Simulating a Dashboard - Programming an Excel Workbook to Provide an Interactive Custom-Shaped Heat-Map

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Background
Yearly, the University of New Mexico (UNM) School of Medicine produces a Location Report that provides a statistical overview of current practice location for UNM-trained MDs practicing in New Mexico.

Problem
• Limited space in printed Location Report version
• Additional data not published

Objective
• Distribute additional UNM-Trained MD location information.

Solution
• Create an interactive New Mexico heat-map in Microsoft® Excel.

Result
• Provide stakeholders more information on our UNM-trained MDs practicing in New Mexico electronically, in a graphical view by New Mexico county
• Create heat-maps of any shape to convey information in a more digestible, compelling, and user-forward format

Strengths
• Fully customizable, user-centered experience
• Great for routine reporting, quick to update
• Useful for presentation and website images

Limitations
• Data must be hand-entered
• Not live online

Future
• Include multiple drop-downs for subselection of data
• Add multiple key color functionality
• Put in descriptive summary text for each selection
• Create an online version using screenshot images
• Using this method, create a Dynamic Curriculum Map (in-progress below)

Method
Customize spreadsheets and Visual Basic code in the common office software, Microsoft® Excel, to produce an interactive New Mexico heat-map that displays a large variety of UNM-trained MD data.

Contact Info
For documentation, code, and/or source files of the Interactive Location Report or Dynamic Curriculum Map please contact me at jRiera@salud.unm.edu

References