# 1 Lab 3 – Data Visualization

## 1.1 Data 6, Summer 2022

So far, we have discussed methods to interpret the data, but what if we want to present our data in a visual format? In this lab, you'll learn several important table methods for producing data visualizations. Visualizations are some of the most powerful tools in data science; they're helpful for showing data to people who don't necessarily have a background in data science, and allow data scientists like yourselves to help others understand the data in a more intuitive way.

In Lecture 8, we talked about methods we could use to visualize one variable, namely the barh and hist methods. We added the scatter and plot methods in Lecture 9. These methods allow us to visualize two or more variables at once, which can open up more patterns in the data and can further improve your ability to visualize data for people who do not necessarily understand data science.

As data scientists it is not only our job to be able to use the visualization methods we know, but it is also our job to know *when* to use which methods. As we build our toolkit of visualization techniques going forward, it's important to understand the advantages and disadvantages of each visualization type.

We will be working with the same brfss dataset as we did in the previous lab, so we will load that in to begin looking at the new methods.

# 2 The barh method

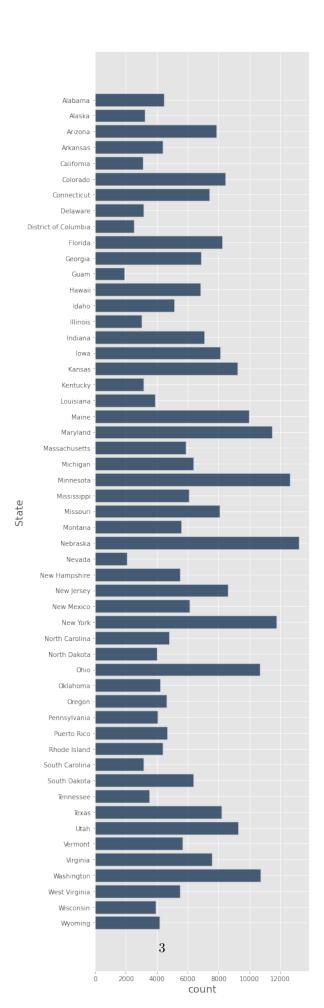
The barh (horizontal bar chart) method is used to visualize categorical variable values. Categorical variables are non-numbers, like names and qualities (Color, State Names, etc.). As we saw in lecture, categorical

variables come in 2 different types: ordinal and nominal. Refer to the Lecture 8 Slides to see the difference between the two types.

The barh method takes in 1 mandatory argument, which is the **name of the column** you want on the left (vertical) axis of your barh plot. There are also optional arguments that have to do with plotting – you'll see examples of those in this lab and in the homework. The remaining optional arguments in the datascience documentation linked above can also be used, feel free to try out some of the others on your own!

To use the barh method properly, we first need to select the columns we want to see in the graph. We should not call barh directly on a large Table because without specifying a column, we get a bar graph for every single instance of every single variable, which you can imagine results in a lot of bar graphs.

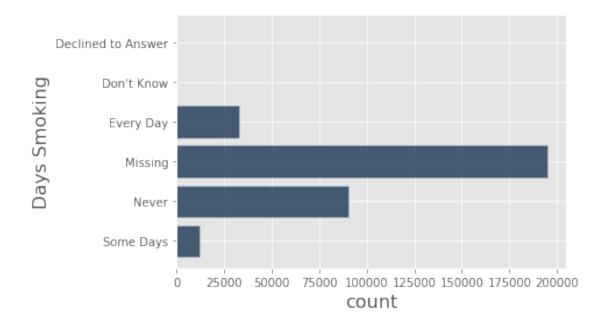
```
Out[3]: State
                              | count
        Alabama
                              | 4477
        Alaska
                              1 3220
                              | 7846
        Arizona
        Arkansas
                              | 4374
        California
                              1 3083
        Colorado
                              I 8454
        Connecticut
                              | 7409
        Delaware
                              I 3136
        District of Columbia | 2533
        Florida
                              8237
        ... (43 rows omitted)
```



Notice that each value in the "State" column is plotted with a bar with length corresponding to its count.

Question 1: Plot a horizontal bar chart that shows the counts of each category from the "Days Smoking" column of the brfss table.

Hint: Use the smoking\_counts table.

