food_wrangling

July 9, 2025

1 Data Cleaning and Wrangling Practice

1.0.1 Objectives:

- Load, clean, and explore real-world datasets using Python and pandas.
- Generate insights through descriptive statistics and visualizations.
- Communicate findings effectively via notebooks and charts.
- Apply data analysis skills to a project using a public dataset.

1.0.2 Public dataset source:

Kaggle Food choices and preferences of college students This dataset includes information on food choices, nutrition, preferences, childhood favorites, and other information from college students. There are 126 responses from students. Data is raw and uncleaned.

```
[48]: # Importing libraries
import pandas as pd
import numpy as np
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import seaborn as sns
from sklearn.feature_selection import mutual_info_regression
```

1.1 Discovery: Understanding the data, its structure, and what it contains

```
[16]: # Establish file path and import data
path = 'food_coded.csv'
data = pd.read_csv(path)

# Look at a snapshot of the data
data.head()
```

[16]:		GPA	Gender	breakfast	calories_chicken	calories_day	calories_scone \
	0	2.4	2	1	430	NaN	315.0
	1	3.654	1	1	610	3.0	420.0
	2	3.3	1	1	720	4.0	420.0
	3	3.2	1	1	430	3.0	420.0
	4	3.5	1	1	720	2.0	420.0
		coffoo			comfort food		ood rongong \

```
1
               2
                       chocolate, chips, ice cream
                                                             Stress, bored, anger
      2
               2
                   frozen yogurt, pizza, fast food
                                                                   stress, sadness
      3
                  Pizza, Mac and cheese, ice cream
                                                                           Boredom
      4
               2
                      Ice cream, chocolate, chips
                                                       Stress, boredom, cravings
         comfort_food_reasons_coded
                                           soup
                                                 sports
                                                          thai_food tortilla_calories
      0
                                            1.0
                                  9.0
                                                     1.0
                                                                   1
                                                                                 1165.0
                                                                   2
      1
                                  1.0
                                                     1.0
                                                                                  725.0
                                            1.0
      2
                                  1.0
                                            1.0
                                                     2.0
                                                                   5
                                                                                 1165.0
      3
                                  2.0
                                            1.0
                                                                   5
                                                     2.0
                                                                                  725.0
      4
                                  1.0
                                            1.0
                                                     1.0
                                                                                  940.0
                                                                 waffle_calories
         turkey_calories
                            type_sports veggies_day
                                                       vitamins
      0
                      345
                             car racing
                                                    5
                                                              1
                                                                              1315
                                                   4
                                                              2
                                                                              900
      1
                      690
                            Basketball
      2
                                                   5
                                                              1
                      500
                                                                              900
                                   none
      3
                      690
                                                    3
                                                              1
                                    NaN
                                                                              1315
      4
                                                              2
                      500
                               Softball
                                                                              760
                             weight
      0
                                187
      1
                                155
      2
         I'm not answering this.
      3
                     Not sure, 240
      4
                                190
      [5 rows x 61 columns]
[50]:
     data.describe()
[50]:
                     GPA
                               Gender
                                         breakfast
                                                     calories_chicken
                                                                        calories_day
                                       125.000000
             120.000000
                          125.000000
                                                           125.000000
                                                                          106.000000
      count
                3.415558
                             1.392000
                                          1.112000
                                                           577.320000
                                                                            3.028302
      mean
      std
                0.390139
                             0.490161
                                          0.316636
                                                           131.214156
                                                                            0.639308
                2.200000
                             1.000000
                                          1.000000
                                                           265.000000
      min
                                                                            2.000000
      25%
                3.200000
                             1.000000
                                          1.000000
                                                           430.000000
                                                                            3.000000
      50%
                3.500000
                             1.000000
                                          1.000000
                                                                            3.000000
                                                           610.000000
      75%
                3.700000
                             2.000000
                                          1.000000
                                                           720.000000
                                                                            3.000000
      max
                4.000000
                             2.000000
                                          2.000000
                                                           720.000000
                                                                            4.000000
                                                                                cook
              calories_scone
                                  coffee
                                           comfort_food_reasons_coded
      count
                  124.000000
                               125.00000
                                                            106.000000
                                                                         122.000000
                                 1.75200
                  505.241935
                                                              2.698113
                                                                           2.786885
      mean
      std
                  230.840506
                                 0.43359
                                                              1.972042
                                                                           1.038351
      min
                  315.000000
                                 1.00000
                                                              1.000000
                                                                           1.000000
      25%
                  420.000000
                                 2.00000
                                                              2.000000
                                                                           2.000000
```

