# Data Visualization - 4. Show the Right Numbers

Kieran Healy
Code Horizons

October 6, 2024

### Show the Right Numbers

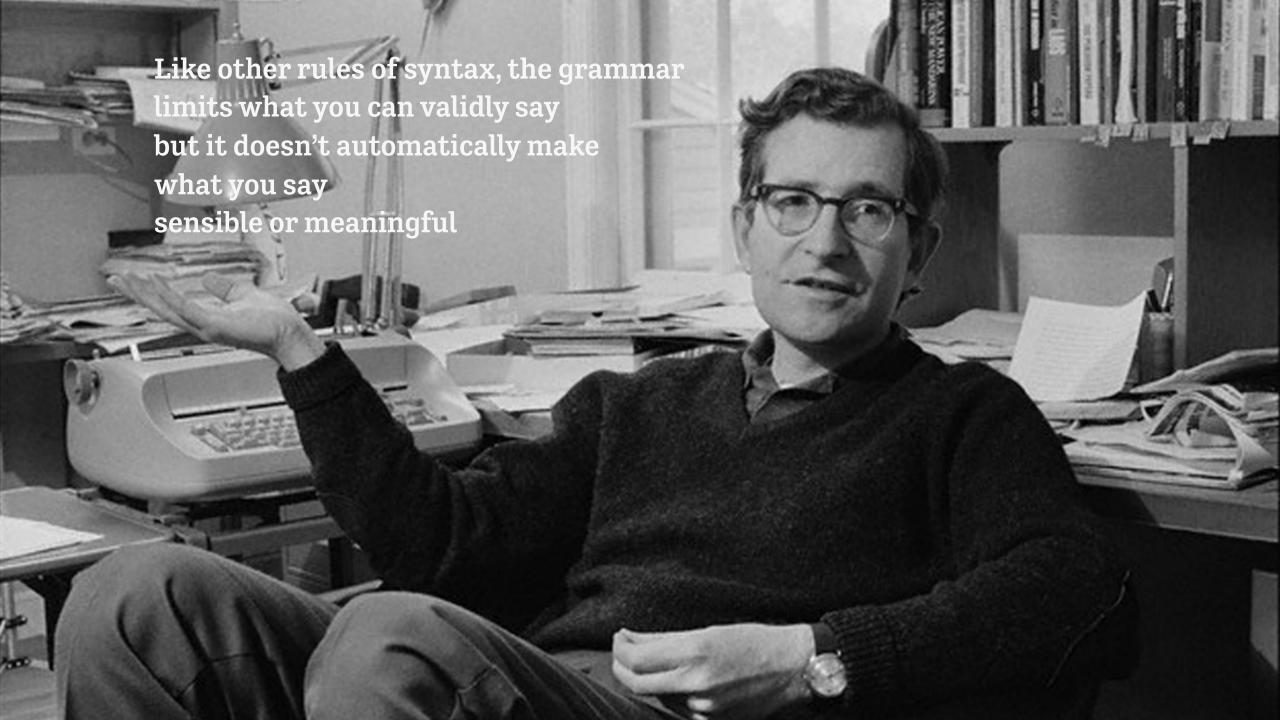
#### Load the packages we need

```
library(tidyverse) # Your friend and mine
library(gapminder) # Gapminder data
library(here) # Portable file paths
library(socviz) # Handy socviz functions
```

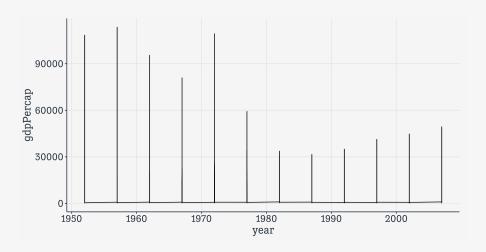
# ggplot implements a grammar of graphics

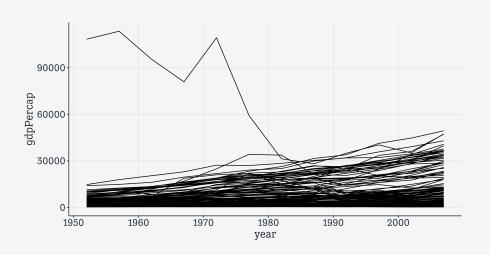
#### A grammar of graphics

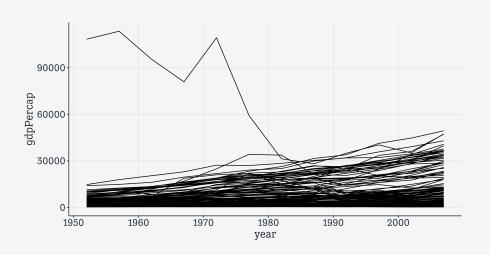
The grammar is a set of rules for how to produce graphics from data, by *mapping* data to or *representing* it by geometric objects (like points and lines) that have aesthetic attributes (like position, color, size, and shape), together with further rules for transforming data if needed, for adjusting scales and their guides, and for projecting results onto some coordinate system.



