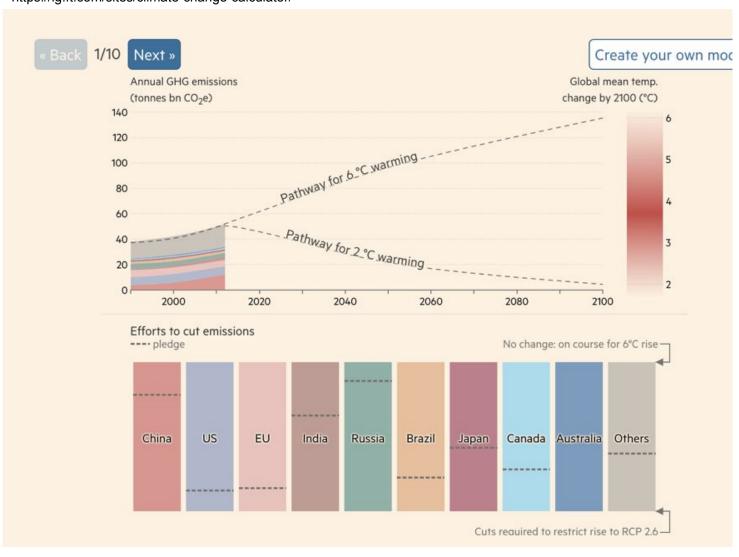
#### Interactive Slide show



https://ig.ft.com/sites/climate-change-calculator/

# Martini-glass Structure

https://ig.ft.com/sites/climate-change-calculator/



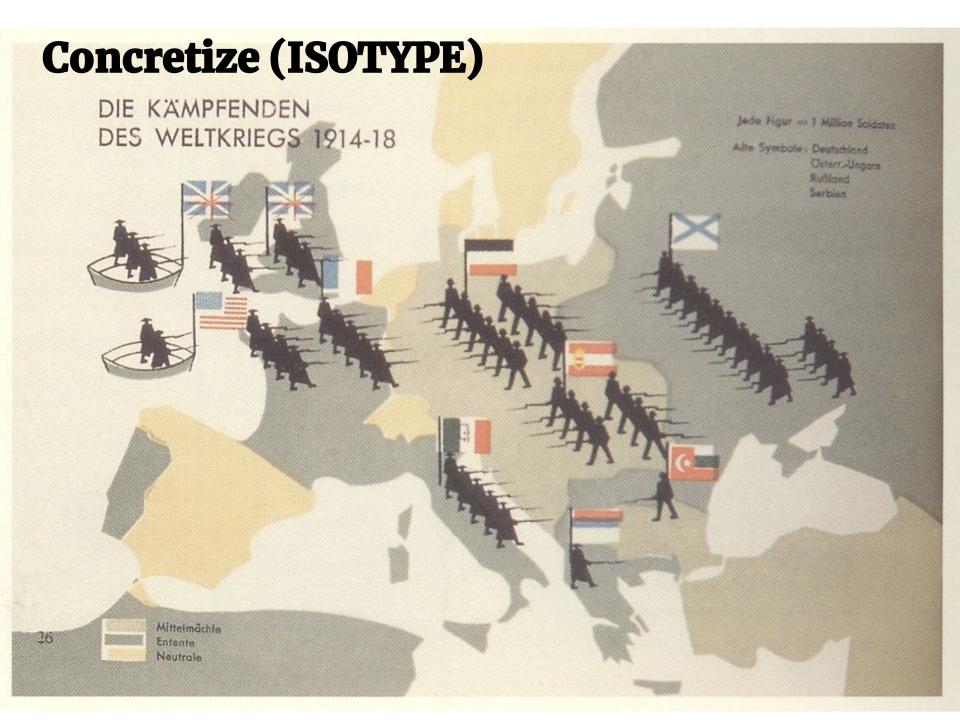
# Drill-down story



# Narrative Design Patterns

#### Contrast

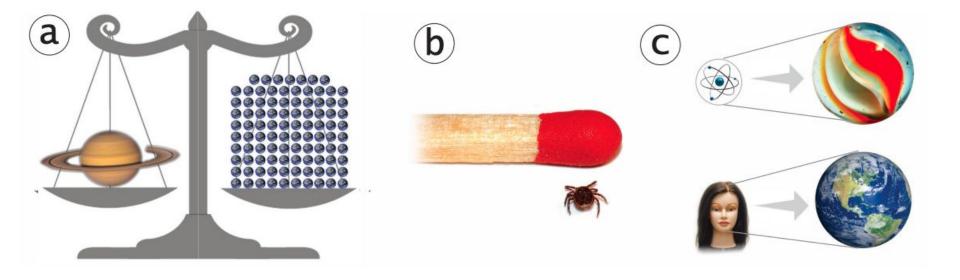




## **Scales**

# \$1 TRILLION & \$20 TRILLION IN PHYSICAL \$100 BILLS \$10 D Dal 0:00 / 2:10

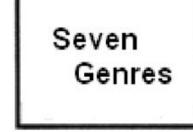
## **Scales**



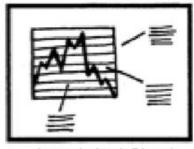
## **Scales**

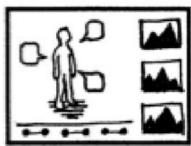
# The World's Water All water on, in, and above the Earth Howard Perlman, USGS, Jack Cook, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Liquid fresh water Adam Nieman Data source: Igor Shiklomanov Fresh-water lakes and rivers http://ga.water.usgs.gov/edu/earthhowmuch.html

