



1.3.3: Data Visualization

(Asynchronous-Online)

Session Objectives

1. To visualize data using different R packages.

This lesson module will include:

- Introductions to `ggplot2` and other relevant R packages for graphics.
 - Visualizing one, two, and more variables at a time.
 - Summary Tables with Graphics
 - Lists of other resources: books, blogs, websites, etc.
-

0. Prework - Before You Begin

A. Install packages

If you do not have them already, install the following packages from CRAN:

- `ggplot2`
- `ggthemes`
- `readr`
- `dplyr`

B. Open/create your RStudio project

Let's start with the `myfirstRproject` RStudio project you created in [Module 1.3.2 - part 1](#). If you have not yet created this `myfirstRproject` RStudio project, go ahead and create a new RStudio Project for this lesson. *Feel free to name your project whatever you want, it does not need to be named `myfirstRproject`.*



C. Create a new R script and load data into your computing session

At the end of [Module 1.3.2 - part 6](#) you saved the `mydata` dataset in the `mydata.RData` R binary format.

1. Go ahead and create a new R script (*.R) for this computing session. *We did this already in [Module 1.3.1 - part 3](#) - refer to this section to remember how to create a new R script.*
2. Put this code into your new R script (*.R) to load `mydata.RData` into your current computing session.

```
# load mydata  
load(file = "mydata.RData")
```

! Data must/should be in your RStudio project

REMEMBER R/RStudio automatically looks in your current RStudio project folder for all files for your current computing session. So, make sure the `mydata.RData` file is in your current RStudio project `myfirstRproject` folder on your computer.

For a more detailed overview of RStudio projects:

- read “Chapter 6: R projects” in the *The Epidemiologist R Handbook* and
- refer to “Chapter 45 Directory interactions” in the *The Epidemiologist R Handbook*.

D. Get Inspired!

- Get Inspired at [The R Graph Gallery](#)
- Also see the [Top Curated R Graphs](#)
- Also see [Additional Resources - R Graphics](#)



1. Base R graphical functions

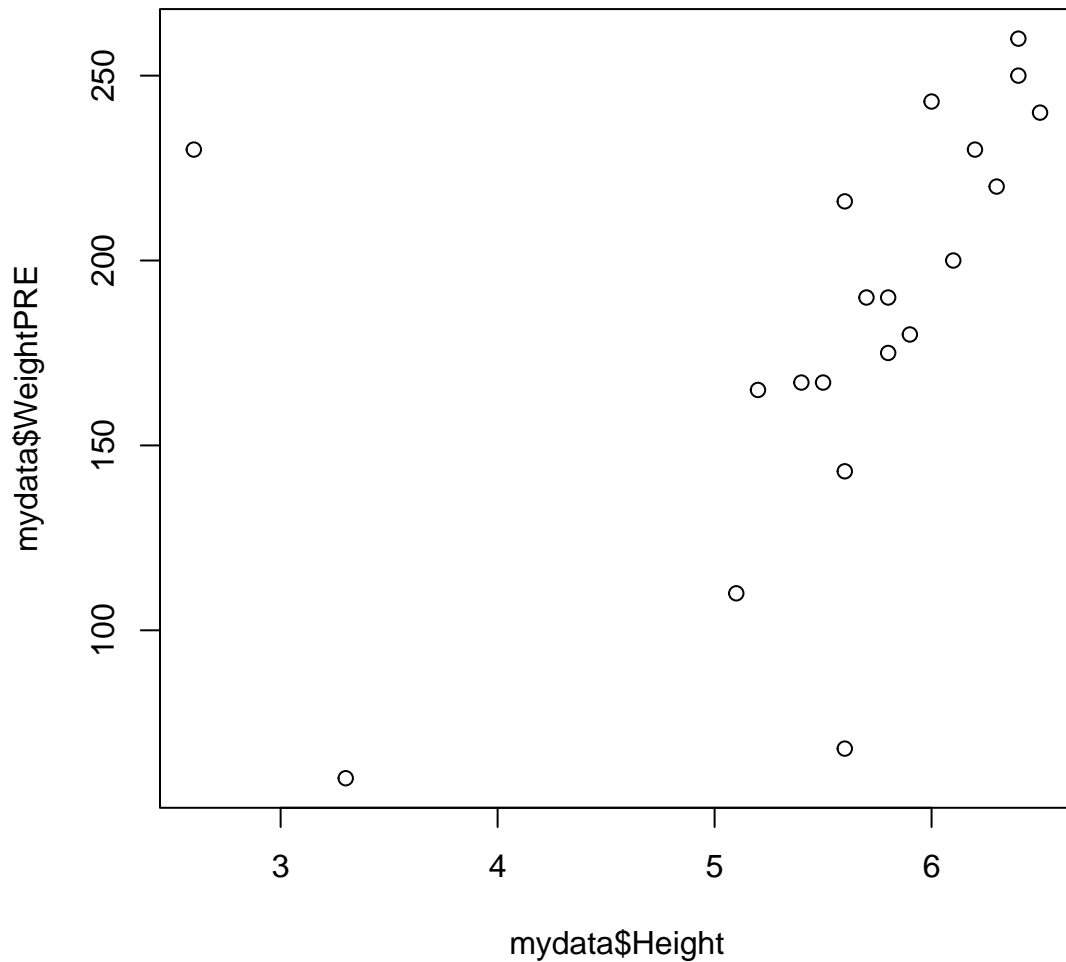
The base R `graphics` package is very powerful on its own. As you saw in [1.3.1: Introduction to R and R Studio](#), we can make a simple 2-dimensional scatterplot with the `plot()` function.

Base R - Scatterplot

For example, let's make a plot of `Height` on the X-axis (horizontal) and `WeightPRE` on the Y-axis (vertical) from the `mydata` dataset. Since we are using base R function, we have to use the `$`selector to identify the variables we want inside the `mydata` dataset.

Learn more about the `plot()` function and arguments by running `help(plot, package = "graphics")`.

```
plot(x = mydata$Height,  
     y = mydata$WeightPRE)
```



The plot does look a little odd - this is due to some data errors in the `mydata` dataset. We will fix these below. But for now, you can “see” that these data may have some issues that need to be addressed. For example:

- There are 2 people with heights < 5 feet tall which may be suspect
- There are 2 people with a weight < 100 pounds which may be data entry errors or incorrect units



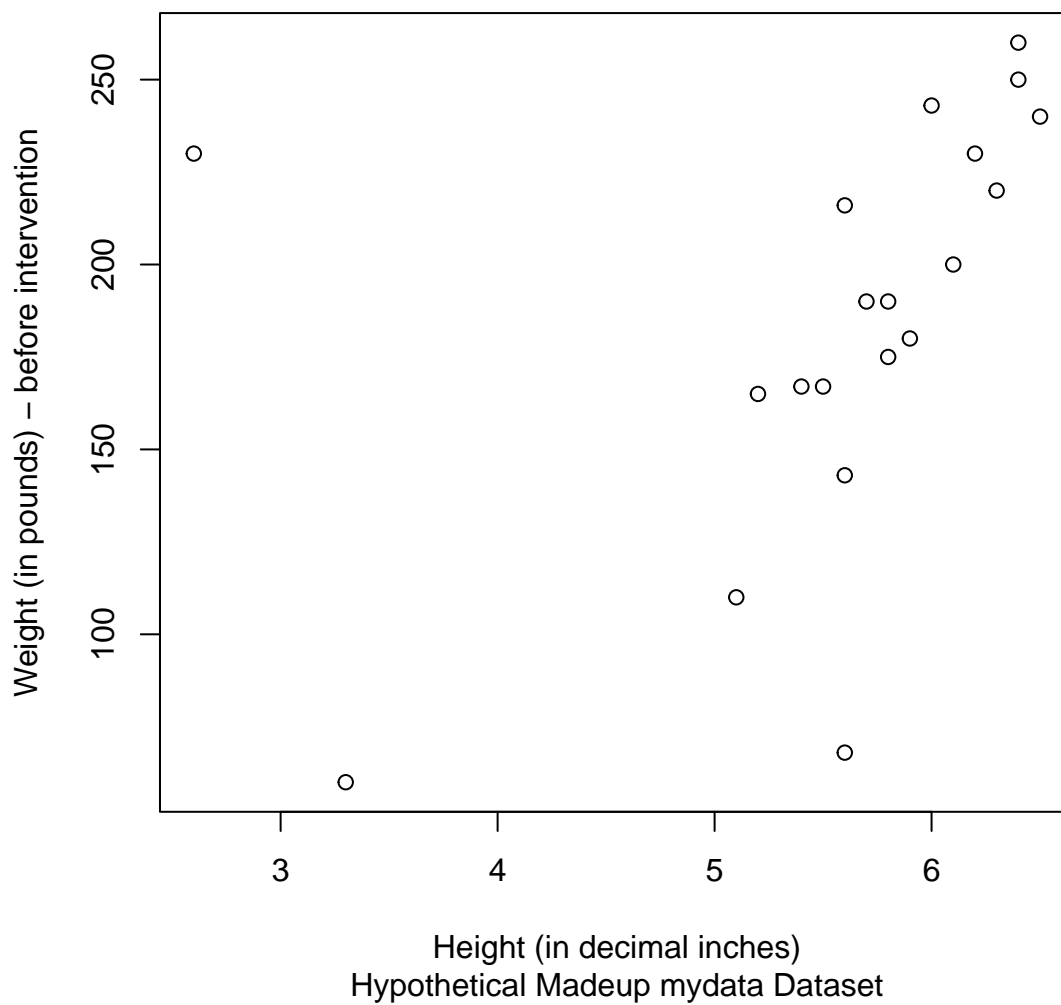
For now, let's add some additional graphical elements:

- a better label for the x-axis
- a better label for the y-axis
- a title for the graph
- a subtitle for the graph

```
plot(x = mydata$Height,  
     y = mydata$WeightPRE,  
     xlab = "Height (in decimal inches)",  
     ylab = "Weight (in pounds) - before intervention",  
     main = "Weight by Height in the Mydata Project",  
     sub = "Hypothetical Madeup mydata Dataset")
```



Weight by Height in the Mydata Project





And we could also add color and change the shapes - for example, let's color and shape the points by **GenderCoded**, the numeric coding for gender where 1=Male, 2=Female.

And we can add a legend inside the plot as well.

Plot code inspiration

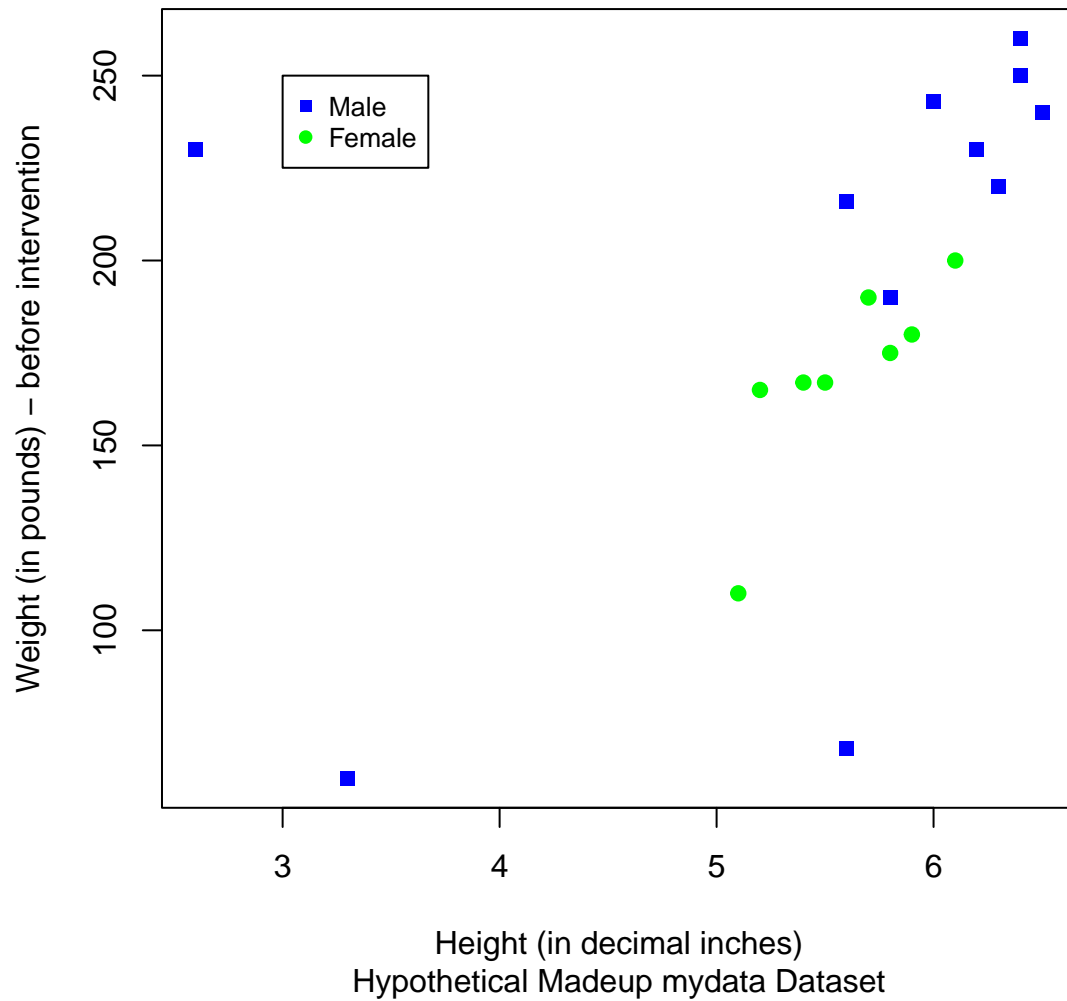
I pulled this code together from code examples at:

- [Stackoverflow post on using pch](#)
- [STHDA post on point shapes](#)
- [STDHA post on base R legends](#)
- [R-Graph Galler post on base R legends](#)

```
plot(x = mydata$Height,
     y = mydata$WeightPRE,
     col = c("blue", "green")[mydata$GenderCoded],
     pch = c(15, 19)[mydata$GenderCoded],
     xlab = "Height (in decimal inches)",
     ylab = "Weight (in pounds) - before intervention",
     main = "Weight by Height in the Mydata Project",
     sub = "Hypothetical Madeup mydata Dataset")
legend(3, 250, legend=c("Male", "Female"),
      col=c("blue", "green"), pch = c(15, 19), cex=0.8)
```



Weight by Height in the Mydata Project



The [STHDA website on “R Base Graphs”](#) has a nice walk through of using the base R `graphics` package to make really nice plots.



Base R - Histogram

Basic Histogram

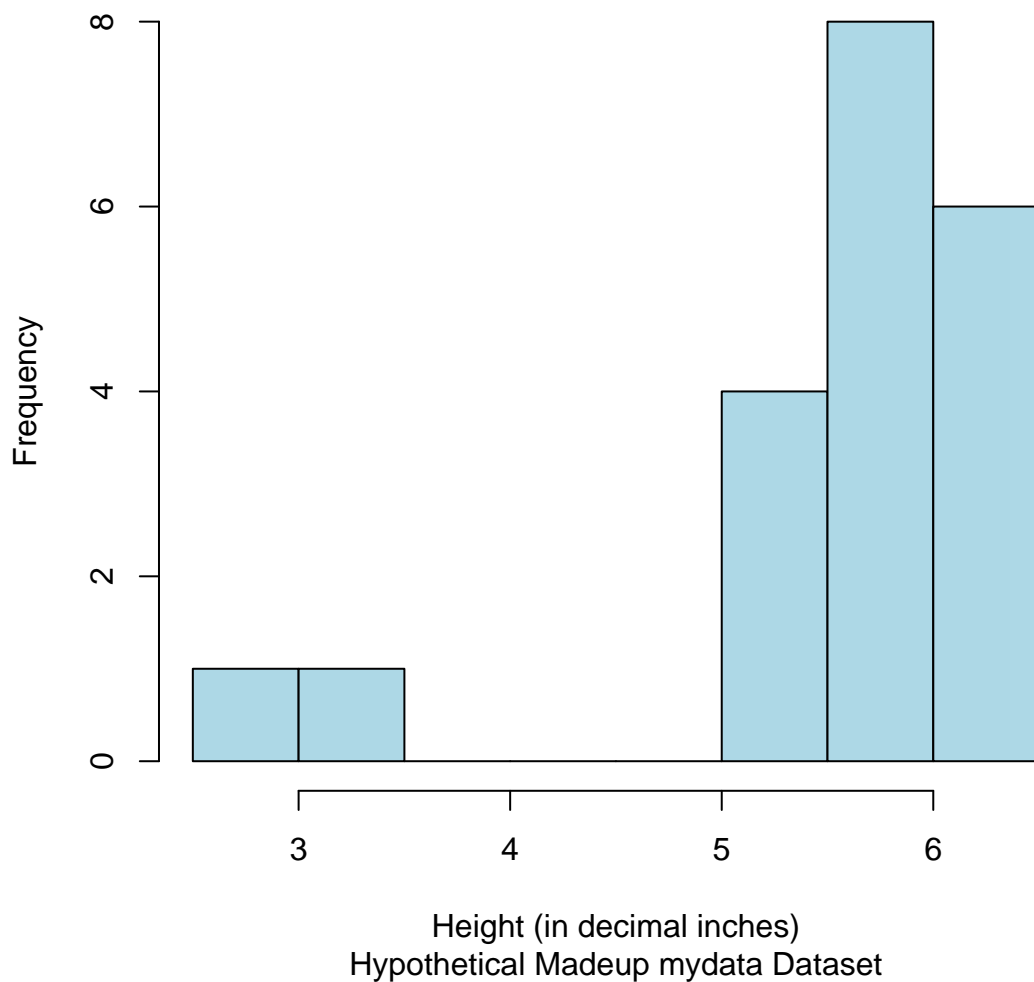
As we noted above, let's take a look at the distribution of the heights in the `mydata` dataset. There is a specific `hist()` function in the `graphics` package for making histograms, learn more by running `help(hist, package = "graphics")`.

Notice that we can use some of the same arguments as we did above for `plot()`.

```
hist(mydata$Height,  
      xlab = "Height (in decimal inches)",  
      col = "lightblue",  
      border = "black",  
      main = "Histogram of Heights",  
      sub = "Hypothetical Madeup mydata Dataset")
```



Histogram of Heights



Colors available

There are 657 names of colors immediately available to you from the built-in `grDevices` Base R package which works in conjunction with `graphics`. You can view the names of all of these colors by running `colors()`. You can also learn more at:

- https://www.sthda.com/english/wiki/colors-in-r#google_vignette
- <https://r-graph-gallery.com/42-colors-names.html>
- <https://r-graph-gallery.com/ggplot2-color.html> - which explains how colors can be



specified using the built-in color names, but can also be specified using RGB (red, green, blue) indexes or even Hexcodes for which there are many online tools like <https://htmlcolorcodes.com/>.

```
# code not run here - do in your session
# list built-in colors
colors()
```



Histogram with Overlaid Density Curve

Statisticians often like seeing a histogram (*for the frequencies or probability of each value for the variable in the dataset*) with an overlaid density curve (*which is “smoothed” line for these probabilities*). Statistical software like SAS and SPSS make this really easy. However, in R, we need to think through the process to get this to work.

- First, we need to make the histogram using probabilities for the “bars” in the histogram instead of frequency counts.
- Second, we need to add a density line curve over the histogram “bars”.

