

Exercise 2

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Writing your R-code, you can use the character `#` to insert a comment, so you can describe your commands (and remind yourself what you did weeks or years ago). Example:

```
> x <- 2 + 4 + 1 # + 4 + 2
```

Here, only the expression `x <- 2 + 4 + 1` will be executed and `+ 4 + 2` will be ignored.

If you want to save a plot into a file named, say, `'myPlot.pdf'`, use the following code:

```
> pdf('myPlot.pdf')
```

This command specifies the name and the file format. You can also choose `jpeg()`, `png()`,...

```
> plot(variable1, variable2, col=..., pch=..., ...)
```

Here you are creating your plot with the chosen variables and arguments.

```
> dev.off()
```

This command closes the graphics device. Without it, the file is not created properly.

1 R Project Part I

Here, we will answer some questions for your data project. The question numbers are the same as on the question sheet.

2 Describe the US population with regards to:

- a) demographic characteristics (age, gender, ethnicity...). Recode the age variable into following categories: 20-34, 35-49, 50-64, 65-79, 80 or higher. Add this new variable (a factor!) to your data set.
- b) self-rated health.

3 Lifetime prevalence of cancer in the population

- a) Estimate the lifetime prevalence of cancer. Can you also give an interval estimate?
- b) What are the prevalence estimates in those who were exposed to pollutants at work for a longer time period, and in those who weren't? Is there a significant difference in prevalence between these two subgroups?

4 HDL cholesterol and gender

- a) Look at the distribution of high-density lipoprotein (HDL) cholesterol levels. What shape does it have? Apply an appropriate transformation to normalize HDL and save it as a new variable. (We already did this last week.)
- b) Is there a significant difference between men and women in HDL cholesterol levels (using normalized variable)?