# Storytelling Genres





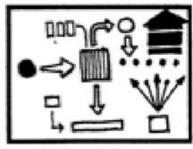


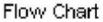


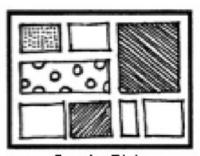
Magazine Style

Annotated Chart

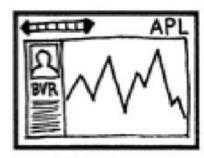
Partitioned Poster



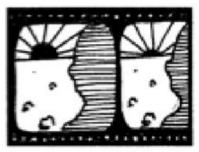




Comic Strip



Slide Show

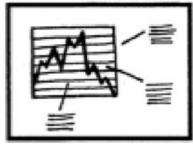


Film/Video/Animation

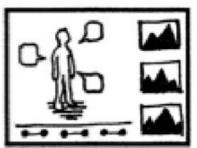
#### Seven Genres



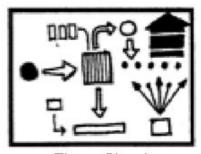
Magazine Style



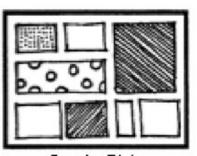
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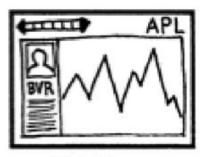
Partitioned Poster



Flow Chart



Comic Strip



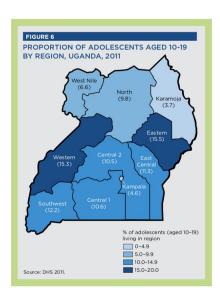
Slide Show



Film/Video/Animation

# Magazine Style

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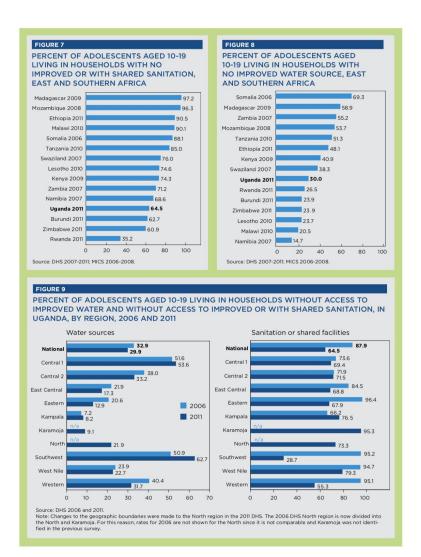
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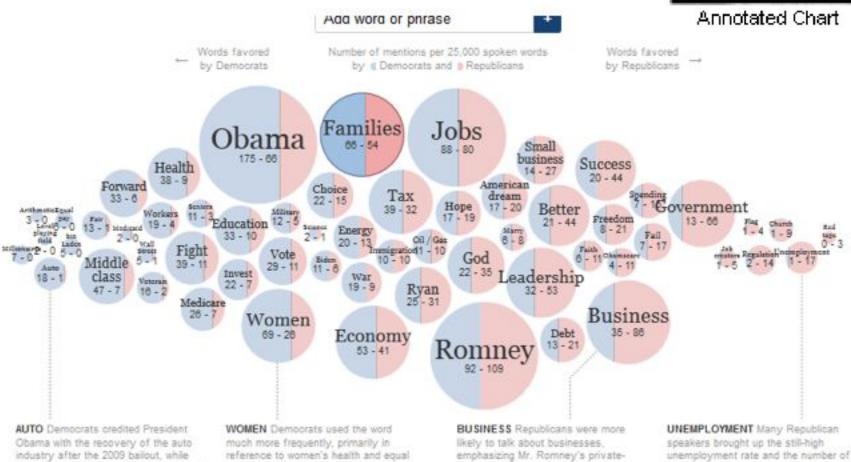
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#### **Annotated Chart**

Republicans left the topic unmentioned.



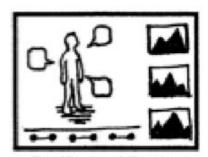
Americans who remain jobless, while Democrats largely avoided the topic.



sector experience and plans to improve

the economy.