See these online examples:

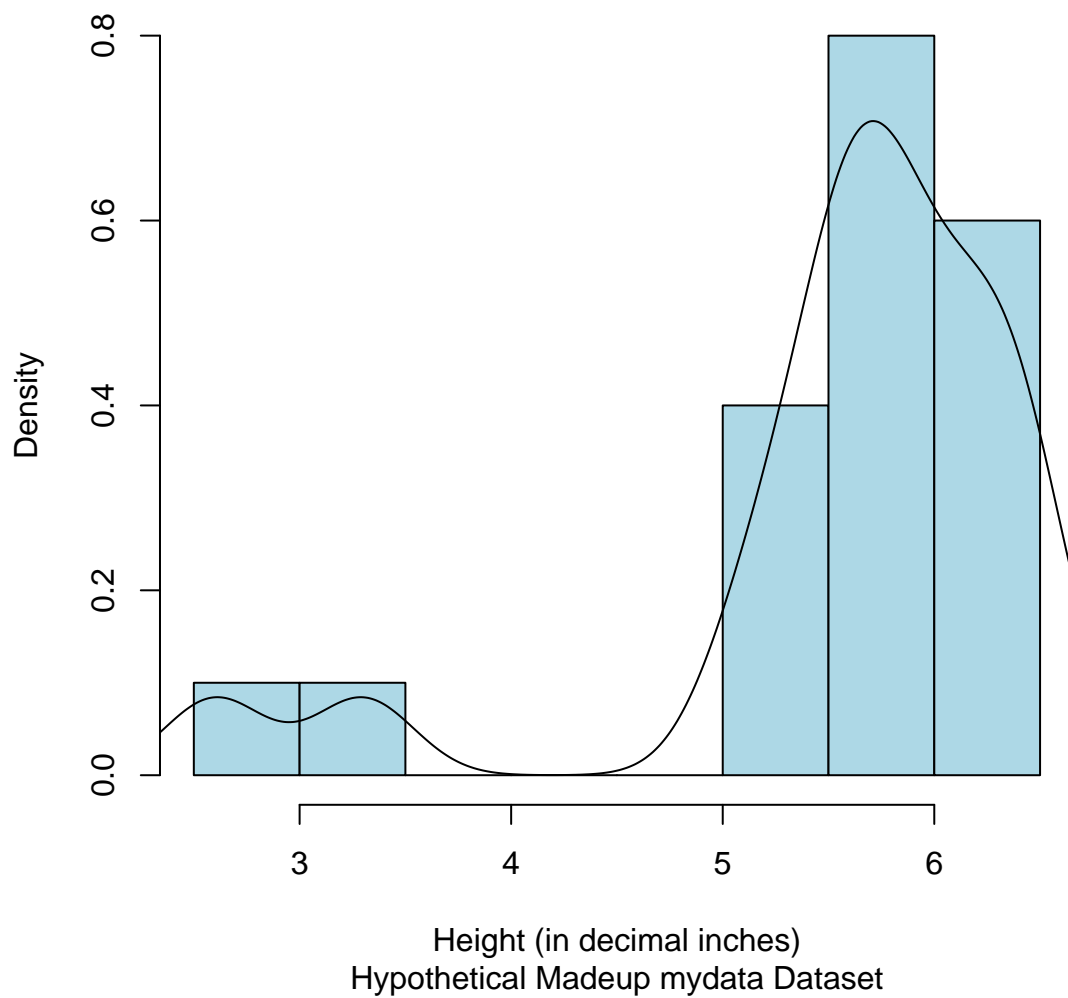
- <https://r-charts.com/distribution/histogram-curves/>
- <https://www.datacamp.com/doc/r/histograms-and-density>
- <https://www.r-bloggers.com/2012/09/histogram-density-plot-combo-in-r/>

```
# make histogram as we did above
# add freq = FALSE
hist(mydata$Height,
     freq = FALSE,
     xlab = "Height (in decimal inches)",
     col = "lightblue",
     border = "black",
     main = "Histogram of Heights",
     sub = "Hypothetical Madeup mydata Dataset")

# add density curve line
# add na.rm=TRUE to remove
# the missing values in Height
lines(density(mydata$Height, na.rm=TRUE),
      col = "black")
```



Histogram of Heights





Fix the Heights

So as you can see in the histogram and in the scatterplot figures above for the `Height` variable, there are 2 people with heights under 4 feet tall.

```
# use dplyr::arrange()
library(dplyr)

mydata %>%
  select(SubjectID, Height) %>%
  arrange(Height) %>%
  head()
```

```
# A tibble: 6 x 2
  SubjectID Height
    <dbl>   <dbl>
1         28     2.6
2          8     3.3
3          9     5.1
4          6     5.2
5          2     5.4
6         12     5.5
```

Let's look at these values:

- SubjectID number 28 has a Height of 2.6 feet tall
 - If this wasn't a made-up dataset, we could ask the original data collectors to see if there is a way to check this value in their records or possibly to re-measure this individual.
 - For now, let's assume this was a simple typo where the 2 numbers were transposed where this individual should be 6.2 feet tall.
- SubjectID number 8 has a Height of 3.3 feet tall
 - Unfortunately, this is probably not a simple typo. Without further details, we should maybe set this to missing as an invalidated data point.
 - As a side-note, I actually ran into this problem in a study where one of the participants was a paraplegic. So, this could be a legitimate height. But when computing BMI, adjustments need to be made or alternative body metrics are needed.
 - For now, we will set this to missing, `NA_real_` which is missing for "real" numeric variables.



```
# make a copy of the dataset
mydata_corrected <- mydata

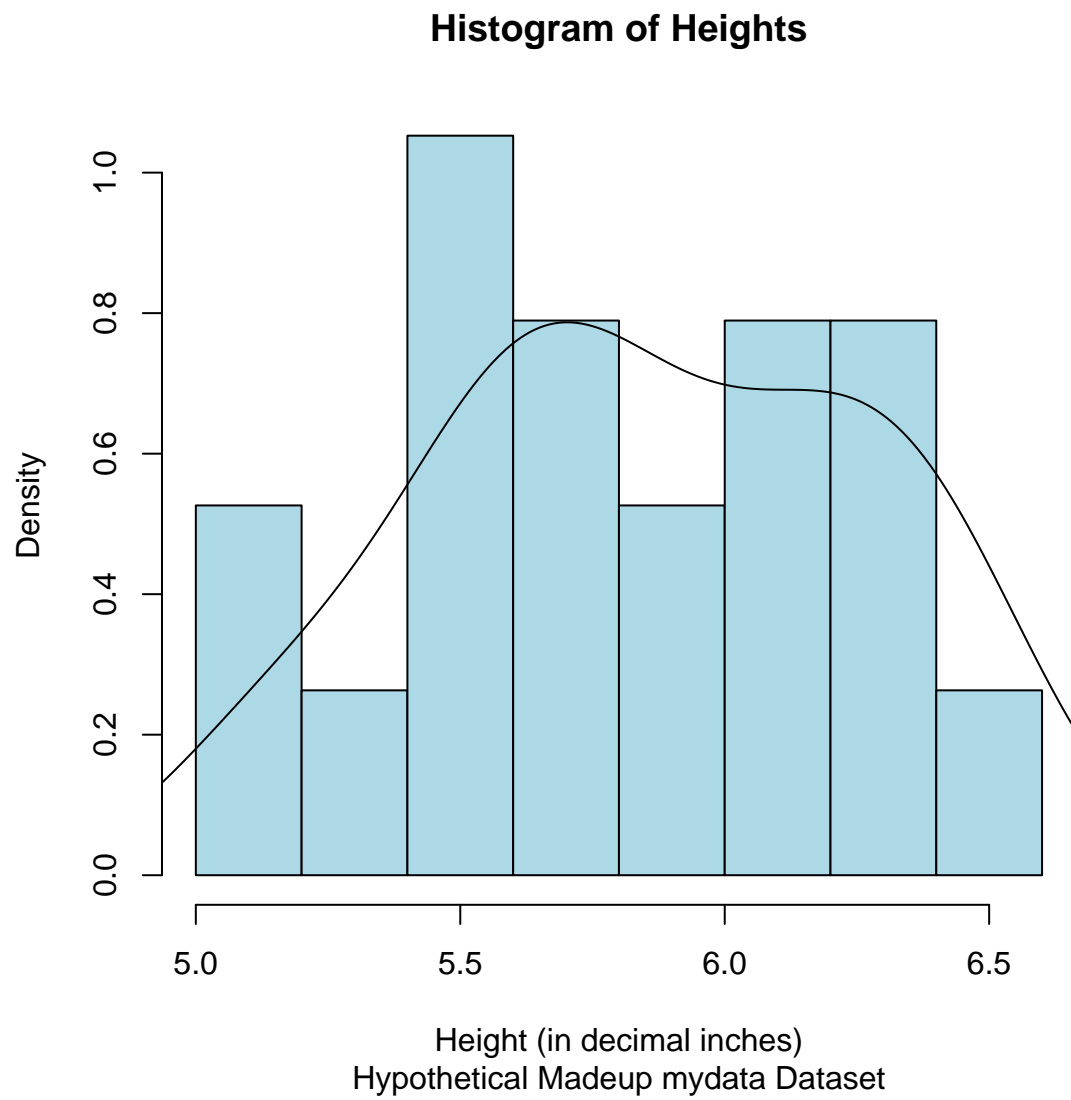
# compute a new corrected height
# fix heights for these 2 IDs
mydata_corrected <-
  mydata_corrected %>%
  mutate(Height_corrected = case_when(
    (SubjectID == 28) ~ 6.2,
    (SubjectID == 8) ~ NA_real_,
    .default = Height
  ))
```



Remake the histogram with the corrected heights.

```
# make histogram as we did above
# add freq = FALSE
hist(mydata_corrected$Height_corrected,
     freq = FALSE,
     xlab = "Height (in decimal inches)",
     col = "lightblue",
     border = "black",
     main = "Histogram of Heights",
     sub = "Hypothetical Madeup mydata Dataset")

# add density curve line
# add na.rm=TRUE to remove
# the missing values in Height
lines(density(mydata_corrected$Height_corrected, na.rm=TRUE),
      col = "black")
```



Base R - Barchart

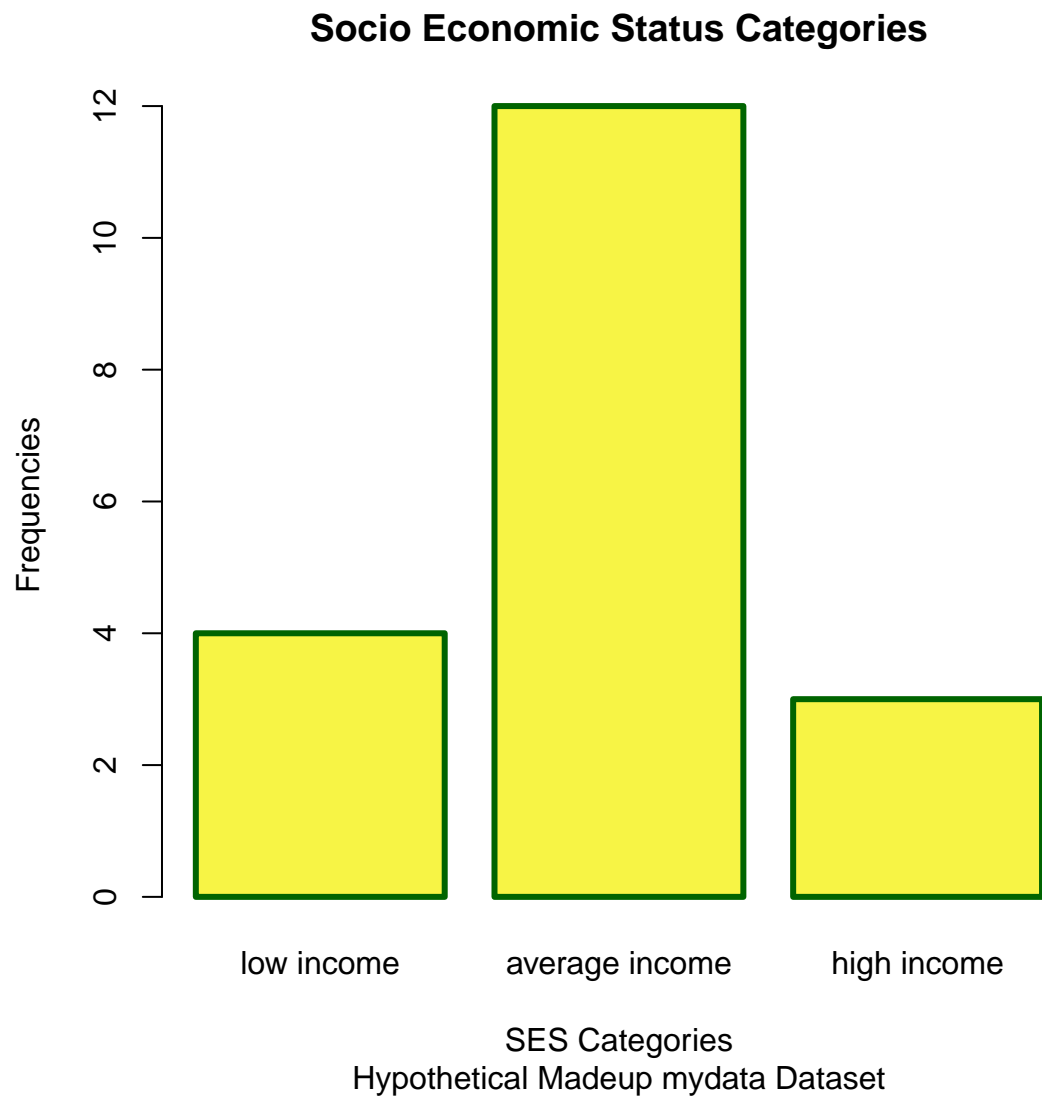
Let's make a bar chart for the frequencies for the 3 SES categories:

- fill the bars with a yellow color specified by the HEX code [#f7f445](#)
- set the border color as **darkgreen** and make the border line thicker by updating the **lwd**, see [Stack Overflow Post on bar width](#).

```
# get table of frequencies for each category
tab1 <- table(mydata_corrected$SES.f)

opar <- par() # save current plotting parameters
par(lwd = 3) # change border linewidth

# make plot of the frequencies for
# each category
barplot(tab1,
        xlab = "SES Categories",
        ylab = "Frequencies",
        col = "#f7f445",
        border = "darkgreen",
        main = "Socio Economic Status Categories",
        sub = "Hypothetical Madeup mydata Dataset")
```



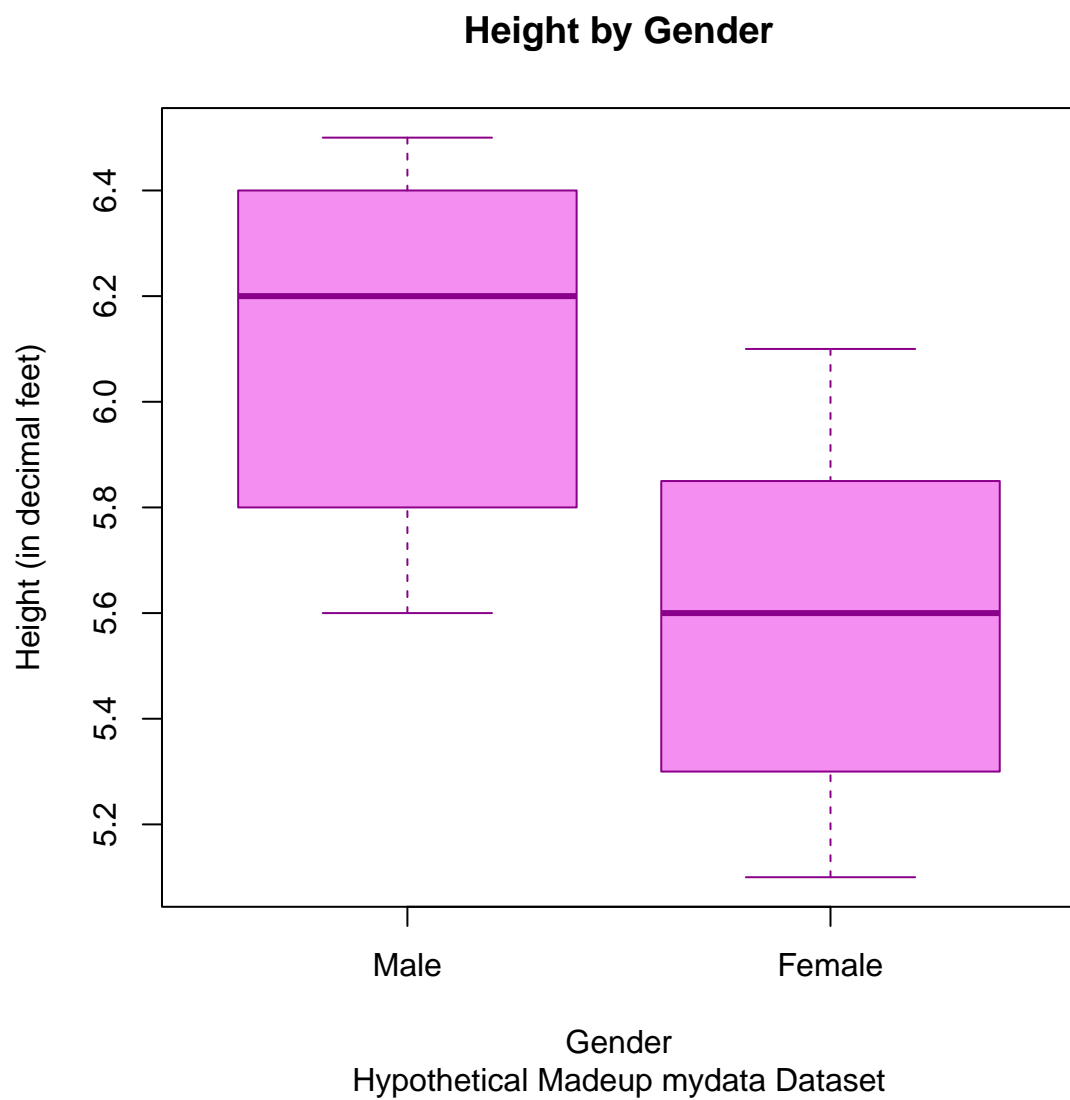
```
par(opar) # reset plotting parameters to defaults
```



Base R - Boxplot

Make side-by-side boxplots of the heights by gender.

```
boxplot(Height_corrected ~ GenderCoded.f,  
        data = mydata_corrected,  
        xlab = "Gender",  
        ylab = "Height (in decimal feet)",  
        col = "#f58ef1",  
        border = "darkmagenta",  
        main = "Height by Gender",  
        sub = "Hypothetical Madeup mydata Dataset")
```





2. The ggplot2 package

The `ggplot2` package name starts with `gg` which stands for the “grammar of graphics” which is explained in the “[ggplot2: Elegant Graphics for Data Analysis \(3e\)](#)” Book.

i Why is the package `ggplot2` and not `ggplot`?

Many people often ask Hadley Wickham (the developer of `ggplot2`) what happened to the first `ggplot`? Technically, there was a `ggplot` package and you can still view the [ggplot archived package versions on CRAN](#) which date back to 2006 with the last version posted in 2008. However, in 2007, Hadley redesigned the package and published the first version of `ggplot2` (*version 0.5.1*) [was posted on CRAN](#). So, `ggplot2` is the package that has stayed in production and actively maintained for nearly 20 years!!

Given that `ggplot2` has been actively maintained for nearly 20 years, it has become *almost* the defacto graphical standard for R graphics. If you take a look at the [list of packages on CRAN that start with the letter “G”](#), as of this morning 01/28/2025 at 8:23 am EST, USA, there are 230 packages that start with `gg` - nearly all of these are compatible packages that extend the functionality or work in concert with the `ggplot2` package. There are also currently 14 packages on the [Bioconductor repository](#) that start with `gg`.

Let’s make plots similar to the ones above but now using `ggplot2`. When making a `ggplot2` plot, we build the plots using layers that get added to the previous layers.



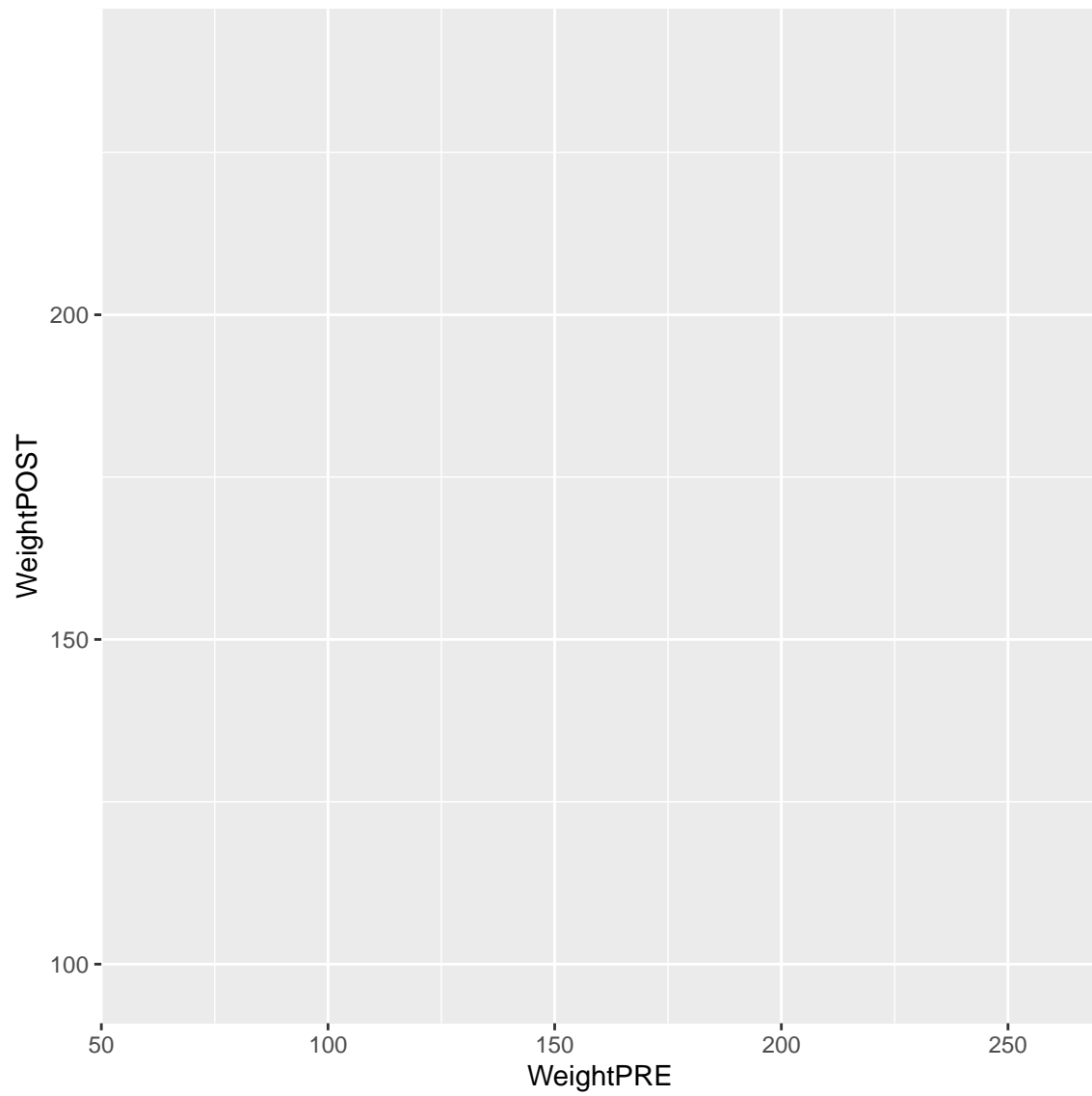
ggplot2 - Scatterplot

Here are the steps to building a scatterplot.