none

we dont have comfort

0

1

```
50%
                420.000000
                               2.00000
                                                            2.000000
                                                                        3.000000
     75%
                420.000000
                               2.00000
                                                            3.000000
                                                                        3.000000
    max
                980.000000
                               2.00000
                                                            9.000000
                                                                        5.000000
            comfort_food_reasons_coded.1
                                               self_perception_weight
                                                                               soup
                               125.000000
                                                            124.000000
                                                                        124.000000
     count
                                 2.688000
                                                              3.120968
                                                                           1.217742
    mean
     std
                                 1.910987
                                                              1.115980
                                                                           0.414385
    min
                                 1.000000
                                                              1.000000
                                                                           1.000000
    25%
                                 2.000000
                                                              2.000000
                                                                           1.000000
    50%
                                 2.000000
                                                              3.000000
                                                                           1.000000
     75%
                                 3.000000
                                                              4.000000
                                                                           1.000000
    max
                                 9.000000
                                                              6.000000
                                                                           2.000000
                                                         turkey_calories
                sports
                          thai_food
                                     tortilla_calories
            123.000000
     count
                         125.000000
                                             124.000000
                                                               125.000000
                                             947.580645
                                                               555.040000
    mean
              1.390244
                           3.336000
     std
              0.489800
                           1.436528
                                             202.090179
                                                               152.370379
    min
              1.000000
                           1.000000
                                             580.000000
                                                               345.000000
     25%
              1.000000
                           2.000000
                                             725.000000
                                                               500.000000
     50%
              1.000000
                           3.000000
                                             940.000000
                                                               500.000000
    75%
                           5.000000
              2.000000
                                            1165.000000
                                                               690.000000
              2.000000
                           5.000000
                                            1165.000000
                                                               850.000000
    max
                                       waffle calories
            veggies_day
                            vitamins
                                                             weight
     count
             125.000000
                          125.000000
                                            125.000000
                                                        120.000000
    mean
               4.008000
                            1.512000
                                           1073.400000
                                                        158.500000
     std
               1.081337
                            0.501867
                                            248.667092
                                                         31.758278
    min
               1.000000
                            1.000000
                                            575.000000
                                                        100.000000
     25%
               3.000000
                            1.000000
                                            900.000000
                                                        135.000000
     50%
               4.000000
                            2.000000
                                            900.000000
                                                         155.000000
     75%
               5.000000
                                           1315.000000
                            2.000000
                                                         180.000000
    max
               5.000000
                            2.000000
                                           1315.000000
                                                         265.000000
     [8 rows x 49 columns]
[9]: # Preview all the columns and their quantity
     print(len(data.columns))
     print(data.columns)
    61
    Index(['GPA', 'Gender', 'breakfast', 'calories_chicken', 'calories_day',
            'calories scone', 'coffee', 'comfort food', 'comfort food reasons',
            'comfort_food_reasons_coded', 'cook', 'comfort_food_reasons_coded.1',
            'cuisine', 'diet_current', 'diet_current_coded', 'drink',
            'eating_changes', 'eating_changes_coded', 'eating_changes_coded1',
            'eating_out', 'employment', 'ethnic_food', 'exercise',
            'father_education', 'father_profession', 'fav_cuisine',
```

```
'fav_cuisine_coded', 'fav_food', 'food_childhood', 'fries', 'fruit_day',
'grade_level', 'greek_food', 'healthy_feeling', 'healthy_meal',
'ideal_diet', 'ideal_diet_coded', 'income', 'indian_food',
'italian_food', 'life_rewarding', 'marital_status',
'meals_dinner_friend', 'mother_education', 'mother_profession',
'nutritional_check', 'on_off_campus', 'parents_cook', 'pay_meal_out',
'persian_food', 'self_perception_weight', 'soup', 'sports', 'thai_food',
'tortilla_calories', 'turkey_calories', 'type_sports', 'veggies_day',
'vitamins', 'waffle_calories', 'weight'],
dtype='object')
```

1.2 Cleaning: Modifying data that is incorrect, incomplete, irrelevant, duplicated, or improperly formatted

```
[17]: # Convert GPA and weight data from object to floats
      data['GPA'] = pd.to_numeric(data['GPA'], errors='coerce')
      # print(data['GPA'])
      data['weight'] = pd.to_numeric(data['weight'], errors='coerce')
      # print(data['weight'])
[18]: # Identify open-ended questions and remove data entries
      text_cols = data.select_dtypes(include=['object', 'string']).columns
      print(text_cols)
      print('Removing ',len(text_cols), ' columns')
      df = data.drop(columns=text_cols)
      print(df.columns)
      print('Now with ',len(df.columns), ' columns')
     Index(['comfort_food', 'comfort_food_reasons', 'diet_current',
            'eating_changes', 'father_profession', 'fav_cuisine', 'food_childhood',
            'healthy_meal', 'ideal_diet', 'meals_dinner_friend',
            'mother_profession', 'type_sports'],
           dtype='object')
     Removing 12 columns
     Index(['GPA', 'Gender', 'breakfast', 'calories chicken', 'calories day',
            'calories_scone', 'coffee', 'comfort_food_reasons_coded', 'cook',
            'comfort_food_reasons_coded.1', 'cuisine', 'diet_current_coded',
            'drink', 'eating_changes_coded', 'eating_changes_coded1', 'eating_out',
            'employment', 'ethnic_food', 'exercise', 'father_education',
            'fav cuisine coded', 'fav food', 'fries', 'fruit_day', 'grade_level',
            'greek_food', 'healthy_feeling', 'ideal_diet_coded', 'income',
            'indian_food', 'italian_food', 'life_rewarding', 'marital_status',
            'mother_education', 'nutritional_check', 'on_off_campus',
            'parents_cook', 'pay_meal_out', 'persian_food',
            'self_perception_weight', 'soup', 'sports', 'thai_food',
            'tortilla_calories', 'turkey_calories', 'veggies_day', 'vitamins',
```

```
'waffle_calories', 'weight'],
dtype='object')
Now with 49 columns
```