# Partitioned Poster (Infographic)



Partitioned Poster

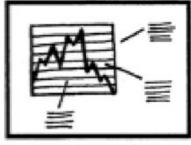


https://www.visualcinnamon.com/portfolio/baby-spike

#### **Data Comics**





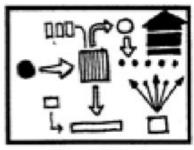




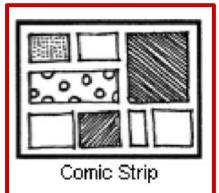
Magazine Style

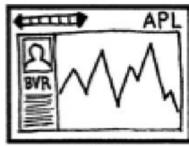
Annotated Chart

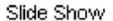
Partitioned Poster

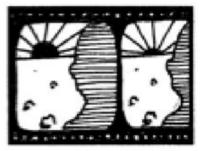


Flow Chart



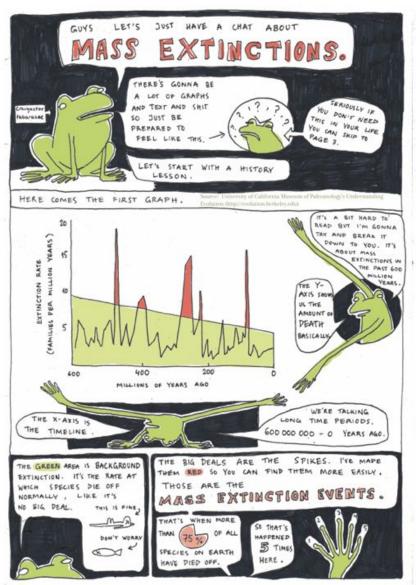




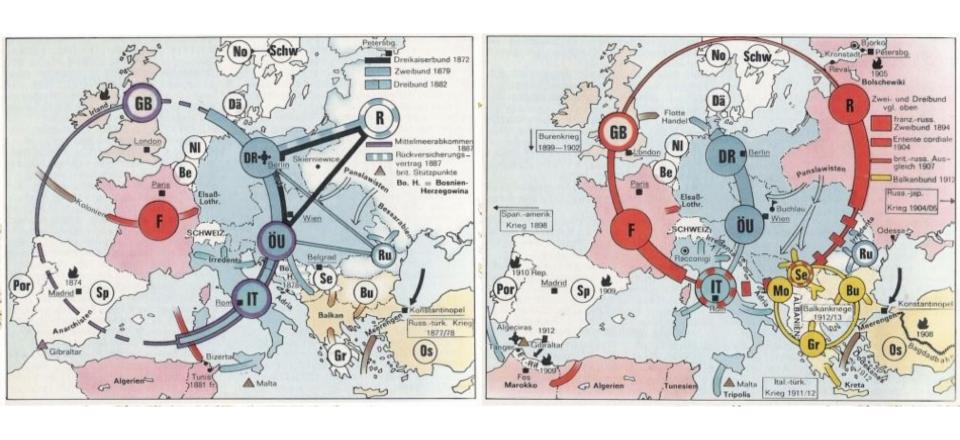


Film/Video/Animation

## Data Comics (http://datacomics.net)







#### European Alliances before World War I (1836-1914) In 1907 the most important European powers are divided into major alliances. On the Balkan, Serbia, Austria Greece and the Ottoman empire gamble for influence 1907 Britain signes a contract, supporting Belgium Imperial powers in Europe in the middle of the 19th century. 1836 On June 28th, Archduke in case of violation of its neutrality. Franz Fordinand of 1837Austria is assassinated. in Serbia while visiting Triple Saraiovo, Austria accusos Serbian officials of being Entente involved in the incident, aiming to annex Serbia. Russia wants Serbia to remain independent from Austria, During July 1914, european powers Alliance try to find a diplomatic solution, called the "July Crisis". However, ... German chancellor Bismarck manages ally Germany, leaving France isolated against a well intergrated Germany. Austria and Russia in the Three Emperors' Alliance, ... 1873 Aug., 3rd July, 23th July, 28th 1879 1914 German mobilization is ... and wants to attack first Rejection of the ultimatum Austria imposes very fast ... leads to first open war. ultimatum on Serbia However, increasing border disputes lead to the cancelation Triple Alliance Dual Alliance of that alliance, a few years later 1879 1882 Aug., 4st Aug., 6th I month after the assassination of the Austrian prince, most When attacking Belgium, Britain declares war on Germany due to its contract with Belgium from 1837 european powers are at war. Italy leaves the Triple Alliance France needs to escape Triple Entente Franco-Russian Entente Cordiale isolation. Alliance 1894 1907

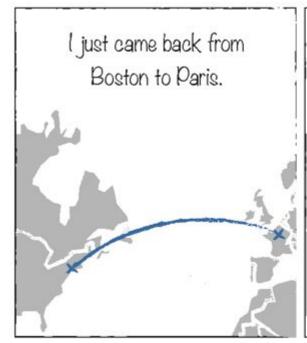
Bach, B., Kerracher, N., Hall, K. W., Carpendale, S., Kennedy, J., & Henry Riche, N. (2016, May). Telling stories about dynamic networks with graph comics. In *Proceedings of the 2016 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems* (pp. 3670-3682). ACM.

#### **Data Comics**



Bach, Benjamin, Nathalie Henry Riche, Sheelagh Carpendale, and Hanspeter Pfister. "The emerging genre of data comics." *IEEE computer graphics and applications* 37, no. 3 (2017): 6-13.