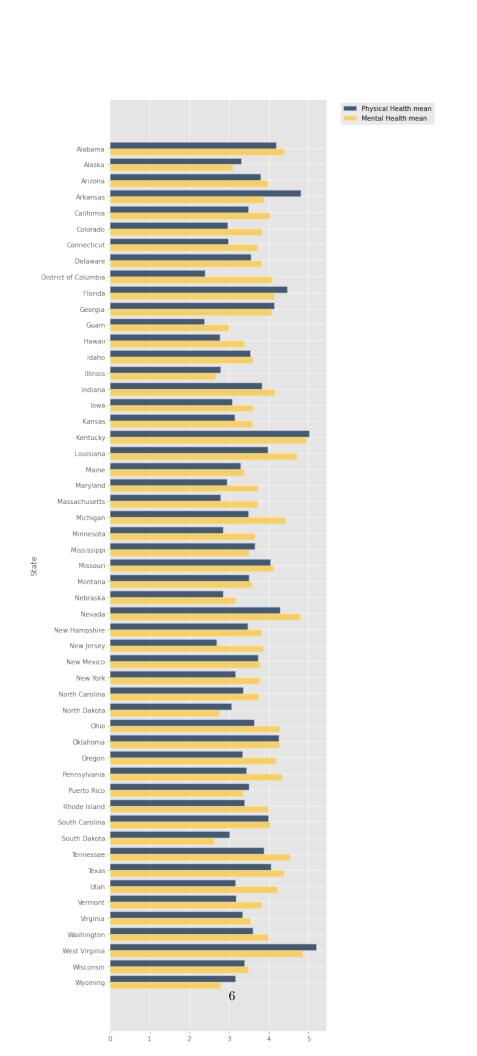


### 2.0.1 Multiple Columns

We can also use barh to see multiple statistics at once. Let's use the barh method to see the average number of both poor mental health and poor physical health days. We'll be using the following columns: 1. "Physical Health": Now thinking about your physical health, which includes physical illness and injury, for how many days during the past 30 days was your physical health not good? 2. "Mental Health": Now thinking about your mental health, which includes stress, depression, and problems with emotions, for how many days during the past 30 days was your mental health not good?

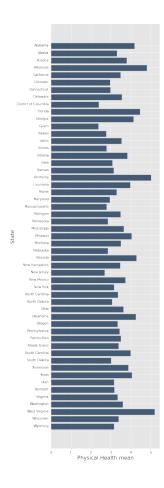
Run the following cell to show an example of how to create an overlaid bar chart with two statistics.

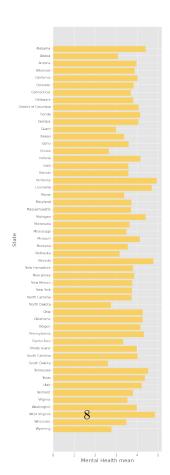
Out[6]:	State	1	Physical Health mean	1	Mental Health mean
	Alabama	1	4.18316	1	4.40138
	Alaska		3.3059		3.09752
	Arizona		3.80155		3.97515
	Arkansas		4.80155		3.8802
	California	-	3.49335	-	4.02141
	Colorado	-	2.96747	-	3.83191
	Connecticut	-	2.97962	-	3.71778
	Delaware	-	3.55038	-	3.81601
	District of Columbia	-	2.39874	-	4.08843
	Florida	-	4.46534	-	4.14338
	(43 rows omitted)				



If we want different visualizations for each variable, we can set the optional overlay argument to False. The default value of overlay is True, so if you don't give it a value, you will get a plot with all the included variables at once.

In [8]: state\_averages.barh("State", overlay=False)





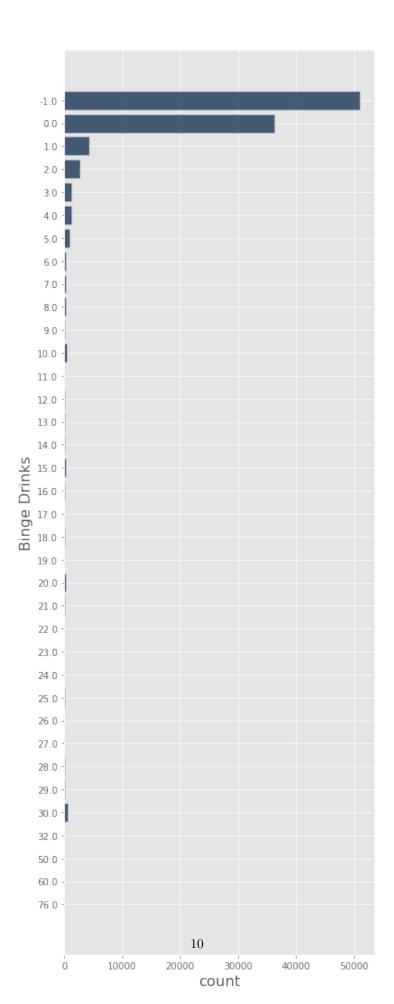
That way we can choose if we want to have one plot with all our information or a new plot for each piece of information!

In this case, do we prefer an overlaid plot or two separate plots? Can you think of a case where we might want to have two separate plots instead of one overlaid plot? (Hint: think about the units for both variables — are they the same or different?)

Discuss with the people around you and check in with your GSI to confirm.

#### 2.0.2 Where barh fails

The barh method works well on categorical variables, but what if we have a **numerical** variable that we want to see the distribution in one particular state? Let's see what happens if we try to use barh on a numerical variable ("Binge Drinking") instead of a categorical variable:



As you can see, this bar plot is not particularly helpful. There are many categories that seem to not have any corresponding bar. Yet, that isn't the case! Seeing the breakdown of "Binge Drinks" does not provide us with any useful information, and it is also difficult to read or understand. Instead, for numerical variables, we have another visualization method that helps us visualize a numerical variable's distribution...

## 3 The hist method

The hist method allows us to see the distribution of a numerical variable. Categorical variables should be visualized using barh, and numerical variables should be visualized using hist.

The hist method takes in 1 mandatory argument and has several optional arguments (as is the case with barh, there are many other optional arguments, but here are just a few of them). For this lab, we'll set density to be False.

