

What is data journalism?

This is data journalism



# Battling Infectious Diseases in the 20th Century: The Impact of Vaccines

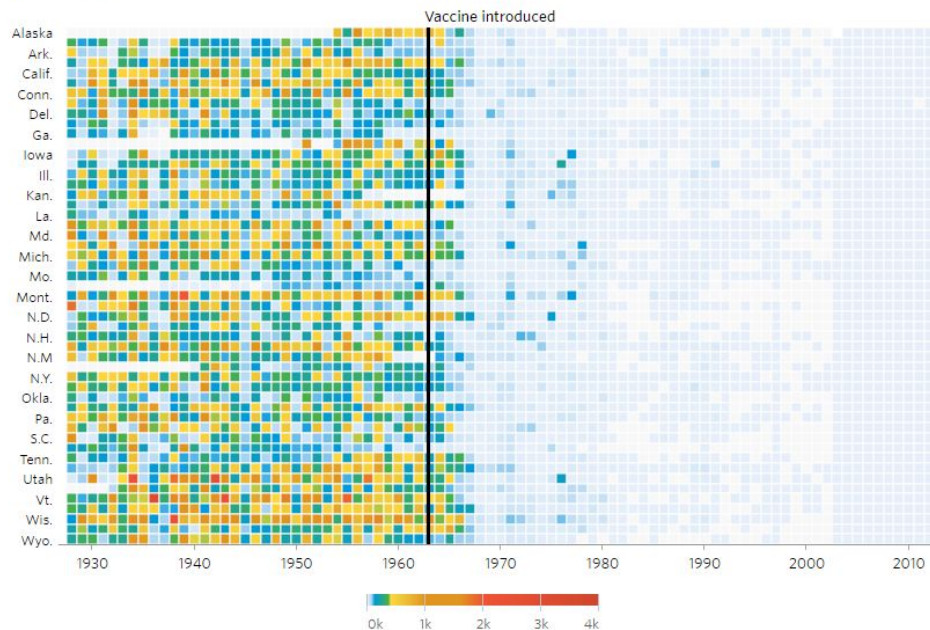
By [Tynan DeBold](#) and [Dov Friedman](#)