## **Data Comics**



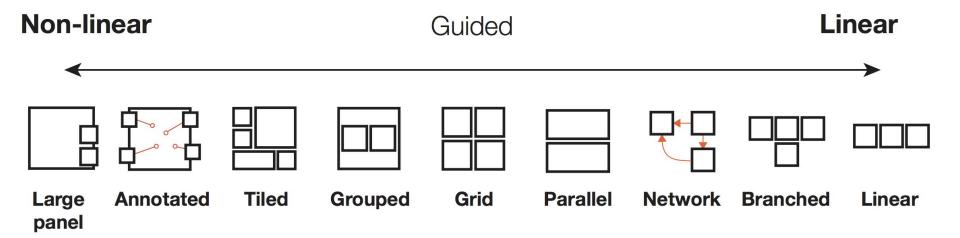




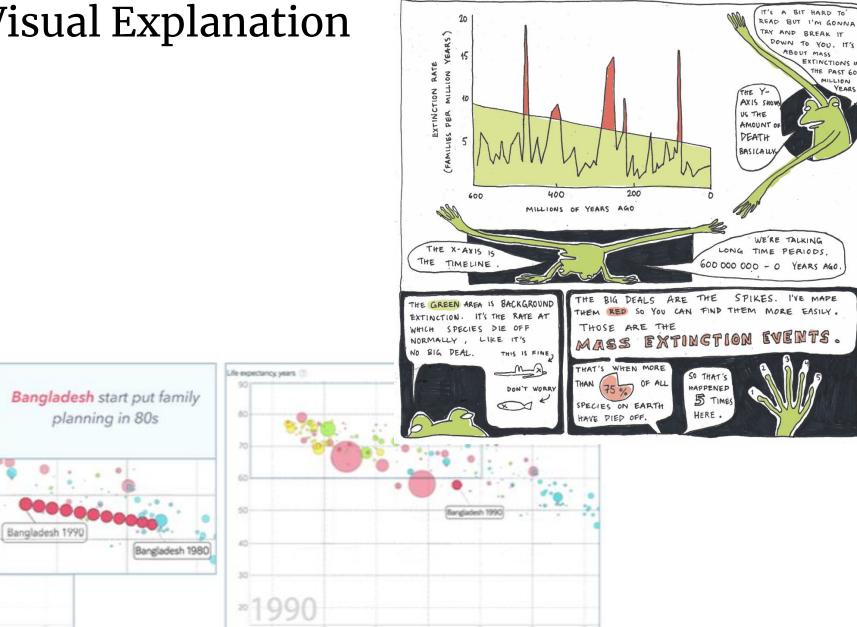
### **Data Comics**

- 1. Familiarity
- 2. Easy access
- 3. Textual + graphical content
- 4. Open or closed sequence

# Sequence



# Visual Explanation

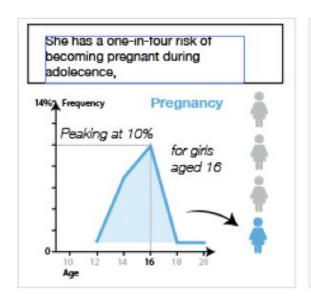


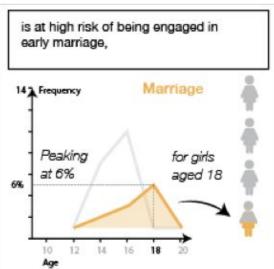
Babies per woman, ()