[19]: # Check for null values print(df.isna().sum())

5 Gender 0 0 breakfast 0 calories_chicken calories_day 19 calories_scone 1 0 coffee 19 comfort_food_reasons_coded 3 cook comfort_food_reasons_coded.1 0 cuisine 17 0 diet_current_coded 2 drink eating_changes_coded 0 eating_changes_coded1 0 eating_out 0 employment 9 ethnic food 0 13 exercise father_education 1 0 fav_cuisine_coded 2 fav_food fries 0 fruit_day 0 0 grade_level greek_food 0 0 healthy_feeling ideal_diet_coded 0 income 1 indian_food 0 italian_food 0 life_rewarding 1 marital_status 1 mother_education 3 0 nutritional_check on_off_campus 1 0 parents_cook 0 pay_meal_out persian_food 1 self_perception_weight 1 soup 1

```
0
     thai_food
     tortilla_calories
                                       1
     turkey_calories
                                       0
     veggies day
                                       0
     vitamins
                                       0
     waffle calories
                                       0
     weight
     dtype: int64
[22]: # Decisions based on data visualization performed down below
      # GPA and weight replace with either median because data are skewed and there
      ⇔are several outliers
      df['GPA'] = df['GPA'].fillna(df['GPA'].median())
      df['weight'] = df['weight'].fillna(df['weight'].median())
      # Self-perception of weight and Cook replace with most common class (mode) for
       \hookrightarrow categorical
      df['self_perception_weight'] = df['self_perception_weight'].

¬fillna(df['self_perception_weight'].mode()[0])
      df['cook'] = df['cook'].fillna(df['cook'].mode()[0])
      # Remove marital status, very heavily skewed and not useful for college student
       \hookrightarrowpopulation
      # Remove more columns with too many missing values
      remove_NAcolumns = ['marital_status','exercise','cuisine',_
       df = df.drop(columns=remove_NAcolumns)
 []: # Significantly cut down on the size of the dataset
      # Keep only columns of interest
      columns_of_interest =
      →['GPA', 'Gender', 'grade_level', 'parents_cook', 'weight', 'cook', 'eating_out', 'ethnic_food', 'fr
      df = df[columns_of_interest]
      # Verify no null values left
      print(df.isna().sum())
     GPA
                                0
     Gender
                                0
                                0
     grade_level
     parents_cook
                               0
     weight
                               0
     cook
                               0
     eating_out
     ethnic_food
                               0
     fruit_day
                               0
     veggies_day
```

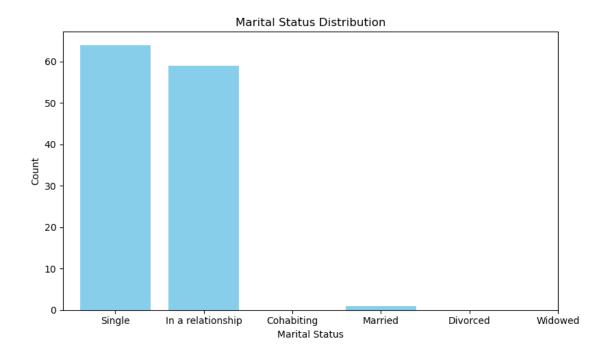
2

sports

```
healthy_feeling
                                0
     self_perception_weight
                                0
     vitamins
                                0
     fav_cuisine_coded
                                0
     dtype: int64
[26]: # Check to see if there are any duplicate rows
      df.duplicated().sum()
[26]: 0
```

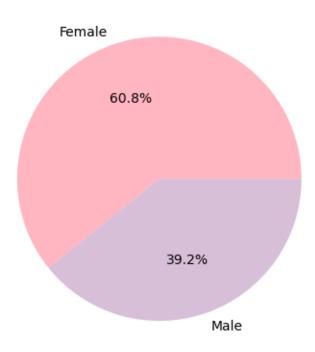
1.3 Exploratory data analysis and Visualization: descriptive statistics, correlations, basic visualizations

