Lab Module 3: Bar Charts with Sample Solutions

PHW251B: Data Visualization for Public Health

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Introduction

Welcome to Week 3!

In this module, we will explore how to utilize R and the ggplot2 package to create publication-ready bar charts. Bar charts are useful in visualizing summary of data by categories.

After this module, students should be able to:

- Create basic graphs using ggplot
- Use advanced ggplot aesthetics to customize graphs
- $\bullet\,$ Apply concepts of effective graphical design to produce professional graphs

Helpful Resources:

- ggplot Cheatsheet link
- R Brewer Palettes link
- HEX Color Palette Generator link
- ggthemes List link

The Data

For this module, we will use data from a case-control study of esophageal cancer in Ille-et-Vilaine, France using a built-in dataset in R.

There are 5 variables:

• agegp: Age group

alcgp: Alcohol consumption in grams/daytobgp: Tobacco consumption in grams/day

ncases: Number of casesncontrols: Number of controls

```
# Load data
# NOTE: How is loading this built-in data different from loading other datasets?
data(esoph)

# Let's view the first couple of lines of the data
# NOTE: What do you notice about the types of variables?
head(esoph)
```

##		agegp	alcgp	tobgp	${\tt ncases}$	ncontrols
##	1	25-34	0-39g/day	0-9g/day	0	40
##	2	25-34	0-39g/day	10-19	0	10
##	3	25-34	0-39g/day	20-29	0	6
##	4	25-34	0-39g/day	30+	0	5
##	5	25-34	40-79	0-9g/day	0	27
##	6	25-34	40-79	10-19	0	7

Data Pre-processing

Based on the data, I am curious to see which age group has the most cases of esophageal cancer. So, to find that out, we need to first clean and subset our data.

```
# The 'agg_agegp' data frame will contain summarized information about esophageal cancer cases by age g
agg_agegp <- esoph %>%
    # Group the data by the 'agegp' variable
group_by(agegp) %>%
    # Summarize the grouped data by calculating the total number of cases (ncases) for each age group
summarize(totalcases = sum(ncases))
# Display or return the 'agg_agegp' data frame, which now contains the summarized information
agg_agegp
## # A tibble: 6 x 2
```

```
agegp totalcases
                 <dbl>
##
     <ord>
## 1 25-34
                     1
## 2 35-44
                     9
## 3 45-54
                    46
                    76
## 4 55-64
## 5 65-74
                    55
## 6 75+
                    13
```

We have the total number of cases by age group, but it may be helpful to also get a percentage of the total cases between age groups.

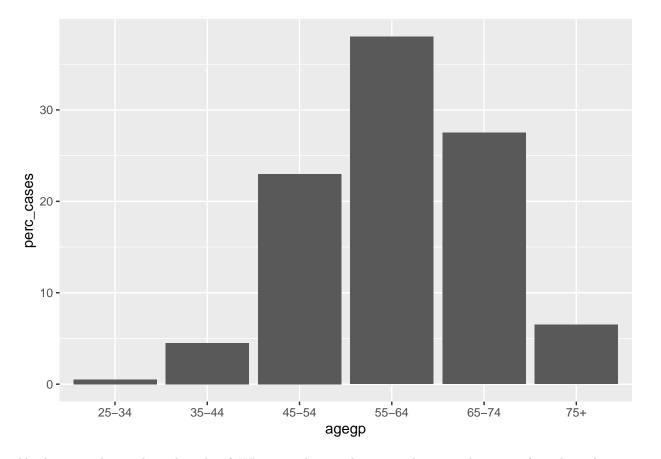
```
# Add a new column 'perc_cases' to the data frame
    # Calculate the percentage of total cases for each age group
    # The calculation is done by dividing 'totalcases' by the sum of all 'totalcases' values, and then mu
agg_agegp <- agg_agegp %>%
    mutate(perc_cases = 100*totalcases/sum(totalcases))
agg_agegp
```

```
## # A tibble: 6 x 3
##
     agegp totalcases perc_cases
                 <dbl>
                             <dbl>
     <ord>
## 1 25-34
                     1
                              0.5
## 2 35-44
                     9
                              4.5
## 3 45-54
                    46
                              23
## 4 55-64
                    76
                              38
                              27.5
## 5 65-74
                    55
## 6 75+
                    13
                              6.5
```

To get a better understanding of this trend, let's visualize this data using a barchart.

Part 1: Bar Chart Basic Anatomy

1.1: Setting up the initial ggplots layer

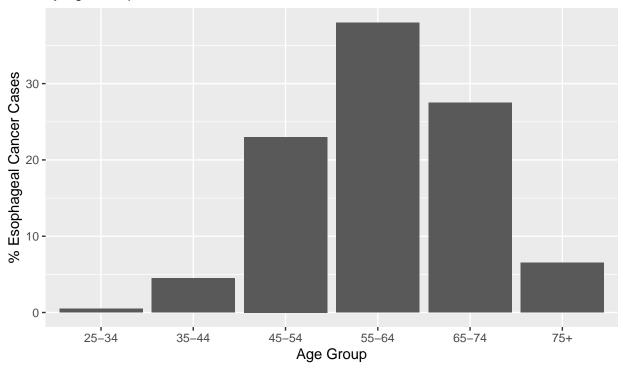


Alright, so we have a basic bar chart! What correlations do you see between the cases of esophageal cancer and age group? We will now move into various aspects of the graph you may want to modify to make it more presentable to an audience.

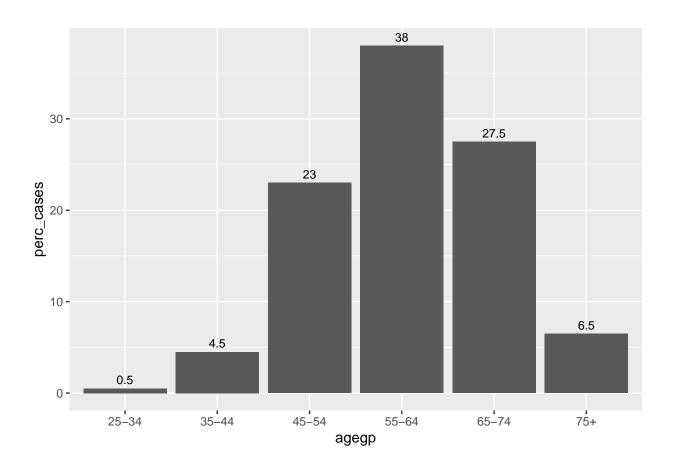
1.2: Titles, captions, axes labels, fonts

```
# Add custom labels to the 'barchart'
barchart +
  labs(title = "Percentage of Cases of Esophageal Cancer", # Title
       subtitle = "by Age Group", # Subtitle
       x = "Age Group", # X-axis label
       y = "% Esophageal Cancer Cases", # Y-axis label
       caption = "Source: Cases of Esophageal Cancer from 'esoph' dataset") # Caption
```

Percentage of Cases of Esophageal Cancer by Age Group

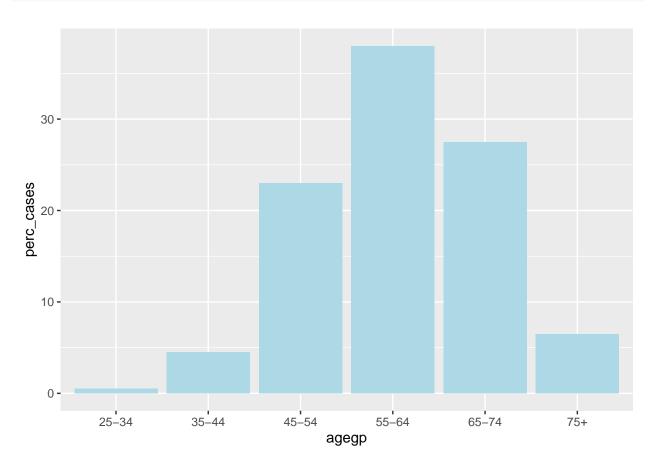


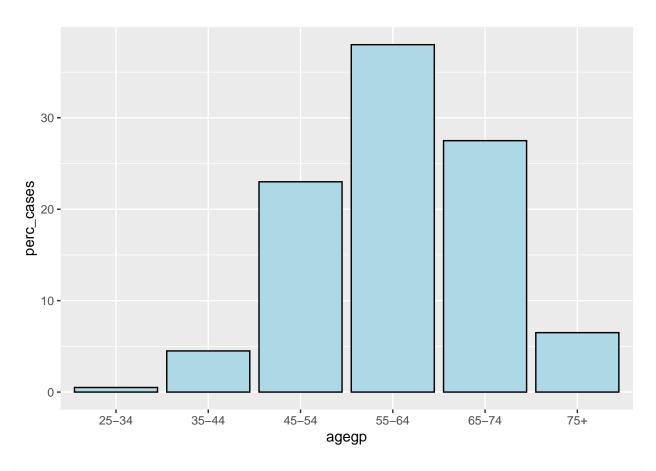
Source: Cases of Esophageal Cancer from 'esoph' dataset