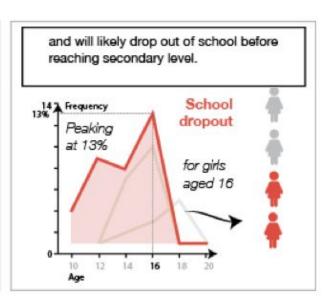
EXTINCTIONS IN

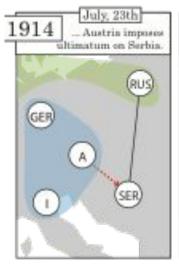
THE PAST 600

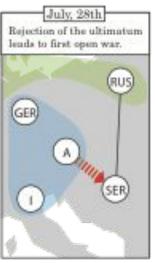
# Consistency

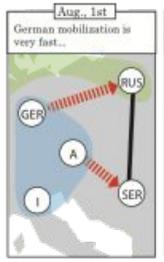


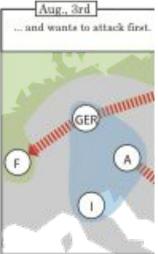




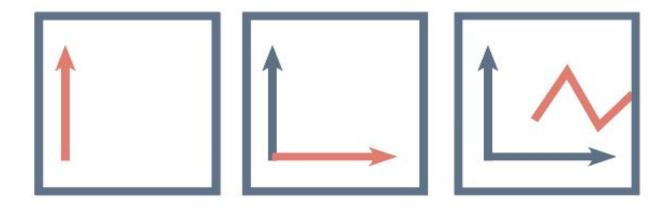






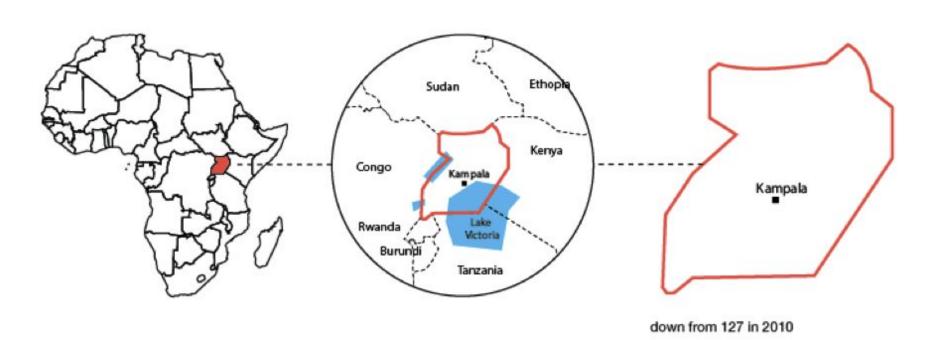


# Build up pattern

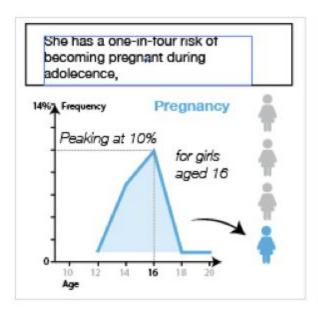


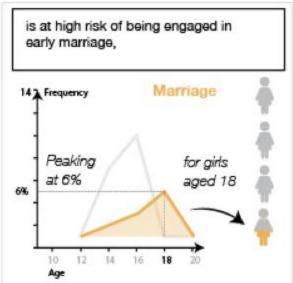
# **Zoom pattern**

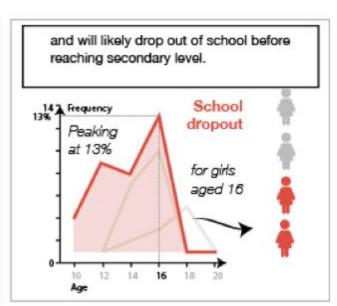
### Zoom



## Facetts pattern

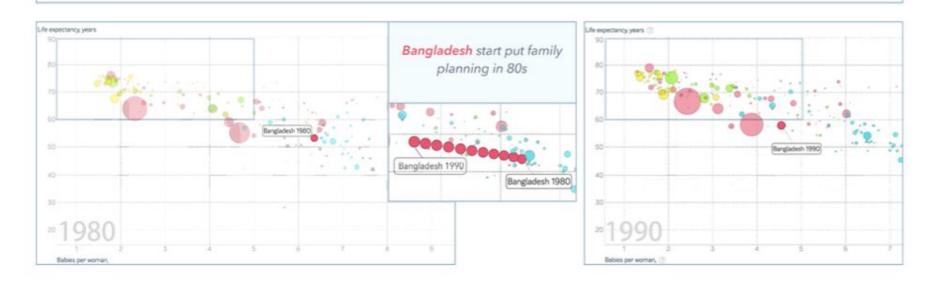






# **Transition pattern**

### Now let's look at the next decadea from 1980 - 1990

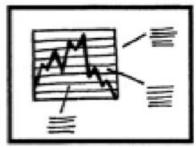


## Slide Shows

Seven Genres



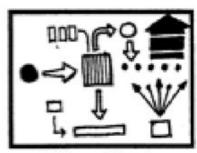
Magazine Style



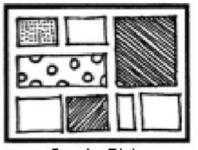
Annotated Chart



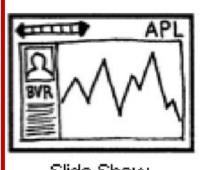
Partitioned Poster



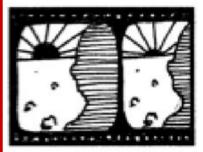
Flow Chart



Comic Strip



Slide Show

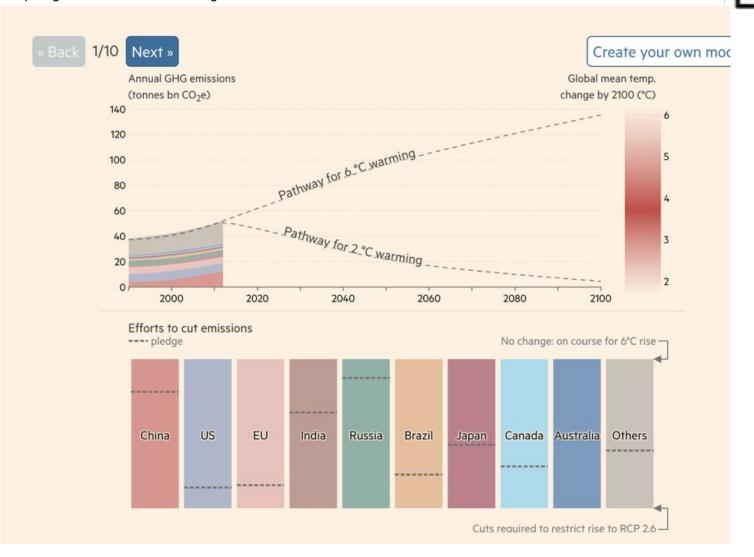


Film/Video/Animation

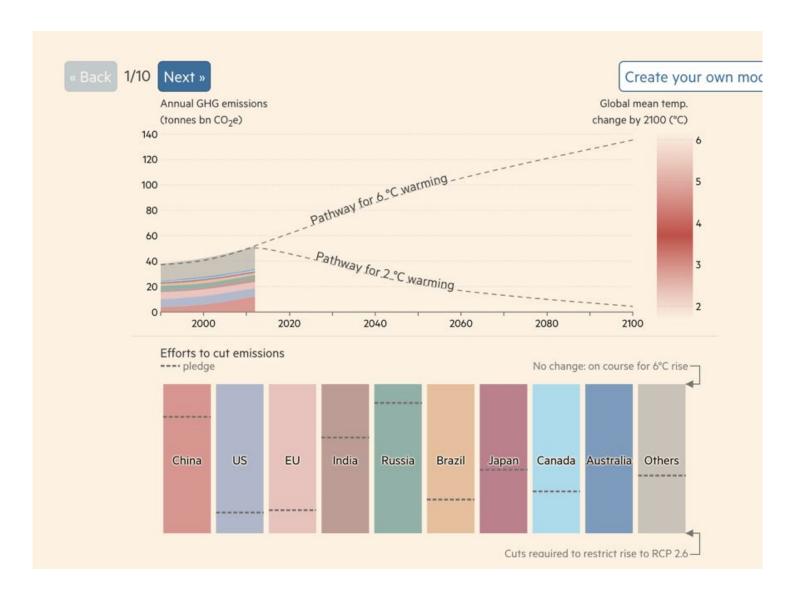
## Slideshow

Slide Show





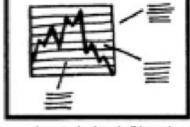
## **Interactive**

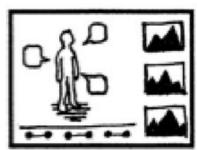