### Grouped data and the group aesthetic



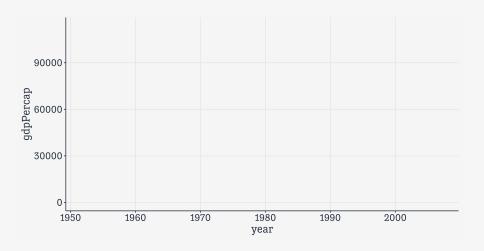




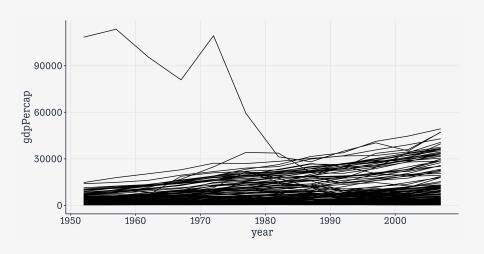
gapminder

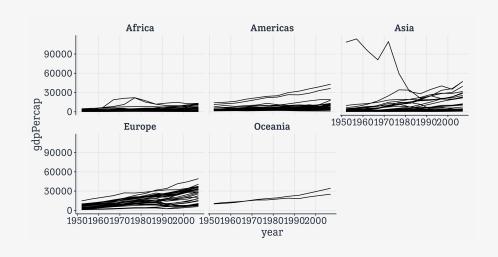
# A tibble: 1,704 × 6				
country	continent	year	lifeExp	pop
gdpPercap				
<fct></fct>	<fct></fct>	<int></int>	<dbl></dbl>	<int></int>
<dbl></dbl>				
1 Afghanistan	Asia	1952	28.8	8425333
779.				
2 Afghanistan	Asia	1957	30.3	9240934
821.				
3 Afghanistan	Asia	1962	32.0	10267083
853.				
4 Afghanistan	Asia	1967	34.0	11537966
836.				
5 Afghanistan	Asia	1972	36.1	13079460
740.				
6 Afghanistan	Asia	1977	38.4	14880372
786.				
7 Afghanistan	Asia	1982	39.9	12881816
978.				

```
gapminder ▷
  ggplot(mapping =
    aes(x = year,
    y = gdpPercap))
```



```
gapminder D
  ggplot(mapping =
          aes(x = year,
          y = gdpPercap)) +
  geom_line(mapping = aes(group = country))
```





### Faceting is very powerful

#### Faceting

A facet is not a geom; it's a way of arranging repeated geoms by some additional variable

Facets use R's "formula" syntax: facet\_wrap(~ continent)

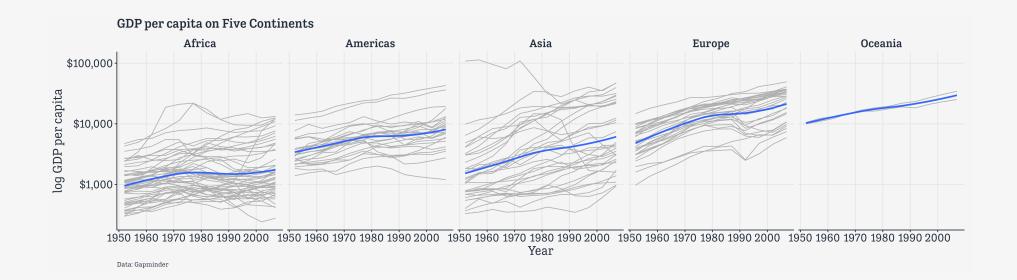
Read the ~ as "on" or "by"

#### Faceting

You can also use this syntax: facet\_wrap(vars(continent))

This is newer, and consistent with other ways of referring to variables within tidyverse functions.