1. First, load the `ggplot2` package, designate the dataset and variables (aesthetics) to be included. This creates a plot space with nothing in it - we will add data in the next steps below.

```
#load ggplot2
library(ggplot2)

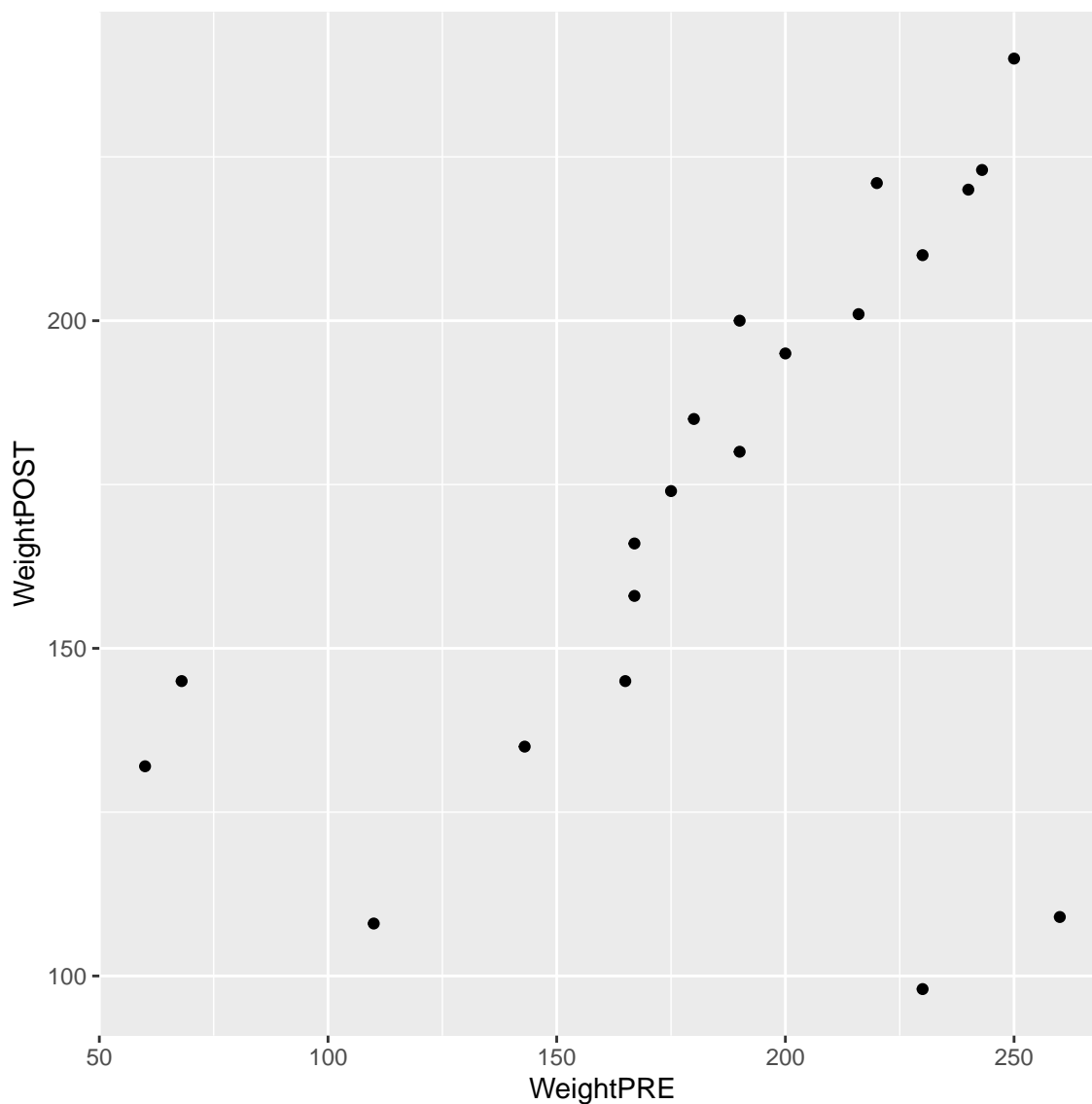
# create the plot space
ggplot(data = mydata_corrected,
       aes(x = WeightPRE,
           y = WeightPOST))
```





2. Next add + a “geometric object” or “geom” to show the data as points.

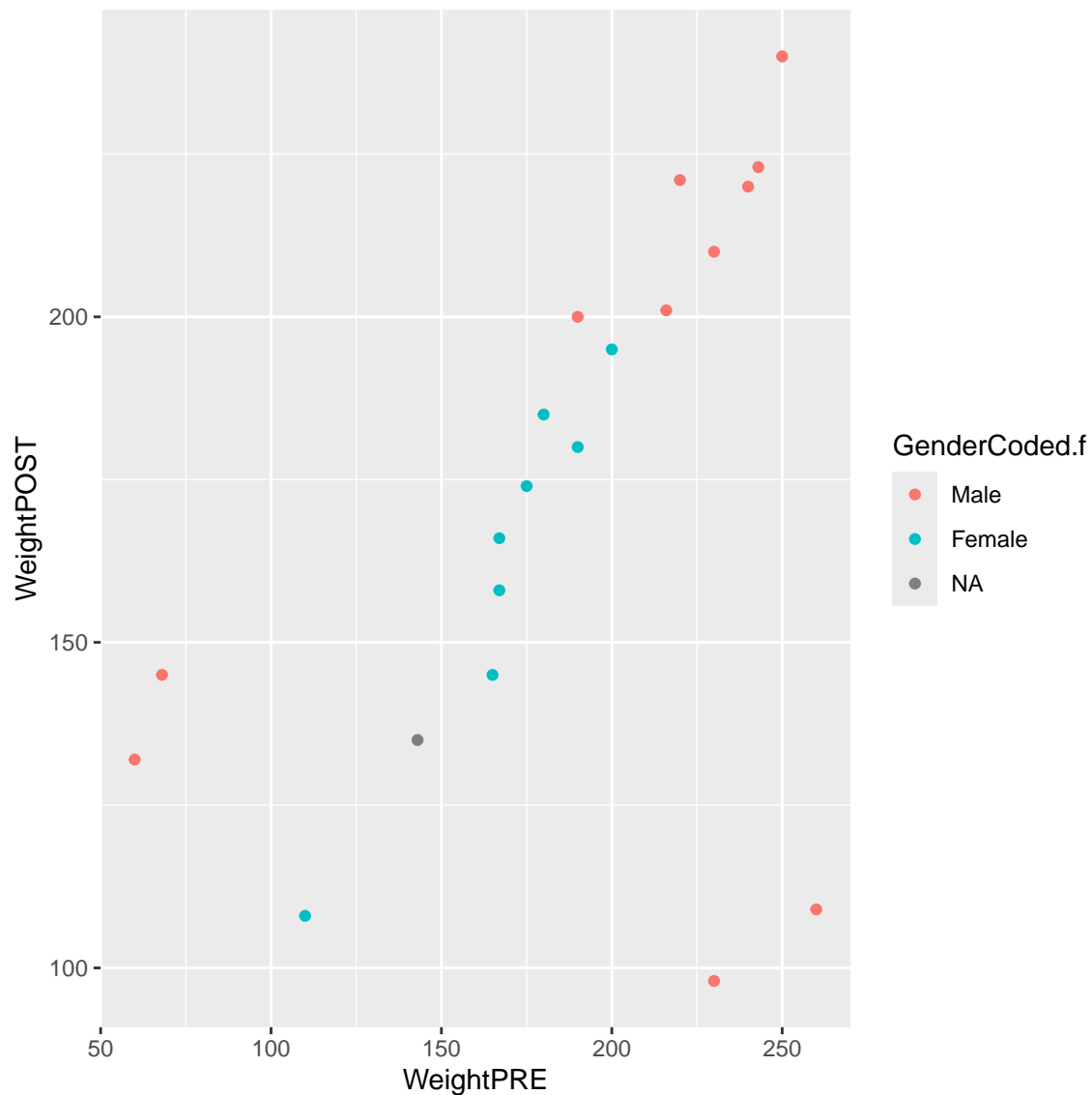
```
ggplot(data = mydata_corrected,  
       aes(x = WeightPRE,  
           y = WeightPOST)) +  
  geom_point()
```





3. We can add color by GenderCoded.f

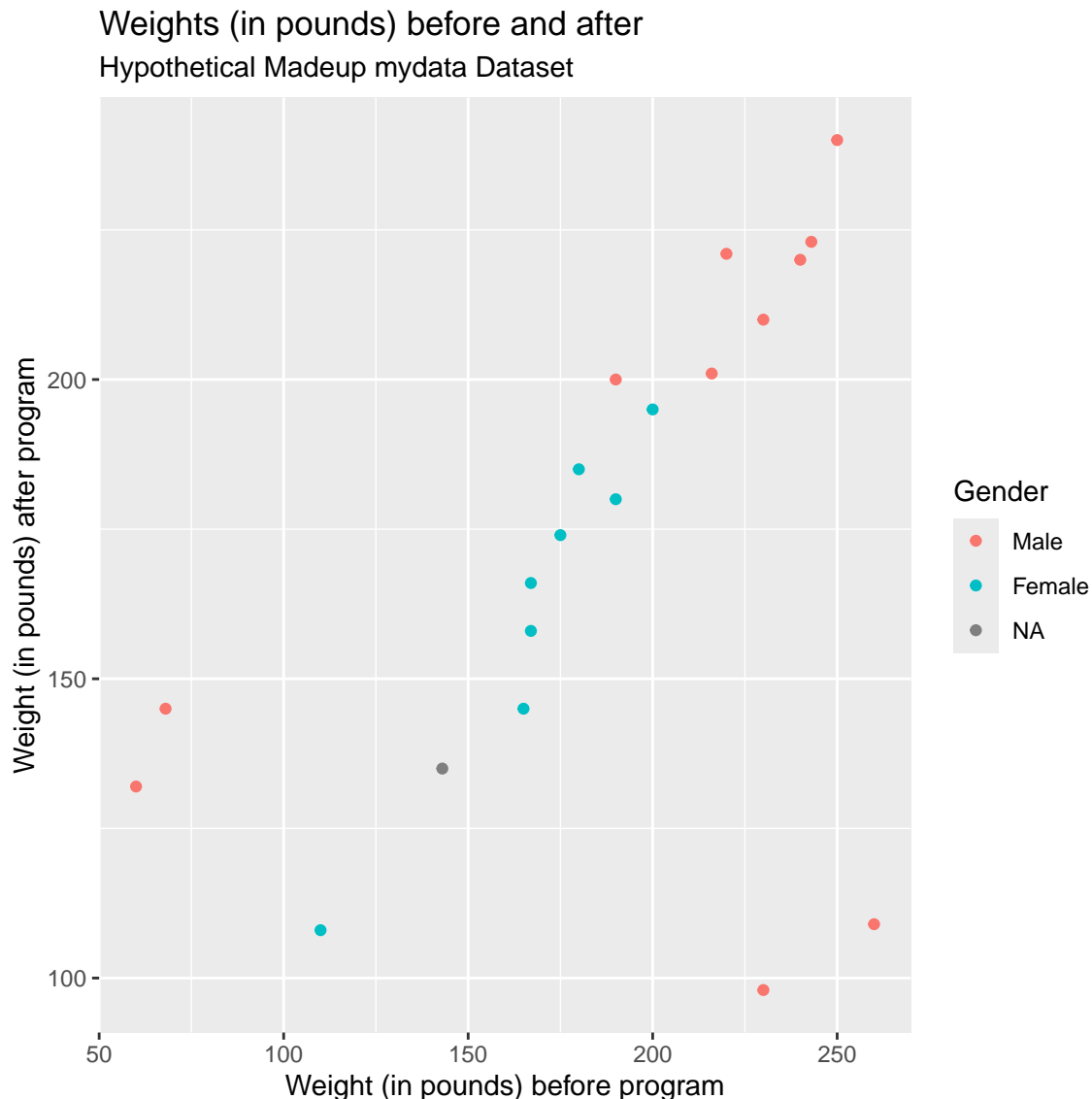
```
ggplot(data = mydata_corrected,  
  aes(x = WeightPRE,  
    y = WeightPOST,  
    color = GenderCoded.f)) +  
  geom_point()
```





4. We can also add labels, a title and better legend title

```
ggplot(data = mydata_corrected,  
  aes(x = WeightPRE,  
    y = WeightPOST,  
    color = GenderCoded.f)) +  
  geom_point() +  
  xlab("Weight (in pounds) before program") +  
  ylab("Weight (in pounds) after program") +  
  labs(  
    title = "Weights (in pounds) before and after",  
    subtitle = "Hypothetical Madeup mydata Dataset",  
    color = "Gender"  
  )
```



Notice that there are 4 weights that seem off. Also notice that the values are within a reasonable range when considering PRE or POST separately, but when you put them together in a scatterplot you can see that the values are off since we expect PRE and POST weights to be somewhat similar.

- Two individuals have PRE weights that are < 100 pounds (bottom left side of plot).
 - There is a good chance that these weights may have been accidentally recorded as kg (kilograms) instead of in pounds.
- And there are 2 individuals with POST weights around 100-120 lbs, but for whom their



PRE weights were 225-260 lbs.

- There is a good chance that these two data points may have had a typo in the first number (e.g. a weight of 110 should be 210).
- For this made-up dataset, it also appears that all 4 of these odd data points are Males. It is a good idea to explore other “correlates” that may help identify underlying data collection issues.

Let's correct these values.

```
# for WeightPRE < 100, convert kg to lbs
mydata_corrected <- mydata_corrected %>%
  mutate(WeightPRE_corrected = case_when(
    (WeightPRE < 100) ~ WeightPRE * 2.20462,
    .default = WeightPRE
  ))
```

```
# For WeightPOST, for
# SubjectID 28, change WeightPOST=98 to 198
# since this person's WeightPRE was 230.
# also fix SubjectID = 32, for
# WeightPOST from 109 to 209 since
# their WeightPRE was 260

mydata_corrected <- mydata_corrected %>%
  mutate(WeightPOST_corrected = case_when(
    (SubjectID == 28) ~ 198,
    (SubjectID == 32) ~ 209,
    .default = WeightPOST
  ))
```



Let's redo the plot with these corrected values - now the PRE and POST weights look similar.

I've also added a "reference line" (in "red" color) to the plot below. By adding the line "Y = X" we can also visualize which points are above or below the line for people who gained or lost weight from PRE-to-POST, respectively. It looks like most people lost weight - the majority of the points are below the line where $PRE > POST$ weights.

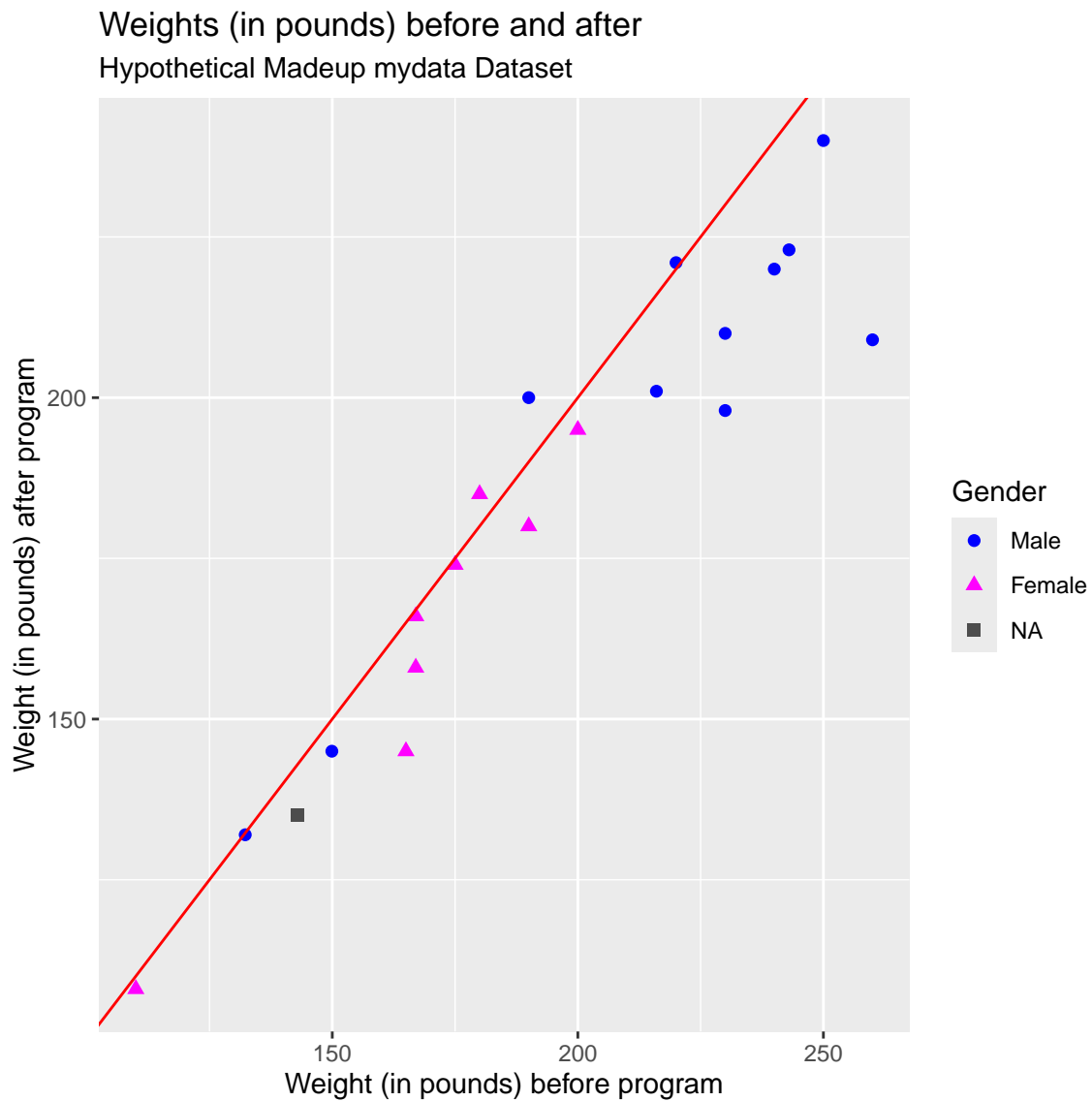
I also:

- applied colors to each gender category,
- applied shapes to each gender category,
- changed the size of the points,
- assigned custom colors for each gender category,
 - the colors are for the non-missing values
 - if you want to see the person missing a gender, we have to specifically assign a color for NA using `na.value=`
- assigned custom shapes for each gender category,
 - the colors are for the non-missing values
 - if you want to see the person missing a gender, we have to specifically assign a color for NA using `na.value=`
- also notice that I had to provide a custom label in the `labs()` for the shape and color legend - the labels are the same so they will be in the same legend box. *It is possible to assign the variables for color and shape to different variables.*

```
ggplot(data = mydata_corrected,  
  aes(x = WeightPRE_corrected,  
    y = WeightPOST_corrected,  
    color = GenderCoded.f,  
    shape = GenderCoded.f)) +  
geom_point(size = 2) +  
geom_abline(slope = 1,  
  intercept = 0,  
  color = "red") +  
scale_shape_manual(values = c(16, 17),  
  na.value = 15) +  
scale_color_manual(values = c("blue",  
  "magenta"),  
  na.value = "grey30") +  
xlab("Weight (in pounds) before program") +  
ylab("Weight (in pounds) after program") +  
labs(  
  title = "Weights (in pounds) before and after",
```



```
subtitle = "Hypothetical Madeup mydata Dataset",  
color = "Gender",  
shape = "Gender"  
)
```