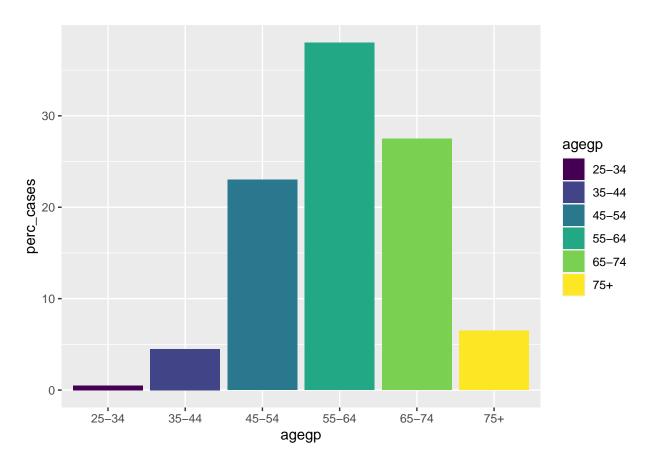
Part 2: Color

2.1: Adding color

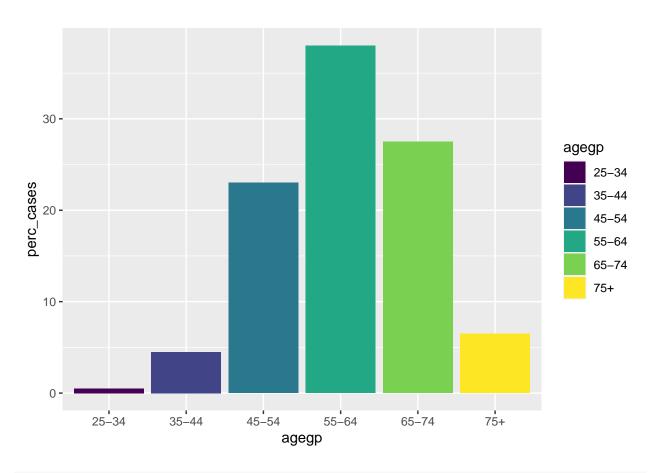




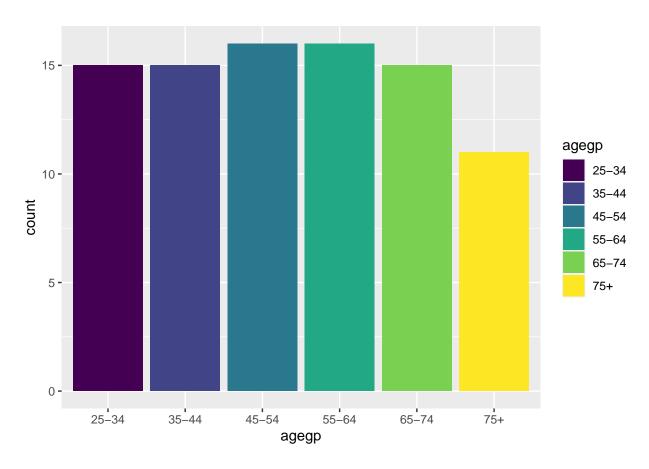
```
# Color by Group (More useful for stacked barcharts which are covered later in this module)
# Use default colors:
barchart2 <- ggplot(agg_agegp, aes(x=agegp, y=perc_cases, fill = agegp)) +
    geom_bar(stat="identity")
barchart2</pre>
```

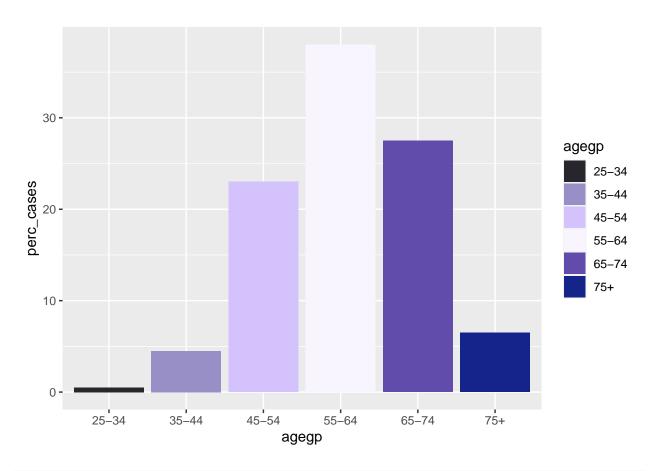


ggplot(agg_agegp, aes(x=agegp, y=perc_cases, fill = agegp)) +
 geom_col()

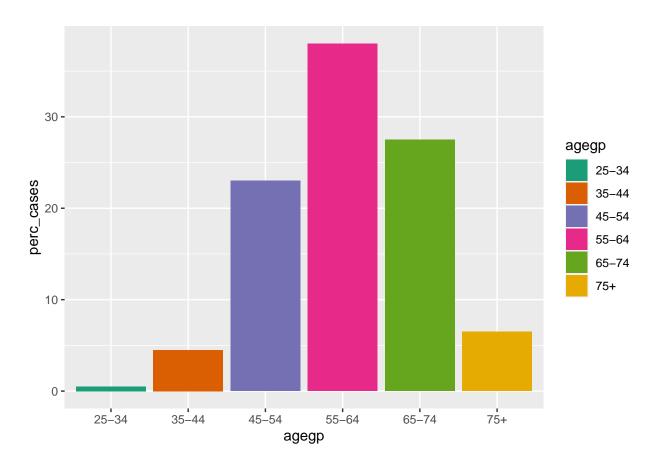


```
# Share later
barchart_demo <- ggplot(esoph, aes(x=agegp, fill = agegp)) +
  geom_bar()
barchart_demo</pre>
```

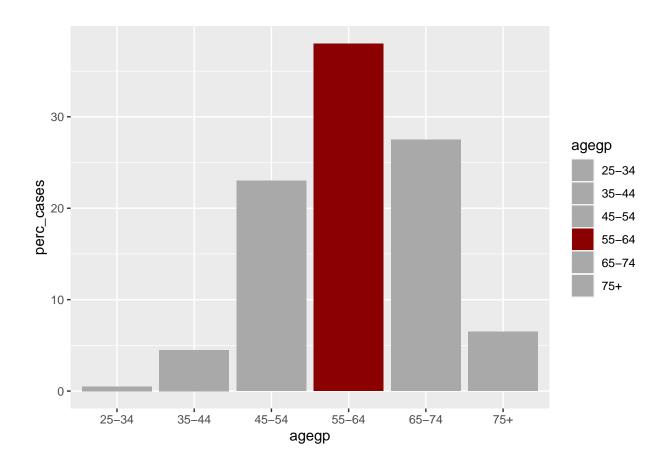




(2) Color Palettes (i.e. Brewer's)
barchart2 + scale_fill_brewer(palette="Dark2")

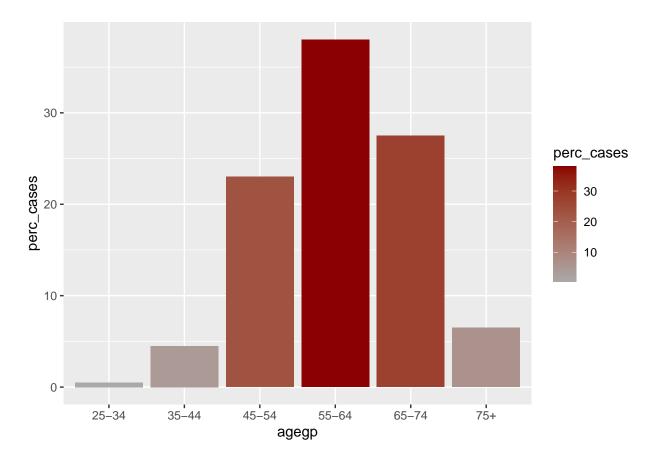


A useful use case is to emphasize one of the groups
barchart2 + scale_fill_manual(values=c("darkgrey", "darkgrey", "darkgrey", "darkgrey"))

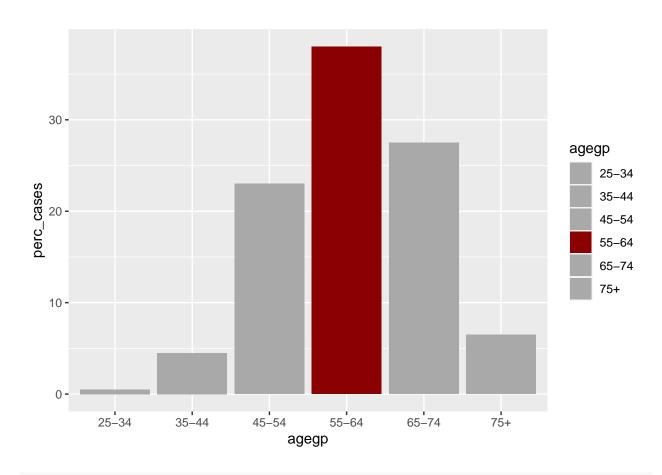


2.2: Color Use Cases

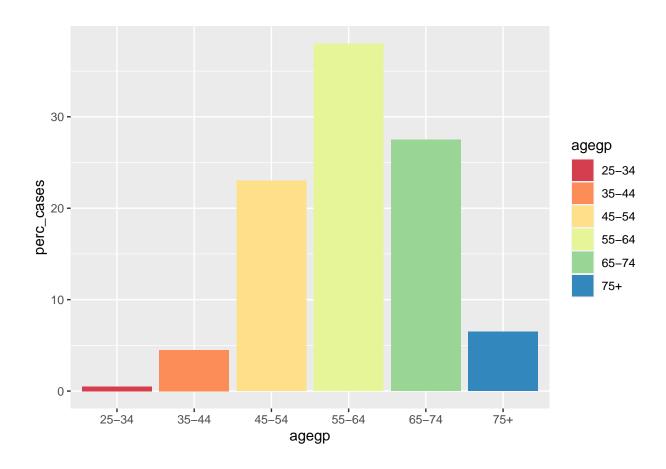
2.2.1: Color to depict quantity (When you want the emphasis to be on a continuous value)



```
# Color to highlight a specific group (When you want to emphasize one of the groups)
barchart2 +
    scale_fill_manual(values=c("darkgrey", "darkgrey", "darkgrey", "darkgrey", "darkgrey", "darkgrey"))
```