## Data Videos





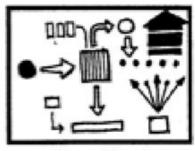




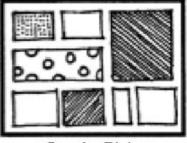
Magazine Style

Annotated Chart

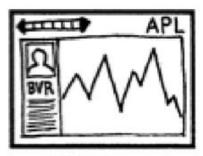
Partitioned Poster



Flow Chart



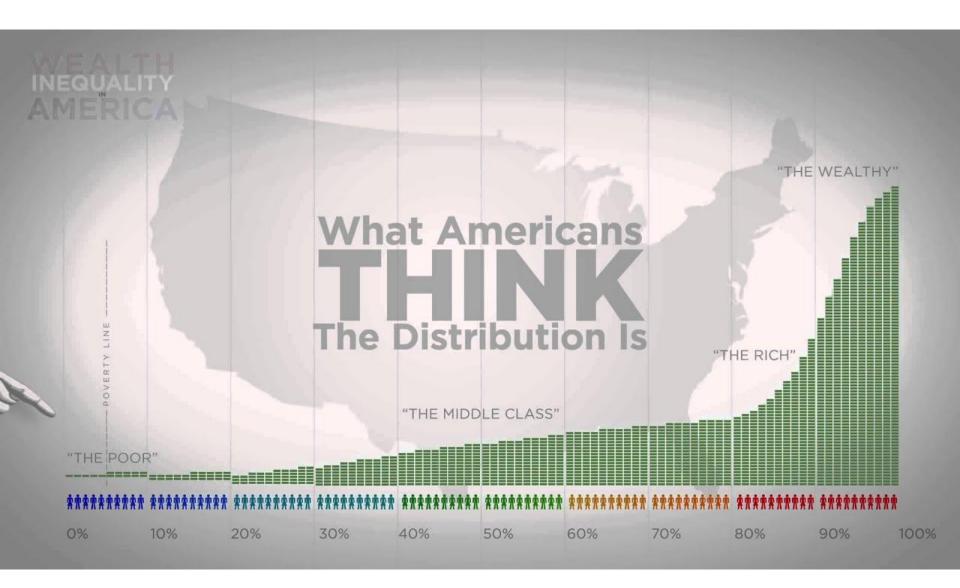
Comic Strip



Slide Show



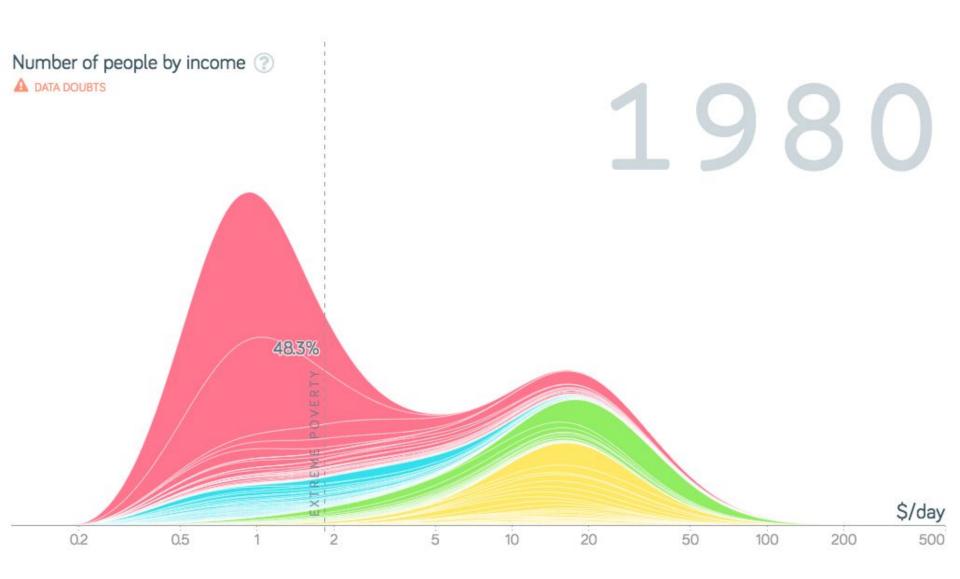
## Data Videos



## Life Presentations



## Animations



# Data Physicalizations



A data physicalization (or simply physicalization) is a physical artifact whose geometry or material properties encode data

# Advantages of Physicalizations

- Active perception
- Depth perception
- Haptic senses
- Playfullnes and cognition
- Data in the real world

# Physical (http://dataphys.org/list)



# Physical







### **Rethink Your Drink**



# DataPhys List (<a href="http://dataphys.org/list">http://dataphys.org/list</a>)

### List of Physical Visualizations

and Related Artifacts

This is a chronological list of physical visualizations and related artifacts, maintained by Pierre Dragicevic and Yvonne Jansen. Thanks to our contributors. Feel free to post a general comment or if you know of another interesting physical visualization, please **submit it!** 

This list currently has 327 entries. See recent additions. You can also get notified of new entries through Twitter.