Argument	Description	Type	Mandatory?
column	Column name whose values you want on the x-axis of your plot	Column name (string)	Yes
density	If True, then the resulting plot will be displayed not on the count of a value, but on the density of that value in the Table	boolean	No
group	Similar to the Table method group, groups rows by this label before plotting	Column name (string)	No
overlay	When False, make a new plot for each eligible statistic in the Table	boolean	No
bins	A NumPy array of bin boundaries you want your histogram to gather data into	array	No
unit	A name for the units of the plotted column	Column name (string)	No

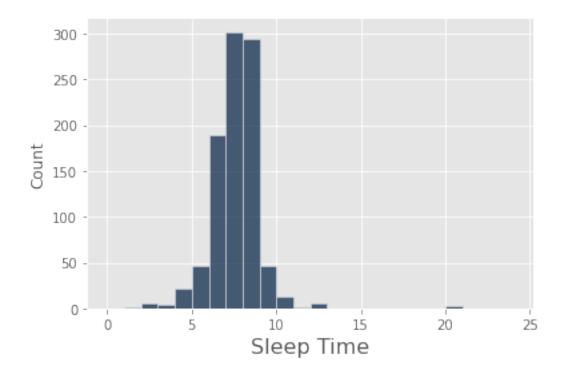
#### Again, in all cases, density should be set to False

Keep in mind the same plotting optional arguments mentioned in the barh introduction.

Let's take a look at the distribution of exercise sessions in different states to see how the hist method helps visualize numerical variables, first starting with our favorite state, California. We'll use the sleep\_no\_negatives table to exclude missing values (-1's).

```
In [10]: sleep_no_negatives = brfss.where("Sleep Time", are.not_equal_to(-1))
```

```
In [11]: # This plot shows the distribution of sleep time for Californians
    my_bins = np.arange(0, 25, 1)
    california = sleep_no_negatives.where("State", "California")
    california.hist("Sleep Time", density = False, bins=my_bins)
```

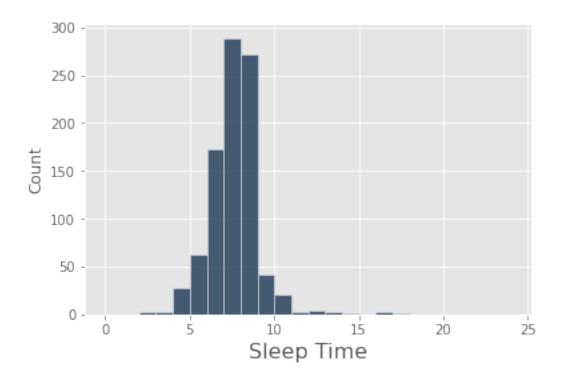


This shows us that people living in California usually tend to sleep between 7 to 8 hours a night, but there are many people who sleep more hours (10+) or few hours (less than 5). Let's see how that compares to sleep time in another state, Illinois:

Question 2: Fill in the following code cell to produce a histogram representing the *distribution of sleep time* for respondents from the state of Illinois.

Note: Set the optional bins argument of the hist method to my\_bins. We've provided this variable for you.

```
In [12]: # This plot shows the distribution of sleep time for Illinois residents
    my_bins = np.arange(0, 25, 1)
    il = sleep_no_negatives.where("State", "Illinois") # SOLUTION
    il.hist("Sleep Time", density = False, bins=my_bins) # SOLUTION
```



### 3.0.1 California vs. Illinois

We can use hist on a Table with just rows for these two states and use the optional group argument.

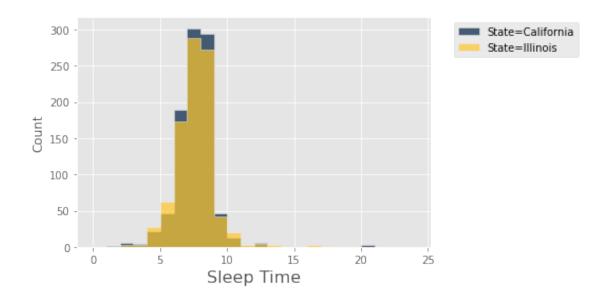
*Note*: You'll see how are.contained\_in works with the where method next week. For now, think of it as finding any rows corresponding to *either* "California" or "Illinois".

<IPython.core.display.HTML object>

Question 3: Now that we've created our il\_ca table, fill in the following code cell to produce a histogram representing the *distribution of sleep time* for *both* California and Illinois. You'll first need to select the necessary columns from il\_ca then fill in the appropriate call to the hist method.

*Hint*: Take a look at the optional group argument from the description above.

Note: Set the optional bins argument of the hist method to my bins. We've provided this variable for you.



It appears that sleep time in California is a very similar, on average, to the sleep time in California. The plot above shows the New York Sleep Time to be almost exactly on top of the Illinois Sleep Time. Let's see if we can use a table query to figure out the same information:

California average: 7.095596133190118 Illinois average: 7.113812154696133

As we can see, the plot we made appeared to suggest that average amount of sleep should be very similar between California and Illinois, and the table operations reflected that! This is a benefit of visualization, that information can be learned about the dataset with just visual observation. It is always beneficial to back your claims about data with concrete facts about the dataset, but visualizations can help abstract away some of the confusion of looking at raw data so that non-data-scientists can better understand what is going on.