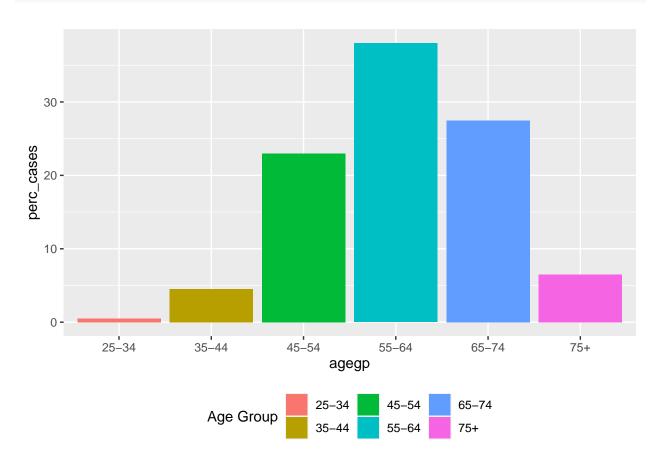


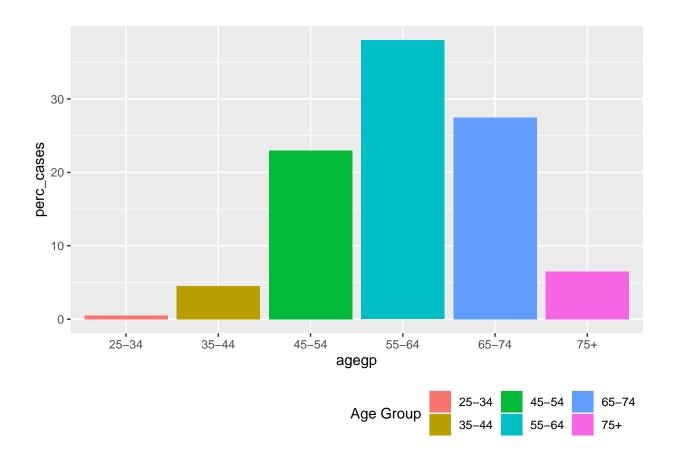
Color to distinguish between groups (Will become more useful in Stacked & Dodged bar plots!!)
barchart2 +
 scale_fill_brewer(palette="Spectral") # Use 'qualitative' or 'diverging' palettes for categorical dat



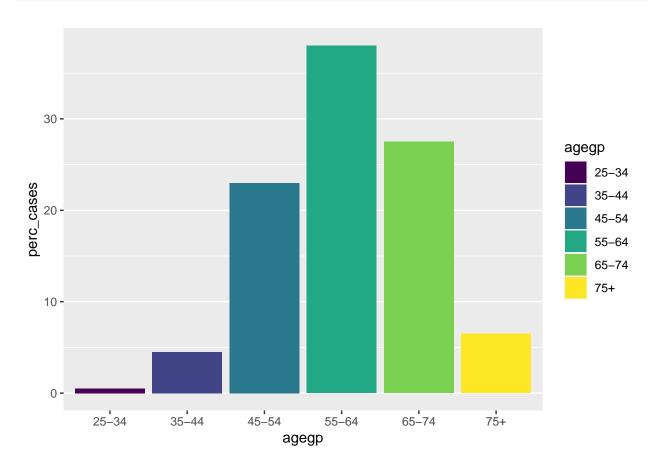
2.3: Legend

```
# To modify the Legend:
barchart2 +
   scale_fill_brewer(palette="Accent") +
   scale_fill_discrete(name = "Age Group") + # Change name of Legend
   theme(legend.position="bottom") # Change position of legend (left, right, top, bottom)
```

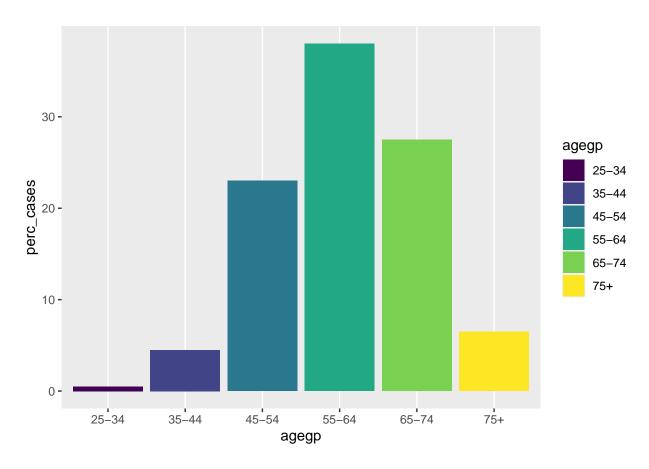




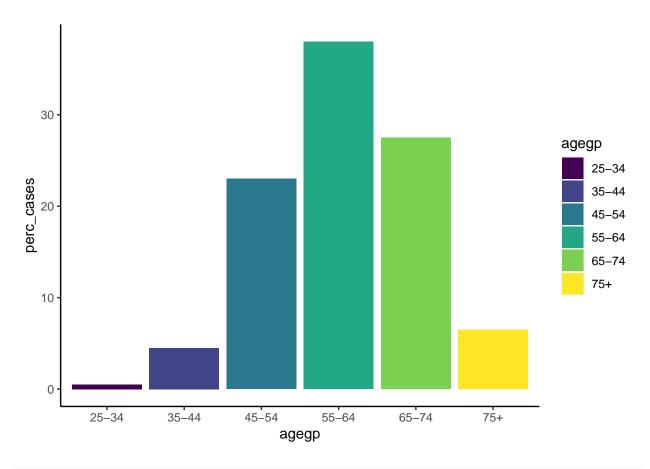
2.4: Gridlines/background



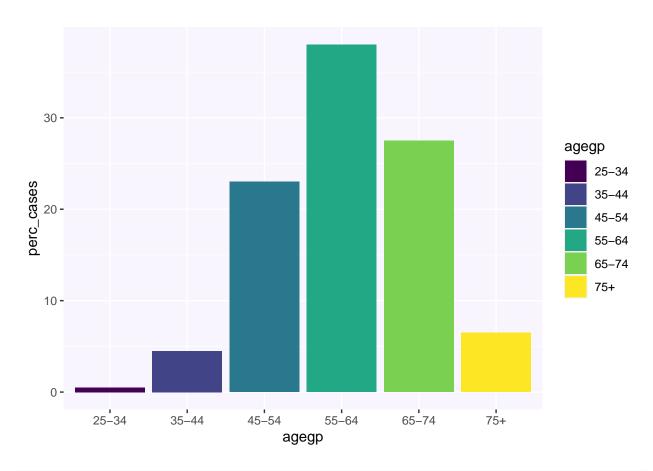
```
# Remove Horizontal Lines
barchart2 +
    theme(panel.grid.major.y = element_blank(),
        panel.grid.minor.y = element_blank())
```



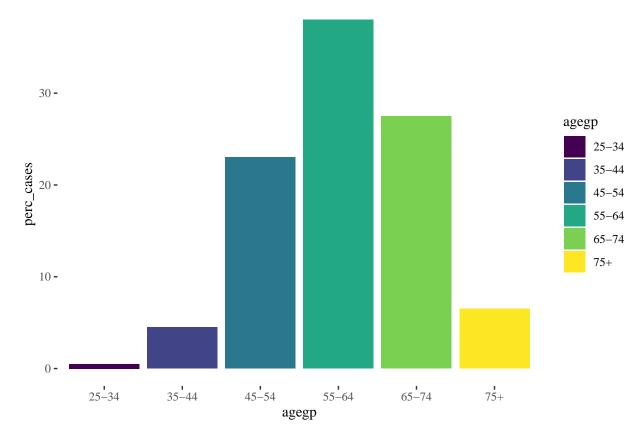
```
# Remove both the lines and background
barchart2 +
    theme(panel.grid.major = element_blank(),
        panel.grid.minor = element_blank(),
        panel.background = element_blank(),
        axis.line = element_line(colour = "black"))
```



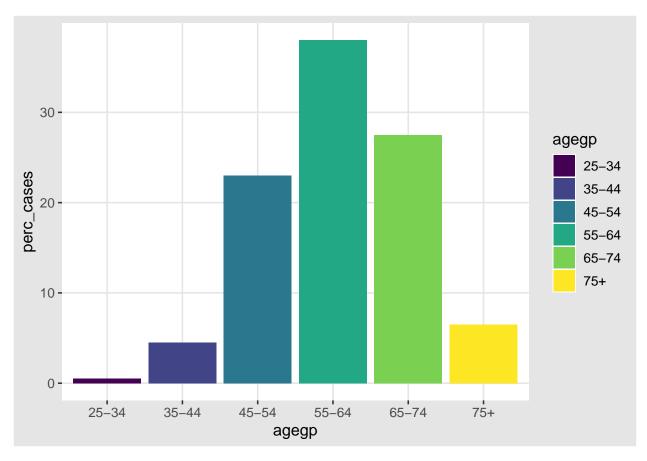
- ## Warning: The 'size' argument of 'element_rect()' is deprecated as of ggplot2 3.4.0.
- ## i Please use the 'linewidth' argument instead.
- ## This warning is displayed once every 8 hours.
- ## Call 'lifecycle::last_lifecycle_warnings()' to see where this warning was
- ## generated.



