

ABOUT THE CODAP DATASET VIDEO TRANSCRIPT

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The data you'll use for the Water Conservation Data Jam is part of the New Mexico Water Use by Categories Report that's published every five years. The purpose of this report is to make water use data available to the public and is typically used by community planners, legislators, scientists, and individuals. The data has been simplified for the Water Conservation Data Jam. You can read more about the various uses in this report that will be part of this data jam here.

Data are given to you in a data table and a graph that you can manipulate. This is data from Doña Ana County. Your numbers might look a little different.

We'll talk about the data table first. This data set includes data from 1995 through 2015, that's published in the New Mexico Water Use by Categories Report. You are given data on six major categories of water users: residential, agricultural, livestock, commercial, industrial and mining, and power.

The water used data is presented in acre-feet. An acre-foot is a unit of measurement for water equal one acre in size, or a bit larger than the size of a football field, and one foot deep. One acre-foot equals 325,851 gallons. You will look for a trend in one or more of these water use categories.

The data set also includes precipitation and human population in the same years. These variables may be used to explain a water use trend, but should not be used as a trend themselves. These can be graphed on the graph along the x-axis or as a secondary y-axis on the right side of the graph.

Precipitation and human population can help you explain the data trend you find.

Water use is the main variable in this data set, so you should include one of the water use categories in your data trend. Here's a hint: it should probably be graphed on the y-axis.

You can choose more than one water use category by dragging it to the plus sign on the graph.

Remember that you can change the variables that are on each graph to show the different data you're interested in. When you're looking for a data trend you can try hiding different variables that you're not interested in. Try dragging different variables from the data table onto the graph. Look for patterns in the data or relationships between two variables. Try looking at more than one type of water use. How does water use change over time? Does water use change with human population when it's added to the right side of the graph?

Once you have a graph, you can start to interpret the data. You can ask yourself, "What are the data showing me? How do each of the variables change? What are the patterns in the data?"

You can hover your mouse over a data point to see exactly what the data point is representing. You can click on the data point to highlight it.

Remember, if something goes wrong with your graph and you'd like to start over you can always refresh the page!

As a reminder, a good data trend should: show a pattern not just one data point; it should include more than one variable; only data found in this data set; it should be specific; and something about the main variable of water use. Keeping this in mind will help you writing an explanation for your data trend.

Once you find a data trend, write it as a complete sentence in your report. Your report should also include a graph that clearly shows your data trend. Give your graph a descriptive title by double clicking on the one that's already there. And check to make sure your axes have the correct labels. You can use the paint brush button to change the colors and appearance of your graph. Then use the camera button to save a picture of your graph. Choose export image. It will give you the option to save it to a google drive or your downloads folder. Or you can take a screenshot of your graph then add your graph to your report.

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