Question 4 (*Discussion*): Now, think about what would happen if you chose two states with very different counts, why would it be more difficult to compare them with histograms?

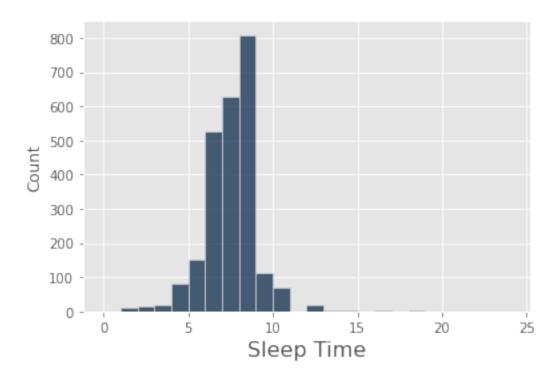
Once you've discussed with someone around you or a GSI, proceed with the code cells below to confirm your answers. We'll look to compare **Texas** and **Delaware**.

Type your answer here, replacing this text.

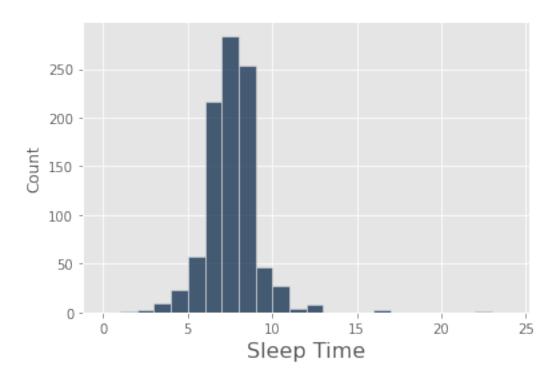
**SOLUTION**: Since we set density=False when creating our histograms, the state with more data points will be much taller than the histogram for the state with very few data points. Since the two states are not on the same scale, it is difficult to compare them.

Each individual plot looks fine:

```
In [17]: # This plot shows the distribution of sleep times for Texas respondents
    my_bins = np.arange(0, 25, 1)
    texas.hist("Sleep Time", density = False, bins=my_bins)
```



In [18]: # This plot shows the distribution of sleep times for Delaware respondents
 my\_bins = np.arange(0, 25, 1)
 delaware.hist("Sleep Time", density = False, bins=my\_bins)

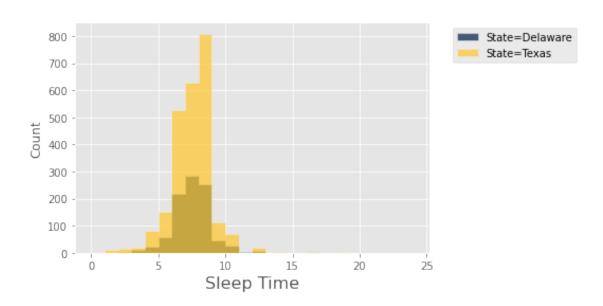


Take a look at the y-axis on both of these plots. What do you think will happen when we try to plot them on the same graph?

<IPython.core.display.HTML object>

**Question 5:** Using the code in **Question 3** as reference, produce a histogram showing the distribution of sleep time for respondents from *Delaware* and *Texas*. What do you notice about this plot?

# END SOLUTION



)

As you can see, there is so much more Texas data than Delaware data that we can hardly make comparisons between the two. Trying to figure out information from this plot is very difficult, so we would either have to use another type of visualization or change the perspective of this plot to be able to learn from it.

## 4 The scatter method

As we mentioned, visualizing two variables can show us patterns in the data that can help us learn new information. The scatter method allows us to see the relationship between two numerical variables in our data using a scatter plot. The first provided column name goes along the x-axis and the second goes along the y-axis.

Let's take a look at the relationship between **Physical Health** and **Alcohol Consumption**. For reference, here are the following questions from the original BRFSS Survey that correspond to our "Physical Health" and "Binge Drinks" columns.

**Physical Health:** Now thinking about your physical health, which includes physical illness and injury, for how many days during the past 30 days was your physical health not good?

**Binge Drinks**: Considering all types of alcoholic beverages, how many times during the past 30 days did you have 5 or more drinks for men or 4 or more drinks for women on an occasion?

### 4.0.1 Housekeeping

Question 6: As was the case with our previous visualizations lab, we know that the missing numerical values are encoded as -1s. Create a new table called scatter\_cleaned which contains every row from the original brfss table that *does not* contain a -1 in either the "Physical Health" column or the "Binge Drinks" column.

Hint: If you're having trouble with the code, feel free to reference the barh section of this lab.

