OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL ANALYTICS

Newsletter

Director's Column

There is a tendency among humans to want neat categories for themselves and others: Coke vs. Pepsi, morning larks vs. night owls, pizza vs. pasta, and so on. A funny graphic representation of these bifurcations can be found here.

I recently learned about a new categorization: Numerator people versus denominator people. That is, do you focus more on the absolute numbers (1,000,000 cases) or the population within which the number exists(1 case per 330 people)?

Some of you may see yourself in one of these categories. Some of you may hesitate to commit to either. Each approach has its merits. Through the lens of the ongoing pandemic, an ER nurse will find the absolute numbers of cases relevant using the numerator approach, as he is likely to see many of those people come into the hospital for treatment. Conversely, the Governor will find the denominator approach more useful, as she needs to understand where rates are highest so she knows where to allocate resources.

It's good to know both how many people are affected by a phenomenon AND how prevalent it is. Use numerators to understand the overall human impact of something, but be mindful of the denominators so you can understand who is being affected and to what extent.

I am planning Director's Columns this year that focus on statistical concepts that we all may be familiar with, but perhaps have never named them. I hope you find them useful and thought-provoking.

Until next time,
Heather Mechler, OIA Director | hsmechler@unm.edu

Bringing Back the Pack

In light of the recent surge in COVID-19 cases in New Mexico, and in hopes of maintaining a non-virtual semester, UNM has updated their vaccine and testing requirements. All faculty, staff, and students were required to upload proof of having received their vaccine booster by January 17, prior to the start of the Spring 2022 semester. Additionally, UNM now requires medical or health grade masks to be worn on campus: "Effective January 18, UNM will require that medical or health grade masks be worn. UNM students, staff, and faculty should wear three-ply or better medical/health procedure masks (ASTM Type 1, 2 or 3 or better). As the Omicron variant is highly transmissible, cloth masks do not afford the best protection against smaller aerosols or particles potentially laden with airborne virus if infected people are present." More information can be found on the Bringing Back the Pack website.

What's New in the Data Community

CHARLA OROZCO

COVID-19 Data Resources

With the recent surge in cases, some may wonder about the efficacy of vaccines in COVID prevention. With specific respect to the Omicron variant, data from the World Health Organization (WHO), US CDC, FDA, and others support that the vaccine booster is 88% effective in preventing severe COVID, hospitalization, and death, and 75% effective in preventing symptomatic COVID (as evidenced in the image below).

Numbers from the December 27th New Mexico COVID-19 Case Report support the information provided in the visual above on a local scale. For more information, look to these reliable COVID-19 data resources: the NMDOH, WHO, the CDC, and Information is Beautiful.

3rd Annual Art & Science of Data Event

Thank you to all those who presented and participated in the 3rd Annual Art & Science of Data event. We had 125 members from the UNM community register for the event. Of those, 36 participants responded to the event survey to provide feedback. Overall, the feedback is positive. 94% of participants would recommend the event to a colleague or friend. Additionally, participants rated the overall event a 4.63 on average, on a scale where 5 was very informative and 1 was not at all informative. When asked what they liked about the event, one respondent wrote:

"There was very practical, put into use at work the next day type of information provided. Yes, some of the information is something you could read online or on a website but it has more value and meaning when presented and explained by a human. I also really liked that Q&A time was deliberately factored in so that time didn't run out with no chance to ask questions."

If you weren't able to be with us on January 12th, or you didn't get to attend all the sessions you wanted, you can find session materials and recordings here. We hope you'll join us for next year's event, which will take place in February 2023. Event details will be posted here as they become available.

How to Get Your Data

JING FENG

The OIA website has a wide range of publicly accessible data resources, such as Official Enrollment Reports, Fact Book, and Common Data Set. We also have a Tableau Public page with all of our dashboards.
Feel free to use the interactive features on the dashboards to get the data you need! If you cannot find the data you need from public resources, you can submit a data request to our office here.
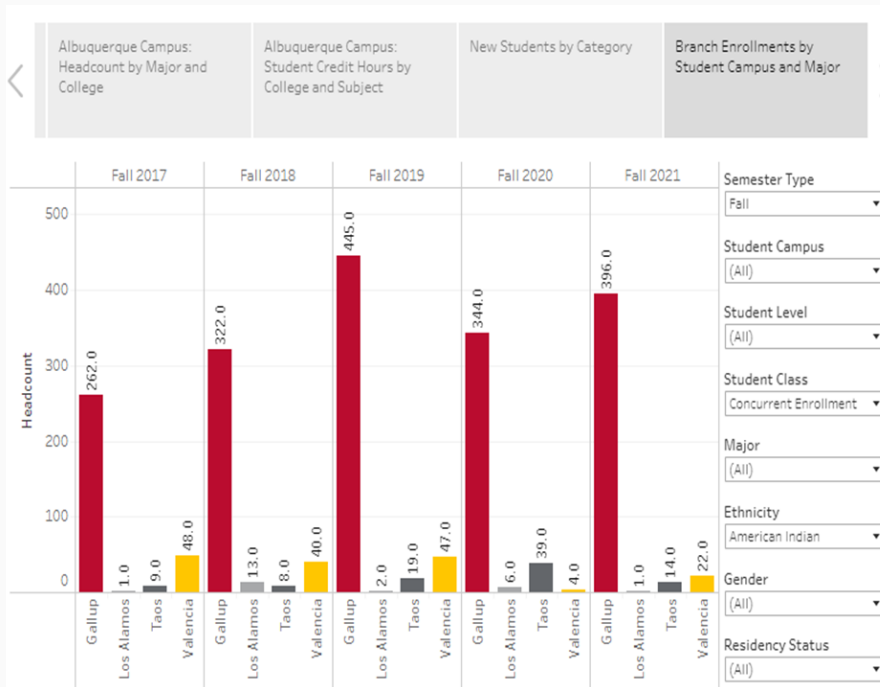
Featured Dashboard

ZACHARIAH KIBUTA

The [Official Enrollment Reports (OER)](#) reflect enrollment data as of the census for each fall semester for students enrolled in the UNM Main Campus and Branch Campuses. The OER constitutes 5 graphs:
- Student headcount by credit hours and time status
- Student headcount by majors and college
- Student credit hours by college and subject
- New student by category
- Branch enrollments by campus and major

Each bar in the graph above displays the total number of enrollments by individual branch campuses for the last 5 years. The data can be filtered by a student campus, student level, major, ethnicity, gender, and residency status.

Featured Staff: Zachariah Kibuta

MONTE-ANGEL RICHARDSON

Zach is originally from Tanzania, and joined OIA as an institutional researcher in July 2021. He is currently pursuing a master's degree in Data Science, and his future goal is to pursue a Ph.D. in statistics. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with his family, playing with his flight simulator, and watching funny animal videos on YouTube.