#### Facets in action



#### One-variable summaries

#### The midwest dataset

#### County-level census data for Midwestern U.S. Counties

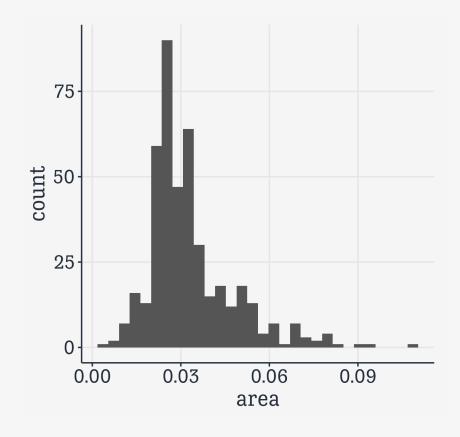
#### midwest

```
# A tibble: 437 × 28
     PID county state area poptotal popdensity popwhite popblack popamerindian
                <chr> <dbl>
                                           <dbl>
   <int> <chr>
                               <int>
                                                    <int>
                                                             <int>
                                                                           <int>
     561 ADAMS
                ΙL
                      0.052
                               66090
                                           1271.
                                                    63917
                                                             1702
                                                                              98
                               10626
                                           759
                                                  7054
    562 ALEXAN... IL
                      0.014
                                                             3496
                                                                              19
    563 BOND
                      0.022
                               14991
                                            681.
                                                  14477
                                                            429
                                                                              35
     564 BOONE
                      0.017
                               30806
                                           1812.
                                                   29344
                                                             127
                                                                              46
     565 BROWN
                      0.018
                                5836
                                            324.
                                                    5264
                                                              547
               ΙL
                                                                              14
     566 BUREAU IL
                      0.05
                               35688
                                           714.
                                                   35157
                                                               50
                                                                              65
    567 CALHOUN IL
                      0.017
                                5322
                                            313.
                                                   5298
                      0.027
     568 CARROLL IL
                               16805
                                            622.
                                                   16519
                                                              111
                                                                              30
     569 CASS
                ΙL
                      0.024
                               13437
                                            560.
                                                   13384
                                                               16
     570 CHAMPA... IL
                       0.058
                              173025
                                           2983.
                                                  146506
                                                             16559
                                                                             331
# i 427 more rows
# i 19 more variables: popasian <int>, popother <int>, percwhite <dbl>,
    percblack <dbl>, percamerindan <dbl>, percasian <dbl>, percother <dbl>,
   popadults <int>, perchsd <dbl>, percollege <dbl>, percprof <dbl>,
   poppovertyknown <int>, percpovertyknown <dbl>, percbelowpoverty <dbl>,
   percchildbelowpovert <dbl>, percadultpoverty <dbl>,
```

#### stat functions behind the scenes

```
p ← ggplot(data = midwest,
            mapping = aes(x = area))
p + geom_histogram()
```

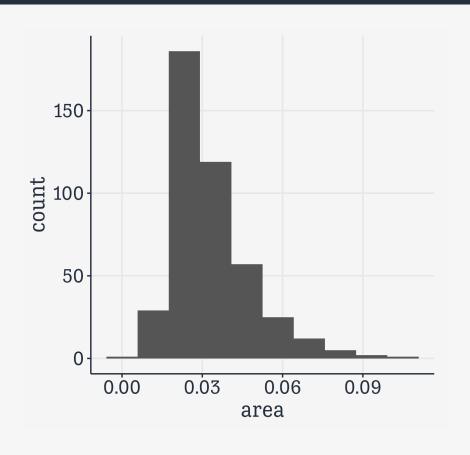
`stat\_bin()` using `bins = 30`. Pick better
value with `binwidth`.



Here the default stat\_ function for this geom has to make a choice. It is letting us know we might want to override it.