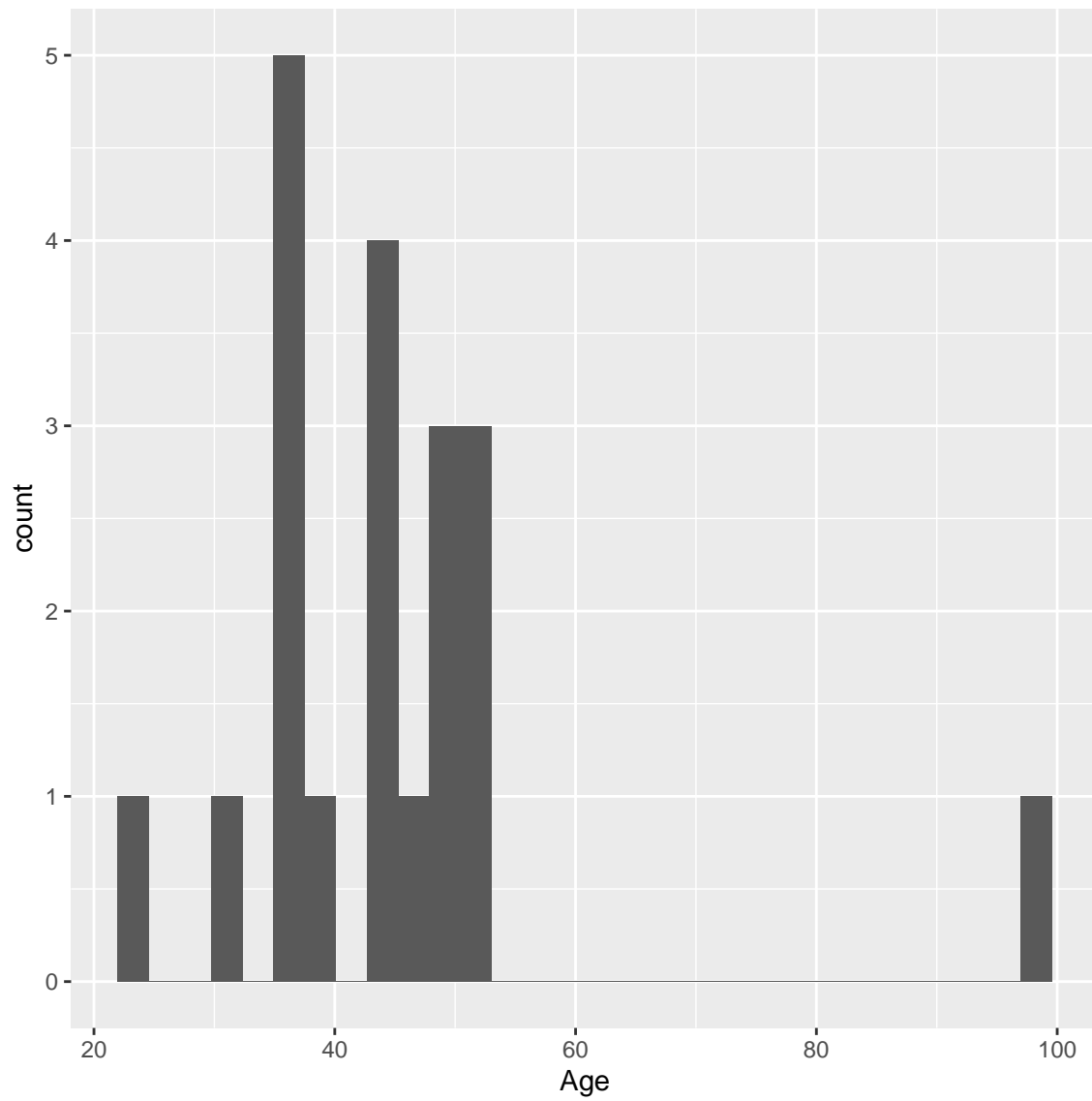
ggplot2 - Histogram

Let's make a histogram of `Age` and overlay a density curve like we did above for the heights, but this time using the `ggplot2` package functions.

The first step:

- specify the dataset `mydata_corrected` and “aesthetics” variable `x=Age` inside the `ggplot()` step
- then add the geometric object `geom_histogram()`

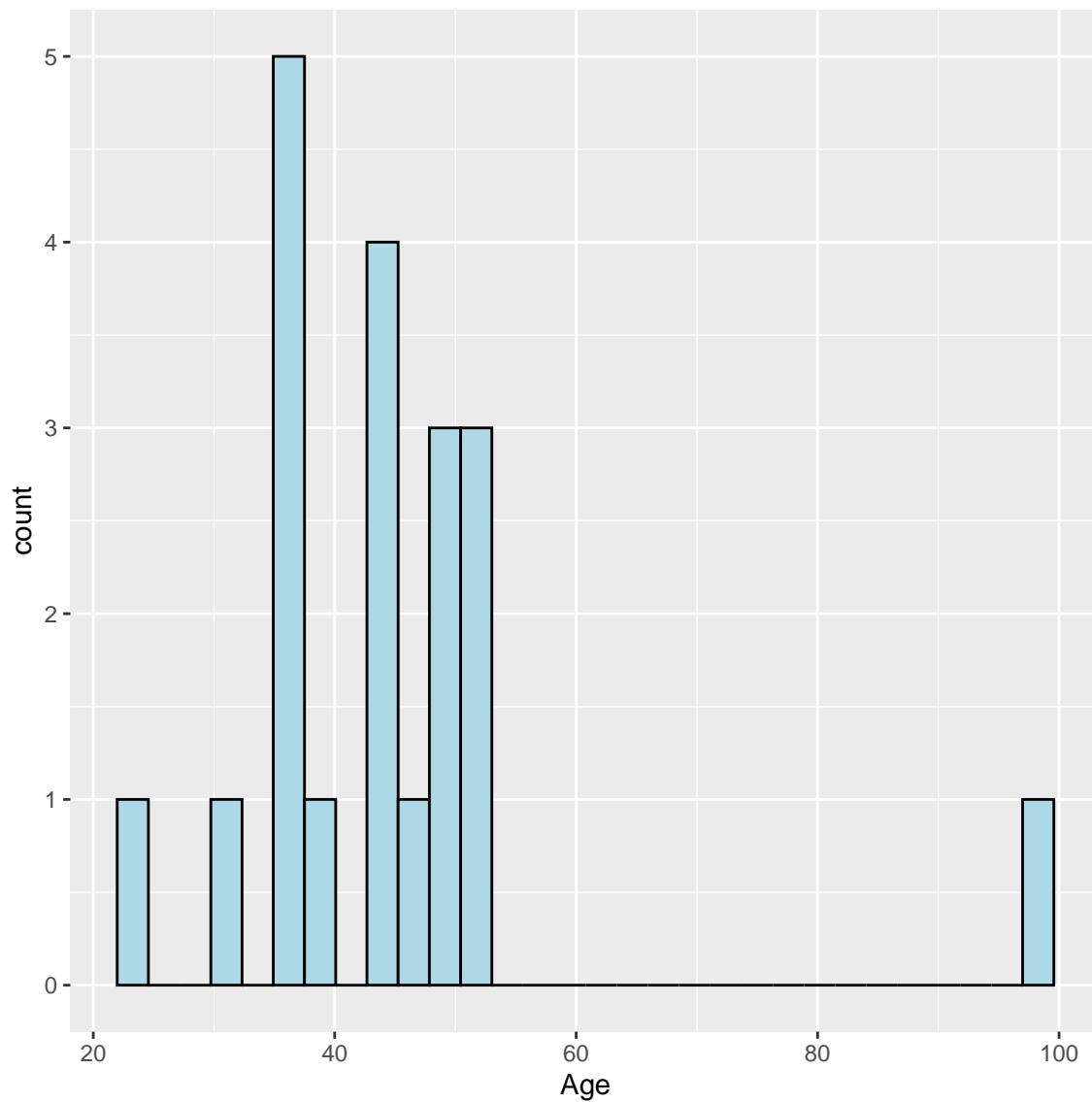
```
ggplot(data = mydata_corrected,  
       aes(x = Age)) +  
  geom_histogram()
```



Let's add some color using `fill=` for the inside colors of the bars and `color=` for the border color for the bars.

```
ggplot(mydata_corrected,  
  aes(x = Age)) +  
  geom_histogram(fill = "lightblue",  
    color = "black")
```



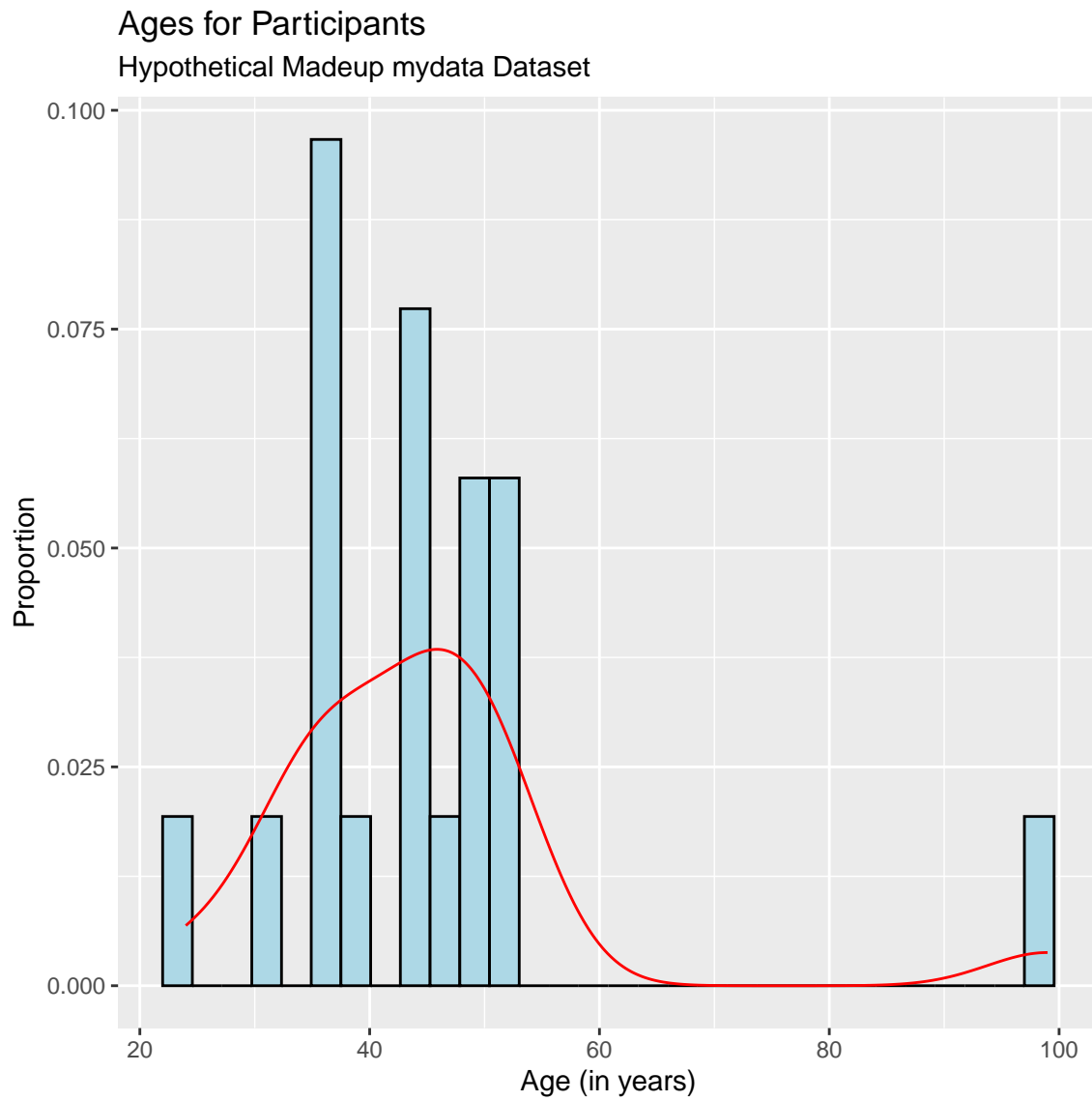


To add the density curve, we need to do 2 things:

1. Add an aesthetic `aes()` to change from counts (or frequencies) for the bars to probabilities. We can do this using the `after_stat()` function.
 - Learn more by running `help(aes_eval, package = "ggplot2")`.
2. And then we can add the `geom_density()` geometric object and add `color=` for the overlaid line color.

And I also added some better labels to the axes, title and subtitle.

```
ggplot(mydata_corrected,
       aes(x = Age,
           y = after_stat(density))) +
  geom_histogram(fill = "lightblue",
                color = "black") +
  geom_density(color = "red") +
  xlab("Age (in years)") +
  ylab("Proportion") +
  labs(
    title = "Ages for Participants",
    subtitle = "Hypothetical Madeup mydata Dataset"
  )
```

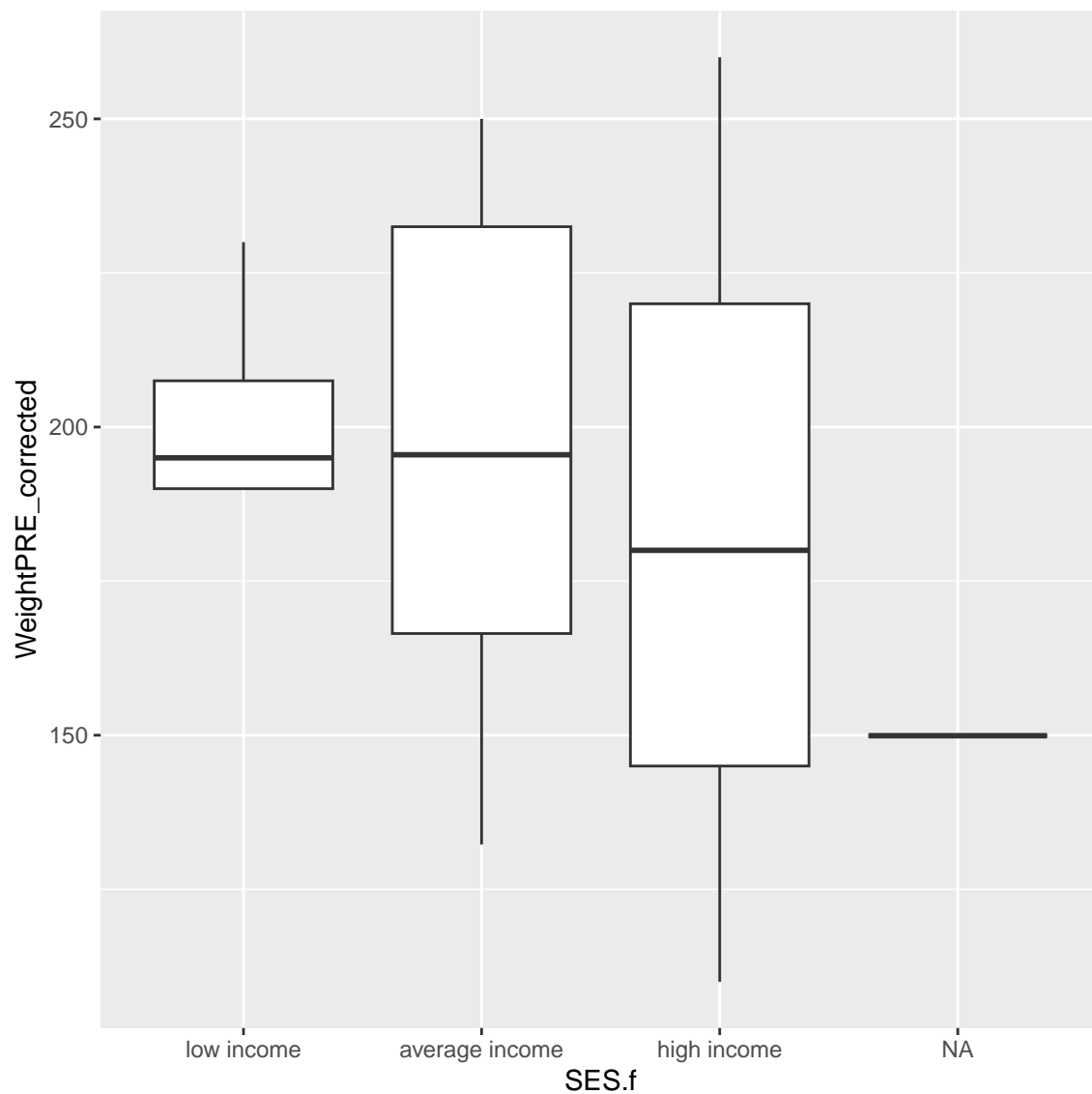




ggplot2 - Boxplot (and variations)

Let's look at the corrected PRE weights by SES.

```
ggplot(data = mydata_corrected,  
       aes(x = SES.f,  
           y = WeightPRE_corrected)) +  
  geom_boxplot()
```



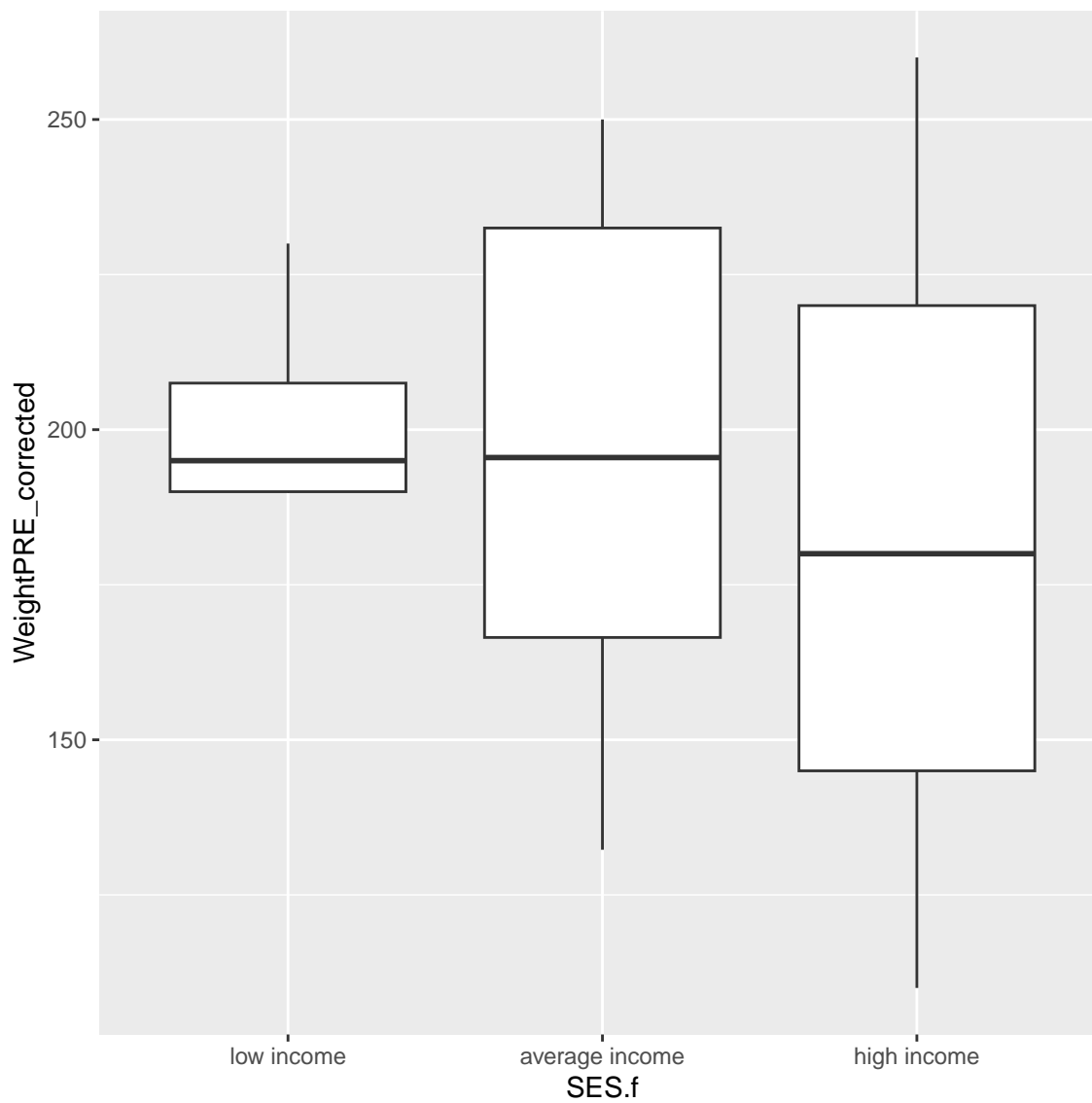


There is one person missing SES. So, let's filter the dataset and remake the plot. Instead of creating another “new” dataset, we can use the **dplyr** pipe `%>%` into our plotting workflow as follows to filter out the missing SES before we make the plot. Notice I can drop the `data =` in the `ggplot()` step.