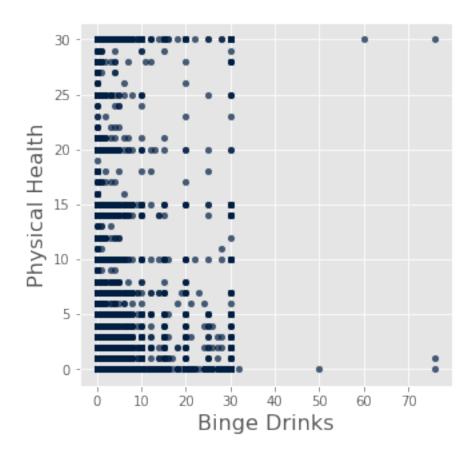
Out[21]:	State		Day		Month	l	Year		Cell Phone		College	Housing	(Cell)		College	Housing	(L
	Nebraska		2		2	I	2020	I	Yes		Missing				Missing		
	Utah		2		4	I	2020	I	Yes		Missing				Missing		
	Florida	1	0		12	l	2020	I	Yes	1	Missing				Missing		
	Massachusetts	1	0		8	l	2020	I	Missing	1	Missing				Missing		
	Utah	1	3		12	l	2020	I	Yes	1	Missing				Missing		
	New Jersey	1	2		10	l	2020	I	Yes	1	Missing				Missing		
	New Hampshire	1	0		3	l	2020	I	Missing	1	Missing				Missing		
	Missouri	1	3		10	l	2020	I	Missing	1	Missing				Missing		
	Oklahoma	1	0		7	l	2020	1	Yes	1	Missing				Missing		
	Connecticut	1	0		12	l	2020	I	Yes	1	Missing				Missing		
	(48393 rows	OI	nitted	()											J		

In [ ]: grader.check("q6")

# 4.0.2 Producing Scatter Plots

Now, we can call scatter on the scatter\_cleaned table. Run the following cell to do so.

In [24]: scatter\_cleaned.scatter("Binge Drinks", "Physical Health")



Just like that, you've produced your first scatter plot! It looks a little messy, however. Oftentimes scatter plots can suffer from what's known as **overplotting**: when many data points fall on top of each other, creating a blob of data. When data is *overplot*, it's often difficult to see the individual data points on the scatter plot.

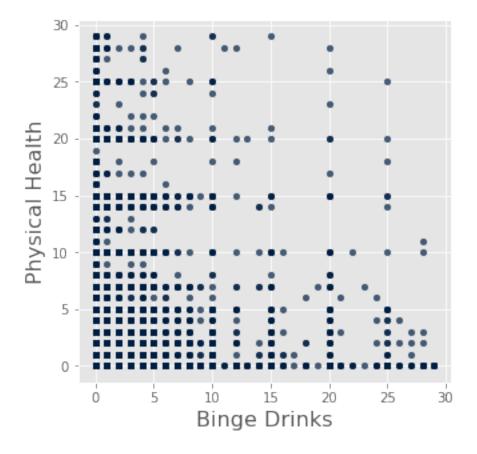
To fix this, we attempt to focus in on a smaller subset of the data. In this case, we'll look at points in which "Binge Drinks" falls between 0 and 30 days and the "Physical Health" column falls between 0 and 30 days.

```
Out[25]: State
                               | Month | Year | Cell Phone | College Housing (Cell) | College Housing (L
                        1 2
                               1 2
                                         2020 | Yes
                                                            | Missing
         Nebraska
                                                                                      | Missing
         Utah
                        | 2
                               | 4
                                       | 2020 | Yes
                                                            | Missing
                                                                                      | Missing
         Florida
                        10
                                       | 2020 | Yes
                                                            | Missing
                                                                                      | Missing
                               | 12
```

Massachusetts		0	ı	8		2020	Missing	Missing		Missing
Utah	-	3		12		2020	Yes	Missing		Missing
New Jersey	-	2		10	-	2020	Yes	Missing	-	Missing
New Hampshire	-	0		3	-	2020	Missing	Missing	-	Missing
Missouri	-	3		10	-	2020	Missing	Missing	-	Missing
Oklahoma	-	0		7	-	2020	Yes	Missing	-	Missing
Connecticut	-	0		12	-	2020	Yes	Missing	-	Missing
(45990 rows	OT	nitted	)							

Question 7: Using the scatter\_reduced table, produce a scatterplot that plots "Binge Drinks" on the x-axis and "Exercise Sessions (Past Month)" on the y-axis. The code should be very similar to the previous scatter plot.

In [26]: scatter\_reduced.scatter("Binge Drinks", "Physical Health") # SOLUTION



That looks a little better! There is still a cluster of data points in the bottom left corner, but a clear relationship can be seen between the two variables.

Question 8 (*Discussion*): What relationship between binge drinking and number of days with poor physical health does the above scatter plot reveal? Discuss with someone around you and check in with your GSI once you've agreed on an answer.

Type your answer here, replacing this text.

**SOLUTION**: As the number of days spent binge drinking increases, the more the number of *good physical health days* decreases; there is an inverse relationship.

#### 4.0.3 The group and labels Optional Arguments

The scatter method also allows you to specify specific groups or labels for each data point using the group or labels keyword arguments.

Say we wanted to investigate the relationship between an individual's **number of children** and their **mental health**. The corresponding questions from the original BRFSS survey were as follows: > **Mental Health**: Now thinking about your mental health, which includes stress, depression, and problems with emotions, for how many days during the past 30 days was your mental health not good?

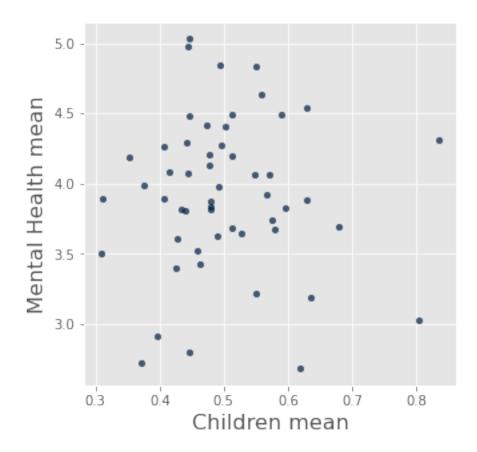
Children: How many children less than 18 years of age live in your household?

