



## CREATION AND MAINTAINING A WEBSITE THAT HELPS TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT THE SUICIDE

*Uriel Haile Hernandez Belmonte, Ph.D. professor of the department of Art and Entrepreneurship University of Guanajuato, Mexico*

*Rodríguez González José Adrián, Bachelor student of Data analysis and Artificial Intelligence University of Guanajuato, Mexico*

The main goal of this project is to design and implement a website using data journalism tools to raise awareness about the suicide phenomenon in the state of Guanajuato, Mexico. This is an ongoing project. For this work, we are focused on the web development process and the website's elements.

The motivations for this work rely, first, on the lack of government platforms that are easy to use and easy to understand about the suicide phenomenon. Second, recently, suicide started to be a hot topic at our university because a student decided to kill herself. The university community was shaken by her loss. Their absence left a deep void, and a heavy silence settled over the once vibrant halls. This combination of limited information and a personal tragedy compels us to create a resource (a webpage) that can offer clarity and support to those struggling.

This project leverages the principles of data journalism, employing data analysis, a compelling narrative, visualizations, and explanations to present findings to the general public. Our narrative starts with a phrase from Alberto Camus about the death. Then, it continues by introducing a short history of the aforementioned suicide event, and some questions are presented to reflect the student's feelings about this event. After that, the data analysis is presented using a heat map of the state of Guanajuato and a data explorer to visualize the number of murders in each municipality. In the following paragraphs, we review these two elements.

The heat map represents the number of suicides in each city with different tonalities of colors. If the mouse cross over a city or in a mobile display, if it is touched a city, it displays the city's name and the number of suicides. An intense color means a more significant number of suicides, and a lighter color means a smaller number of suicides. In Figure 1, the head map is shown.

The primary purpose of the data explorer is to show the magnitude of the number of suicides by municipality. To do this, instead of using any type of graph, such as a bar graph, it shows the silhouette of a sad person in different poses for each suicide in random positions. Figure 2 presents two screen captures for two municipalities; the difference between these two images is notable. The rationale for implementing this explorer is to have a better idea about the magnitude of a number.

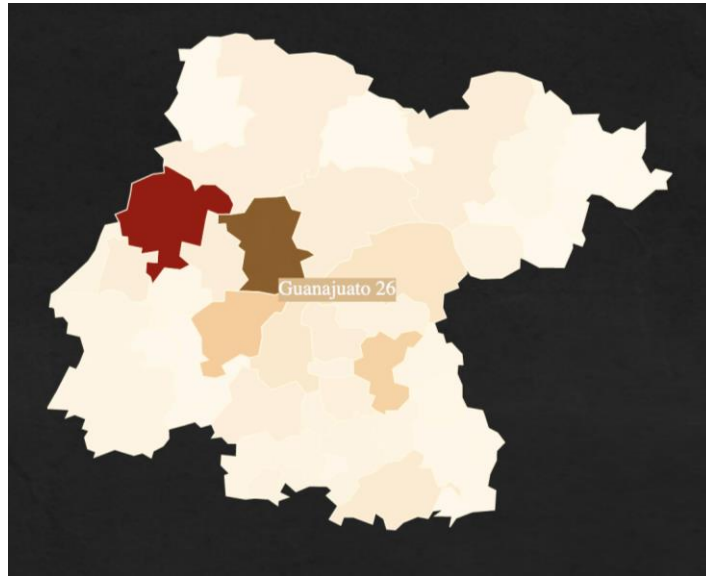


Figure 1 – Guanajuato color heat map, a strong color means a greater number of suicides, a lighter color means a smaller number of suicides



Figure 2 – Data explorer for municipality is composed of a textbox where a municipality name is introduced, then, according to the number of suicides, the same number of glyphs are presented

The technologies used in this project were React and vite.js. React is a JavaScript framework widely used in front-end development due to its several features that help build a distinctive website. [1]. Vite.js is a builder for projects



developed on Typescript and JavaScript. It offers a higher speed for building a project than Webpack and Parse and is also friendly, allowing an easier way to create a website. React and Vite.js require npm to be installed [2].

Evaluating the website requires examining several points. However, at this step of the project, we are focused on its portability mostly due to the website's objective: to raise awareness about the suicide topic. Everyone will only sometimes have similar devices, so it is necessary to create a website that can be used on every web browser, for example, Google, Microsoft Edge, Mozilla Firefox, Safari, etc. Moreover, nowadays, several types of devices with different dimensions exist on their screens, so it is important that most devices can display the website appropriately.

A survey will be designed and applied to evaluate elements such as user experience, graphics assets, and understanding of the suicide topic, among others. The compiled information will help improve the website's design and user experience.

### **Conclusions.**

This data journalism project is creating a website to address the concerning rise in suicides in Guanajuato, Mexico. The lack of accessible government resources and a recent student suicide at the university motivated this initiative. The website leverages data analysis, visuals, and storytelling to present information about suicide in a clear and impactful way. The focus now is on website development using React and Vite.js to ensure the website is accessible across various devices and browsers. User experience will be evaluated later to further improve the website's effectiveness in raising awareness and potentially saving lives.

### **References**

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