Published Feb. 11, 2015 at 3:45 p.m. ET

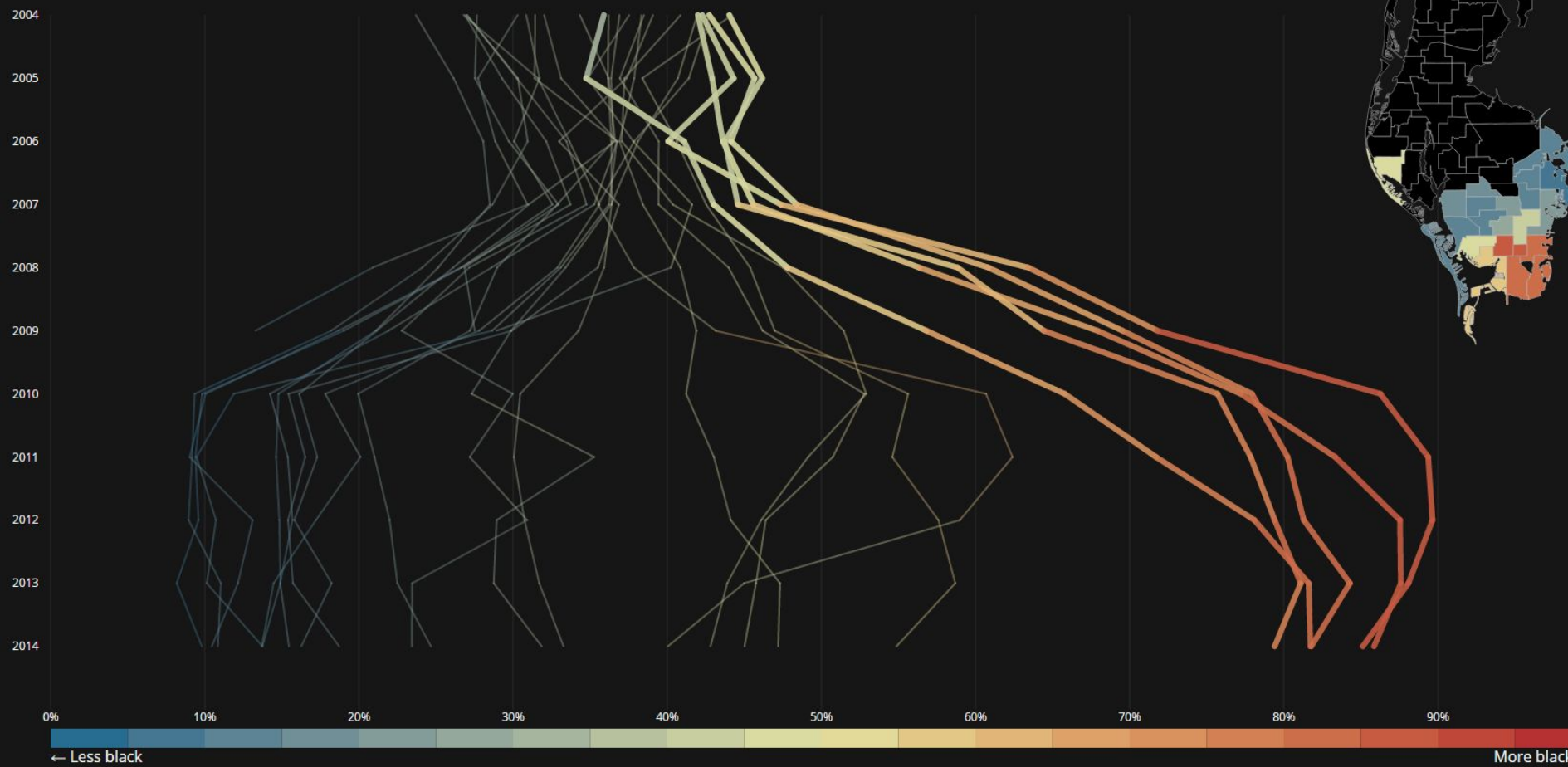
The number of infected people, measured over 70-some years and across all 50 states and the District of Columbia, generally declined after vaccines were introduced.

The heat maps below show number of cases per 100,000 people.

## Measles

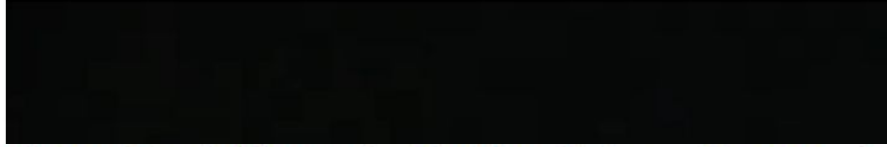


Today, **Campbell Park, Fairmount Park, Lakewood, Maximo** and **Melrose** are the **most segregated** schools in Pinellas.

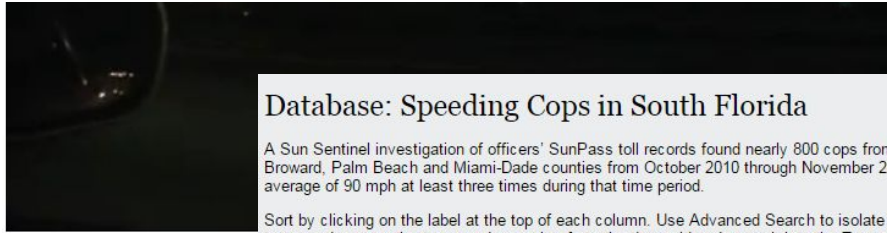


And this

# Cops among Florida's worst speeders, Sun Sentinel investigation finds



A three-month Sun Sentinel investigation found almost 800 cops from a dozen agencies driving 90 to 130 mph on our highways.