In the `filter()` step below, I used the `!` exclamation point to indicate that we want to keep all rows for which `SES.f` is NOT missing, by using `!is.na()`.

```
library(dplyr)

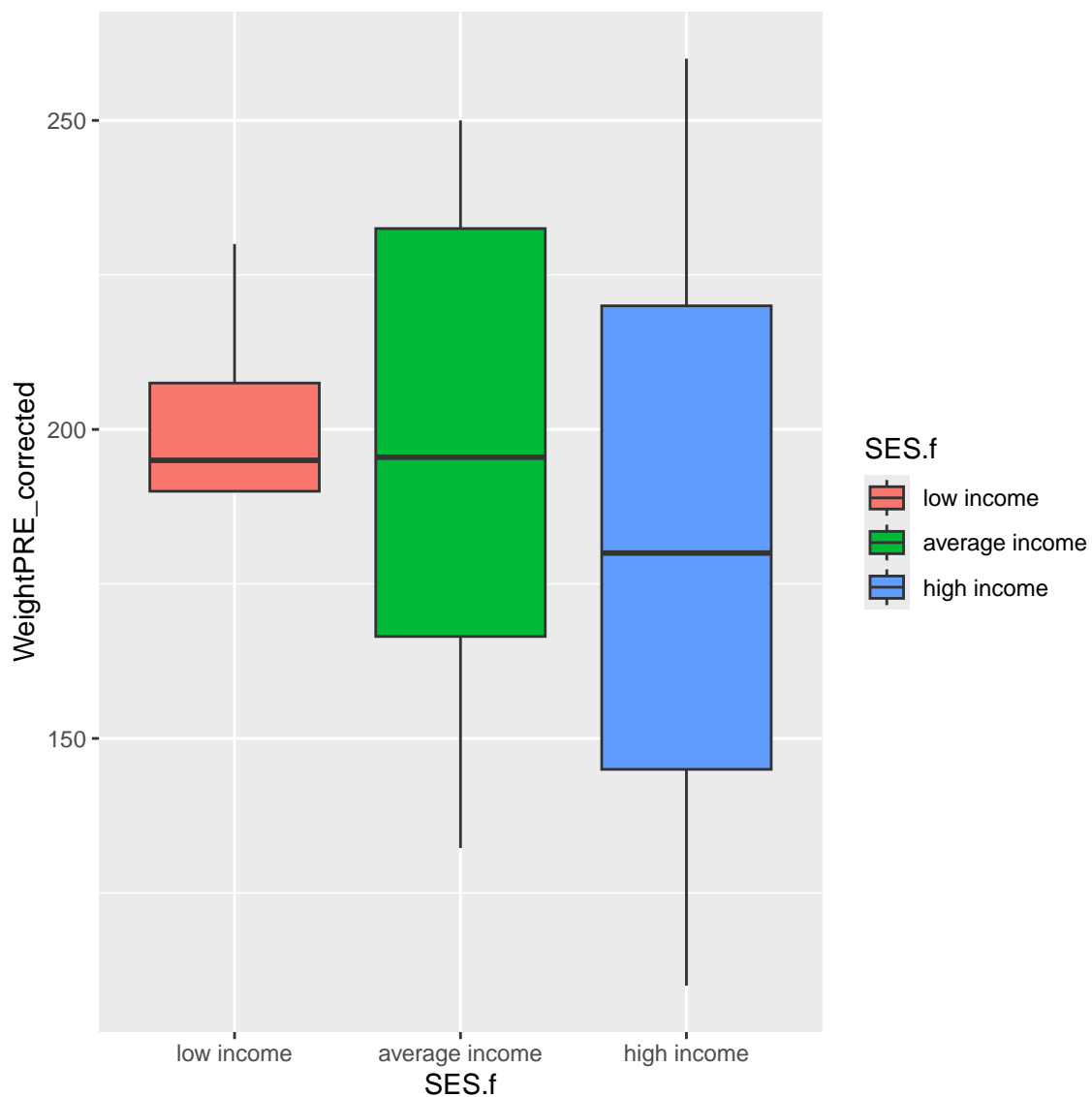
mydata_corrected %>%
  filter(!is.na(SES.f)) %>%
  ggplot(aes(x = SES.f,
             y = WeightPRE_corrected)) +
  geom_boxplot()
```





Let's add a fill color for the SES categories.

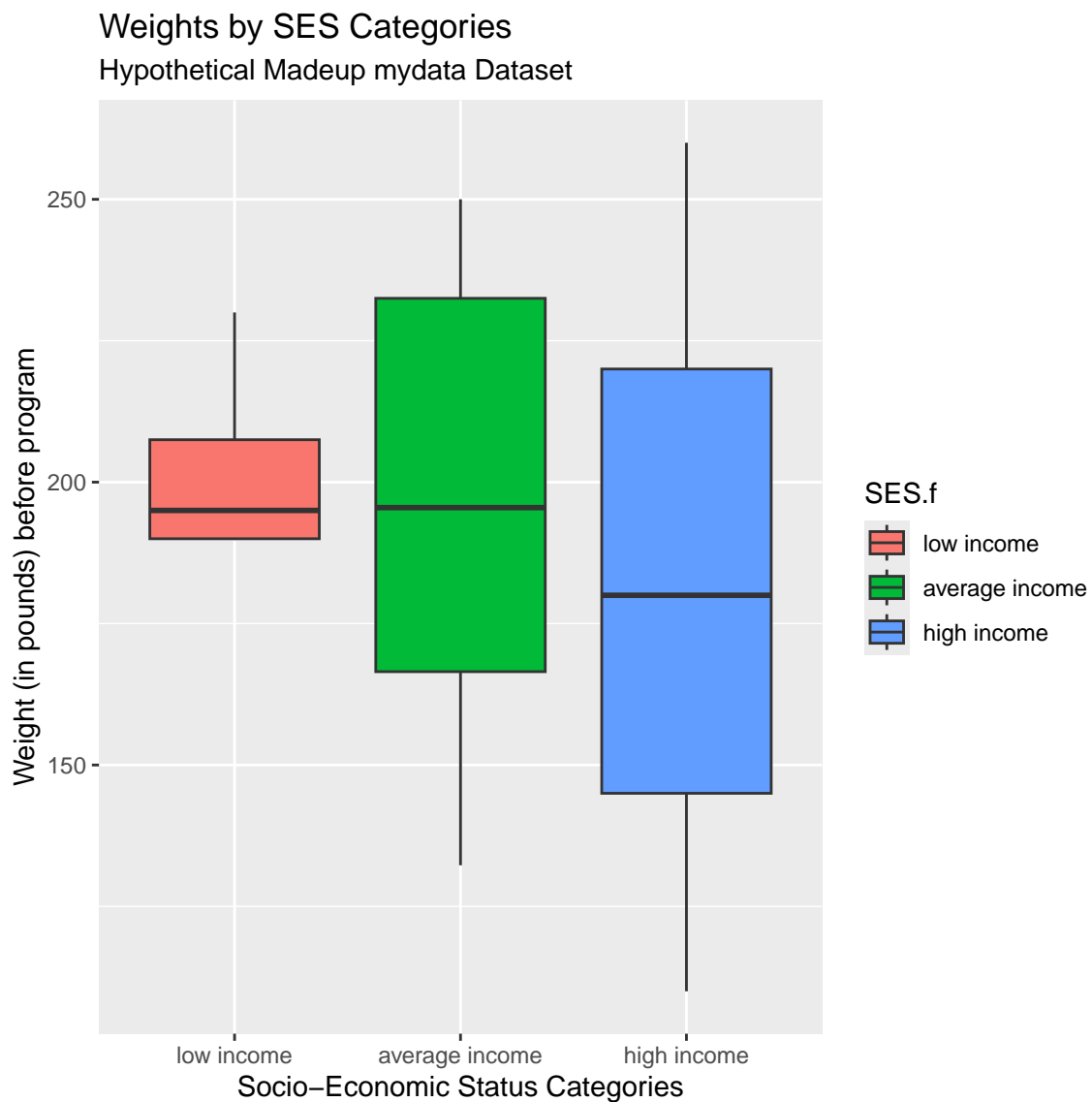
```
mydata_corrected %>%  
  filter(!is.na(SES.f)) %>%  
  ggplot(aes(x = SES.f,  
             y = WeightPRE_corrected,  
             fill = SES.f)) +  
  geom_boxplot()
```





And add better labels.

```
mydata_corrected %>%  
  filter(!is.na(SES.f)) %>%  
  ggplot(aes(x = SES.f,  
             y = WeightPRE_corrected,  
             fill = SES.f)) +  
  geom_boxplot() +  
  xlab("Socio-Economic Status Categories") +  
  ylab("Weight (in pounds) before program") +  
  labs(  
    title = "Weights by SES Categories",  
    subtitle = "Hypothetical Madeup mydata Dataset"  
  )
```



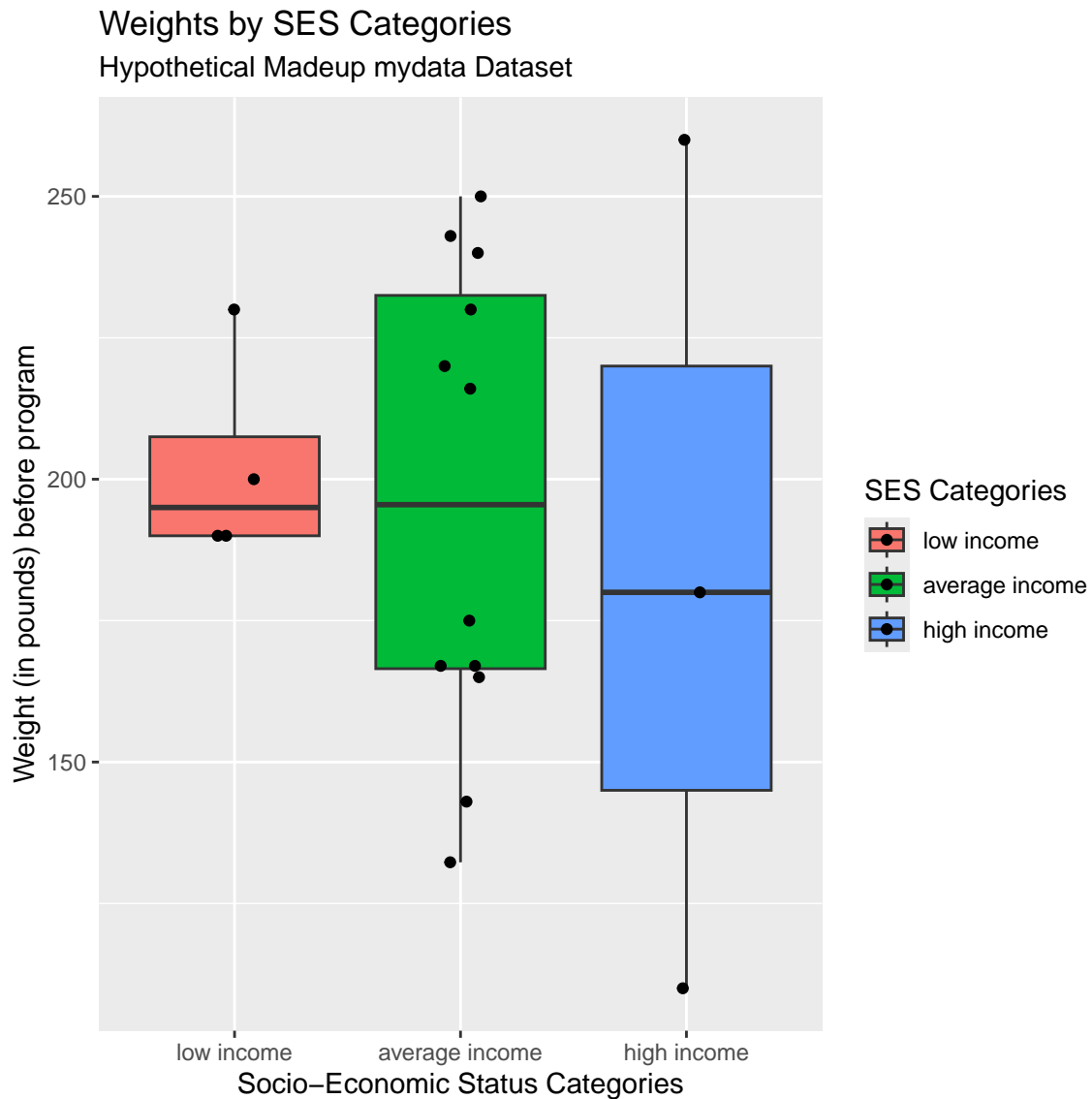


Add Another Layer with Points

We can also add points on top of the boxplots using `geom_jitter()` AFTER using `geom_boxplot`. If you switch the order of these “geom’s” you can specify whether the boxplot is on top of the points or if the points are on top of the boxplots (like we did here).

In `geom_jitter()`, I also added `height=0` and `width=.10` to adjust the amount of jitter in the vertical and horizontal directions.

```
mydata_corrected %>%
  filter(!is.na(SSES.f)) %>%
  ggplot(aes(x = SSES.f,
             y = WeightPRE_corrected,
             fill = SSES.f)) +
  geom_boxplot() +
  geom_jitter(height=0,
             width=.10) +
  xlab("Socio-Economic Status Categories") +
  ylab("Weight (in pounds) before program") +
  labs(
    title = "Weights by SES Categories",
    subtitle = "Hypothetical Madeup mydata Dataset",
    fill = "SES Categories"
  )
```



A couple more packages to look at the distribution of data points by groups are:

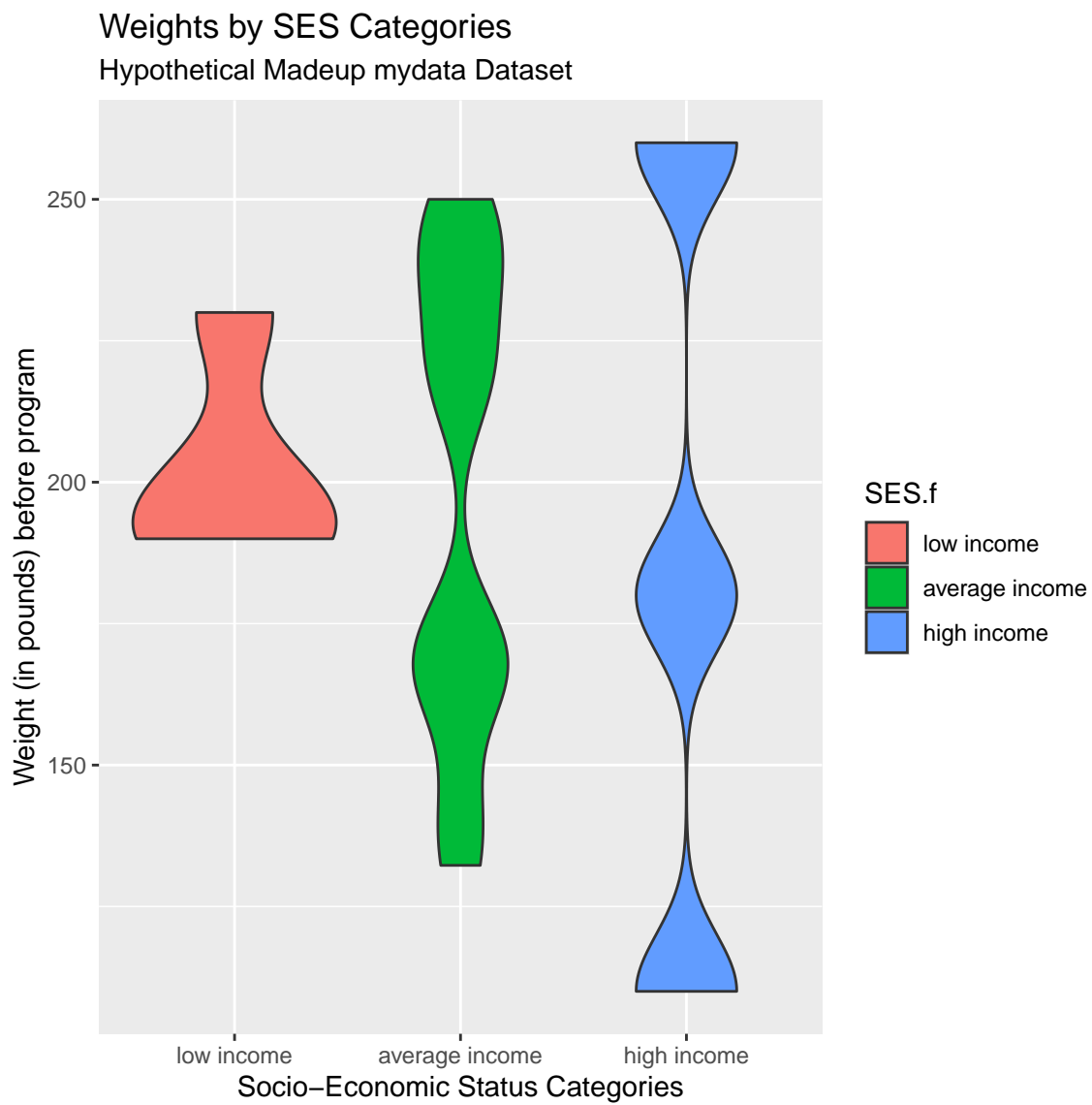
- `beeswarm`
 - [R Graph Gallery Example of beeswarm](#)
 - [beeswarm on CRAN](#)
- [ggbeeswarm on CRAN](#)



Try Another Geom

One of the cool things about `ggplot2` is the ability to easily swap out `geom`'s. Let's try a violin plot which provides a better idea of the shape of the underlying distributions that you don't get with a simple boxplot. Change `geom_boxplot()` to `geom_violin()`. I also added the `bw` argument to change the “bandwidth” for how much smoothing is done. Try changing this number and see what happens. Learn more by running `help(geom_violin, package = "ggplot2")`

```
mydata_corrected %>%  
  filter(!is.na(SES.f)) %>%  
  ggplot(aes(x = SES.f,  
             y = WeightPRE_corrected,  
             fill = SES.f)) +  
  geom_violin(bw=10) +  
  xlab("Socio-Economic Status Categories") +  
  ylab("Weight (in pounds) before program") +  
  labs(  
    title = "Weights by SES Categories",  
    subtitle = "Hypothetical Madeup mydata Dataset"  
  )
```