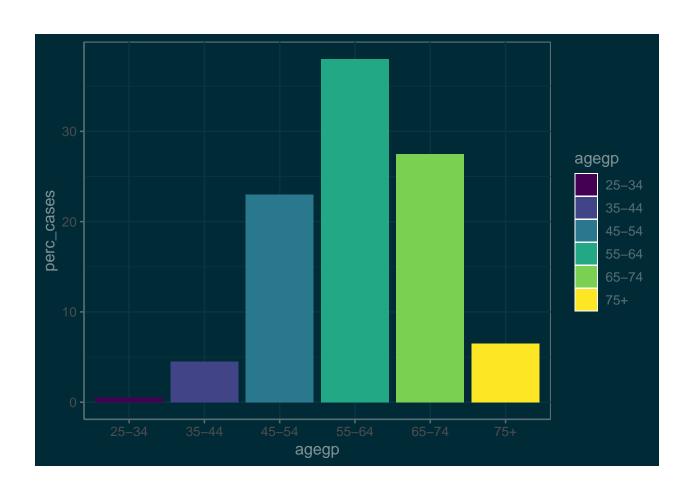
Use ggthemes to add/remove grid lines, change color of background, and change plot themes
Example 1: Minimalist Theme
barchart2 +
 theme_tufte()



Example 2: Inverse Gray Theme
barchart2 +
theme_igray()



Example 3: Dark Theme
barchart2 +
 theme_solarized(light = FALSE)



Part 3: Types of bar charts

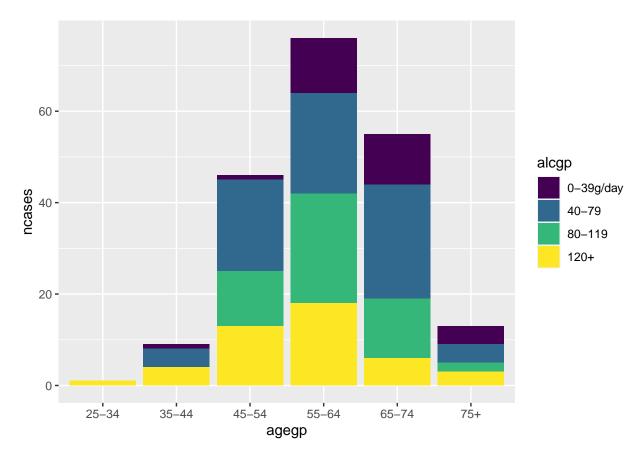
Alright, so we have explored how to modify regular bar charts to make them more professional and presentable.

In this part of the module, we will dive into creating more complex bar charts such as grouped and stacked bar charts.

3.1: Stacked bar chart

Earlier, we compared the number and percent of cases of esophageal cancer by age group and noticed that some age groups tended to have a higher percentage of cases than others. To explore this relationship more, let's look at how the number of cases are broken down by each age group's alcohol consumption.

```
stacked_bc <- ggplot(esoph, aes(x = agegp, y = ncases, fill = alcgp)) +
    geom_bar(stat = "identity")
stacked_bc</pre>
```

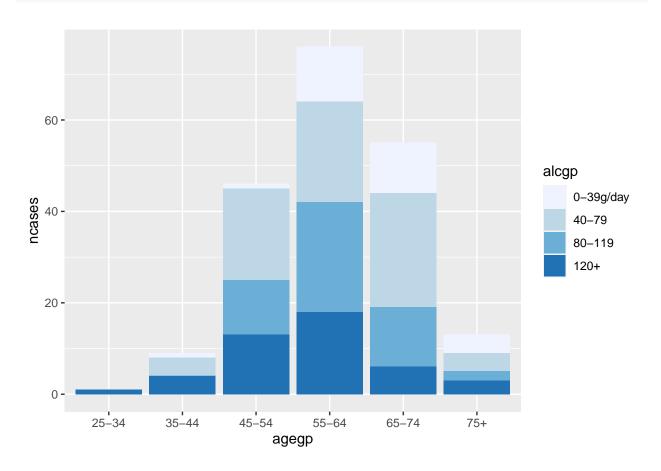


What do you notice about the distribution of alcohol consumption across the age groups?

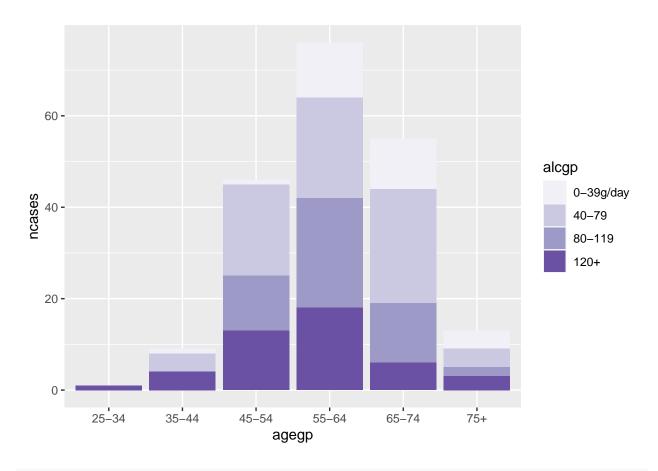
Currently, our stacked bar chart is using the default colors which may or may not look great or fit with our theme.

3.1.1: Color

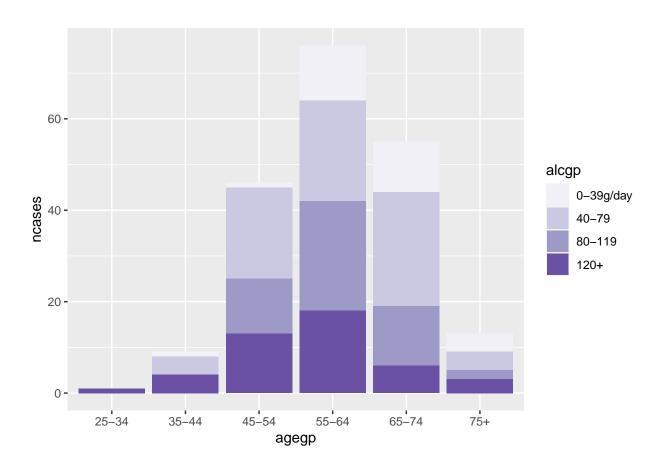
Color Palettes stacked_bc + scale_fill_brewer() #Default Brewer color palette



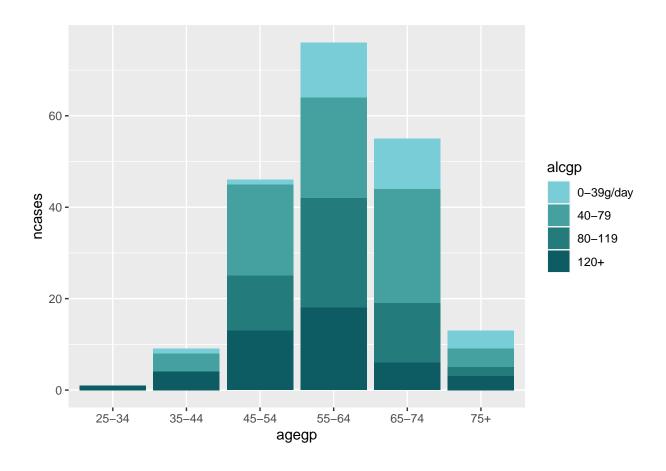
Can specify the palette by palette name or number
stacked_bc + scale_fill_brewer(palette = 12) #OR



stacked_bc + scale_fill_brewer(palette = "Purples")