#### stat functions behind the scenes

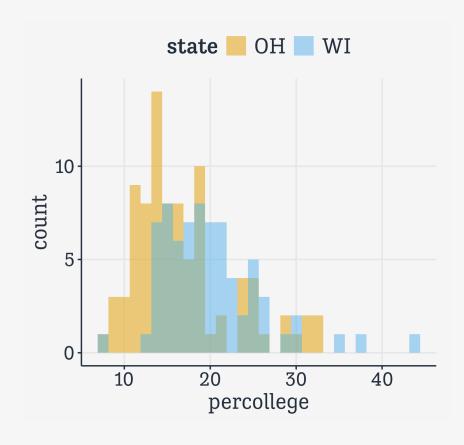
```
p ← ggplot(data = midwest,
            mapping = aes(x = area))
p + geom_histogram(bins = 10)
```



We can choose either the number of bins or the binwidth

#### Compare two distributions

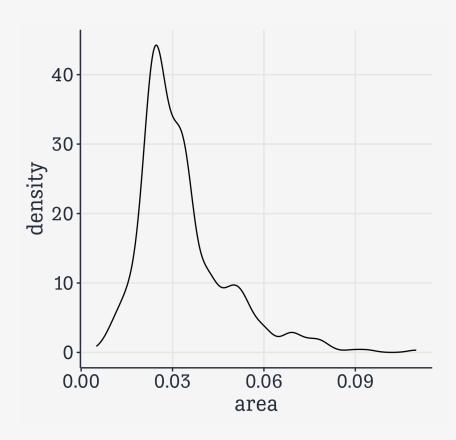
```
## Two state codes
oh_wi \leftarrow c("OH", "WI")
midwest ▷
  filter(state %in% oh_wi) ▷
  ggplot(mapping = aes(x = percollege,
                        fill = state)) +
  geom_histogram(alpha = 0.5,
                  position = "identity")
```



Here we do the whole thing in a pipeline using the pipe and the dplyr verb filter() to subset rows of the data by some condition.

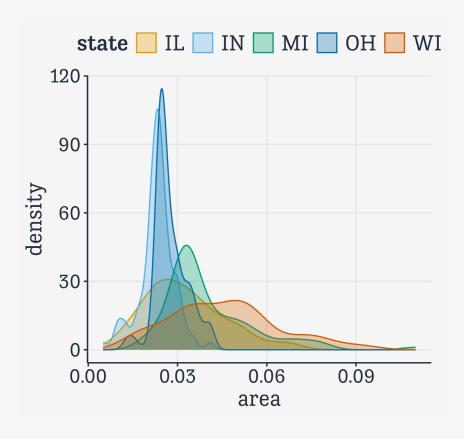
Experiment with leaving the position argument out, or changing it to

#### geom\_density()



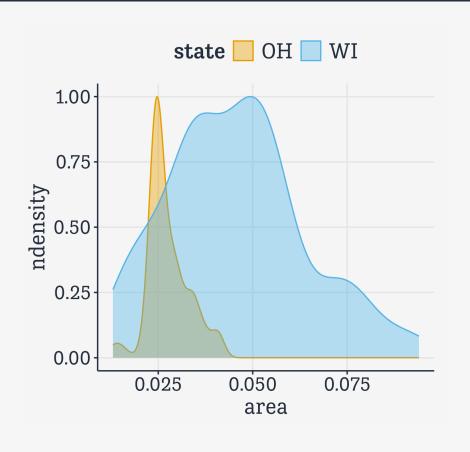
#### geom\_density()

```
p ← ggplot(data = midwest,
           mapping = aes(x = area,
                         fill = state,
                          color = state))
p + geom_density(alpha = 0.3)
```



#### geom\_density()

```
midwest ▷
  filter(state %in% oh_wi) ▷
  qqplot(mapping = aes(x = area,
                       fill = state,
                       color = state)) +
 geom_density(mapping = aes(y = after_stat(nde
               alpha = 0.4)
```



ndensity here is not in our data! It's *computed*. Histogram and density geoms have default statistics, but you can ask them to do more. The after\_stat functions can do this work for us.

## Compare subgroups to a reference distribution

#### Some made-up data

Consider 3,000 observations of some unit (e.g., a county) with summary measures for each group, and the population average.

```
df
# A tibble: 3,000 × 5
   unit pop_a pop_b pop_c pop_total
  <int> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl>
                            <dbl>
     1 1.29 1.93 -0.0869
                           1.09
    2 0.522 0.536 -0.762
                          0.190
                         1.15
    3 2.14 1.47 -0.616
   4 1.13 0.673 -0.242
                          0.575
    5 1.04 1.30 1.18
                          1.12
   6 1.80 0.140 2.05
                          1.33
   7 0.186 1.30 -0.709
                            0.476
   8 -0.953 0.520 -2.44
                           -0.767
   9 0.700 1.66 -1.09
                            0.749
    10 0.0416 0.484 -0.180
                            0.177
# i 2,990 more rows
```