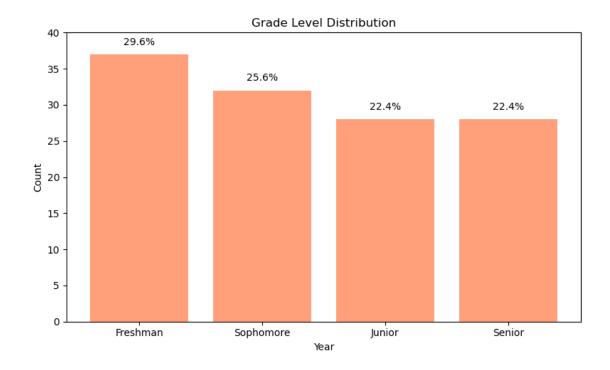
```
[28]: # Display a few averages
      ave_GPA = np.mean(df['GPA'])
      ave_weight = np.mean(df['weight'])
      print('Average GPA is:', ave_GPA)
      print('Average weight is', ave_weight,'lbs')
     Average GPA is: 3.418936
     Average weight is 158.36 lbs
[30]: # Visualize marital status
      # Count occurrences
      marital_counts = data['marital_status'].value_counts()
      labels = ['Single', 'In a_
       →relationship','Cohabiting','Married','Divorced','Widowed']
      # Plot bar chart
      plt.figure(figsize=(8, 5))
      plt.bar(marital_counts.index, marital_counts.values, color='skyblue')
      plt.title('Marital Status Distribution')
      plt.xlabel('Marital Status')
      plt.ylabel('Count')
      plt.tight_layout()
      plt.xticks(ticks=range(1, 7), labels=labels)
      plt.show()
```



```
[32]: # Visualize Gender
      # Count occurrences
      gender_counts = data['Gender'].value_counts()
      # The index is the unique categories
      # The values are the number of occurrences
      # Plot pie chart
      fig, ax = plt.subplots()
      ax.pie(gender_counts.values, labels=['Female','Male'], autopct='%1.1f%%', __
       ⇔colors=['lightpink','thistle'])
      ax.set_title('Gender Distribution')
      plt.show()
      # Count occurrences
      grade_counts = data['grade_level'].value_counts()
      # The index is the unique categories
      # The values are the number of occurrences
      labels = ['Freshman', 'Sophomore', 'Junior', 'Senior']
      # Plot bar chart
      plt.figure(figsize=(8,5))
      bars = plt.bar(grade_counts.index, grade_counts.values, color='lightsalmon')
      total = grade_counts.values.sum()
```

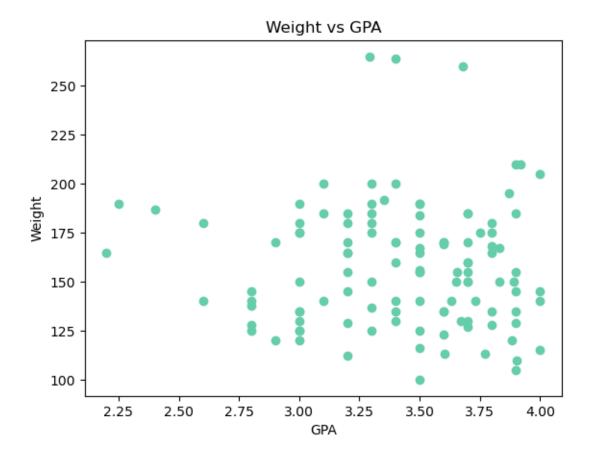
Gender Distribution

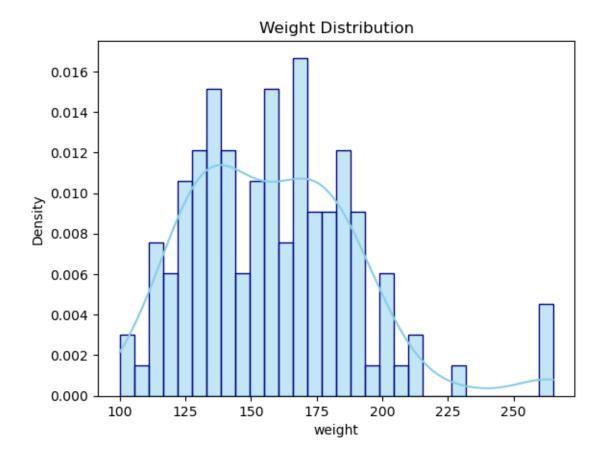


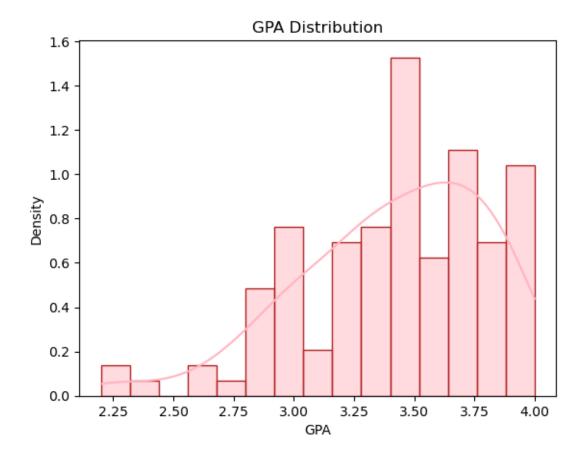


```
[33]: # VIsualize GPA

x = data['GPA']
y = data['weight']
plt.scatter(x, y, color = 'mediumaquamarine')
plt.xlabel('GPA')
plt.ylabel('Weight')
plt.title('Weight vs GPA')
plt.show()
```