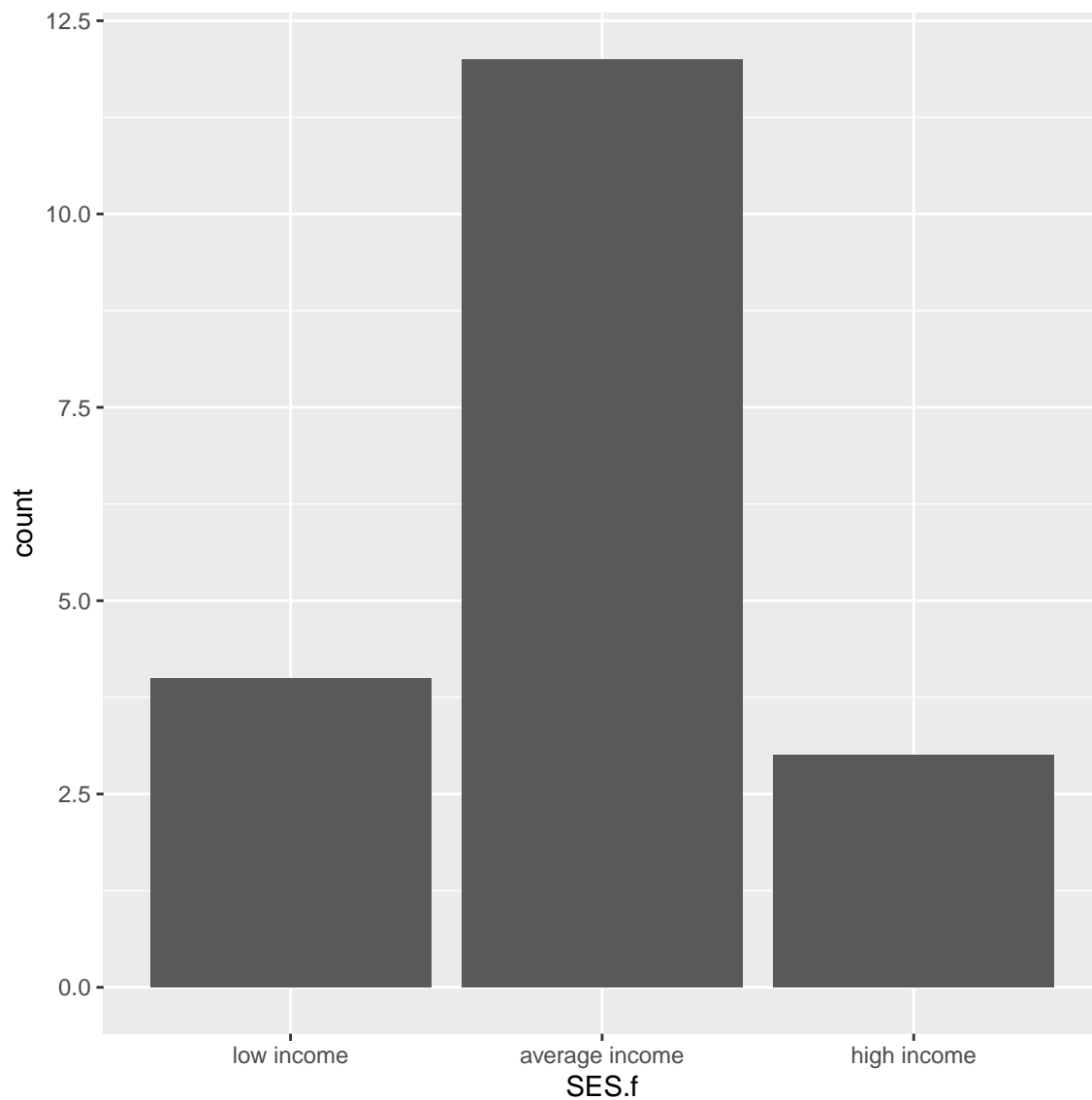




ggplot2 - Barchart

Let's make a simple barchart for `SES.f` after filtering out the NAs.

```
mydata_corrected %>%  
  filter(!is.na(SES.f)) %>%  
  ggplot(aes(x = SES.f)) +  
  geom_bar()
```

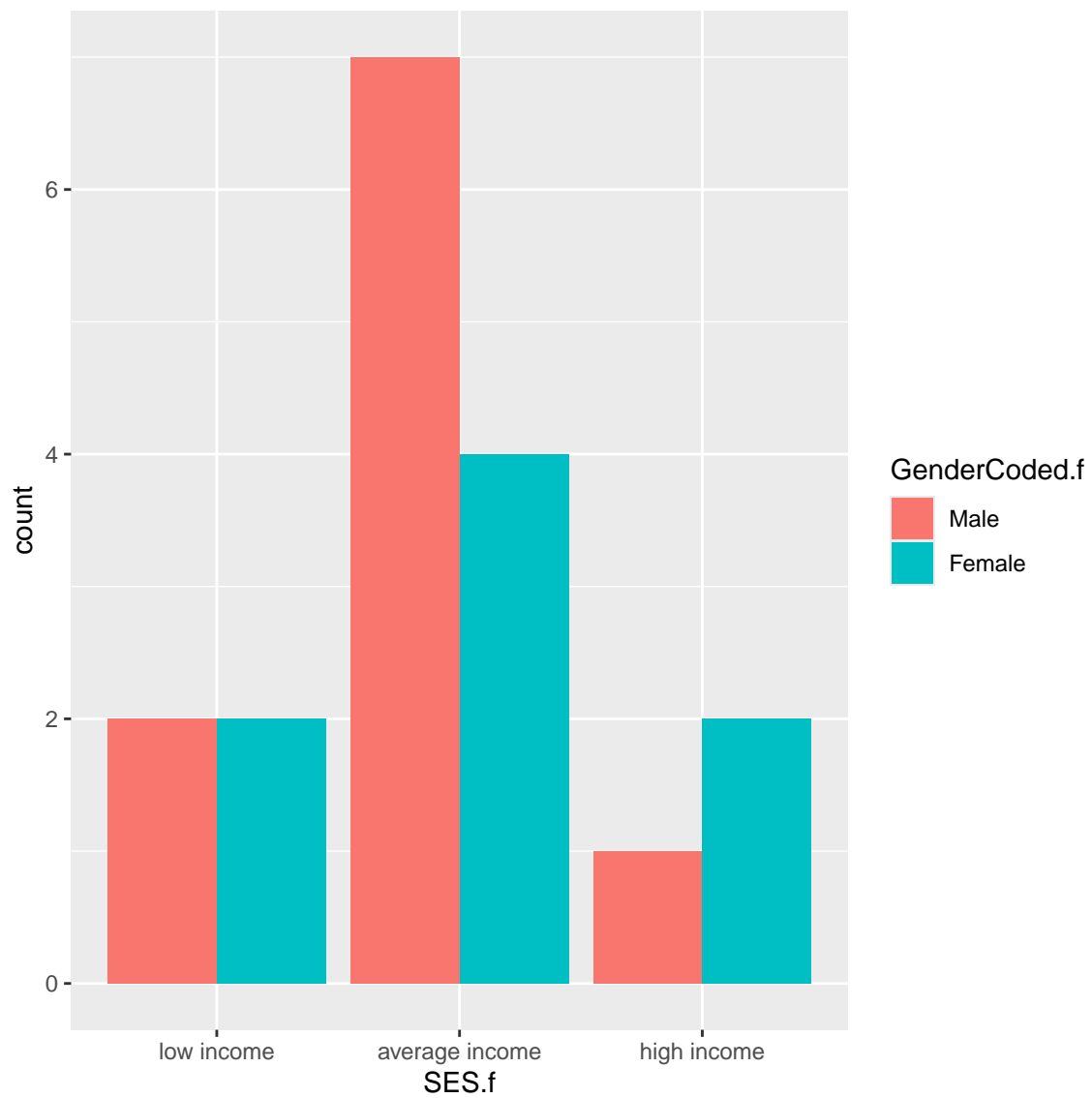




Let's also make a clustered barplot of `SES.f` by `GenderCoded.f`. Let's also filter out the NAs from `GenderCoded.f` as well.

To add the 2nd grouping or clustering variable, we add `fill=` to the aesthetics and then add `position = "dodge"` for `geom_bar()` to see the colors side by side instead of stacked.

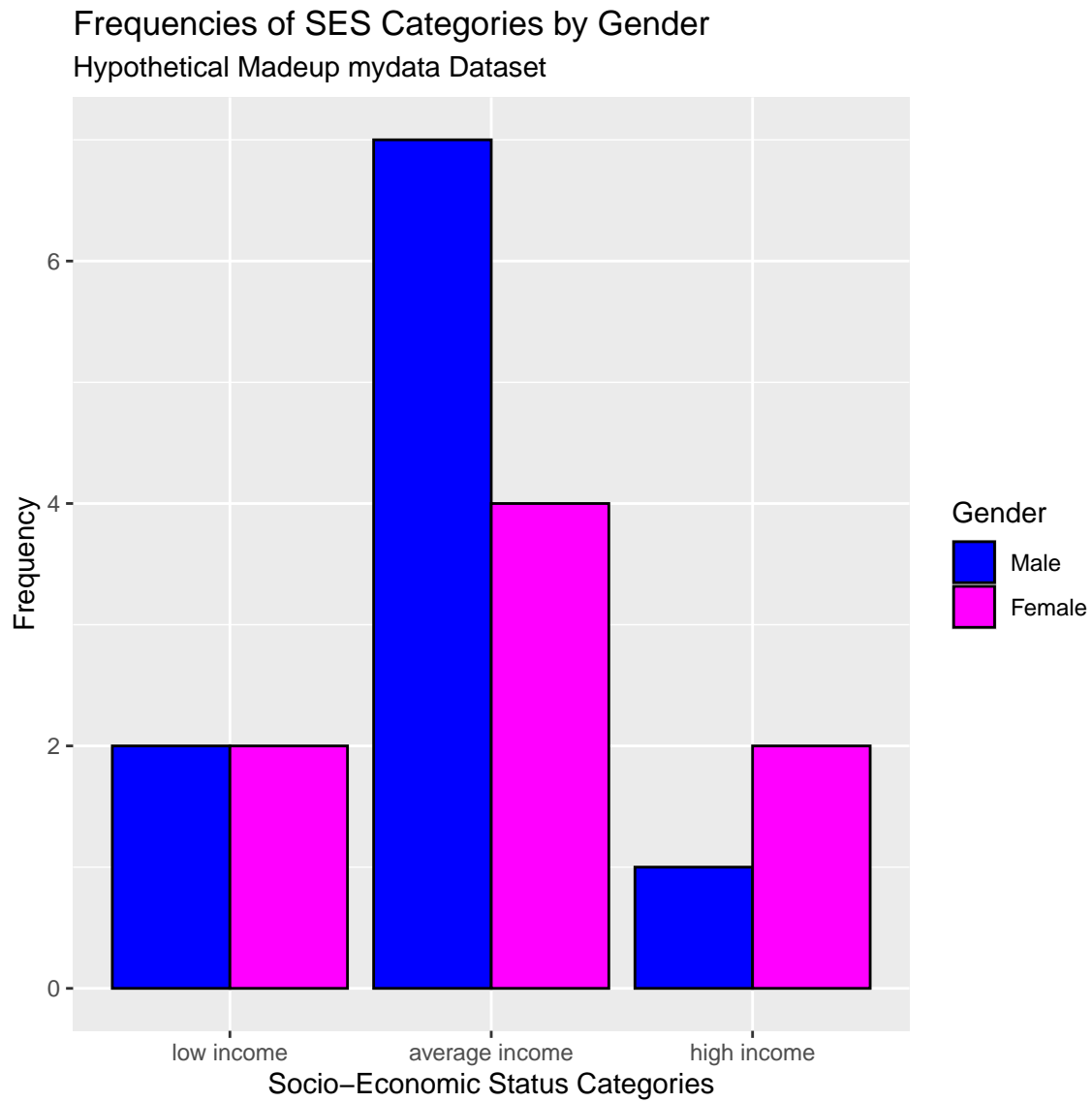
```
mydata_corrected %>%  
  filter(!is.na(SES.f)) %>%  
  filter(!is.na(GenderCoded.f)) %>%  
  ggplot(aes(x = SES.f,  
             fill = GenderCoded.f)) +  
  geom_bar(position = "dodge")
```



Let's also add custom colors and better labels.

```
mydata_corrected %>%  
  filter(!is.na(SES.f)) %>%  
  filter(!is.na(GenderCoded.f)) %>%  
  ggplot(aes(x = SES.f,  
             fill = GenderCoded.f)) +  
  geom_bar(position = "dodge",  
           color = "black") +  
  scale_fill_manual(values = c("blue",  
                               "magenta")) +  
  xlab("Socio-Economic Status Categories") +  
  ylab("Frequency") +  
  labs(  
    title = "Frequencies of SES Categories by Gender",  
    subtitle = "Hypothetical Madeup mydata Dataset",  
    fill = "Gender"  
  )
```





ggplot2 - Errorbar plots

Barplot with Error Bars

Suppose instead of boxplots for looking at the differences in heights by gender, let's make a plot of the mean heights by gender with error bars added to reflect the 95% confidence intervals for these group means.

First let's compute the means using the `mean()` function and we'll pull the 95% confidence interval limits from the `t.test()` output for a one-sample t-test.

Save these outputs into another small dataset called `dt`.

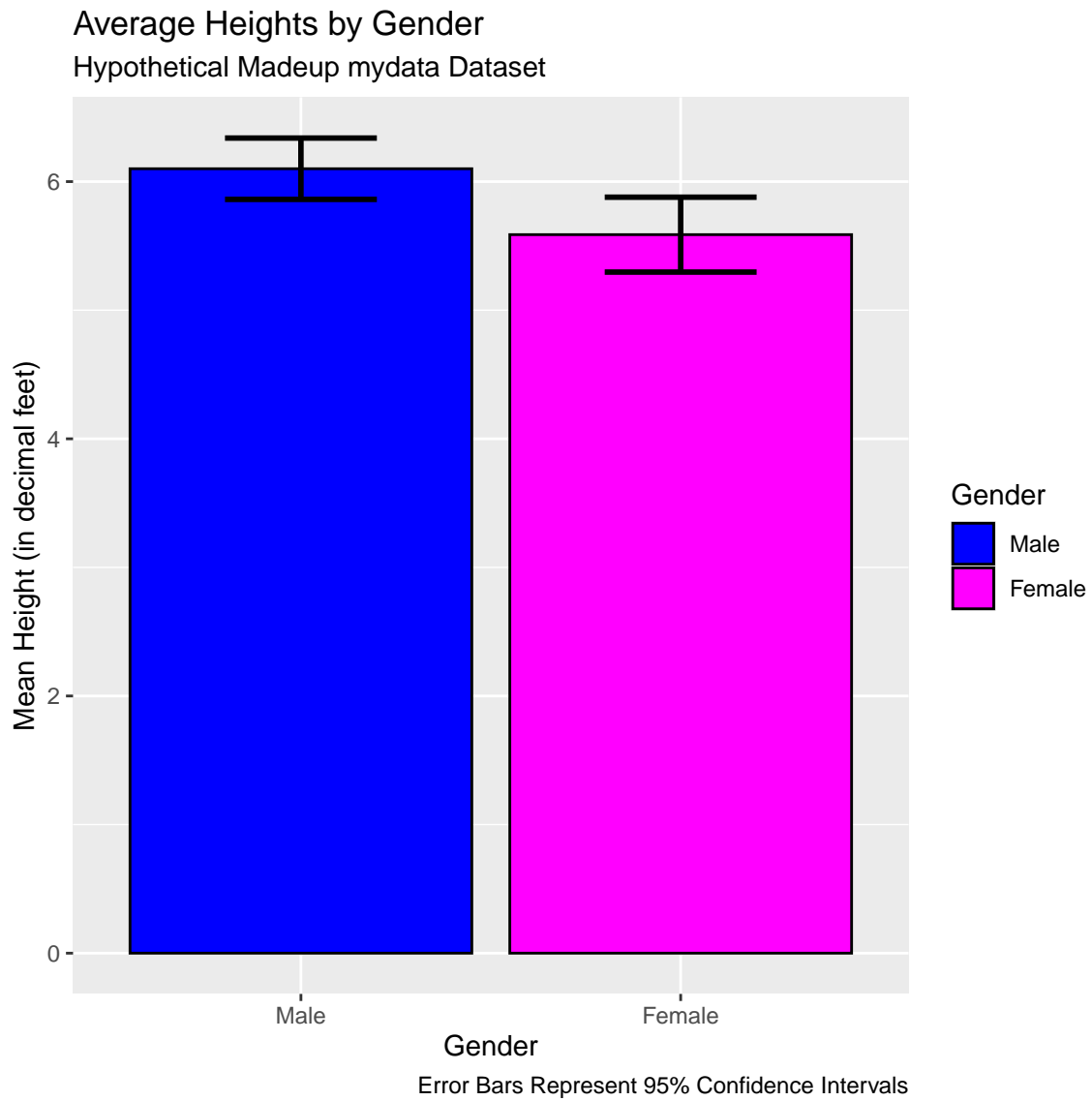
```
# capture the means of the correct heights
# and get the 95% confidence intervals
# upper bound and lower bound by gender
# filter out the missing GenderCoded.f
dt <- mydata_corrected %>%
  filter(!is.na(GenderCoded.f)) %>%
  dplyr::group_by(GenderCoded.f)%>%
  dplyr::summarise(
    mean = mean(Height_corrected, na.rm = TRUE),
    lci = t.test(Height_corrected,
                  conf.level = 0.95)$conf.int[1],
    uci = t.test(Height_corrected,
                  conf.level = 0.95)$conf.int[2])
dt
```

```
# A tibble: 2 x 4
  GenderCoded.f mean   lci   uci
  <fct>         <dbl> <dbl> <dbl>
1 Male         6.1   5.86  6.34
2 Female       5.59  5.30  5.88
```



Use this small dataset `dt` with the means and 95% confidence intervals limits to make this plot.

```
ggplot(data = dt) +  
  geom_bar(aes(x = GenderCoded.f,  
              y = mean,  
              fill = GenderCoded.f),  
          color = "black",  
          stat="identity") +  
  scale_fill_manual(values = c("blue",  
                               "magenta")) +  
  geom_errorbar(aes(x = GenderCoded.f,  
                   ymin = lci,  
                   ymax = uci),  
               width = 0.4,  
               color = "black",  
               size = 1) +  
  xlab("Gender") +  
  ylab("Mean Height (in decimal feet)") +  
  labs(  
    title = "Average Heights by Gender",  
    subtitle = "Hypothetical Madeup mydata Dataset",  
    caption = "Error Bars Represent 95% Confidence Intervals",  
    fill = "Gender"  
  )
```

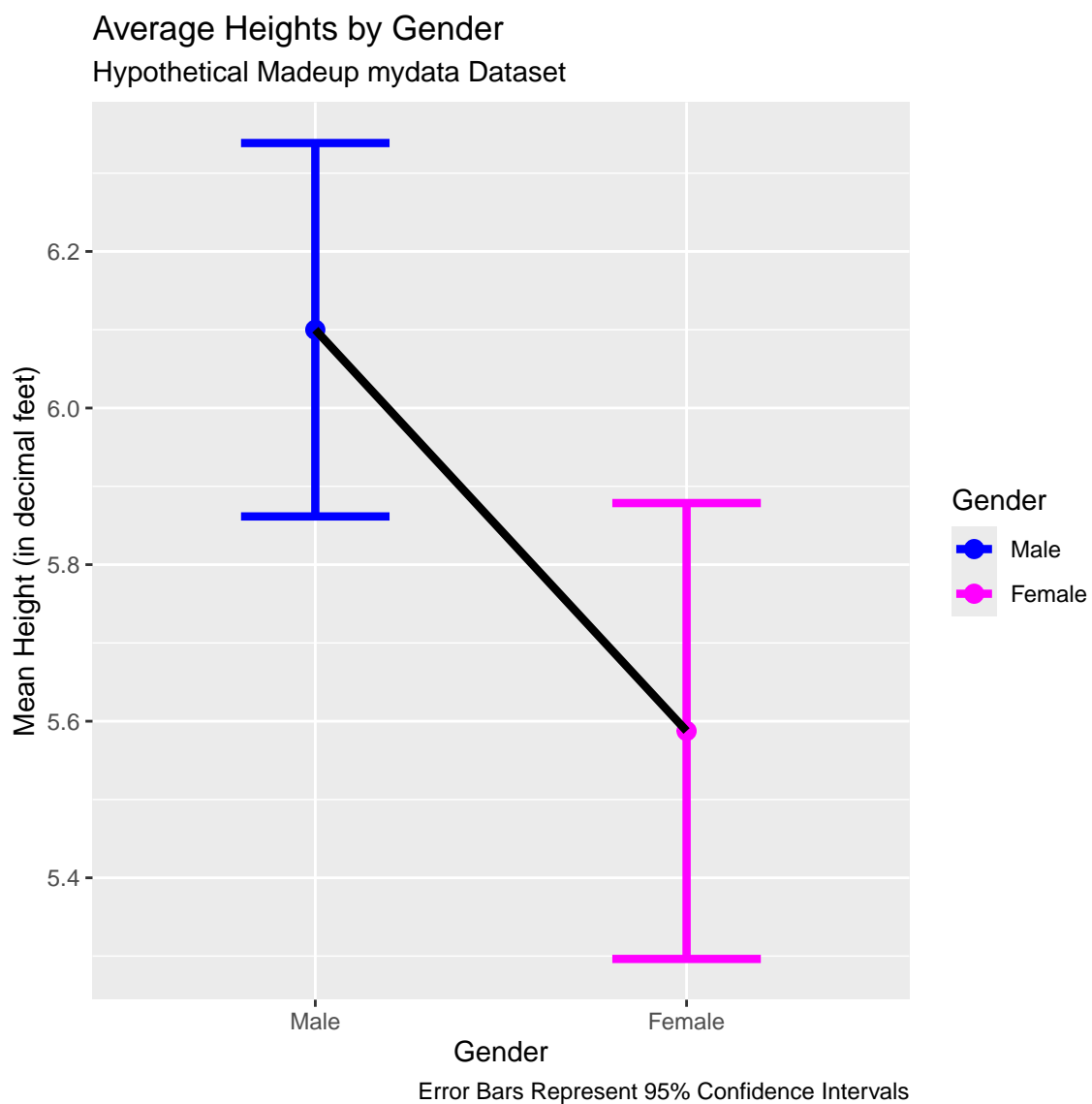




Lineplot with Points and Error Bars

We can also remove the bars and just create a line plot connecting the points for the means with the error bars shown. I set `size=1.5` to make the lines a little thicker in the plot.

```
ggplot(data = dt) +  
  geom_point(aes(x = GenderCoded.f,  
                 y = mean,  
                 color = GenderCoded.f),  
            size = 3) +  
  geom_errorbar(aes(x = GenderCoded.f,  
                   ymin = lci,  
                   ymax = uci,  
                   color = GenderCoded.f),  
               width = 0.4,  
               size = 1.5) +  
  geom_line(aes(x = GenderCoded.f,  
                y = mean),  
            group = 1,  
            size = 1.5,  
            color = "black") +  
  scale_color_manual(values = c("blue",  
                                "magenta")) +  
  xlab("Gender") +  
  ylab("Mean Height (in decimal feet)") +  
  labs(  
    title = "Average Heights by Gender",  
    subtitle = "Hypothetical Madeup mydata Dataset",  
    caption = "Error Bars Represent 95% Confidence Intervals",  
    color = "Gender"  
  )
```