#### Get the data into long format!

df

```
# A tibble: 3,000 × 5
   unit pop_a pop_b pop_c pop_total
  <int> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl>
                               <dbl>
        1.29
                               1.09
               1.93 -0.0869
                               0.190
      2 0.522 0.536 -0.762
                               1.15
      3 2.14 1.47 -0.616
                               0.575
      4 1.13
               0.673 -0.242
      5 1.04 1.30 1.18
                               1.12
      6 1.80
               0.140 2.05
                               1.33
      7 0.186 1.30 -0.709
                               0.476
      8 -0.953 0.520 -2.44
                              -0.767
      9 0.700 1.66 -1.09
                               0.749
     10 0.0416 0.484 -0.180
                               0.177
# i 2,990 more rows
```

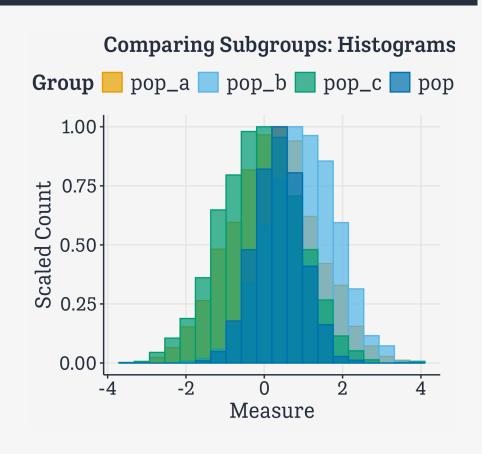
#### Get the data into long format!

```
df ▷
  pivot_longer(cols = pop_a:pop_
```

```
# A tibble: 12,000 × 3
              value
   unit name
  <int> <chr> <dbl>
     1 pop_a 1.29
     1 pop_b 1.93
             -0.0869
     1 pop_c
     1 pop_total 1.09
     2 pop_a
                0.522
     2 pop_b 0.536
     2 pop_c
              -0.762
     2 pop_total 0.190
     3 pop_a
               2.14
10
      3 pop_b
               1.47
# i 11,990 more rows
```

#### First effort: Hard to read

```
df ▷
  pivot_longer(cols = pop_a:pop_total) >
  qqplot() +
  geom_n histogram(mapping = aes(x = value,
                               y = after_stat(n
                          color = name, fill =
            stat = "bin", bins = 20,
            linewidth = 0.5, alpha = 0.7,
            position = "identity") +
  labs(x = "Measure", y = "Scaled Count", color
       fill = "Group",
       title = "Comparing Subgroups: Histograms
```



Again, after\_stat(ncount) is computed.

# Treat pop\_a to pop\_total as a single var.
df

```
# A tibble: 3,000 × 5
         pop_a pop_b pop_c pop_total
   unit
         <dbl> <dbl> <dbl>
  <int>
                                <dbl>
      1 1.29
               1.93 -0.0869
                               1.09
      2 0.522 0.536 -0.762
                               0.190
      3 2.14 1.47 -0.616
                               1.15
      4 1.13 0.673 -0.242
                                0.575
      5 1.04 1.30 1.18
                               1.12
      6 1.80 0.140 2.05
                               1.33
      7 0.186 1.30 -0.709
                               0.476
      8 -0.953 0.520 -2.44
                               -0.767
 9
     9 0.700 1.66 -1.09
                               0.749
     10 0.0416 0.484 -0.180
                                0.177
# i 2,990 more rows
```

```
# Treat pop_a to pop_total as a single var.
df >
  pivot_longer(cols = pop_a:pop_total)
```

```
# A tibble: 12,000 × 3
   unit name
               value
  <int> <chr> <dbl>
      1 pop_a
                 1.29
      1 pop_b 1.93
      1 pop_c
                 -0.0869
      1 pop_total 1.09
      2 pop_a
                 0.522
      2 pop_b 0.536
      2 pop_c
                -0.762
      2 pop_total 0.190
      3 pop_a
                 2.14
10
      3 pop_b
                 1.47
# i 11,990 more rows
```