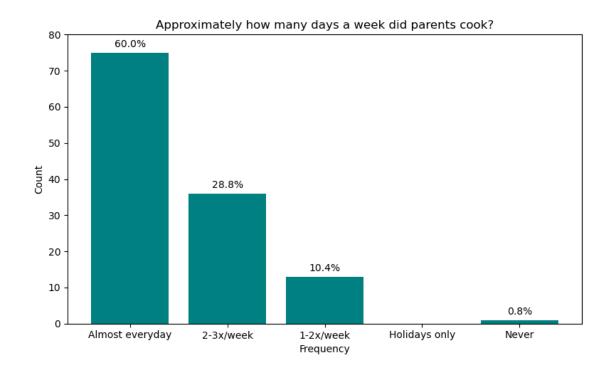


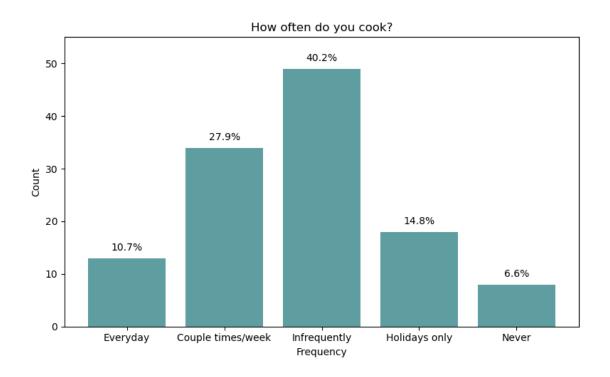


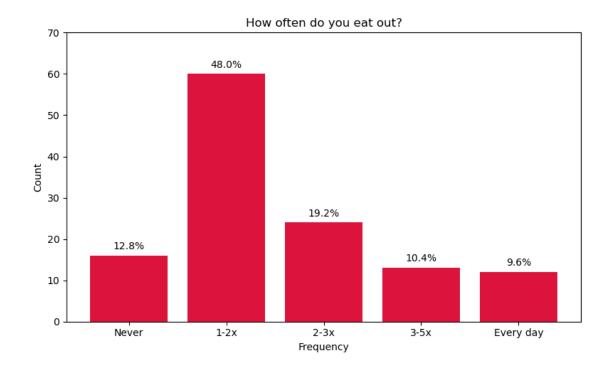


```
[37]: # Visualizing cooking variables
      parents_counts = data['parents_cook'].value_counts()
      labels = ['Almost everyday','2-3x/week','1-2x/week','Holidays only','Never']
      plt.figure(figsize=(8,5))
      bars1= plt.bar(parents_counts.index, parents_counts.values, color='teal')
      total = parents counts.values.sum()
      for bar in bars1:
          height = bar.get_height()
          percentage = 100 * height / total
          plt.text(bar.get_x() + bar.get_width()/2, height + 1, f'{percentage:.1f}%',
                   ha='center', va='bottom')
      plt.title('Approximately how many days a week did parents cook?')
      plt.xlabel('Frequency')
      plt.ylabel('Count')
      plt.ylim(0,80)
      plt.tight_layout()
      plt.xticks(ticks=range(1, 6), labels=labels)
      plt.show()
```

```
cook_counts = data['cook'].value_counts()
labels = ['Everyday','Couple times/week','Infrequently','Holidays only','Never']
plt.figure(figsize=(8,5))
bars2 = plt.bar(cook_counts.index, cook_counts.values, color='cadetblue')
total = cook_counts.values.sum()
for bar in bars2:
   height = bar.get_height()
   percentage = 100 * height / total
   plt.text(bar.get_x() + bar.get_width()/2, height + 1, f'{percentage:.1f}%',
             ha='center', va='bottom')
plt.title('How often do you cook?')
plt.xlabel('Frequency')
plt.ylabel('Count')
plt.tight_layout()
plt.ylim(0,55)
plt.xticks(ticks=range(1, 6), labels=labels)
plt.show()
eatingout_counts = data['eating_out'].value_counts()
labels = ['Never','1-2x','2-3x','3-5x','Every day']
plt.figure(figsize=(8,5))
bars = plt.bar(eatingout_counts.index, eatingout_counts.values, color='crimson')
# Add percentage labels
total = eatingout counts.values.sum()
for bar in bars:
   height = bar.get_height()
   percentage = 100 * height / total
   plt.text(bar.get_x() + bar.get_width()/2, height + 1, f'{percentage:.1f}%',
             ha='center', va='bottom')
# plt.bar(eatingout_counts.index, eatingout_counts.values, color='crimson')
plt.title('How often do you eat out?')
plt.xlabel('Frequency')
plt.ylabel('Count')
plt.ylim(0,70)
plt.tight_layout()
plt.xticks(ticks=range(1, 6), labels=labels)
plt.show()
```