The Sun Sentinel's 2012 investigation

By **Sally Kestin and John Ma**

FEBRUARY 11, 2012, 7:58 PM



**W**e've all seen it, a  
laws are among


A three-month Sun Sentir  
driving 90 to 130 mph on

## Database: Speeding Cops in South Florida

A Sun Sentinel investigation of officers' SunPass toll records found nearly 800 cops from a dozen agencies drove 90 to 130 mph on highways in Broward, Palm Beach and Miami-Dade counties from October 2010 through November 2011. This database shows transponders that exceeded an average of 90 mph at least three times during that time period.

Sort by clicking on the label at the top of each column. Use Advanced Search to isolate by date or speed range. To view all records for a single transponder, copy the transponder number from the data grid and paste it into the Transponder search box. Click Search.

Search for:  



Details found: 72858

Page 1 of 729

Records Per Page:  ▼

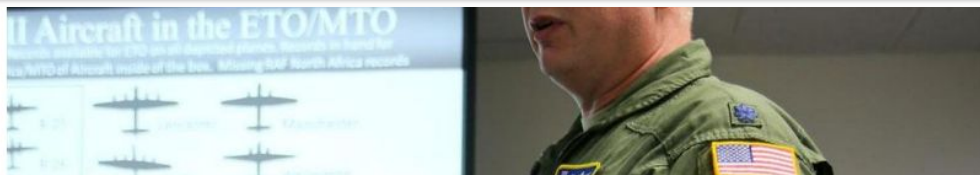
Many weren't even on duty — they were commuting to and from work in their take-home patrol cars.

## Bomb database useful for past, present wars



1

He worked nights and weekends finding out. Robertson unearthed 1,000 original World War I raid reports, and entered each by hand. For World War II, he scanned roughly 10,000 hand-written or typed pages. More modern conflicts meant combing a hodgepodge of conflict-specific databases.



It is already aiding efforts to spot unexploded bombs that still endanger civilians and to search for the missing aircraft and their crews of past wars. City planners in countries such as Germany, where new construction requires an assessment of the potential explosive hazards left over from World War II, have also consulted it. As a research tool, the project may even rewrite the history of some famous battles.

civilians.

And this



# Hack Your Way To Scientific Glory



You're a social scientist with a hunch: **The U.S. economy is affected by whether Republicans or Democrats are in office.** Try to show that a connection exists, using real data going back to 1948. For your results to be publishable in an academic journal, you'll need to prove that they are "statistically significant" by achieving a low enough p-value.

## 1 CHOOSE A POLITICAL PARTY

Republicans

Democrats

## 2 DEFINE TERMS

Which politicians do you want to include?

☐ Presidents

☐ Governors

☒ Senators

☒ Representatives

How do you want to measure economic performance?

☒ Employment

☒ Inflation

☒ GDP

☐ Stock prices

Other options

☐ Factor in power

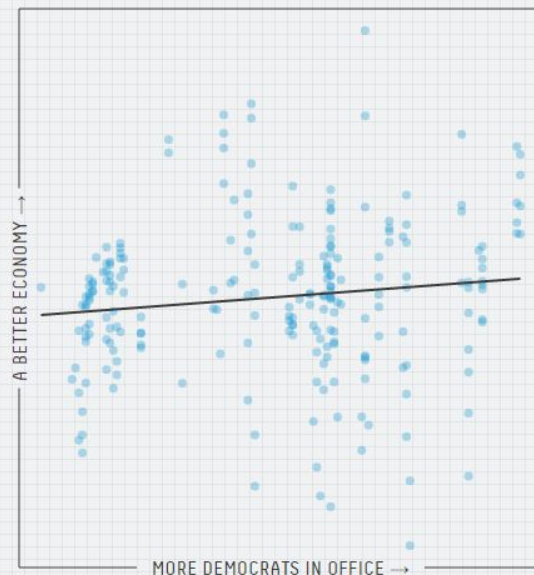
Weight more powerful positions more heavily

☒ Exclude recessions

Don't include economic recessions

## 3 IS THERE A RELATIONSHIP?

Given how you've defined your terms, does the economy do better, worse or about the same when more Democrats are in office? Each dot below represents one month of data.



