Project eCSite Unit: The Variables of Hate

Content Areas: computer science, data analysis & probability, correlations, spatial data, research and hypothesis testing

Grade Level: Secondary (9 - 12)

Computational Thinking Connection: This unit has students investigate a compelling source of data: the locations and orientations of hate groups in the United States as documented by the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) Hate Map. By attempting to correlate this data with other sources of spatial data from the US census bureau, the students learn to use computers and data sources as a tool for investigating questions and testing hypotheses.

Prerequisite Knowledge: The unit presumes that the students are secondary level. A basic discussion of correlation and causation, as well as basic computer skills, are necessary.

Time Required: 1 class

Related Lessons / Activities: The unit works about like this:

1) Each student is assigned a state
2) Students proceed with the attached unit to investigate hate in that state.

Contents:

1) Data investigation activity

Links:

SPLC Hate map: http://www.splcenter.org/get-informed/hate-map.

Other Notes: N/A

Contributors: Caleb Phillips and John Williams

Supporting Programs: NSF and GK-12 eCSite program
Investigating the Variables of Hate

0) Name:

You will be assigned a state in class. Go to the hate map: http://www.spicenter.org/get-informed/hate-map. Pull up your state.

1) What is your state?

2) How many hate groups are there total?

3) Is this more or less than you expected? Why?

3) What sort of groups are listed in your state?

4) Is there any predominant type of group? If so, what is it?

5) Pick a group or type of group you hadn't heard of, click on it, and read about it. Summarize what the group is about here:

Click on “City” to sort the list by which city the groups are in.

6) Which city in your state has the most hate groups? How many are there?

Go to the US Census quick facts website: http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/index.html. Click on your state. Use the “select a city” function to fill in some statistics on the first 10 cities listed on the hate map for your state:
### Table

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<th>City Name</th>
<th>Number of Hate Groups</th>
<th>Population</th>
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*If the US Census website doesn’t have data for a given city, put “N/A” in the population. Put a check mark in Urban column if the population is greater than 50,000.*

7) How many hate groups are in urban areas?

8) How many are in rural (not urban) areas?

9) Do you think there’s a correlation between location of hate groups and how urban an area is? Why or why not?

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**Lets look at some other possible factors. Pull up the NYT Census Data Explorer:**


*Find the city in your list above that has the most hate groups.*

9) Describe the racial layout of the city. Is the city segregated or homogeneous (i.e., do people of different races live in the same areas)? Is there mostly one race, or a mix of races represented in the city?
Now click on the blue “View More Maps” drop-down box, and select “Household Income Distribution”.

10) Where do the rich people live?

11) Where do the poor people live?

12) Are they all mixed up or are there clearly “rich” and “poor” neighborhoods?

13) Do you see a relationship between the racial layout of the city and the economic layout?

Click the “View More Maps” drop-down box again and select “Education” and the “Bachelors Degree or Higher”.

14) Where do the most educated people live?

15) Is there a relationship to the racial and income distribution in the city?

Zoom out and look at the Education distribution for the entire state.

16) Compare this map to the hate map again. Is there a relationship between areas of the state with the most education and areas of the state with the most hate groups?
17) We’ve looked at the relationship between income, education, race, and hate. Do you think there are other variables that might explain why some places have more hate groups than others?

18) Do you think these results are universal? Will your classmates have found similar results in other states? Would you find similar results in other countries?

19) Can you think of other factors that may cultivate hate? Try to tie in ideas from *The Tipping Point* and how social epidemics spread...