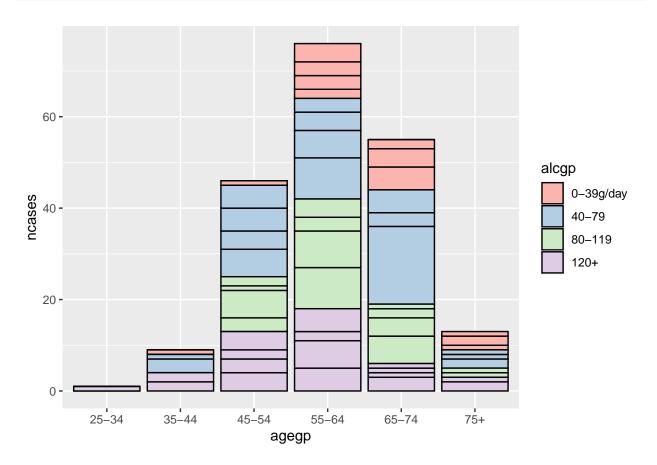


Manually Choose Colors for what you are stratifying by (i.e. alcgp)
stacked_bc + scale_fill_manual(values=c("#78CDD7", "#44A1A0", "#247B7B", "#0D5C63"))



3.1.2: Border

```
# Add Border and Color
ggplot(esoph, aes(x = agegp, y = ncases, fill = alcgp)) +
  geom_bar(stat = "identity", color = "black") + #Specify Border by "color ="
  scale_fill_brewer(palette = "Pastel1")
```



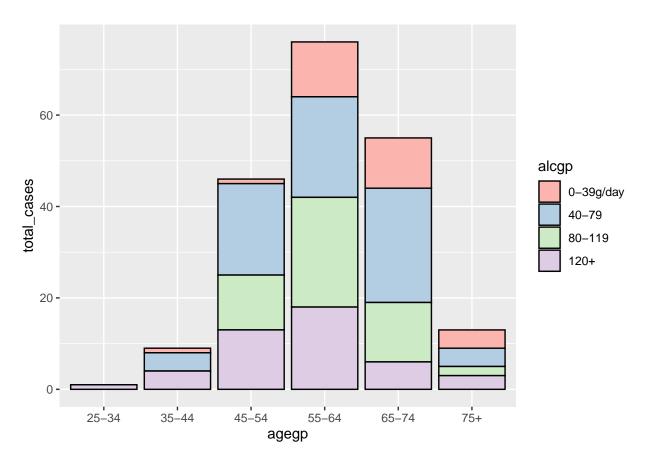
```
# The borders look a bit weird due to the way the data is represented in our dataset
# (We have the same alcgp category duplicated multiple times for each agegp)

# To get the proper border, we will need to clean our data such that
# the alcgp category is not repeated for each agegp
alc_cases <- esoph %>%
    select(agegp, alcgp, ncases) %>%
    group_by(agegp, alcgp) %>%
    summarize(total_cases = sum(ncases))
```

```
## 'summarise()' has grouped output by 'agegp'. You can override using the
## '.groups' argument.
```

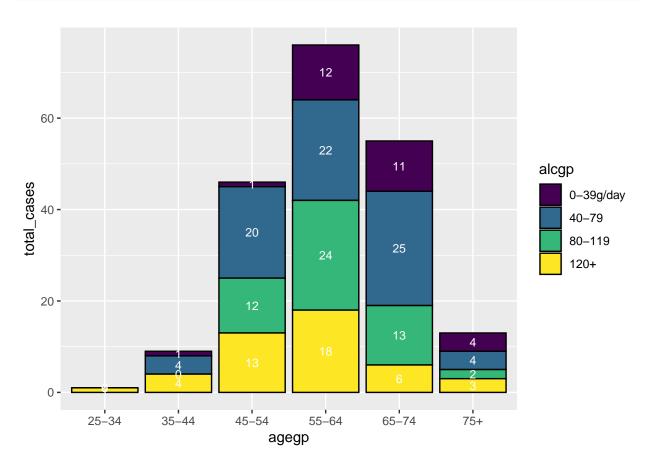
```
# Compare this new clean data with the original dataset.
# What do you notice about the ways agegp, alcgp, and ncases are represented?
barchart3 <- ggplot(alc_cases, aes(x = agegp, y = total_cases, fill = alcgp)) +</pre>
```

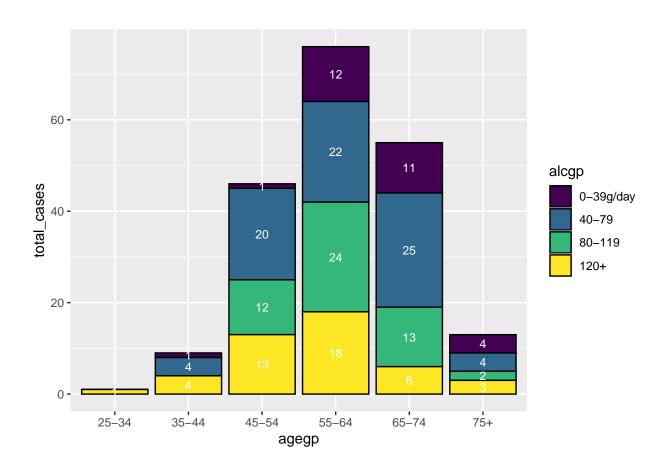
```
geom_bar(stat = "identity",color = "black") +
scale_fill_brewer(palette = "Pastel1")
barchart3
```



Now the borders look good!

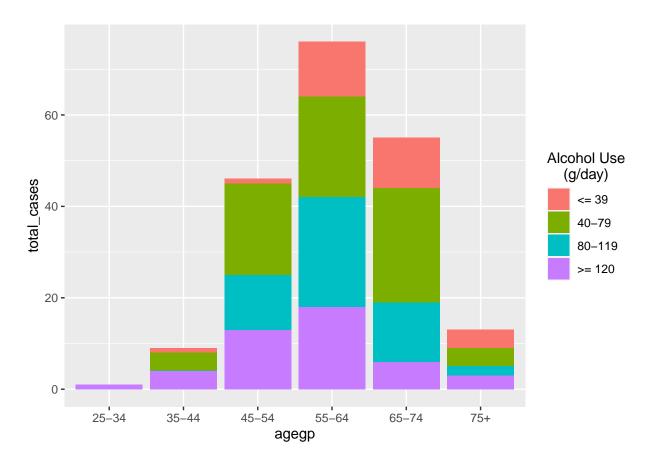
3.1.3: Labels





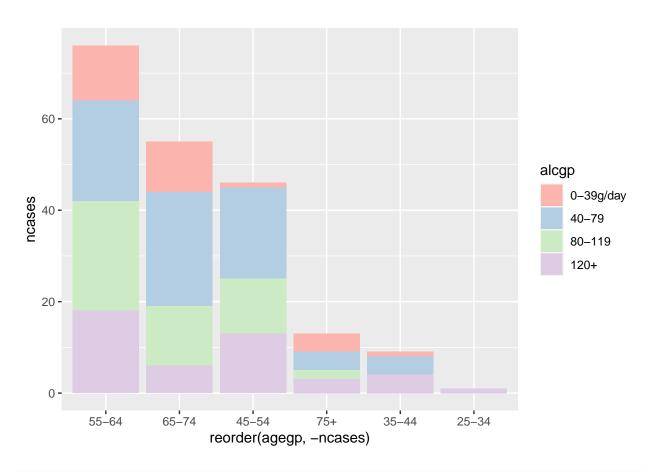
3.1.4: Legend

```
# Change the Category Labels
ggplot(alc_cases, aes(x = agegp, y = total_cases, fill = alcgp)) +
geom_bar(stat = "identity") +
scale_fill_brewer(palette = "Pastel1") +
guides(fill=guide_legend( # 'Guide legend' allows to manually input a legend
    title="Alcohol Use \n (g/day)")) + # '\n' adds a new line and then add spaces to center '(g/day)
scale_fill_discrete(labels = c("<= 39", "40-79", "80-119", ">= 120"))
```



3.1.5: Ordering Bars

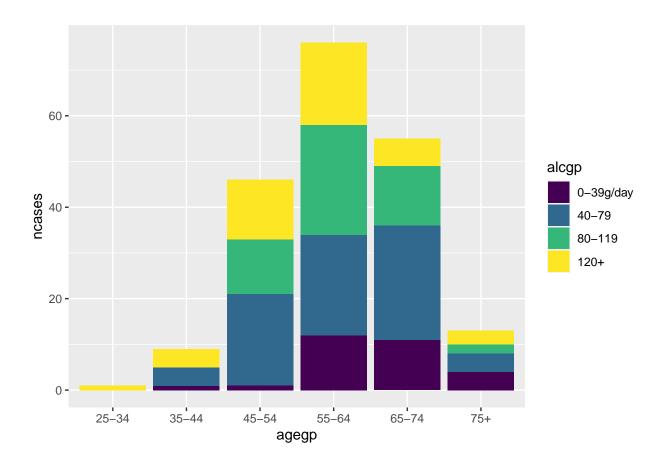
```
# Reordering the bars in ascending/descending order
ggplot(esoph,aes(x = reorder(agegp,-ncases), y = ncases, fill = alcgp)) +
geom_bar(stat = "identity") +
scale_fill_brewer(palette = "Pastel1")
```



```
# Syntax: x = reorder(X variable,+/-Y variable); + = ascending, - = descending
# NOTE: It does not make sense to reorder the bars in this context
# as the age group categories are out of order
```

3.1.6: Reverse bar stacking

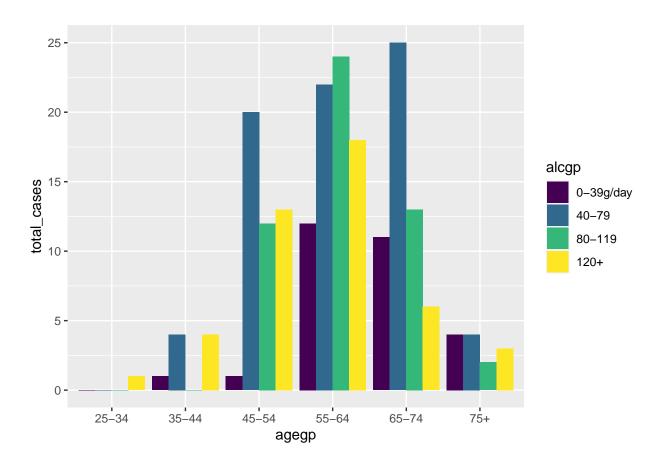
```
# Reverse the stacking of the bars
ggplot(esoph,aes(x = agegp, y = ncases, fill = alcgp)) +
  geom_bar(stat = "identity", position = position_stack(reverse = TRUE)) # Reversing stacking
```



3.2: Dodged bar charts

Sometimes a stacked barchart may not be easy to understand or interpret. Well, there is a solution to that: Dodged bar charts!