Question 9: In order to take advantage of the optional arguments, let's first load an additional table from the "states\_scatter.csv" file. We'll provide the code for this.

Then, using the states table, produce a scatter plot that plots the average children against the average number of poor mental health days.

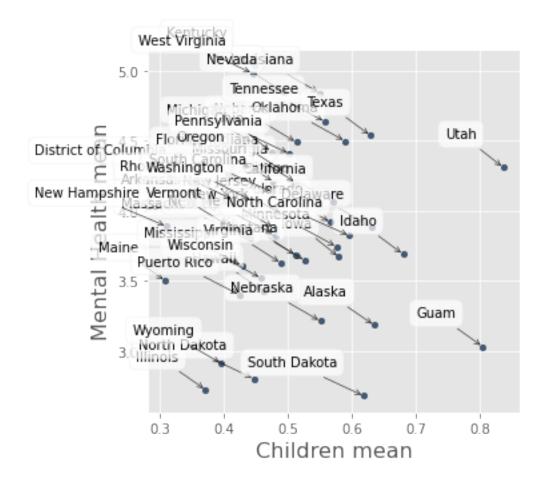
Out[27]:	State	ı	Children mean	ı	Mental Health mean
	Alabama	Ī	0.513538	1	4.48851
	Alaska	1	0.634738	-	3.18423
	Arizona	-	0.547451		4.06928
	Arkansas	1	0.376173	-	3.9864
	California	1	0.570633	-	4.0649
	Colorado	-	0.56661		3.91767
	Connecticut	-	0.440965		3.80377
	Delaware	-	0.630137		3.88617
	District of Columbia	1	0.353083	-	4.19186
	Florida	-	0.407194		4.26833
	(43 rows omitted)				

In [28]: states.scatter("Children mean", "Mental Health mean") # SOLUTION

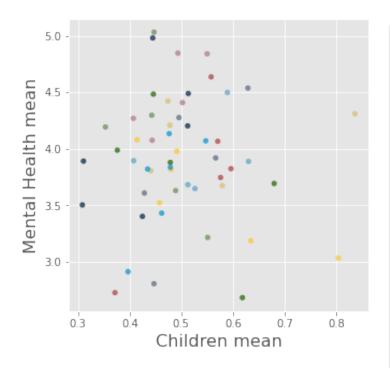


This plot looks good, but it is difficult to see which points correspond to which states. To give each data point it's city name, we can use the group or label arguments:

In [29]: states.scatter("Children mean", "Mental Health mean", labels="State")



In [30]: states.scatter("Children mean", "Mental Health mean", group="State")





As you can see, one of these plots is easier to read than the other, so we were better off using the group argument in this case. Moreover, since there are so many states, some of the colors get reused, making it difficult to inerpret the *second* scatter plot. However, in practice, it may be useful to use labels, not group, so think about when it may be useful to use each argument.

Scatter plots are useful when visualizing two numerical variables together. If you want to plot two numerical variables but one of those variables corresponds to time, we can use a line plot to visualize the non-time variable as time passes.

# 5 The plot method

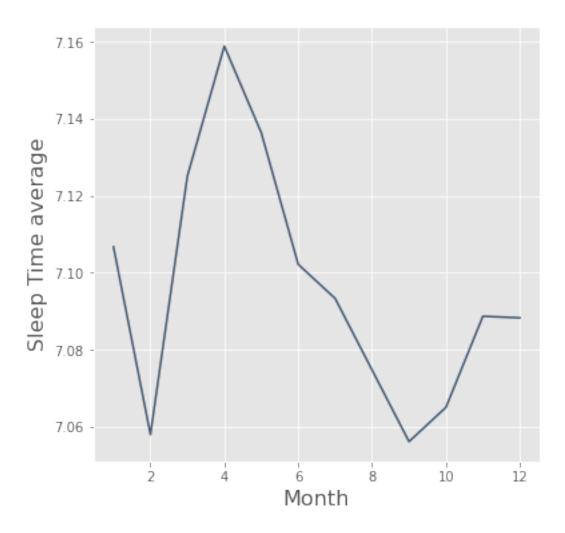
Similar to scatter, we give plot the names of two numerical columns and it creates a **line plot** for us. If we want to draw multiple line plots on the same set of axes, we give it a table with multiple numerical columns, and tell it which one contains the values for the x-axis.

The plot method allows us to see how non-time variables change over time. Let's use plot to look at the exercise patterns over the course of the year. First, we will look at a single line plot using plot:

```
In [31]: # Just run this cell to load a new table
         months = Table.read table("data/months.csv")
         months
Out[31]: Month | Sleep Time average
               7.10667
               | 7.05796
         2
         3
               7.12505
         4
               7.15879
         5
               7.13634
         6
               7.10216
         7
               1 7.09329
               1 7.07472
         8
               | 7.05614
               1 7.06504
         10
         ... (2 rows omitted)
```

Question 10: Using the months table and the plot method, produce a line plot that plots the average sleep time over time

Hint: You'll want to plot the month on the x-is and average exercise sessions on the y-axis.