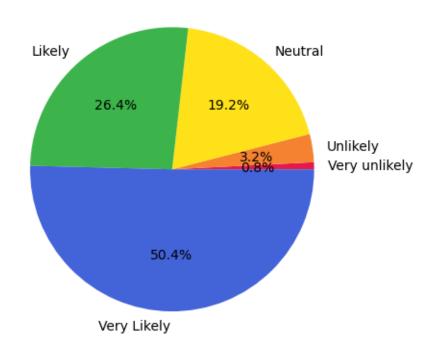
```
[38]: # Visualize fruit consumption
      labels=['Very unlikely','Unlikely','Neutral','Likely','Very Likely']
      fruit_counts = data['fruit_day'].value_counts().sort_index()
      print(fruit_counts)
      colors = ['#e6194b', # red
                '#f58231', # orange
                '#ffe119', # yellow
                '#3cb44b', # green
                '#4363d8'] # blue
      fig, ax = plt.subplots()
      ax.pie(fruit counts.values, labels=labels, autopct='%1.1f%%', colors=colors)
      ax.set_title("How likely are you to eat fruit in a day?")
      plt.show()
      plt.figure(figsize=(8,5))
      plt.bar(fruit_counts.index, fruit_counts.values, color='powderblue')
      plt.title('How likely are you to eat fruit in a day?')
      plt.xlabel('Frequency')
      plt.ylabel('Count')
      plt.tight_layout()
      plt.xticks(ticks=range(1, 6), labels=labels)
      plt.show()
```

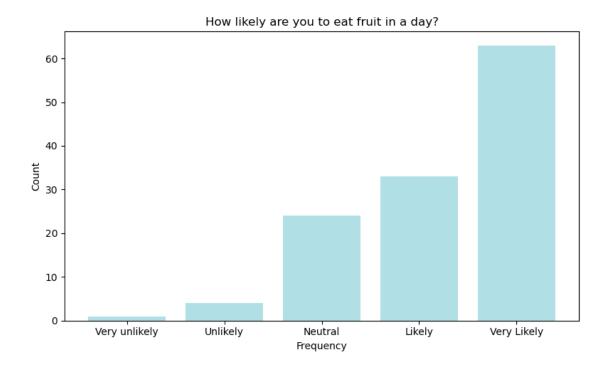
fruit_day

1 1 2 4 3 24 4 33 5 63

Name: count, dtype: int64

How likely are you to eat fruit in a day?





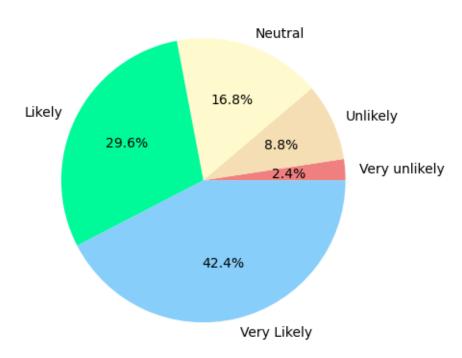
```
[39]: # Visualize vegetable consumption
      labels=['Very unlikely','Unlikely','Neutral','Likely','Very Likely']
      veggies_counts = data['veggies_day'].value_counts().sort_index()
      print(fruit_counts)
      colors = ['lightcoral', # red
                'wheat', # orange
                'lemonchiffon', # yellow
                'mediumspringgreen', # green
                'lightskyblue'] # blue
      fig, ax = plt.subplots()
      ax.pie(veggies counts.values, labels=labels, autopct='%1.1f%%', colors=colors)
      ax.set_title("How likely are you to eat vegetables in a day?")
      plt.show()
      plt.figure(figsize=(8,5))
      plt.bar(veggies_counts.index, veggies_counts.values, color='lightpink')
      plt.title('How likely are you to eat vegetables in a day?')
      plt.xlabel('Frequency')
      plt.ylabel('Count')
      plt.tight_layout()
      plt.xticks(ticks=range(1, 6), labels=labels)
      plt.show()
```