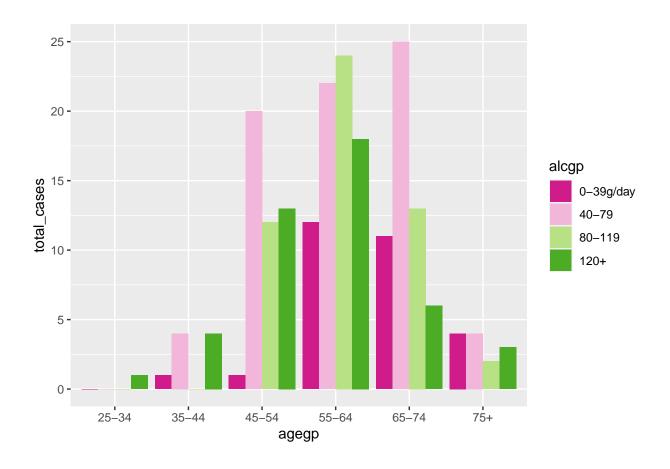
Dodged bar charts are very similar to stacked bar charts, with very minor changes in code syntax. We will look at grouped bar charts with our previous example of alcohol consumption.



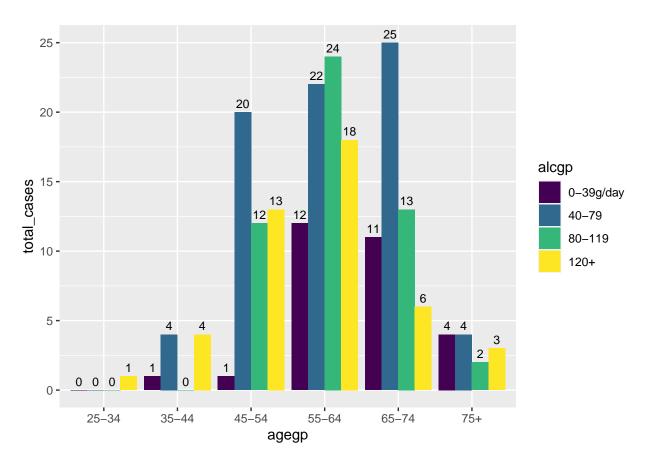
3.2.1: Color

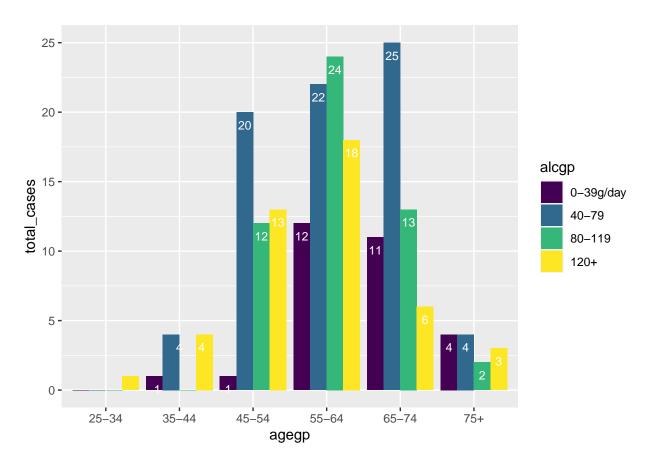
```
# Change color the same way you did for stacked barcharts
# with either scale_fill_manual or scale_fill_brewer

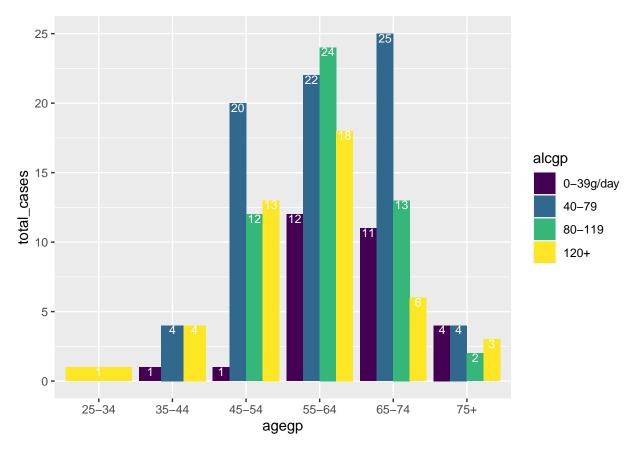
dodged_bc + scale_fill_brewer(palette = "PiYG")
```



3.2.2: Labels







The code for everything else for dodged bar charts is similar to what has been previously covered in this module.

3.3: Faceted bar charts

3.3.0: Data Import

The **esoph** data set is too small and has too few features to support quality faceting therefore we will be leveraging the **NHANES** database to demonstrate **faceted bar charts**.

```
# Install the NHANES package if you need to install it
# install.packages("NHANES")

# Load NHANES library
library(NHANES)

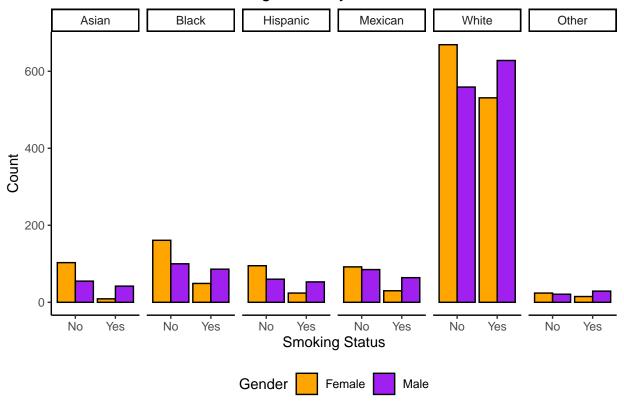
# Load the "NHANES" dataset
data(NHANES)

# Dropping NA values
NHANES_df <- NHANES %>%
drop_na(Race3,Education)
```

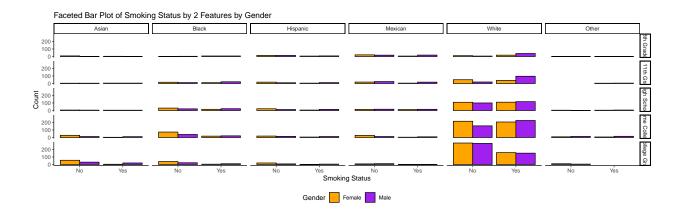
3.3.1: Method 1: facet_grid()

3.3.1.1: Faceting by one feature

Faceted Bar Plot of Smoking Status by Gender



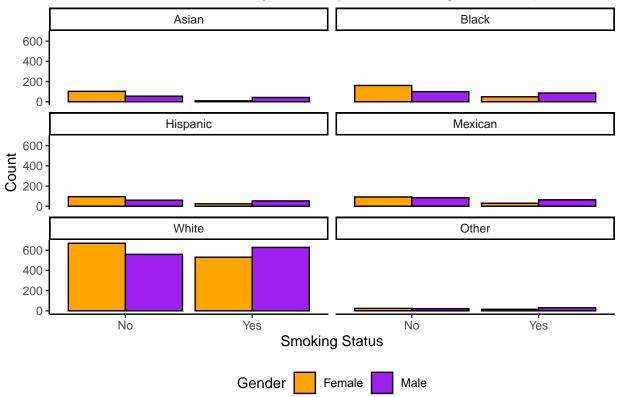
3.3.1.2: Faceting by two features



3.3.2: Method 2: facet_wrap()

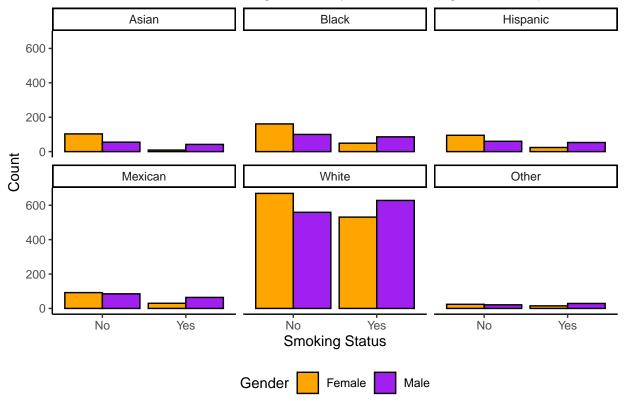
3.3.2.1: Faceting with 2 columns

Faceted Bar Plot of Smoking Status by Gender using facet_wrap



3.3.2.2: Faceting with 3 columns





3.3.2.3: Faceting but with subgroup proportions Let's take this chart one step further and change the y-axis to be proportions, so that the different groups are truly comparable. To do this, we rely on our dyplr toolkit we covered in previous lectures to create a new aggregated dataset.