# Just treat pop\_a to pop\_c as the single
# Notice that pop\_total just gets repeated
df

```
# A tibble: 3,000 × 5
   unit
         pop_a pop_b    pop_c pop_total
         <dbl> <dbl> <dbl>
  <int>
                               <dbl>
      1 1.29 1.93 -0.0869
                               1.09
      2 0.522 0.536 -0.762
                               0.190
      3 2.14 1.47 -0.616
                               1.15
      4 1.13 0.673 -0.242
                               0.575
      5 1.04 1.30 1.18
                               1.12
      6 1.80 0.140 2.05
                               1.33
   7 0.186 1.30 -0.709
                               0.476
      8 -0.953 0.520 -2.44
                              -0.767
    9 0.700 1.66 -1.09
                               0.749
     10 0.0416 0.484 -0.180
                               0.177
# i 2,990 more rows
```

```
# Just treat pop_a to pop_c as the single
# Notice that pop_total just gets repeated
df >
  pivot_longer(cols = pop_a:pop_c)
```

```
# A tibble: 9,000 × 4
   unit pop_total name value
            <dbl> <dbl> <dbl>
  <int>
           1.09 pop_a 1.29
           1.09 pop_b 1.93
           1.09 pop_c -0.0869
           0.190 pop_a 0.522
           0.190 pop_b 0.536
           0.190 pop_c -0.762
           1.15 pop_a 2.14
           1.15 pop_b 1.47
           1.15 pop_c -0.616
10
            0.575 pop_a 1.13
# i 8,990 more rows
```

### Now facet with that data

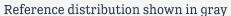
```
p_out ← df ▷
  pivot longer(cols = pop_a:pop_c) ▷
  qqplot() +
  geom_histogram(mapping = aes(x = pop_total,
                               y = after_stat(ncount)),
                bins = 20, alpha = 0.7,
                fill = "gray40", linewidth = 0.5) +
  geom_histogram(mapping = aes(x = value,
                               y = after_stat(ncount),
                          color = name, fill = name),
            stat = "bin", bins = 20, linewidth = 0.5,
            alpha = 0.5) +
  guides(color = "none", fill = "none") +
  labs(x = "Measure", y = "Scaled Count",
       title = "Comparing Subgroups: Histograms",
       subtitle = "Reference distribution shown in gray")
  facet_wrap(~ name, nrow = 1)
```

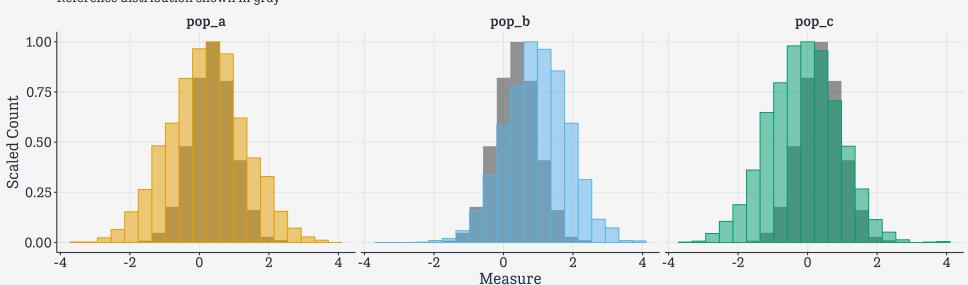
Remember, we can layer geoms one on top of the other. Here we call geom\_histogram() twice. What happens if you comment one or other of them out?

The call to guides ()
turns off the legend for the
color and fill, because we
don't need them.

## Now facet with that data

#### Comparing Subgroups: Histograms





# Avoid counting up, when necessary

## Sometimes no counting is needed

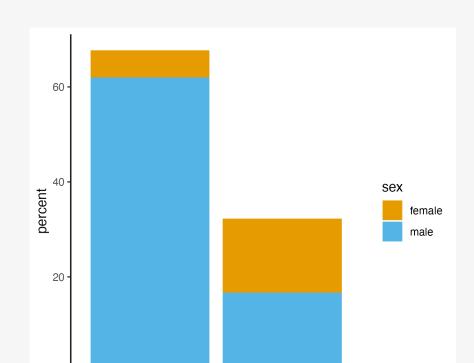
#### titanic

```
fate sex n percent
1 perished male 1364 62.0
2 perished female 126 5.7
3 survived male 367 16.7
4 survived female 344 15.6
```

Here we just have a summary table and want to plot a few numbers directly in a bar chart.

