

UC DAVIS
HEALTH SYSTEM

YOUR REPORTING ARSENAL

6 low- or no-cost *interactive* dataviz tools to consider

Interactive visualization greatly enhance both engagement and understanding by supplying critical information in a format that is easy to manipulate without compromising on design. Here are some promising new tools on the market today that will not break your pocketbook. Read futher to find a tool that works for your evaluation reporting needs, skillset and resources.

LEGEND: UGH OKAY YAY AWESOME!

	Adobe Acrobat Pro	Invision	BEAM (Venngage)	Power BI (Microsoft)	datamatic.io	D3.js
web-based	UGH	YAY	YAY	YAY	YAY	YAY
visible on ipad	UGH	YAY	YAY	YAY	YAY	YAY
visible on smartphone	UGH	YAY	YAY	YAY	YAY	YAY
learning curve	UGH	OKAY	YAY	UGH	OKAY	UGH
end user ease	UGH	UGH	OKAY	UGH	OKAY	YAY
effort vs result	UGH	UGH	OKAY	OKAY	UGH	YAY
design control	OKAY	OKAY	UGH	OKAY	UGH	YAY
data source(s)	any	any	gmail	SQL, Excel, various apps	gmail and/or code (D3.js)	code (D3.js)
cost	\$15/mo	Free - \$25/mo	Free - \$19/mo	Free - \$10/mo	Free - \$9/mo	Free

READ ON FOR MORE INFO

Adobe Acrobat (PRO)

A great option for qualitative - and with careful planning can also be used for quantitative - data. Using pop-up technology, readers are able to both manipulate data and get additional info, which can help drive their understanding. You may already have it installed!

Alternative: Invision

Drawbacks:

- Creating interactivity on Acrobat is a delicate - and at times frustrating - process of layering images to produce hovering pop-ups. Plan ahead so that printing doesn't obscure your data.

Power BI

If you're an Excel lover, you'll enjoy the super-sized Excel of Power BI. Chord charts, heat maps and aster plots can be easily digested (big data friendly!) and easily shared, and all on a tool that looks just like home. It's really like a cross between Excel and Tableau but without the super size cost.

Alternative: Tableau Public

Drawbacks:

- If you're not used to working within pivots, the initial learning curve can be rather steep.

Invision

If you want to avoid Adobe Acrobat Pro, or just prefer a more user friendly web-based application, check out **Invision's** web app. Intended for UX design, it easily provides the functionality of linking, navigating through the document and tooltips, like Acrobat Pro but with less headache.

Alternative: Adobe Acrobat Pro

Drawbacks:

- Like Acrobat, your chart is an image and you'll need to manually set up your readers' analytical options by layer.

datamatic.io

Includes some of the more specialized chart types (rose, SNA, tree maps for basic accounts, and even small multiples and dual charts for professional). Uses the Google API to publish, so linking and embedding the charts are pretty easy.

Alternative: Raw

Drawbacks:

- The default formatting options seem a little dated, but the good news is that you can code around this if you have a decent hand at basic programming.

BEAM

If Plot.ly and Canva had a love child, BEAM would be that child. The app was created to share charts across social media. As such, the ease of use is outanding, much like Canva, but data friendly like Plot.ly. While the chart types on the free account are a bit basic, the sheer amount of templates, vectors and formatting options more than make up for it.

Alternative: Infogr.am

Drawbacks:

- Data is Google Spreadsheets/Gmail only.

D3

The Holy Grail of interactive dataviz, D3 is an open source sublibrary of the Javascript programming language and was built specifically to work with data. It's fairly new-ish and there are more awe inspiring examples (with code!) posted online every day. And while this will take a while to learn, it should provide maximum creative control over your reporting.

Alternative: Google Developer Charts (uses D3), Python

Drawbacks:

- Starting from scratch and hosting your visualizations locally.

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>>> thanks to flaticon.com and freepik for the free awesome visual goodies!