This is an example of how we sometimes have to transform datasets before we visualize them. While ggplot has powerful innards that can take raw datasets, once we start grouping/faceting by multiple variables and want something like proportions, it often is easier to pre-process the data (and sometimes more understandable, from a programming sense)!

In this subsection, we also make a few aesthetic changes including:

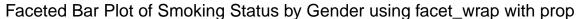
- Adding labels
- Keeping just proportions answering "Yes" (since the absence of Yes is No, and vice versa, therefore could be redundant)
- Use a different way to change labels for Gender
- Piping a newly formed dataframe right into ggplot

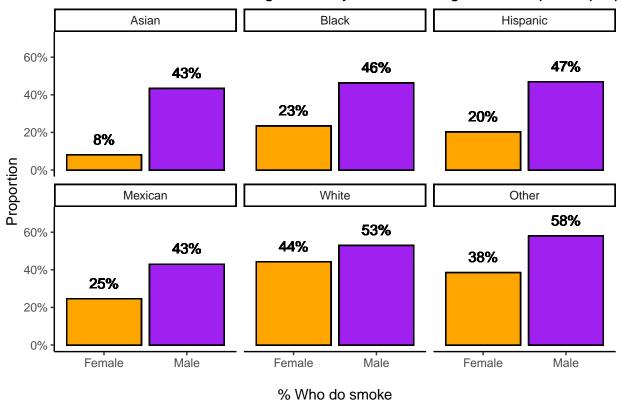
```
# Create a new aggregated dataset grouped by race3 and gender, describing smoking status

NHANES_df %>%
  # our two grouping variables
group_by(Gender, Race3) %>%

# want to get the individual count in each Gender-Race group first
summarise(Count = n(),
```

```
# Number of "Yes"es
            Smoke_Yes = sum(Smoke100 == "Yes", na.rm = T),
            # Divide # of "Yes"es by the number of total respondents in a given Gender-Race group
            Freq = Smoke Yes/Count,
            # Here, we create labels but multiplying Freq, rounding it, and adding "%" to the end
            # This is a character variable, whereas Freq was a numeric!
            Freq_lbl = paste0(round(Freq*100), "%"),
            # Capitalize Gender variable
            Gender = str_to_title(Gender)) %>%
  #Finally, we can pipe it into applot
  #This method is equal to qqplot(data = df from the steps above, it saves you a bit of time and doesn'
ggplot() +
  geom_col(aes(x = Gender, y = Freq, fill = Gender), position = "dodge", color= "black") +
  # add labels, make a vertical adjustment
  geom_text(aes(x = Gender, y = Freq, label = Freq_lbl), vjust = -1) +
  labs(x = "\n% Who do smoke",
      y = "Proportion",
      title = "Faceted Bar Plot of Smoking Status by Gender using facet_wrap with proportions") +
  # use percentages for the y-axis labels, have the axis run from 0 to 70%
  scale_y_continuous(labels = scales::percent, limits = c(0, 0.7)) +
  scale_fill_manual(values = c("Male" = "purple", "Female" = "orange")) +
  facet_wrap(~ Race3, ncol = 3) + # 3 columns
  theme_classic() +
  theme(legend.position = "bottom") +
  # don't show legend for fill since it would be redundant
  guides(fill = "none")
## Warning: Returning more (or less) than 1 row per 'summarise()' group was deprecated in
## dplyr 1.1.0.
## i Please use 'reframe()' instead.
## i When switching from 'summarise()' to 'reframe()', remember that 'reframe()'
## always returns an ungrouped data frame and adjust accordingly.
## Call 'lifecycle::last_lifecycle_warnings()' to see where this warning was
## generated.
## 'summarise()' has grouped output by 'Gender', 'Race3'. You can override using
## the '.groups' argument.
```

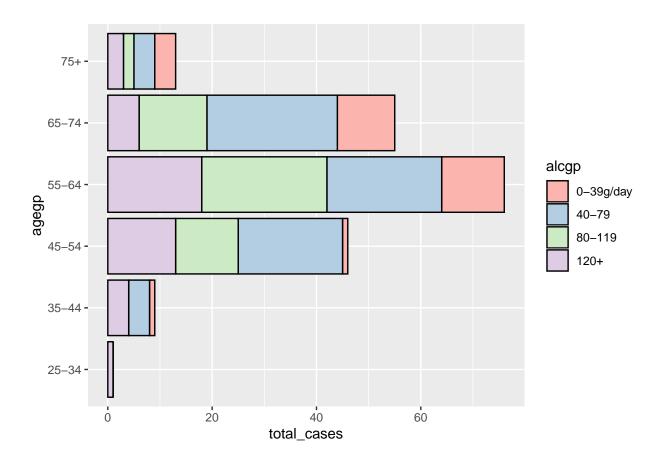




Note that this changes our interpretation quite a bit – it seems that females across different race/ethnicity groups all tend to proportionally smoke less than their male counterparts.

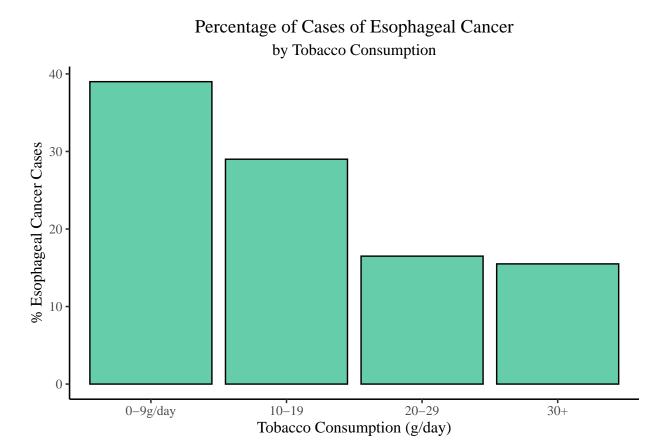
3.4: Horizontal bar chart

```
# Flipping the axis of the barchart
barchart3 +
coord_flip() # Mention this to swap the x and y axes
```



Module Summary/Recap

- We have reviewed how to customize ggplot figures for publications or presentation to a professional audience
- We explored modifications to color, labels, appearance, and legends
- You should be able to produce a polished bar chart that is publication-worthy (run the code below for a professional bar chart)



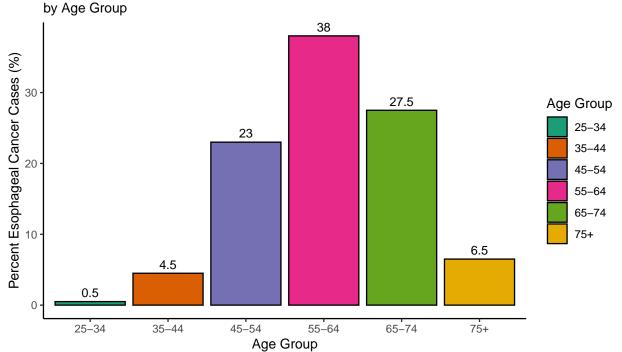
Assignment: Module Sample Solutions

Question 1: Create Bar Chart

TRY-IT-YOURSELF: We have individually gone through the methods to customize and elevate our plots. So, to produce a final, professional bar chart, can you combine all of the modifications (i.e. Captions/Labels, Color, and Legend) above into a single call?

Sample Solution 1

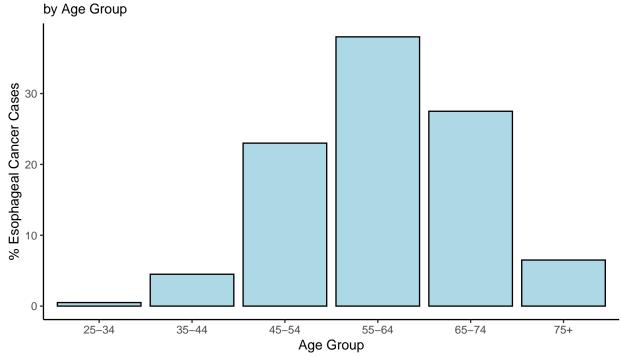
Percentage of Cases of Esophageal Cancer



Source: Cases of Esophageal Cancer from 'esoph' dataset

Sample Solution 2

Percentage of Cases of Esophageal Cancer



Source: Cases of Esophageal Cancer from 'esoph' dataset

Question 2: Create Stacked Bar Chart

TRY-IT-YOURSELF: Now that we have reviewed stacked barcharts, it's time for you to create and modify one! Produce a professional stacked bar chart that shows the number of cases of esophageal cancer by each age group's tobacco consumption.