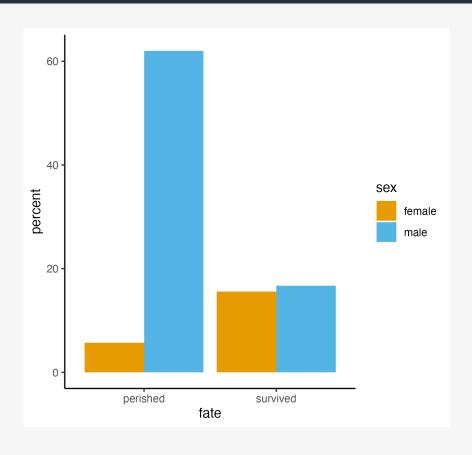
## geom\_bar() wants to count up

By default geom\_bar() tries to count up data by category. (Really it's the stat\_count() function that does this behind the scenes.) By saying stat="identity" we explicitly tell it not to do that. This also allows us to use a y mapping. Normally this would be the result of the counting up.



## geom\_bar() stacks by default

```
p ← ggplot(data = titanic,
            mapping = aes(x = fate,
                          y = percent,
                          fill = sex)
p + geom_bar(stat = "identity",
             position = "dodge")
```

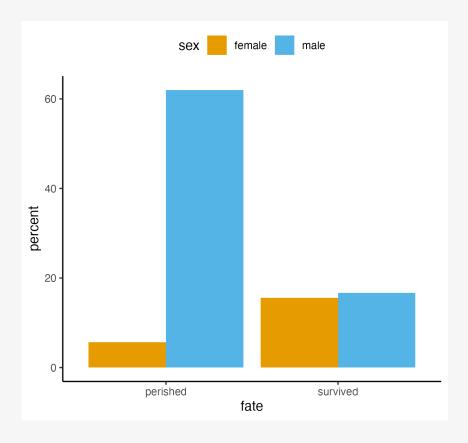


Position arguments adjust whether the things drawn are placed on top of one another ("stack"), side-by-side ("dodge"), or taken as-is ("identity").

## A quick theme () adjustment

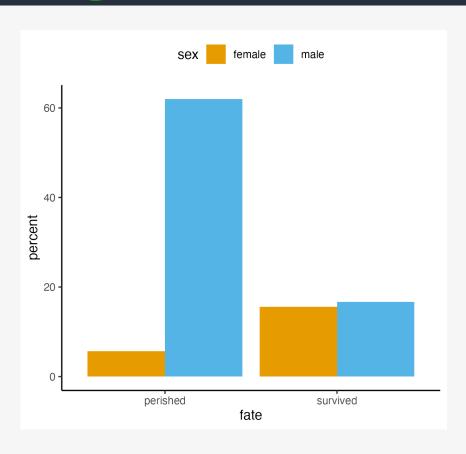
The theme () function controls the styling of parts of the plot that don't belong to its "grammatical" structure. That is, that are not contributing to directly representing data.

```
p ← ggplot(data = titanic,
            mapping = aes(x = fate,
                          y = percent,
                          fill = sex)
p + geom_bar(stat = "identity",
             position = "dodge") +
  theme(legend.position = "top")
```



## For convenience, use geom\_col()

```
p ← ggplot(data = titanic,
            mapping = aes(x = fate,
                          y = percent,
                          fill = sex)
p + geom_col(position = "dodge") +
  theme(legend.position = "top")
```



geom\_col() assumes stat = "identity" by default. It's for when you want to directly plot a table of values, rather than create a bar chart by summing over one varible categorized by another.

## Using geom\_col() for thresholds

#### oecd\_sum

```
# A tibble: 57 × 5
# Groups: year [57]
   year other
               usa diff hi_lo
  <int> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <chr>
  1960 68.6 69.9 1.30 Below
   1961 69.2 70.4 1.20 Below
   1962 68.9 70.2 1.30 Below
   1963
        69.1 70
                   0.900 Below
   1964 69.5 70.3 0.800 Below
   1965 69.6 70.3 0.700 Below
   1966 69.9 70.3 0.400 Below
   1967 70.1
             70.7 0.600 Below
   1968 70.1 70.4 0.300 Below
   1969 70.1 70.6 0.5
                         Below
# i 47 more rows
```

Data comparing U.S. average life expectancy to the rest of the OECD average.

diff is difference in years with respect to the U.S.

hi\_lo is a flag saying whether the OECD is above or below the U.S.

## Using geom\_col() for thresholds

geom\_hline() doesn't take any data argument. It just draws a horizontal line with a given y-intercept.

x = NULL means "Don't label the x-axis (not even with the default value, the variable name).

## Using geom\_col() for thresholds