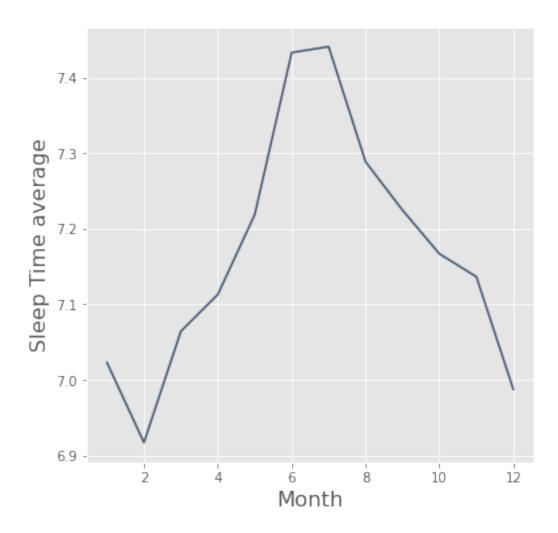


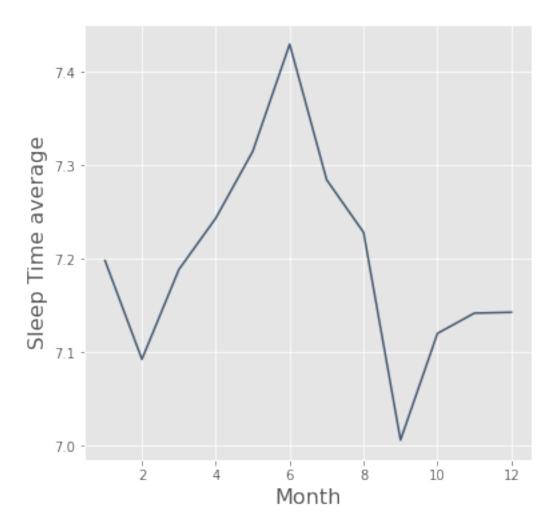
# ### Identifying Temporal Patterns

Line plots are incredibly effective tools for identifying temporal patterns (i.e. changes over time). Let's utilize our newfound knowledge of the plot method to uncover underlying temporal patterns within our BRFSS data. Run the following cells and answer the question that follows.

```
In [33]: # Run this cell -- you should understand how this code works
    vermont = sleep_no_negatives.where("State", "Vermont")
    florida = sleep_no_negatives.where("State", "Florida")
```

In [34]: # Run this cell to produce a line plot for Vermont
 vt\_grouped = vermont.group("Month", np.average)
 vt\_grouped.plot("Month", "Sleep Time average")





### 5.0.1 Multiple Variables

If we want to see multiple variables on one plot, we can include them in the table we call plot on.

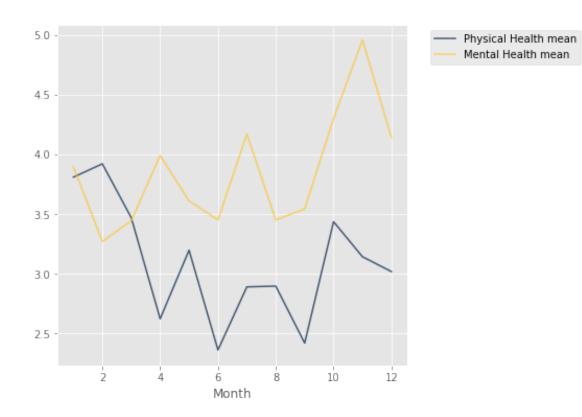
Question 11: For both the vermont\_averages.csv and florida\_averages.csv files, read the file into two new tables, vt\_health and fl\_health, respectively. Then, for each table, select the following columns: >1. Month 2. Physical Health average 3. Mental Health average

Finally, produce a scatter plot with *one line per variable* that is not "Month". That is, "Month" is what should be plotted on the x-axis.