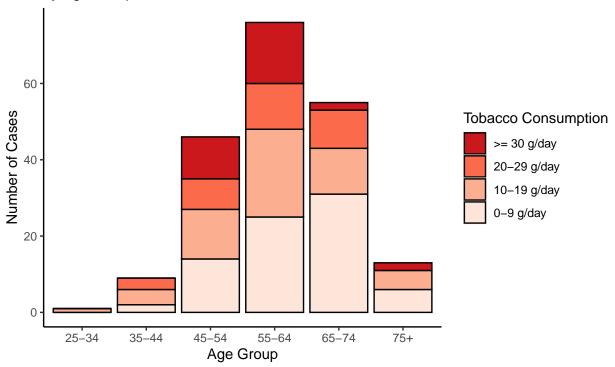
Sample Solution 1

```
# Type your answer here
# Creating appropriate data frame
tobacco_cases <- esoph %>%
   select(agegp, tobgp, ncases) %>%
   group_by(agegp, tobgp) %>%
   summarize(total_cases = sum(ncases))

## 'summarise()' has grouped output by 'agegp'. You can override using the
## '.groups' argument.
## Creating bar chart
## Creating bar chart
## Creating bar chart
## Type your answer here
## Type your answer here
## Creating bar chart
## Creating bar chart
## Creating bar chart
```

```
ggplot(tobacco_cases, aes(x = agegp, y = total_cases,
                                          fill = tobgp, label = total_cases)) +
  geom_bar(stat = "identity",
          position= position_stack(reverse = TRUE),
           color = "black") +
  scale_fill_brewer(palette = "Reds",
                    breaks=c("30+", "20-29", "10-19", "0-9g/day"),
                   labels=c(">= 30 g/day","20-29 g/day","10-19 g/day","0-9 g/day")) +
  ggtitle("Number of Esophageal Cancer Cases based on Tobacco Consumption",
         subtitle = "by Age Group") +
  labs(x = "Age Group",
      y = "Number of Cases",
       caption = "Source: Cases of Esophageal Cancer from 'esoph' dataset") +
  guides(fill=guide_legend(title="Tobacco Consumption")) +
  theme(panel.grid.major = element_blank(), # Same as theme_classic()
          panel.grid.minor = element_blank(),
          panel.background = element_blank(),
          axis.line = element_line(colour = "black"))
```

Number of Esophageal Cancer Cases based on Tobacco Consumption by Age Group

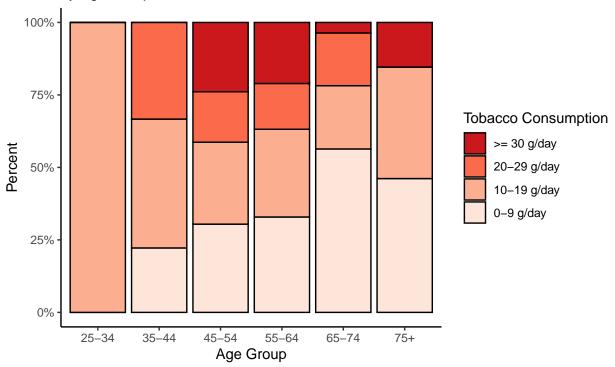


Source: Cases of Esophageal Cancer from 'esoph' dataset

Sample Solution 2 (Percent Bar Chart)

```
ggplot(tobacco\_cases, aes(x = agegp,
                          y = total_cases,
                          fill = tobgp)) +
  geom_bar(stat = "identity",
           position= position_fill(reverse = TRUE),
           color = "black") +
  scale_fill_brewer(palette = "Reds",
                    breaks=c("30+", "20-29", "10-19", "0-9g/day"),
                    labels=c(">= 30 g/day","20-29 g/day",
                             "10-19 g/day", "0-9 g/day")) +
  ggtitle("Percent of Esophageal Cancer Cases based on Tobacco Use",
         subtitle = "by Age Group") +
  labs(x = "Age Group",
       y = "Percent",
       caption = "Source: Cases of Esophageal Cancer from 'esoph' dataset") +
  guides(fill=guide_legend(title="Tobacco Consumption")) +
  scale_y_continuous(labels = scales::percent_format(accuracy = 1)) + # converts Y scales to percent
  theme_classic()
```

Percent of Esophageal Cancer Cases based on Tobacco Use by Age Group



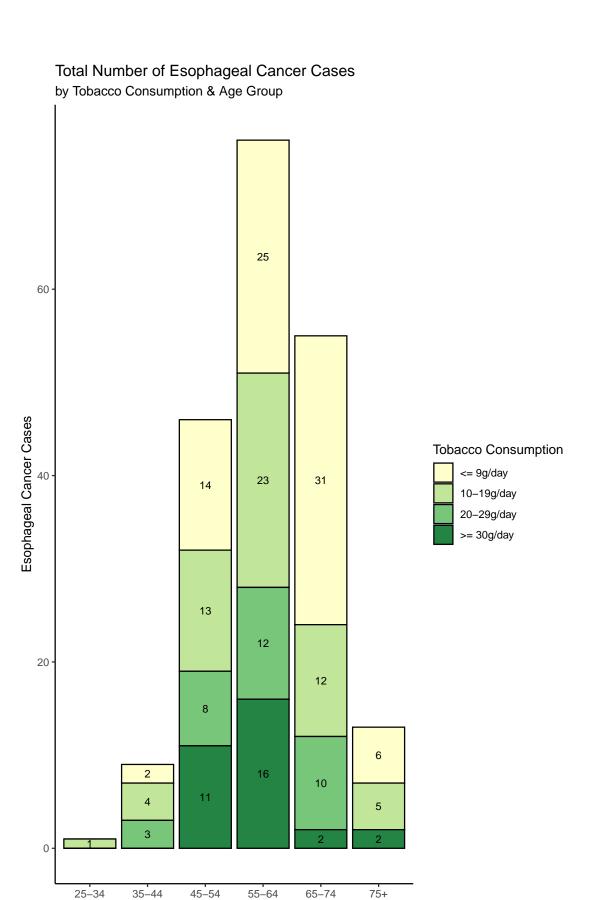
Source: Cases of Esophageal Cancer from 'esoph' dataset

Sample Solution 3

```
#Some Data Cleaning
tobgp_cases <- esoph %>%
  select(agegp, tobgp, ncases) %>%
  group_by(agegp, tobgp) %>%
  summarize(total_cases = sum(ncases))
```

'summarise()' has grouped output by 'agegp'. You can override using the
'.groups' argument.

```
panel.grid.minor = element_blank(),
    panel.background = element_blank(),
    axis.line = element_line(colour = "black")) +
labs(title = "Total Number of Esophageal Cancer Cases",
    subtitle = "by Tobacco Consumption & Age Group",
    x = "Age Group",
    y = "Esophageal Cancer Cases")
```



Age Group

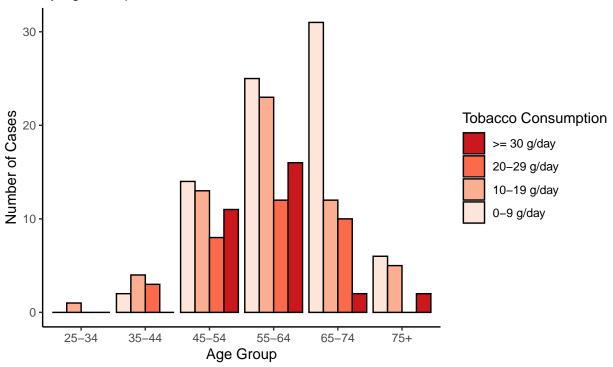
Question 3: Create Dodged Bar Chart

TRY-IT-YOURSELF: You have already created a stacked bar chart for tobacco consumption. Similarly, now that we have gone through grouped bar charts, produce a professional grouped barchart that shows the number of cases of esophageal cancer by each age group's tobacco consumption.

Sample Solution 1

```
ggplot(tobacco_cases, aes(x = agegp, y = total_cases,
                          fill = tobgp, label = total_cases)) +
  geom_bar(stat = "identity",
           position= "dodge",
           color = "black") +
  scale_fill_brewer(palette = "Reds",
                    breaks=c("30+", "20-29", "10-19", "0-9g/day"),
                    labels=c(">= 30 g/day","20-29 g/day","10-19 g/day","0-9 g/day")) +
  ggtitle("Number of Esophageal Cancer Cases based on Tobacco Consumption",
         subtitle = "by Age Group") +
  labs(x = "Age Group",
      y = "Number of Cases",
       caption = "Source: Cases of Esophageal Cancer from 'esoph' dataset") +
  guides(fill=guide_legend(title="Tobacco Consumption")) +
  theme(panel.grid.major = element_blank(), # Same as theme_classic()
          panel.grid.minor = element_blank(),
          panel.background = element_blank(),
          axis.line = element_line(colour = "black"))
```

Number of Esophageal Cancer Cases based on Tobacco Consumption by Age Group



Source: Cases of Esophageal Cancer from 'esoph' dataset

Sample Solution 2

Total Number of Esophageal Cancer Cases by Tobacco Consumption & Age Group