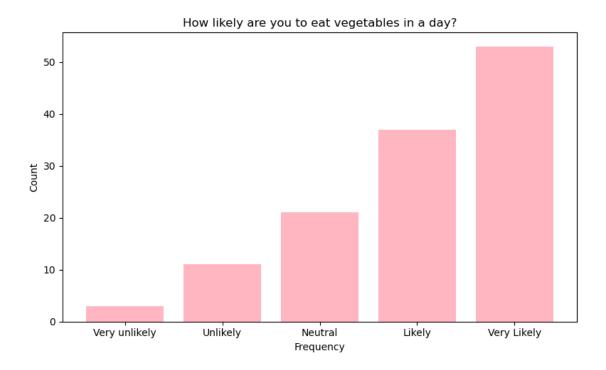
fruit_day

1 1 2 4 3 24 4 33 5 63

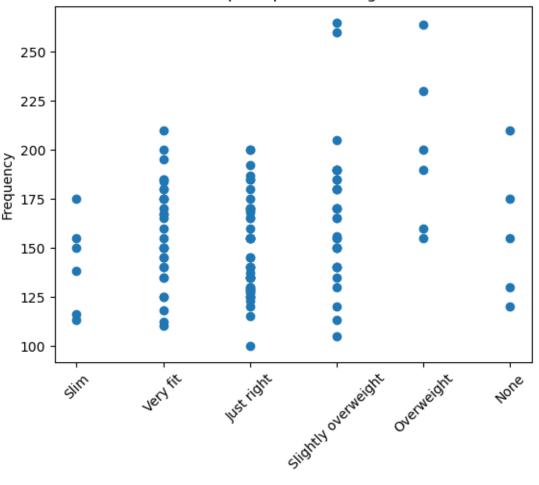
Name: count, dtype: int64

How likely are you to eat vegetables in a day?

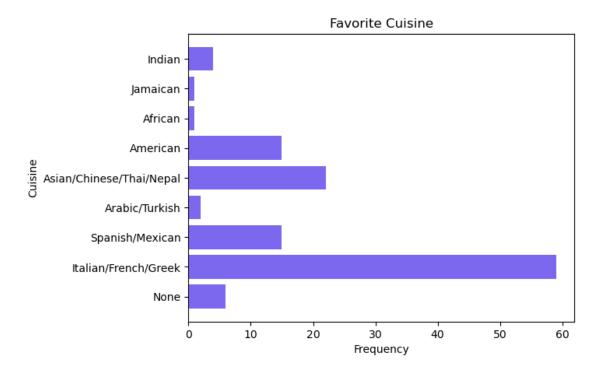




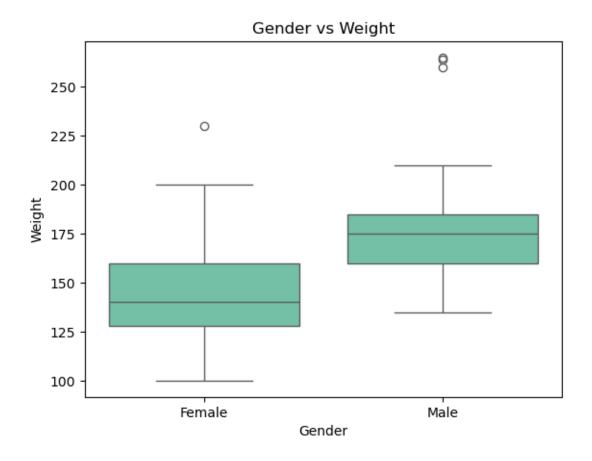




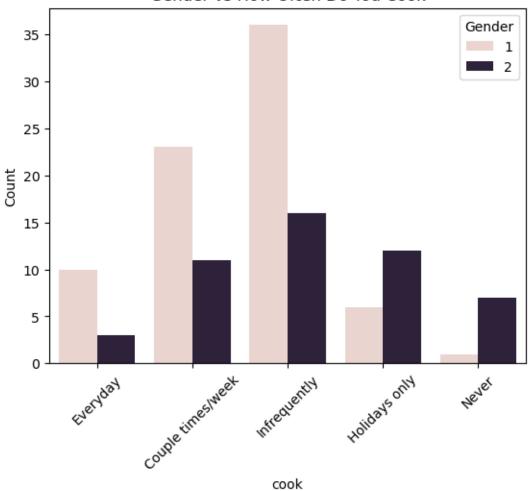
```
vitamins
1 61
2 64
Name: count, dtype: int64
```



```
[44]: # Visualize gender and weight
sns.boxplot(x=df['Gender'], y=df['weight'], color='mediumaquamarine')
plt.xlabel('Gender')
plt.ylabel('Weight')
plt.title('Gender vs Weight')
plt.xticks(ticks=[0, 1], labels=['Female','Male'])
plt.show()
```