# Gallery view

Passive physical visualizations (190)

Active physical visualizations (35)

Physical models (33)

Measuring instruments (11)

Interactive installations (7)

Enabling technologies (23)

Other (6)

Uncertain (22)

### 5500 BC – Mesopotamian Clay Tokens



The earliest data visualizations were likely physical: built by arranging stones or pebbles, and later, clay tokens. According to an eminent archaeologist (Schmandt-Besserat, 1999): "Whereas words consist of immaterial sounds, the tokens were concrete, solid, tangible artifacts, which could be handled, arranged and rearranged at will. For instance, the tokens could be ordered in special columns according to types of merchandise, entries and expenditures; donors [...]

Added by Pierre Dragicevic. Category: Passive physical visualization. Tags: anthropology, archaeology, clay tokens, mesopotamians, rearrangeable

### 2600 BC - Inca Quipus

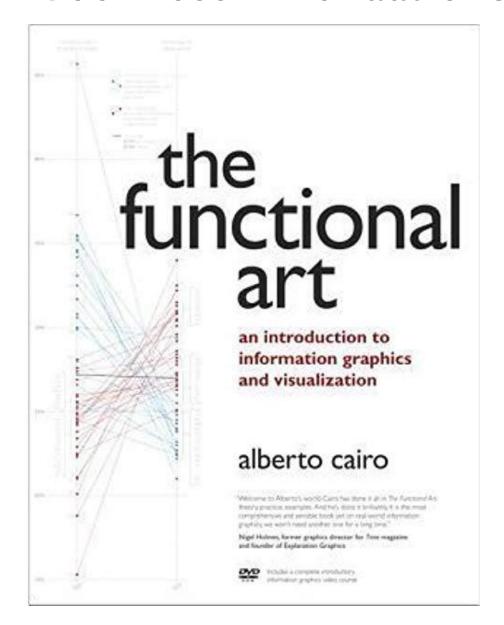


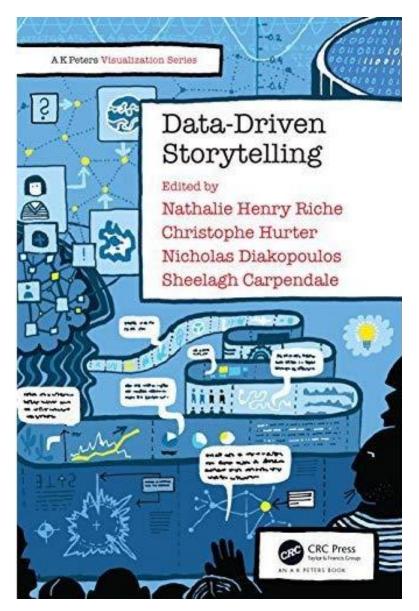
Quipus were complex assemblies of knotted ropes that were used in South America as a data storage device and played an important role in the Inca administration. Only a handful of specialists could use and decipher them. Their meaning mostly remains a mystery but it seems that color, relative position of knots, knot types and rope length were used to encode categorical and quantitative [...]

## Summary

- Storytelling for communication and engagement
- Story structures can be complex
- Form follows messages
- Know your audience
- Multiple storytelling genres

### **Book recommendations**



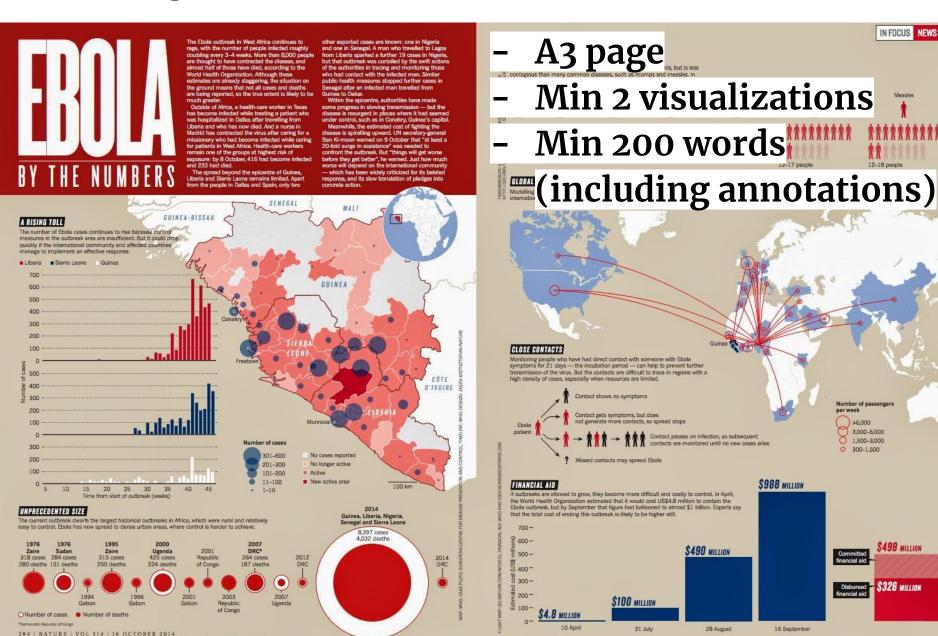


# Assignment

# Tutorial: your story

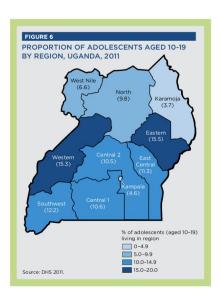
- Who is your **audience**?
- What is your **data**?
- Why is this **important**?
- What is the story that you are going to tell?
- What effect are you hoping to have?
- How are you communicating to them? (Format)