## 4 IS YOUR RESULT SIGNIFICANT?

If there were no connection between the economy and politics, what is the probability that you'd get results at least as strong as yours? That probability is your p-value, and by convention, you need a **p-value of 0.05 or less** to get published.



### Result: Almost

Your **0.06** p-value is close to the 0.05 threshold. Try tweaking your variables to see if you can push it over the line!

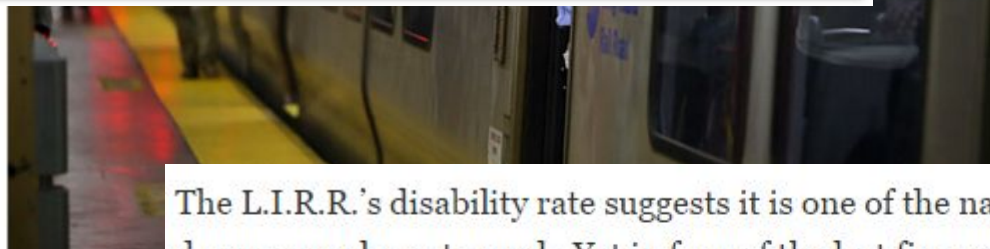
If you're interested in reading real (and more rigorous) studies on the connection between politics and the economy, see the work of Larry Bartels and Alan Blinder and Mark Watson.

Data from The @unitedstates Project, National Governors Association, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis and Yahoo Finance.

## *A Disability Epidemic Among a Railroad's Retirees*

By WALT BOGDANICH SEPT. 20, 2008

Virtually every career employee — as many as 97 percent in one recent year — applies for and gets disability payments soon after retirement, a computer analysis of federal records by The New York Times has found. Since 2000, those records show, about a quarter of a billion dollars in federal disability money has gone to former L.I.R.R. employees, including about 2,000 who retired during that time.