ggplot2 - Lollipop plots

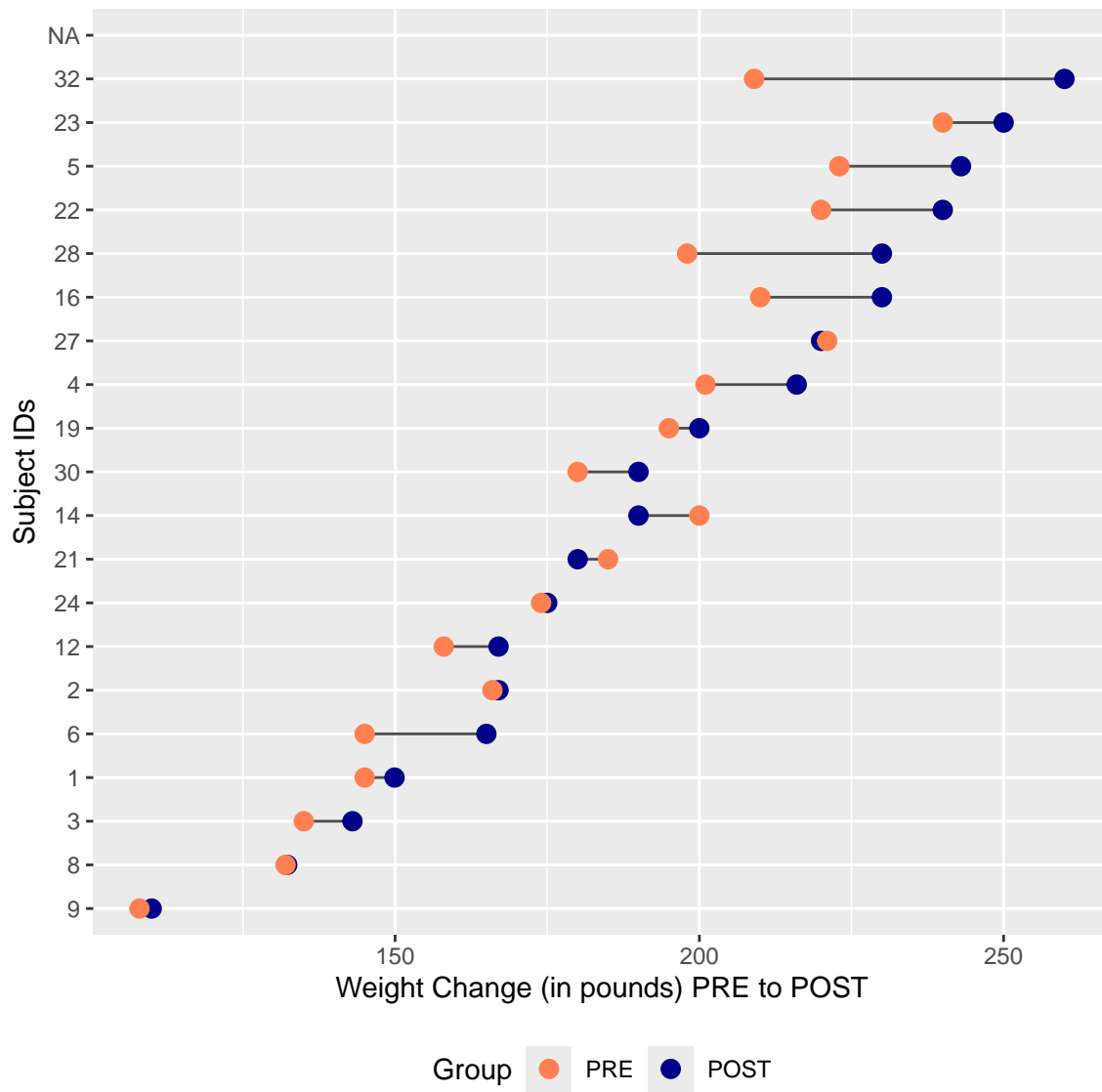
Another plot that can be useful to help visualize changes between two time points, like PRE-to-POST changes is using a “lollipop” plot which utilizes the `geom_segment()` to create line segments with points (the lollipops) on each end.

The plot below was inspired by the code example at <https://r-graph-gallery.com/303-lollipop-plot-with-2-values.html>.

Let’s look at the corrected Weights PRE to POST- sorted by their starting PRE weights.

```
# sort data by WeightPRE_corrected ascending
data <- mydata_corrected %>%
  rowwise() %>%
  arrange(WeightPRE_corrected) %>%
  mutate(SubjectID = factor(SubjectID, SubjectID))

# Plot
ggplot(data) +
  geom_segment(aes(x = SubjectID,
                  xend = SubjectID,
                  y = WeightPRE_corrected,
                  yend = WeightPOST_corrected),
              color = "grey30") +
  geom_point(aes(x = SubjectID,
                 y = WeightPRE_corrected,
                 color = "WeightPRE_corrected"),
             size = 3) +
  geom_point(aes(x = SubjectID,
                 y = WeightPOST_corrected,
                 color = "WeightPOST_corrected"),
             size = 3) +
  scale_color_manual(
    labels = c("PRE", "POST"),
    values = c("coral", "darkblue"),
    guide = guide_legend(),
    name = "Group") +
  coord_flip() +
  theme(legend.position = "bottom") +
  xlab("Subject IDs") +
  ylab("Weight Change (in pounds) PRE to POST")
```





3. Other Graphics Packages to Know

Save plot objects and reuse/rearrange them

Once a “chunk” of `ggplot` code is run, technically a `ggplot2` plot object is created. We can save and reuse these objects to create composite figures.

For example, let’s create the scatterplot, histogram and clustered barplot and save each into three separate plot objects `p1`, `p2`, and `p3`.

```
# make the scatterplot, save as p1

p1 <- ggplot(
  data = mydata_corrected,
  aes(
    x = WeightPRE_corrected,
    y = WeightPOST_corrected,
    color = GenderCoded.f,
    shape = GenderCoded.f
  )) +
  geom_point(size = 2) +
  geom_abline(slope = 1,
              intercept = 0,
              color = "red") +
  scale_shape_manual(values = c(16, 17), na.value = 15) +
  scale_color_manual(values = c("blue", "magenta"),
                    na.value = "grey30") +
  xlab("Weight (in pounds) before program") +
  ylab("Weight (in pounds) after program") +
  labs(
    title = "Weights (in pounds) before and after",
    subtitle = "Hypothetical Madeup mydata Dataset",
    color = "Gender",
    shape = "Gender"
  )
```

```
# make the histogram, save as p2

p2 <- ggplot(mydata_corrected,
             aes(x = Age,
                 y = after_stat(density))) +
  geom_histogram(fill = "lightblue", color = "black") +
  geom_density(color = "red") +
```



```
xlab("Age (in years)") +  
ylab("Proportion") +  
labs(title = "Ages for Participants",  
      subtitle = "Hypothetical Madeup mydata Dataset")
```

```
# make the barplot, save as p3  
  
p3 <- mydata_corrected %>%  
  filter(!is.na(SES.f)) %>%  
  filter(!is.na(GenderCoded.f)) %>%  
  ggplot(aes(x = SES.f,  
             fill = GenderCoded.f)) +  
  geom_bar(position = "dodge",  
           color = "black") +  
  scale_fill_manual(values = c("blue",  
                               "magenta")) +  
  xlab("Socio-Economic Status Categories") +  
  ylab("Frequency") +  
  labs(  
    title = "Frequencies of SES Categories by Gender",  
    subtitle = "Hypothetical Madeup mydata Dataset",  
    fill = "Gender"  
  )
```

**patchwork package**

After making and saving each of the `ggplot2` plot objects above, we can arrange them into a new composite plot. The [patchwork package](https://patchwork.data-imaginist.com/) is really good for making these composite figures.

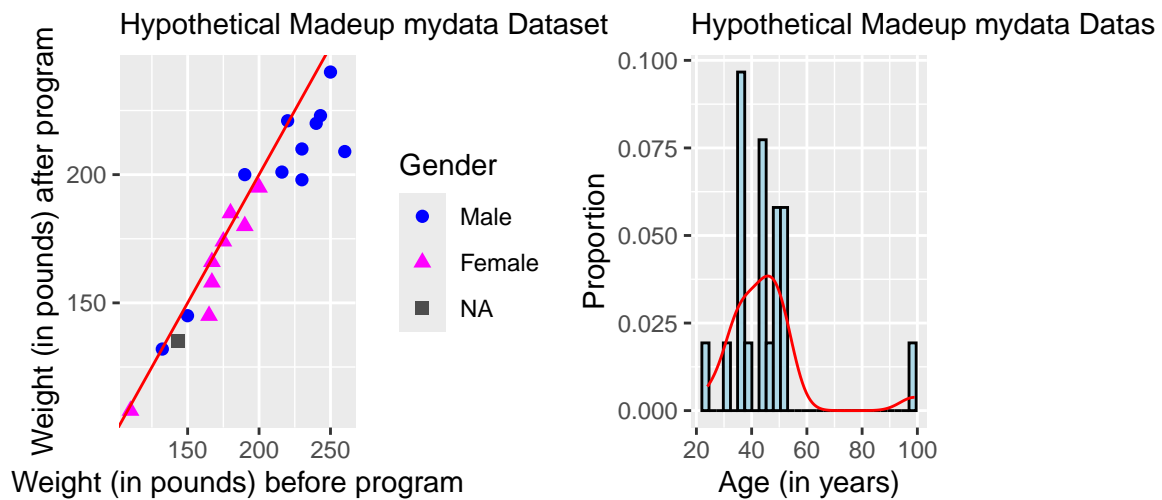
Learn more at <https://patchwork.data-imaginist.com/articles/patchwork.html>

```
# load patchwork package
library(patchwork)

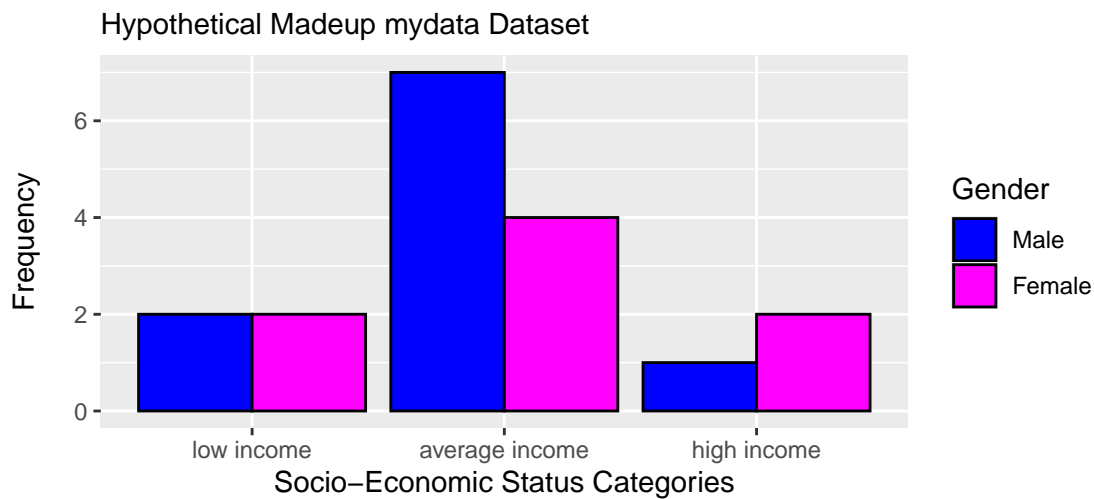
# put p1 and p2 side-by-side
# and put both of these on top of p3
(p1 + p2) / p3
```



Weights (in pounds) before and after Ages for Participants



Frequencies of SES Categories by Gender



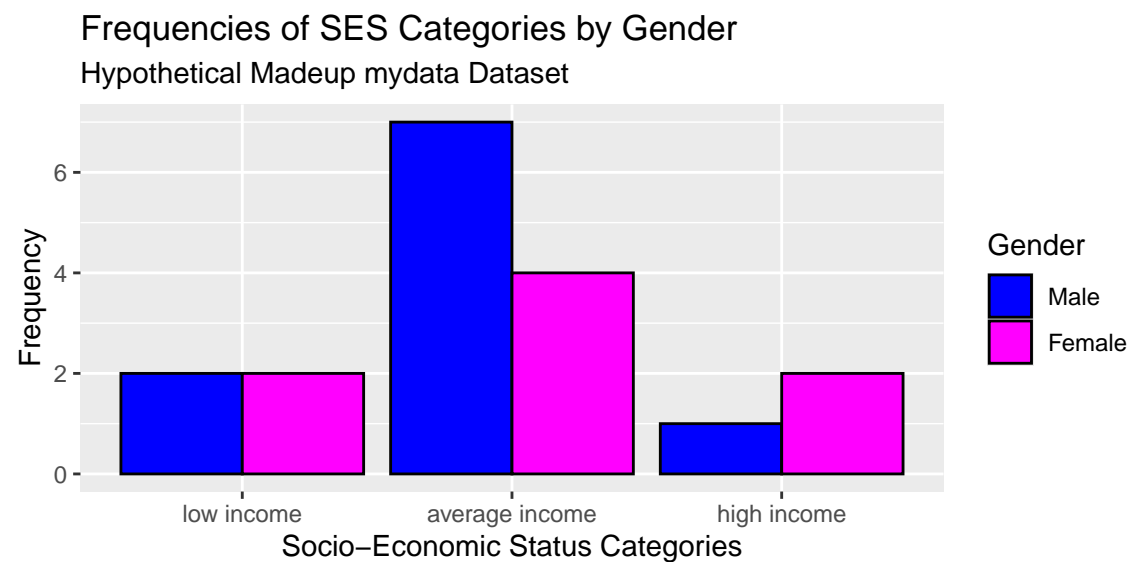
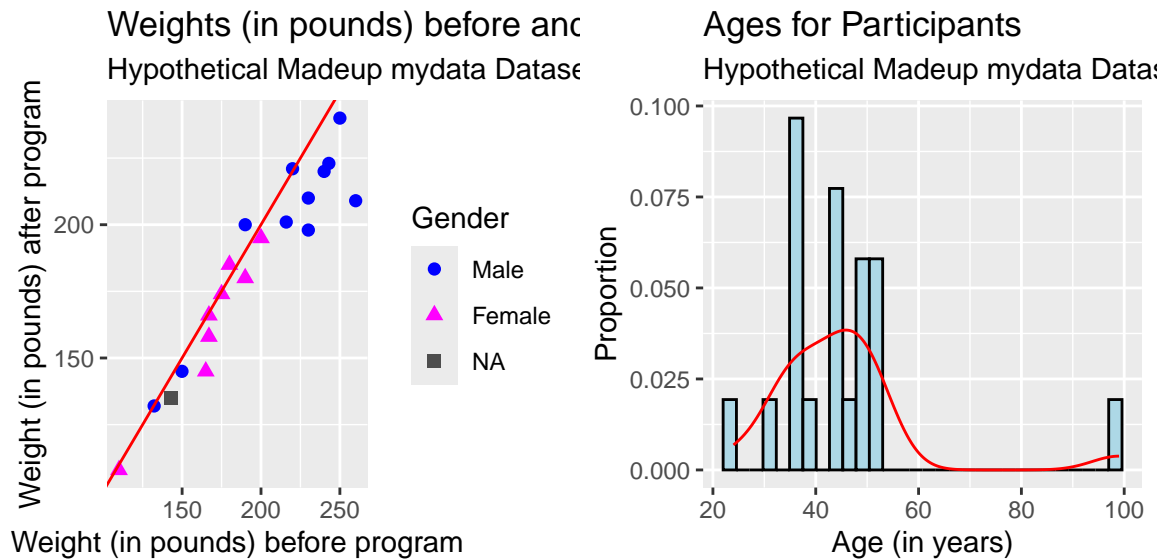


ggpubr package and ggarrange() function

Another package that is useful for arrange plot objects into composite plots is the [ggpubr package](#) with the [ggarrange\(\)](#) function.

```
# load ggpubr package
library(ggpubr)

# use ggarrange twice
# put p1 and p2 side by side
# then put on top of p3
ggarrange(
  ggarrange(p1, p2, widths = c(1, 1)),
  p3, nrow = 2, ncol = 1)
```





GGally package and ggpairs() function

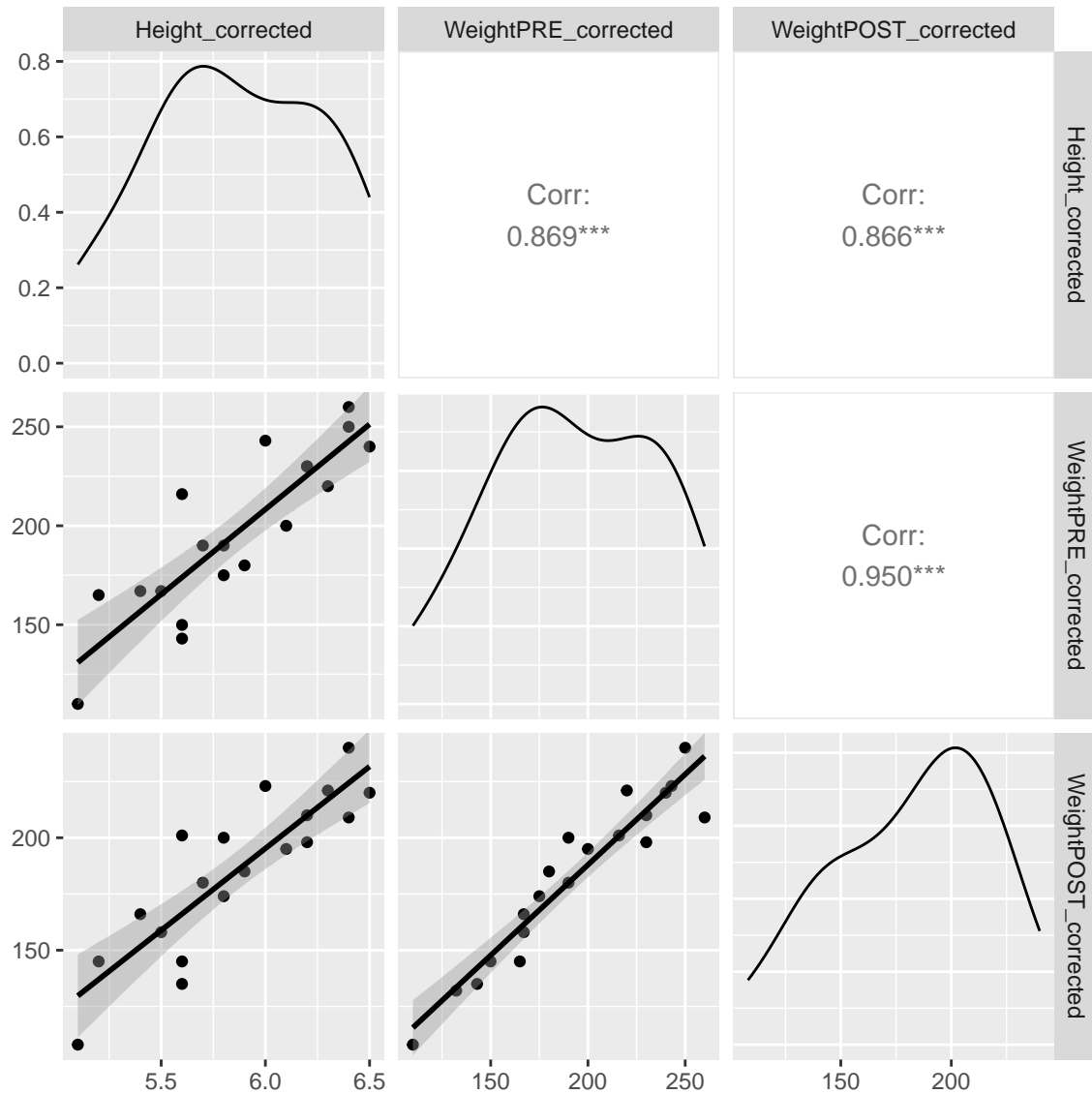
If you would like to make a scatterplot matrix to look at the associations (correlations) between multiple numeric variables at the same time, the `GGally::ggpairs()` function is useful.