# a) Infographic



# b) Report

physical social political and economic structures of a region can place residents at varying risks for vulnerability. Areas susceptible to violence or natural disaster pose clear threats to individuals. An individual's environment also affects his or her development and behavioral choices. Resources available in the physical and social environments create the contexts within which decisions are made about health, education, and employment. Political and social environments also dictate whether resources are accessible to all adolescents. An examination of the residential distribution of adolescents provides a baseline for comparing geographical patterns of vulnerability. Within Uganda, by type of residence, the majority of adolescents (87 percent) live in rural versus urban areas. Figure 6 shows the distribution of adolescents aged 10 to 19 living in Uganda. Regional distributions show Karamoia contains only four percent of the adolescent population. Kampala with a much denser population contains 4.6 percent of the population. The Eastern and Western regions contain the largest proportions of the adolescent population.



#### Household factors influencing vulnerability

Household-level factors have direct impacts on the well-being of adolescents. Households are the primary setting where adolescents live and engage in activities. For this reason, the household environment and the people who live there have signifficant impacts on the lives of adolescents. Physical conditions of the home influence the health of residents. Family structures and demographic characteristics of household members affect the knowledge, decisions, behaviors and interactions in the environment of the adolescent.

#### Access to improved water sources and sanitation

Unsafe water, inadequate sanitation, and poor hygiene are among the five leading risk factors responsible for one quarter of all deaths in the world (WHO 2009). Unsafe water supplies and inadequate sanitation in homes increase exposure to water-borne diseases and can cause diarrhea. Ensuring access to clean water sources and sanitation is key to maintaining hygiene and health. Improved water sources are those that either naturally protect water from contamination or are constructed to do so. These include piped water, public taps. standpipes, boreholes, tube wells, protected wells and springs, and rainwater collection, Improved sanitation includes constructs and systems that prevent fecal contamination. These include flush or pour toilets, ventilated pit latrines, pit latrines with slabs, and composting toilets (UNICEF 2013b).

Housing conditions across East and Southern Africa are largely in need of improvement, and lack of improved sanitation varies by country. In nearly all of East and Southern Africa, over half of adolescents either do not have improved sanitation or share facilities with other households. Conditions are worst in Madagascar and Mozambique where fewer than four percent of adolescents live in households with improved sanitation that is not shared (Figure 7). Rwanda has the lowest proportion of adolescents affected-35 percent-which is still unacceptably high. Lack of access to improved water sources affects lower proportions but is still a problem in the region. In five countries, fewer than half of adolescents have access to improved water sources (Figure 8), Water conditions are best in Namibia, where only 15 percent of adolescents have no access to improved water.

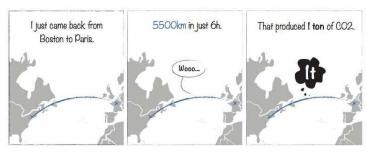
In Uganda, overall access to improved water and sanitation increased by a small but significant percentage between 2006 and 2011 (Figure 9). In 2006, 33 percent of adolescents had no access to improved water; in 2011, it is 30 percent. The proportion of adolescents without access to improved water.

#### Min 2 visualizations Min 200 words JRCE, EAST including annotations) Swaziland 2007 Kenya 2009 Lesotho 2010 746 Swaziland 2007 393 Kenya 2009 Uganda 201 Zambia 2007 Rwanda 2011 Namibia 2007 Burundi 2011 Uganda 2011 Zimbabwe 2011 Burundi 2011 Zimbahwe 2011 Malawi 2010 Rwanda 2011 Namihia 2007 20 40 60 80 40 Source: DHS 2007-2011: MICS 2006-2008 Source: DHS 2007-2011; MICS 2006-2008. FIGURE 9 PERCENT OF ADOLESCENTS AGED 10-19 LIVING IN HOUSEHOLDS WITHOUT ACCESS TO IMPROVED WATER AND WITHOUT ACCESS TO IMPROVED OR WITH SHARED SANITATION, IN UGANDA, BY REGION, 2006 AND 2011 Water sources Sanitation or shared facilities 32.9 Nationa 73.6 Central Central 3 Central 3 East Central East Central 2006 2011 Kampal Kampala Karamoja Karamoia 50.9 Southwest Southwest 62.7 West Nile West Nile 951 30 40 50 60 80 Source: DHS 2006 and 2011 Note: Changes to the geographic boundaries were made to the North region in the 2011 DHS. The 2006 DHS North region is now divided into the North and Karamoja. For this reason, rates for 2006 are not shown for the North since it is not comparable and Karamoja was not identified in the previous survey

10

# Data Comic (http://datacomics.net)

### CO Footprint





Which produced...

23 tons of CO2.

