

STAT 100 - Choosing the Right Graph

Numerical variable: Takes on values that are numbers, which you can measure and “do math” with

- Ex: Salary (\$100k, \$50k, \$70k, \$55k) → Average salary is \$68.75k

Categorical variable: Takes on values that are labels, which you use to group the data

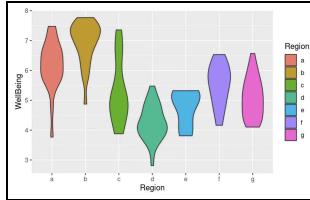
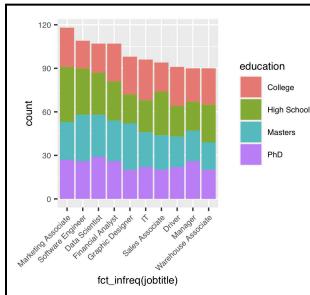
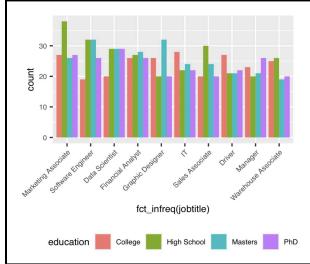
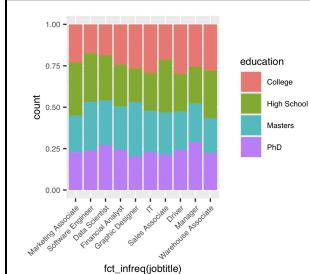
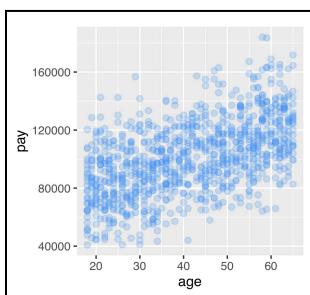
- Ex: Income Level (low, middle, high) → Groupings that you can’t “do math” with

Explanatory variable: Expected cause (“input”)

Response variable: Expected result of explanatory variable (“output”)

- Ex: Measuring the effect of education level (explanatory) on salary (response)

| | Response variable | Graph | Template code | Image |
|-------------|-------------------|----------------------|--|---|
| 1 variable | Numerical | Histogram | <pre>ggplot(data = ---, mapping = aes(x = ---)) + geom_histogram()</pre> | |
| | | Boxplot | <pre>ggplot(data = ---, mapping = aes(y = ---)) + geom_boxplot()</pre> | |
| | Categorical | Barplot | <pre>ggplot(data = ---, mapping = aes(x = ---)) + geom_bar()</pre> | |
| | Response variable | Explanatory variable | Graph | Template code |
| 2 variables | Numerical | Categorical | Side-by-side boxplots | <pre>ggplot(data = ---, mapping = aes(y = ---, x = ---, fill = ---)) + geom_boxplot()</pre> |
| | | | | |

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|-------------|-------------|-----------|---|---|---|
| | | | Side-by-side violin plots | ggplot(data = ---, mapping = aes(y = ---, x = ---, fill = ---)) + geom_violin() |  |
| Categorical | Categorical | | Segmented barplot (stacked) | ggplot(data = ---, mapping = aes(x = ---, fill = ---)) + geom_bar() |  |
| | | | Segmented barplot (side-by-side) | ggplot(data = ---, mapping = aes(x = ---, fill = ---)) + geom_bar(position = "dodge") |  |
| | | | Segmented barplot (relative frequency) | ggplot(data = ---, mapping = aes(x = ---, fill = ---)) + geom_bar(position = "fill") |  |
| | Numerical | Numerical | Scatterplot | ggplot(data = ---, mapping = aes(y = ---, x = ---)) + geom_point() |  |