

Color & Contrast Checklist (Perception-First)

Use luminance steps for magnitude; reserve hue for grouping labels.

Keep categorical hues to ~6; prefer direct labels near marks.

Ensure sufficient contrast in both light and dark modes.

Avoid rainbow scales for ordered data; use monotonic lightness.

Use one highlight color; keep non-focus elements muted.

Design for color-vision deficiencies; don't rely on color alone—use position/shape/annotation.

Make uncertainty visible: bands, intervals, or counts.

Print-safe: ensure screenshots and charts read in grayscale.

Debug moves:

- Blur test (10–20 px) — pattern should still read.
- Legend removal — can the chart stand with direct labels?
- Photocopy test — does it read when printed?