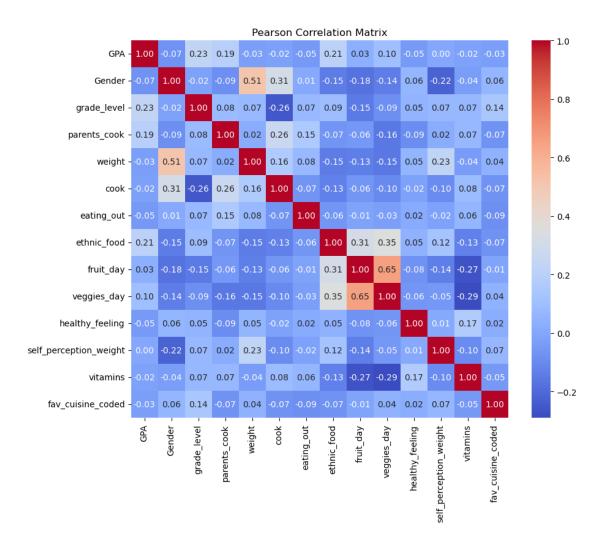


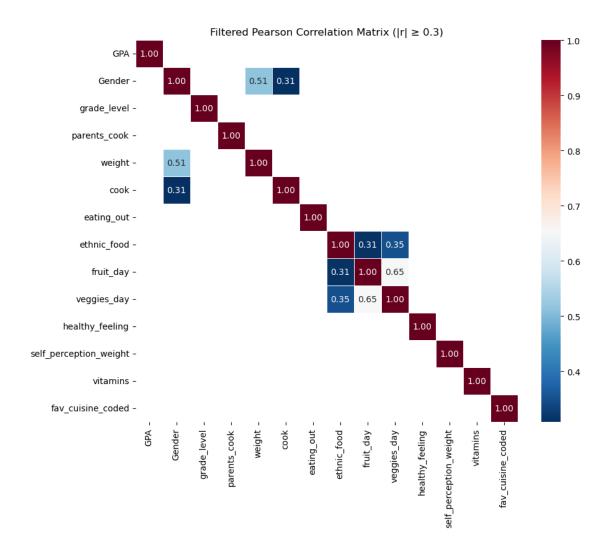
Gender vs How Often Do You Cook



```
[46]: #Pearson correlation
    corr_matrix = df.corr(method='pearson')

plt.figure(figsize=(10, 8))
    sns.heatmap(corr_matrix, annot=True, cmap='coolwarm', fmt=".2f", square=True)
    plt.title("Pearson Correlation Matrix")
    plt.show()
```





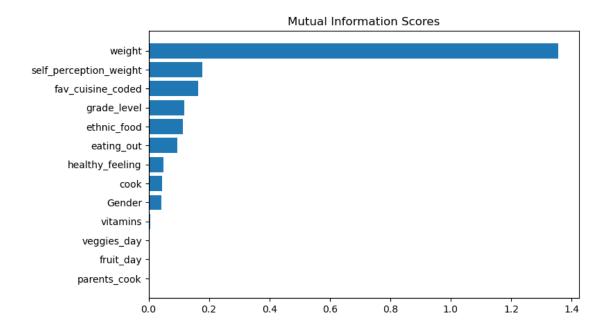
```
return mi_scores

mi_scores = make_mi_scores(X, y, discrete_features)
print(mi_scores)

def plot_mi_scores(scores):
    scores = scores.sort_values(ascending=True)
    width = np.arange(len(scores))
    ticks = list(scores.index)
    plt.barh(width, scores)
    plt.yticks(width, ticks)
    plt.title("Mutual Information Scores")

plt.figure(dpi=100, figsize=(8, 5))
plot_mi_scores(mi_scores)
```

weight 1.356273 self_perception_weight 0.176837 fav_cuisine_coded 0.163722 grade_level 0.118304 ethnic_food 0.112594 eating_out 0.095915 healthy_feeling 0.048478 cook 0.043687 Gender 0.041797 0.006173 vitamins parents_cook 0.000000 fruit_day 0.000000 0.000000 veggies_day Name: MI Scores, dtype: float64



Interpretation: Mutual Information quantifies how much information one variable gives about another.

A higher MI score corresponds to a stronger non-linear and linear dependency with the target. According to the plot above showing how much each feature contributes to predicting **GPA** using mutual information.

Most Informative Features:

* weight (MI 1.71): most informative variable for predicting the target * self_perception_weight (MI 0.32): moderately informative, reflects how someone's perception of their body relates to the target. healthy_feeling (MI 0.13): provides some predictive signal, although weaker.

Less Informative Features:

* veggies_day, cook, fruit_day, ethnic_food: have low MI values (< 0.1), suggesting a weak relationship with the target.

Non-informative Features: * Gender, grade_level, parents_cook, eating_out, vitamins (MI = 0): these variables do not contribute any useful information about the target

1.4 Summarized notes, insights, and interpretation

- Most common favorite cuisine is Italian/French/Greek
- Gender and cooking were highly correlated (r=0.31), as was gender and weight (as expected) (r=0.51).
- Ethnic food and veggies day (r=0.35) and fruit day (r=0.31) are highly correlated
- Fruit day and veggies day are highly correlated (r=0.65)
- The distribution of population is 60.8% female, 39.2% male
- Weight distribution is skewed to the right
- GPA distribution is skewed to the left

- Grade level distribution is somewhat evenly distributed (29.6% freshman, 25.6% sophomores, 22.4% juniors, and 22.4% seniors)
- 60% of students reported that their parents cooked almost everyday of the week (parents_cook)
- 10% of students reported that they cook every day (cook)
- 42% of students reported that they cook infrequently
- 48% of students reported that they eat out 1-2 times a week (eating_out)
- 10% of students reported that they eat out every day