THE RAILROAD A rules, early retireme

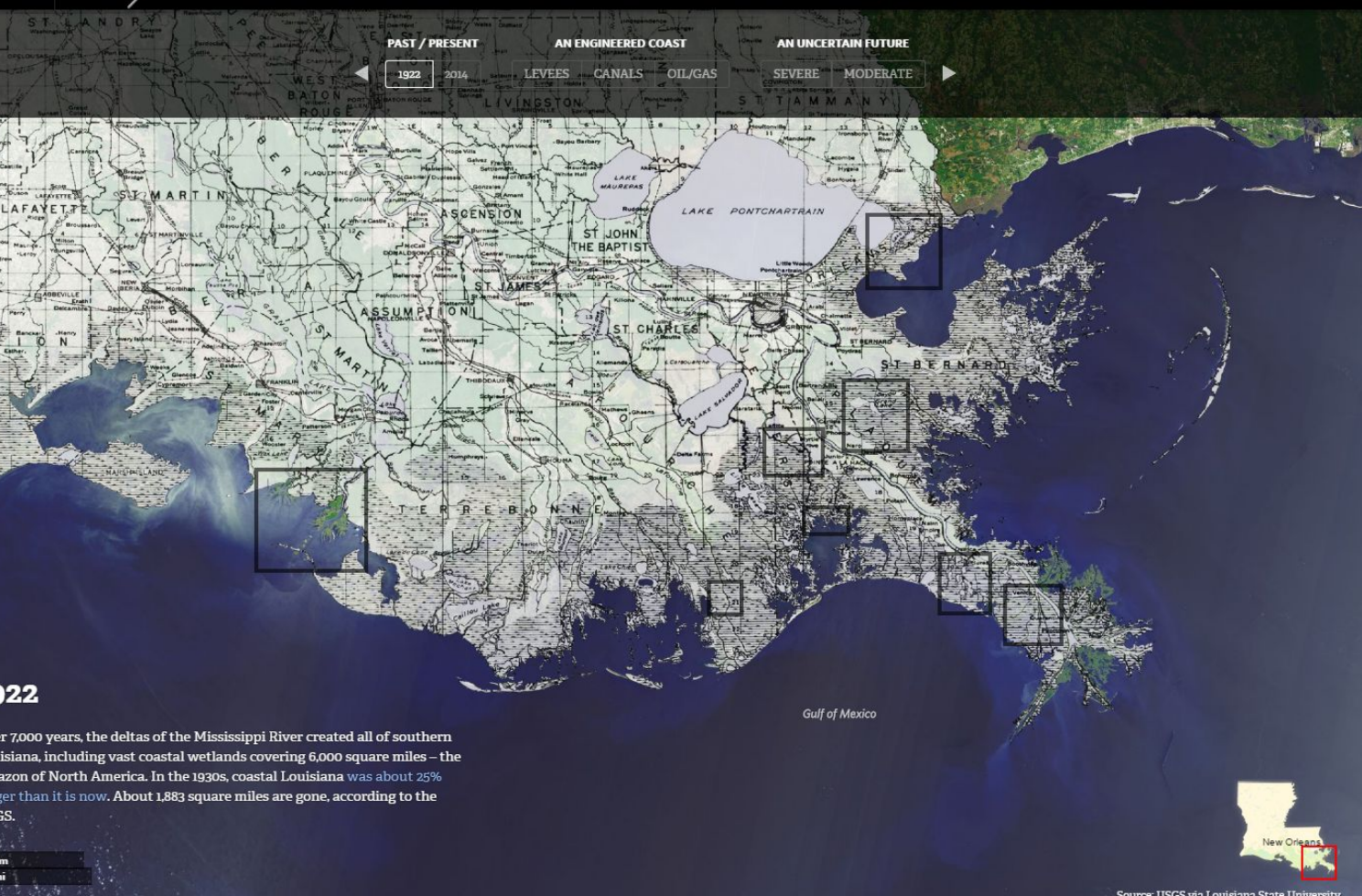
The L.I.R.R.'s disability rate suggests it is one of the nation's most dangerous places to work. Yet in four of the last five years, the railroad has won national awards for improving worker safety.

*This article was reported by **Walt Bogdanich**, **Andrew W. Lehren**, **Robert A. McDonald** and **Nicholas Phillips** and written by Mr. Bogdanich.*

And even this







## Louisiana is drowning, quickly.

In just 80 years, some 2,000 square miles of its coastal landscape have been turned to open water, wiping places off maps, bringing the Gulf of Mexico to the back door of New Orleans and posing a lethal threat to an energy and shipping corridor vital to the nation's economy.

And it's going to get worse, even quicker.

Scientists now say one of the greatest environmental and economic disasters in the nation's history is rushing toward a catastrophic conclusion over the next 50 years, so far unabated and largely unnoticed.

[Explore Delacroix, La.](#)

At the current rates that the sea is rising and land is sinking, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration scientists say by 2100 the Gulf of Mexico could rise as much as 4.3 feet across this landscape, which has an average elevation of about 10 feet. If that happens, everything outside the protective levees — most of Southeast Louisiana — would be underwater.

The effects would be felt far beyond bayou country. The region best known for its self-proclaimed motto



What do they have in common?

“A better solution is to push journalism toward science, incorporating both the powerful data gathering and analysis tools of science and its disciplined search for **verifiable** truth.”

— Philip Meyer, *Precision Journalism*, 1973

“Now, the fear of numbers marks a reporter as one who can only do part of the job.”

— Sarah Cohen, *Numbers in the Newsroom*, 2014



A close-up shot of a person's face, mostly obscured by a thick, dense swarm of bees. The person is wearing clear, protective safety goggles. The background is dark and out of focus, with some bees visible in the air. The overall tone is one of intense fear or discomfort.

**Fear factor  
MOMENTS**

**BEEES!**

“Numbers, less scary than bees.”

— Ryann Jones, *ProPublica Summer Data Institute*, 2016