

Classifieds

• Invasive questions

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Child Health Environment Lab use this data to train machine learning models that predict preeclampsia, a life-threatening condition of high blood pressure during pregnancy, before a mom gets really sick.

We could use only clinical data: diagnoses, labs and vital readings like blood pressure that contribute to the outcome of preeclampsia. But for conditions like preeclampsia, Black moms are diagnosed at higher rates than their white counterparts. Research shows that race and racism can be major contributing factors to this disparity.

In order to predict preeclampsia accurately and use these predictions to help doctors monitor, diagnose and treat the condition, my team needs to factor in other information that can illuminate these different outcomes, called social determinants of health.

Social determinants of health are the parts of ourselves and our environments that drive our health status. Race itself isn't a social determinant of health,

but racism is. This includes structural racism, like a ZIP code's history of school segregation or redlining. If available, we also include information you might have given at your doctor's visit, like if you haven't had enough food to eat in the past month, or if you have a history of intimate partner violence or homelessness.

Because there is more variation within races than between them, race alone actually tells us very little. Including social determinants of health in our datasets provides added context as to how you move about the world, what resources you have access to and how your environment might shape your health.

Putting the pieces together

This is why your cardiologist asks about your marital status. Your response might help researchers understand why single moms are more likely to have cardiovascular disease than their married counterparts. And telling your optometrist your race is one of the only ways to learn what role race might play in patients

using weight loss drugs experiencing vision loss.

Other researchers have used data from electronic records to determine how many people in a geographic area or of a certain demographic group have diabetes, to predict dementia and even to track gum disease.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, researchers used data from electronic health records to determine what types of people were getting sick. They investigated COVID-19 patients' race, geography and insurance status. Researchers continue to use this data to track long COVID, a condition that health professionals still don't completely understand.

Honoring patient privacy

Of course, these health

information exchanges are careful about how and with whom they share patient data. The data is tailored to the needs of the study and shared in compliance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, or HIPAA.

For instance, for my most recent preeclampsia study, the health care system sent a dataset that contained limited pieces of personal information, like the baby's birth date, the mom's birth date — since we often need to know how old she was when she gave birth — and their ZIP code so we can see trends in preeclampsia across geographic areas.

The data wasn't allowed out of the health system's virtual private network, so the data remains within our firewall. This ensures that the data remains safe. And all of this must be approved

by our university's institutional review board, a rigorous process that ensures our research can't harm participants.

Improving health care for everyone — including you

All of this research drives innovation and serves as a basis for the programs, protocols and policies that improve health — from you as an individual all the way to the national and even global level.

Your doctor can use the information you provide to recommend services or therapies for you. For instance, if your doctor finds out through check-in questioning that you haven't had enough food in the past month, they can refer you to a nutrition program, sometimes run by the hospital system itself. If you were married at your last

appointment but now list your marital status as "separated," your doctor can check in with you to see if you need any additional mental health or social services.

While it's normal for these personal questions to feel a little uncomfortable, it helps to remember that there is a good reason your doctor is asking them. Your data can help move medical research forward.

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• The joke's on us

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aly kicked the daylight

out of the United States. Mussolini also created a trophy — the "Coppa del Duce" — as an additional prize to be given to the winner.

Sculpted in bronze, the trophy depicted players in front of the fasces — the axe and bundle that was the symbol of ancient Rome, co-opted by the fascists. It was also six times the size of the Jules Rimet, the original World Cup trophy named for FIFA's longest-serving president. That trophy depicted the Greek goddess Victory and was used from 1930 to 1970. The current trophy, in use since 1974, is a somewhat abstract representation of two athletes exulting in victory.

I prefer the look of the old trophy, but alas it was stolen in 1983. All that's ever been found is the stone base.

Now, I understand that Trump is no Mussolini.

But he is Il Duce-like in his awareness of image, and by placing himself center stage at the World Cup, he is reaching a vast global audience where football is played with a white ball and you can't touch it with your hands. Typically, when the word "vast" is used it's mostly hype, but in this case no other description comes close. FIFA is projecting that 6 billion people will watch at least one of the games, up about a billion from the last World Cup.

That is 75% of the world's population.

How many people in the world know who won the Nobel Peace Prize?

If you know it was Maria Corina Machado of Venezuela, pat yourself on the back. You're part of the informed minority. Machado, who was awarded the prize for her peaceful efforts to overthrow Nicolás Maduro's dictatorship, has dedicated the prize to Trump and now supports the use of force for regime change.

Hear that? I'm doing a forehead slap.

The world has become as dangerous as it was in 1934, if not more so. Let's see, there was something else I was going to mention about dictators and sports. Oh yes, it was this: two years after Mussolini muscled his way to the forefront of the World Cup, another leader — Adolf Hitler — used the Olympics in Berlin to show the world

the strength of the Nazi regime. But Jesse Owens taught the Führer a thing or two about the myth of the master race.

Save your cards and letters. I'm not saying Trump is Mussolini or Hitler.

But the tune sounds familiar.

Just about everyone with a screen of any kind — a computer, a smartphone, or communal access to a television — is expected to watch come summer. If they're not plugged in individually, they'll be gathered in schools or pubs, experiencing perhaps the national thrill of victory or the cold embrace of defeat, but at some point they are bound to have seen an image of Trump clutching that damned trophy, and for some the image will stick.

A man of peace.

Never mind the dozens of blown-to-bits occupants of the small boats in the Caribbean and the murder of the two survivors of the first strike, on Sept. 2. Never mind that just days after receiving the dread object, he seized an oil tanker off the Venezuelan coast as part of a massive military buildup that appears ready to topple the Maduro regime.

For my part, I will avoid as much of the World Cup nonsense as possible. If it's on a television I have control of, I'll change the channel. If it pops up on my feed, I'll swipe past. No ads for World Cup merch will sway me. The "peace prize" alone was enough to persuade me not to spend a single dollar on anything related to FIFA or the World Cup. Well, I did buy Wilson's book, but that taught me how politics have always been deeply embedded in the history of soccer.

Meanwhile, I'll watch how plans for the 2028 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles are shaping up. Politico reports that nearly all of the new board members to the Olympic planning committee have MAGA ties.

I hope Haiti wins the Cup.

Max McCoy is an award-winning author and journalist. Through its opinion section, the Kansas Reflector works to amplify the voices of people who are affected by public policies or excluded from public debate.



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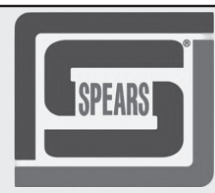
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Classifieds



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Applications may be picked up at the hospital or found on the hospital's website: www.frh1.org

Completed applications should be directed to:
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Applications may be picked up at the hospital or found on the hospital's website: www.frh1.org

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