In [36]: vt\_health = Table.read\_table("data/vermont\_averages.csv") # SOLUTION

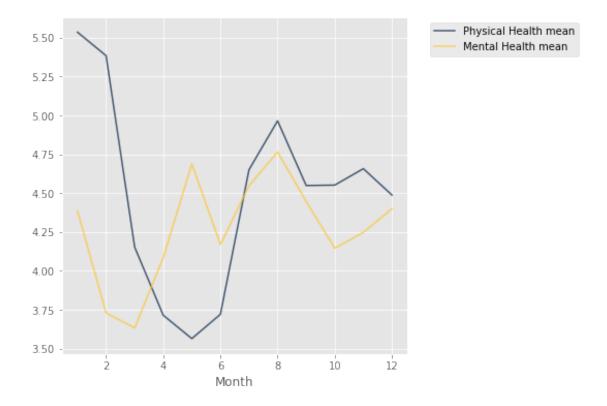
### vt\_health

```
Out[36]: Month | State mean | Day mean | Year mean | Cell Phone mean | College Housing (Cell) mean | Co
               nan
                             | 1.34384 | 2020.06
                                                                       | nan
                                                                                                       | na
                                                     | nan
         2
                             | 1.18019 | 2020
                                                                                                       | na:
               | nan
                                                     | nan
                                                                       | nan
         3
               nan
                             | 0.949937 | 2020
                                                     | nan
                                                                       | nan
                                                                                                       | na
         4
               | nan
                             | 1.23678 | 2020
                                                     | nan
                                                                       | nan
                                                                                                       | na:
               | nan
                             | 0.926975 | 2020
                                                     | nan
                                                                        | nan
                                                                                                       | na
         6
                             | 0.757282 | 2020
                                                                       | nan
                                                                                                       | na
               | nan
                                                     | nan
         7
               l nan
                             | 0.663212 | 2020
                                                     nan
                                                                       l nan
                                                                                                       | na
         8
               nan
                             1.11048
                                       | 2020
                                                     | nan
                                                                       | nan
                                                                                                       | na:
               | nan
                             1.09434
                                       | 2020
                                                     | nan
                                                                       | nan
                                                                                                       | na
         10
               | nan
                             1.28485
                                       | 2020
                                                                       | nan
                                                     | nan
                                                                                                       | na
         ... (2 rows omitted)
```



```
fl_health
Out[38]: Month | State mean | Day mean | Year mean | Cell Phone mean | College Housing (Cell) mean | Co
                | nan
                             1.5877
                                        | 2020.04
                                                                         | nan
                                                      | nan
                                                                                                         | na
         2
                | nan
                              | 0.554878 | 2020
                                                      | nan
                                                                         | nan
                                                                                                         | na
         3
                             | 0.857633 | 2020
                | nan
                                                      | nan
                                                                         | nan
                                                                                                         | na
         4
                             | 0.925311 | 2020
                                                                         | nan
                                                                                                         | na:
                | nan
                                                      | nan
         5
                             | 0.639903 | 2020
                                                      | nan
                                                                                                         | na:
                | nan
                                                                         | nan
         6
                | nan
                             | 0.563107 | 2020
                                                                         | nan
                                                                                                         | na
                                                      | nan
                | nan
                             | 1.05165
                                        | 2020
                                                      | nan
                                                                         | nan
                                                                                                         | na:
         8
                | nan
                             | 1.15581
                                        | 2020
                                                                         | nan
                                                                                                         | na
                                                      | nan
                              | 1.06263 | 2020
                | nan
                                                      | nan
                                                                         | nan
                                                                                                         | na:
                             | 0.438679 | 2020
                nan
                                                      nan
                                                                         | nan
                                                                                                         | na
         ... (2 rows omitted)
```

In [38]: fl\_health = Table.read\_table("data/florida\_averages.csv") # SOLUTION



Question 12 (*Discussion*): What insights can you draw for each state about how mental and physical health change over the course of the year?

*Note*: Remember that a *higher* value for both "Mental Health" and "Physical Health" corresponding to a *larger* number of days where the individual considered their mental or physical health to be *poor*.

Type your answer here, replacing this text.

**SOLUTION**: You can see here that average number of poor mental health days in Vermont *increases* significantly between August and November. On other hand, this seems to be the time of year in Florida where individuals, on average, have the *least* number of poor mental health days.

### 5.0.2 Choose a State

We've just looked at two states, but there are many more to investigate. Run the following cell to experiment with other states.

```
state_tbl = brfss.where("General Health", are.not_equal_to(-1)).where("State", \
                                state).where("Physical Health", are.not_equal_to(-1))
              grouped = state_tbl.group("Month", np.average)
              reduced = grouped.select("Month",
                              "Physical Health average",
                              "Mental Health average")
              reduced.plot("Month")
              plt.title(f"{state} Line Plots")
              plt.ylim(0,15)
              plt.ylabel("Number of Days")
          state_names = ['Alabama','Alaska','Arizona','Arkansas','California', 'Colorado', 'Connecticut'
           'District of Columbia', 'Florida', 'Georgia', 'Guam', 'Hawaii', 'Idaho', 'Illinois', 'Indiana
           'Kansas', 'Kentucky', 'Louisiana', 'Maine', 'Maryland', 'Massachusetts', 'Michigan', 'Minneso
           'Missouri', 'Montana', 'Nebraska', 'Nevada', 'New Hampshire', 'New Jersey', 'New Mexico', 'Ne
           'North Carolina', 'North Dakota', 'Ohio', 'Oklahoma', 'Oregon', 'Pennsylvania', 'Puerto Rico' 'South Carolina', 'South Dakota', 'Tennessee', 'Texas', 'Utah', 'Vermont', 'Virginia', 'Washi
           'West Virginia', 'Wisconsin', 'Wyoming']
In [41]: interact_manual(plot_state, state=state_names);
```

interactive(children=(Dropdown(description='state', options=('Alabama', 'Alaska', 'Arizona', 'Arkansas'

#### 5.1 Done!

In [40]: def plot\_state(state):

That's it! There's nowhere for you to submit this, as labs are not assignments. However, please ask any questions you have with this notebook in lab or on Ed.

To double-check your work, the cell below will rerun all of the autograder tests.

```
In [ ]: grader.check all()
```

### 5.2 Submission

Make sure you have run all cells in your notebook in order before running the cell below, so that all images/graphs appear in the output. The cell below will generate a zip file for you to submit. **Please save before exporting!**