In the plot below, we can see the 2-dimensional scatterplots between the heights and weights at PRE and POST. The plot also provides the Pearson's correlations for all of the pairwise associations between each combination of 2 variables.

I also added a “best fit” linear line by adding `lower = list(continuous = "smooth")`.

```
library(GGally)

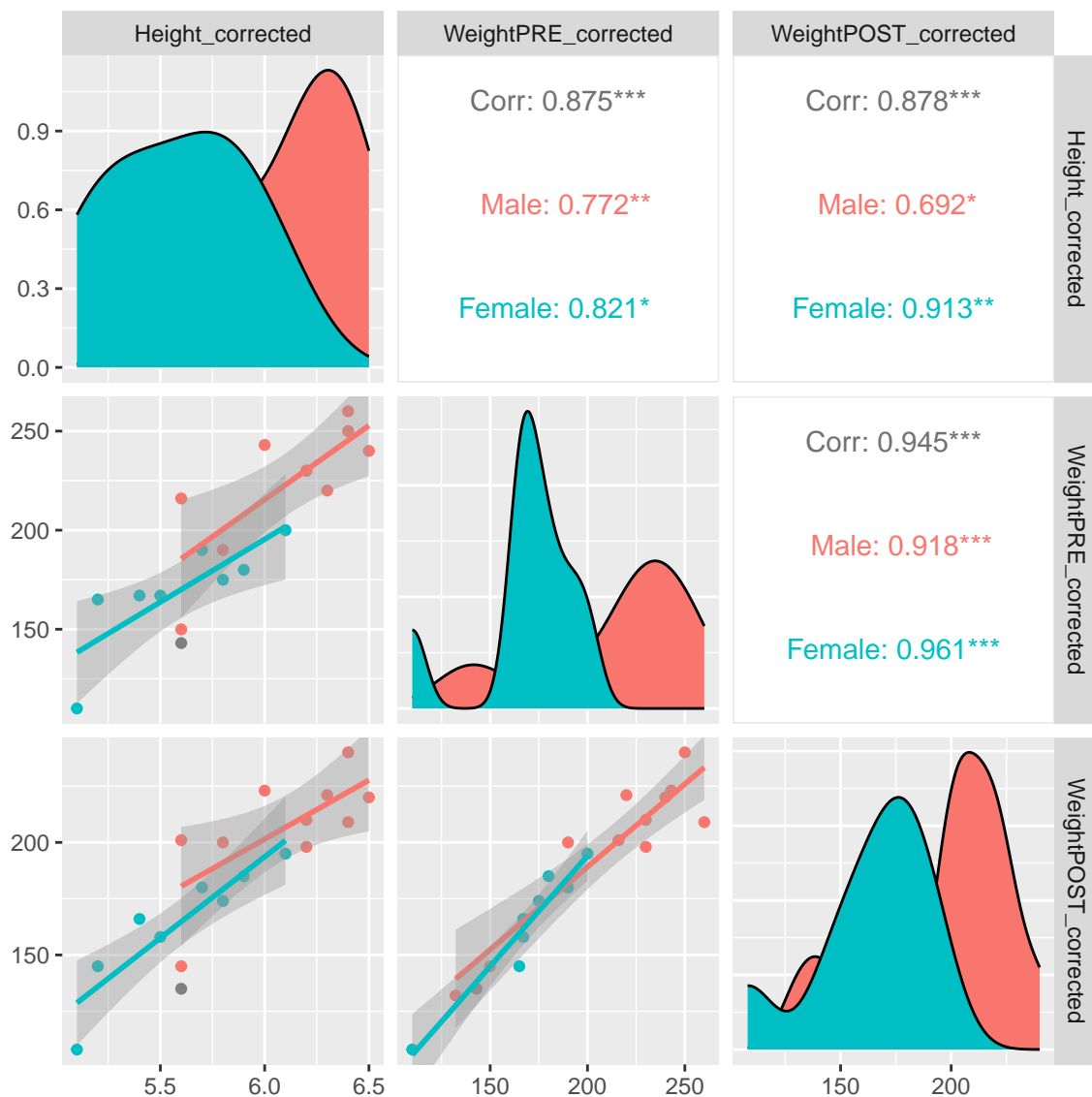
ggpairs(mydata_corrected,
        columns = c("Height_corrected",
                     "WeightPRE_corrected",
                     "WeightPOST_corrected"),
        lower = list(continuous = "smooth"))
```





What is really cool about this plotting function is the easy way to add in a 3rd variable like gender to see if these correlations (and scatterplots) change by gender (i.e. does gender moderate the associations?). Notice that we get separate lines for each gender and we get the correlations for each gender as well.

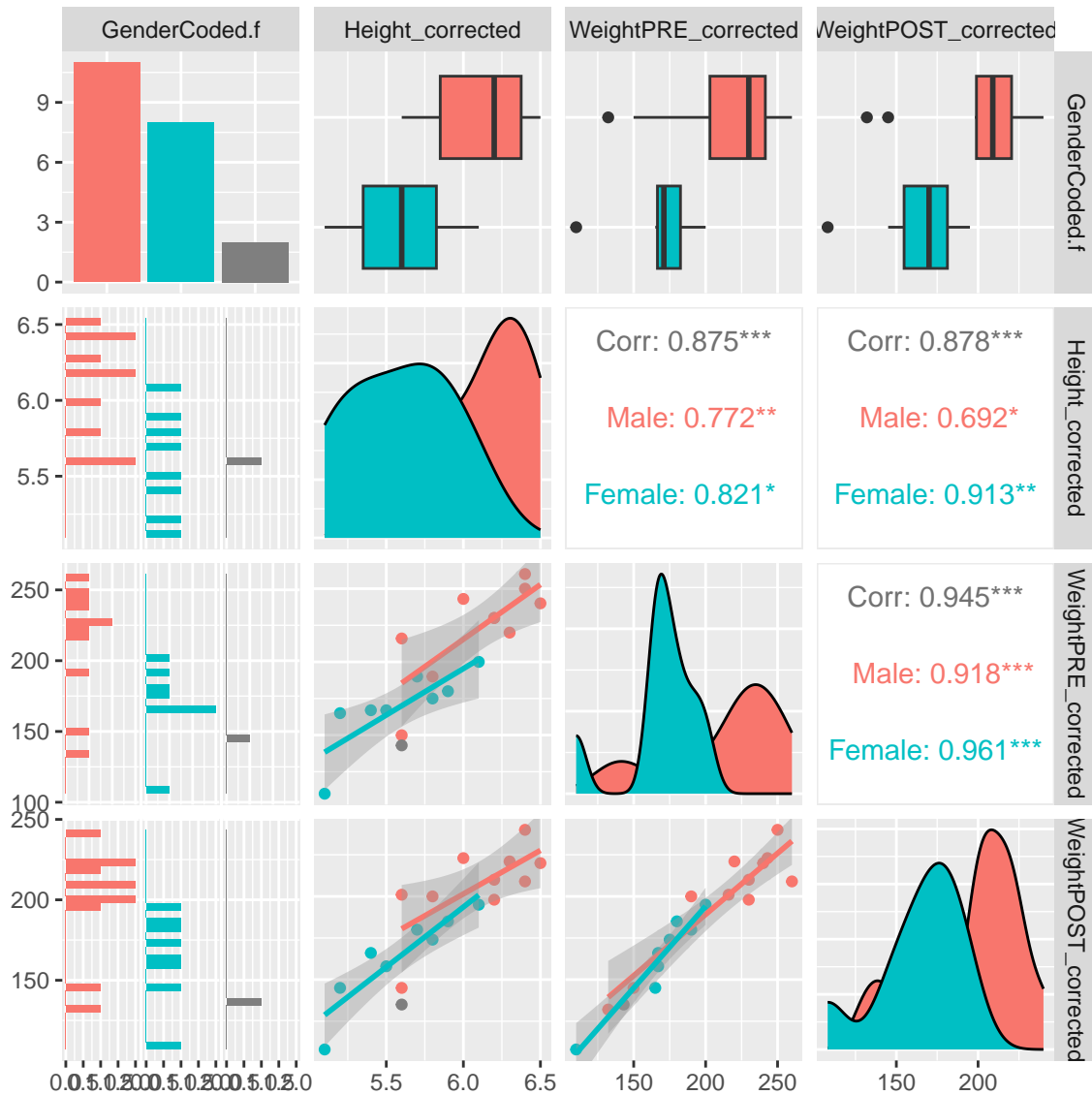
```
ggpairs(mydata_corrected,  
        mapping = aes(color = GenderCoded.f),  
        columns = c("Height_corrected",  
                    "WeightPRE_corrected",  
                    "WeightPOST_corrected"),  
        lower = list(continuous = "smooth"))
```





And if we add `GenderCoded.f` to the list of variable columns to be included, we now also get bar charts for the frequencies of each gender, histograms of each variable for each gender, boxplots for each variable by each gender, along with the density curves by gender and the correlation matrix.

```
ggpairs(mydata_corrected,  
        mapping = aes(color = GenderCoded.f),  
        columns = c("GenderCoded.f",  
                    "Height_corrected",  
                    "WeightPRE_corrected",  
                    "WeightPOST_corrected"),  
        lower = list(continuous = "smooth"))
```





Visualize Categorical Data with `vcd` package

The [vcd package](#) for “visualizing categorical data” has been around for over 20 years!! It is a helpful package for visualizing multiple categorical variables at once.

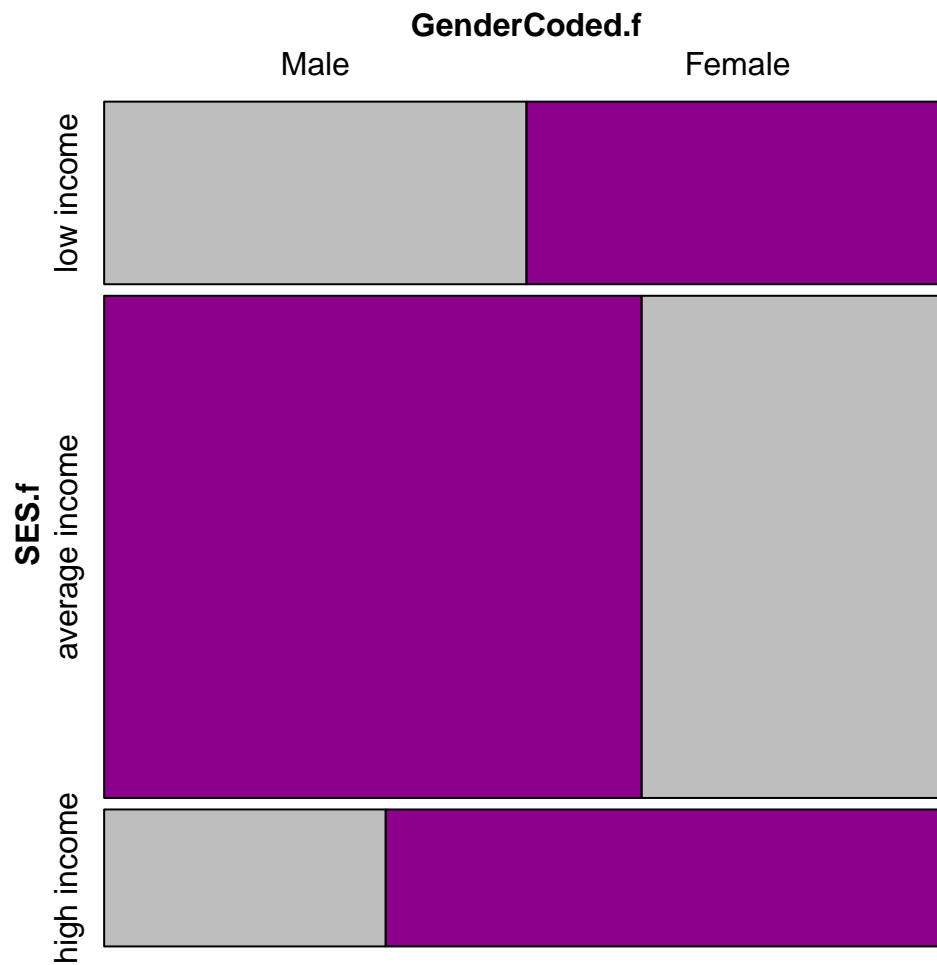
Let’s visualize the relative proportions of gender and SES using the `vcd::mosaic()` function.

```
library(vcd)

vcd::mosaic(GenderCoded.f ~ SES.f,
            data = mydata_corrected,
            gp = gpar(fill = c("gray", "dark magenta")),
            main = "Gender and SES",
            )
```



Gender and SES

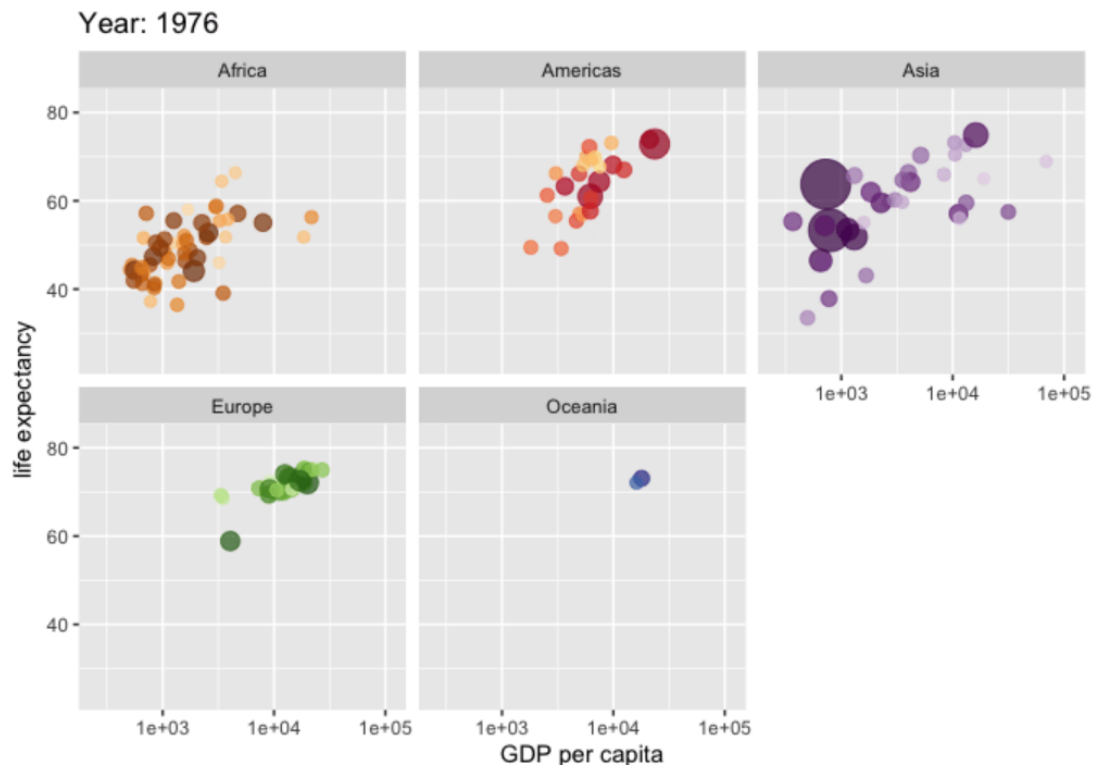




Example of an animated graph with gganimate

Learn how to make an animated figure with the `gganimate` package at <https://gganimate.com/>. The animation demo shown below is of the relationship between Life Expectancy and GDP (gross domestic product) per capita in 142 countries over 12 years from 1952 to 2007.

The animated figure is viewable in the HTML website at https://melindahiggins2000.github.io/emory_tidal_Rlectures/module133_DataVis.html. In the PDF file only a static view is shown for the single year “1976” from the `gapminder` dataset and R package.





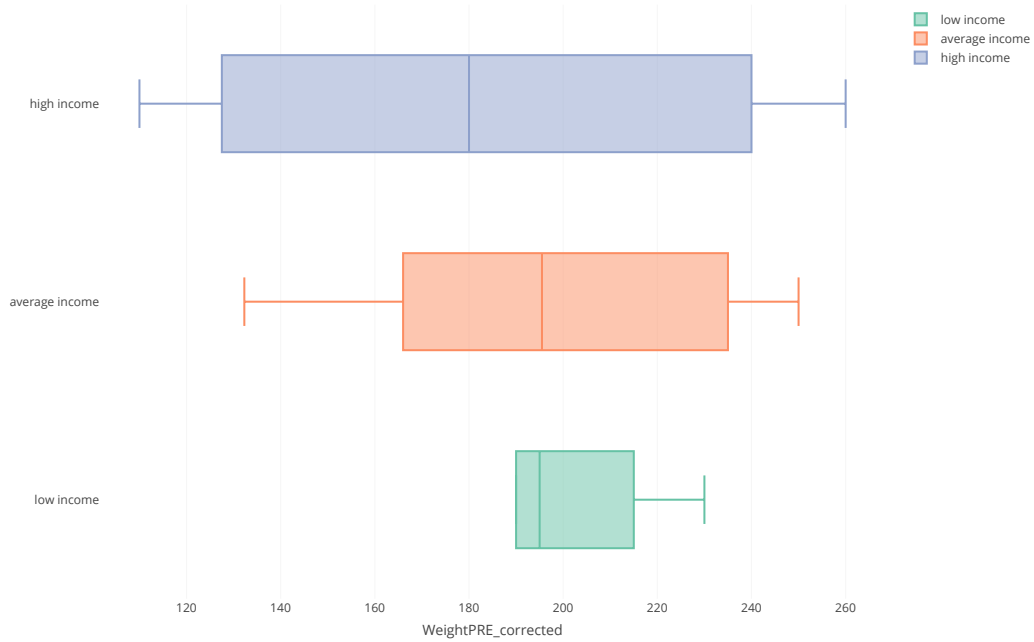
Interactive Graphics with plotly

Another cool package is the `plotly` graphics package which allows for active interaction with the plot. This works in the RStudio environment (viewing in the “Viewer” window) and from within an HTML formatted document rendered from Rmarkdown.

Learn more at <https://plotly-r.com/>.

Here is an interactive version (on this website for the HTML version) of the side-by-side boxplots below - with a horizontal orientation. *This plot will NOT be interactive in the PDF document but the figure will be shown.*

```
library(plotly)
fig <- plot_ly(mydata_corrected,
               x = ~WeightPRE_corrected,
               color = ~SES.f,
               type = "box",
               orientation = "h")
fig
```





4. Summary Tables with Graphics

There are a number of other packages that allow you to insert small graphs or figures inside of a table.

The [R Graph Gallery](#) has a nice summary of table packages with these features. Some of these packages include:

- [gtExtras](#)
- [huxtable](#)
- [flextable](#)
- [skimr](#)
- [modelsummary](#)
- [rhandsontable](#)

As an example, let's look at the code at <https://r-graph-gallery.com/368-plotting-in-cells-with-gtextras.html> for making a table of summary statistics with a plot overview including a list of categories and percentage of missing data for that variable.


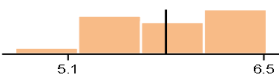








```
library(gtExtras)

mydata_corrected %>%
  select(Height_corrected,
         WeightPRE_corrected,
         WeightPOST_corrected,
         GenderCoded.f,
         SES.f) %>%
  gt_plt_summary()
```



•

21 rows x 5 cols

COLUMN	PLOT OVERVIEW	MISSING	MEAN	MEDIAN	SD
 Height_corrected		9.5%	5.9	5.8	0.4
 WeightPRE_corrected		4.8%	192.9	190.0	42.3
 WeightPOST_corrected		4.8%	182.2	190.0	35.9
 ► GenderCoded.f		9.5%	—	—	—
 ► SES.f		9.5%	—	—	—



5. Other Places to Get Help and Get Started

- See the summary of graphics resources at [Additional Resources - R Graphics](#)

References

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- Wickham, Hadley, Romain François, Lionel Henry, Kirill Müller, and Davis Vaughan. 2023. *Dplyr: A Grammar of Data Manipulation*. <https://dplyr.tidyverse.org>.



Zeileis, Achim, David Meyer, and Kurt Hornik. 2007. “Residual-Based Shadings for Visualizing (Conditional) Independence.” *Journal of Computational and Graphical Statistics* 16 (3): 507–25. <https://doi.org/10.1198/106186007X237856>.

Other Helpful Resources

Other Helpful Resources