

Exploring the BRFSS data

Setup

Load packages

```
library(ggplot2)
library(dplyr)
```

Load data

```
load("brfss2013.RData")
```

Part 1: Data

The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) is a system of health-related telephone surveys that collect state data about U.S. residents regarding their health-related risk behaviors, chronic health conditions, and use of preventive services.

The observations in the sample are collected via surveys conducted via calls to both landlines and cell phones numbers in all 50 states of the United States of America, as well as the District of Columbia and three U.S. territories.

The landline and cell phone numbers are generated at random using Random Digit Dialing (RDD) techniques. Because there is random sampling done, the result of the analysis can be generalized to the population of interest.

Because there is no random assignment done, the result of the analysis cannot be used for causal inference.

Part 2: Research questions

Research question 1: What is the most common chronic health condition that people have been told that they have?

Knowing about this can help us be careful to avoid getting the most common chronic health condition.

Research question 2: For arthritis management where doctor suggest to lose weight, what is the typical weight?

Knowing that weight will motivate us to be careful about our weight to avoid getting arthritis due to body weight.

Research question 3: What is the top 10 types of exercise with the least percentage of people being told that they have chronic health condition?

Knowing this information may motivate us to participate in one of these types of exercise.

Part 3: Exploratory data analysis

Research question 1: What is the most common chronic health condition that people have been told that they have?

```
chronic_cond <- brfss2013 %>%
  summarise(
    heart_attack = sum(cvdinfr4 == 'Yes', na.rm = TRUE)
    , angina_or_chd = sum(cvdcrhd4 == 'Yes', na.rm = TRUE)
    , stroke = sum(cvdstrk3 == 'Yes', na.rm = TRUE)
    , asthma = sum(asthma3 == 'Yes', na.rm = TRUE)
    , skin_cancer = sum(chcscncr == 'Yes', na.rm = TRUE)
    , other_cancer = sum(chcocncr == 'Yes', na.rm = TRUE)
    , copd = sum(chccopd1 == 'Yes', na.rm = TRUE)
    , arthritis = sum(havarth3 == 'Yes', na.rm = TRUE)
    , depressive_disorder = sum(addepev2 == 'Yes', na.rm = TRUE)
    , kidney_disease = sum(chckidny == 'Yes', na.rm = TRUE)
    , diabetes = sum(diabete3 == 'Yes', na.rm = TRUE)
  )
```

chronic_cond

```
##   heart_attack angina_or_chd stroke asthma skin_cancer other_cancer copd
## 1      29284      29064 20391 67204      45446      47074 40660
##   arthritis depressive_disorder kidney_disease diabetes
## 1    165152           95779      15901    62363
```

To make the summary statistics easier to interpret, I will rotate the table counterclockwise, and sort them by their count in descending order.

```
chronic_cond <- as.data.frame(t(chronic_cond))

colnames(chronic_cond) <- c('count')

chronic_cond <- chronic_cond %>%
  mutate(condition_type = rownames(chronic_cond)) %>%
  arrange(desc(count)) %>%
  select(condition_type, count)
```

chronic_cond

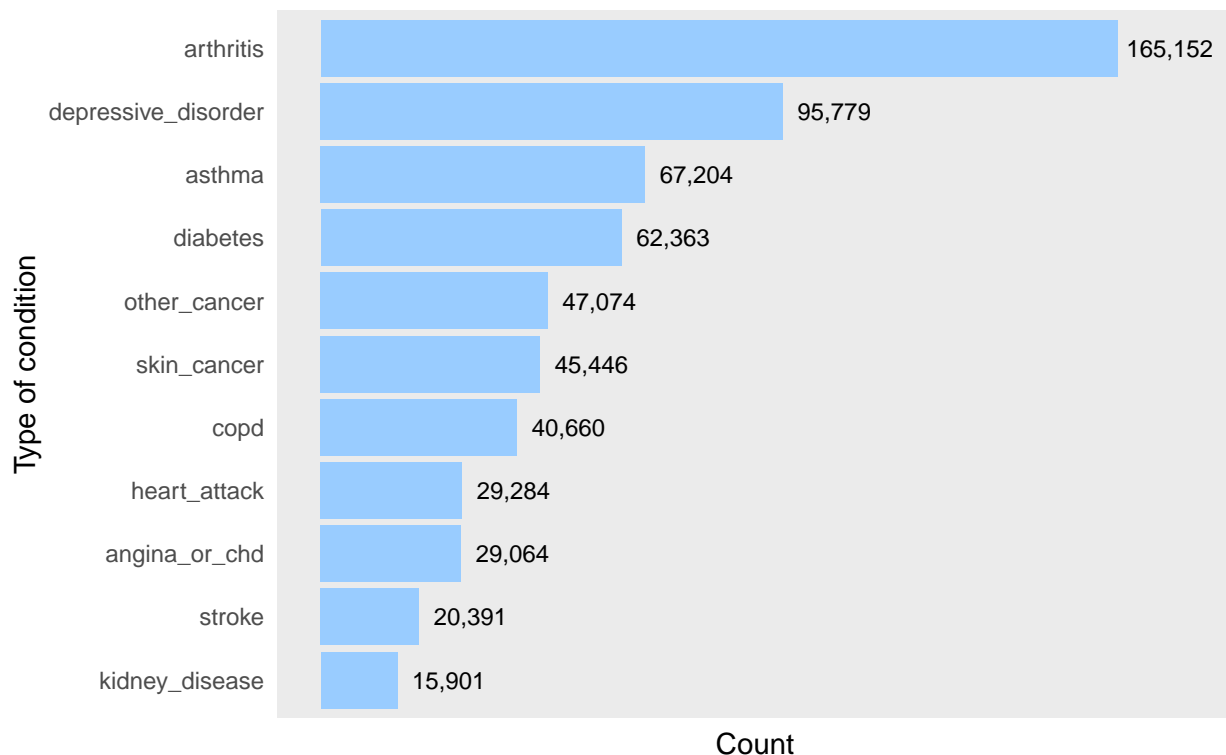
```
##      condition_type count
## 1      arthritis 165152
## 2 depressive_disorder 95779
## 3      asthma 67204
## 4      diabetes 62363
## 5      other_cancer 47074
## 6      skin_cancer 45446
## 7      copd 40660
## 8      heart_attack 29284
## 9      angina_or_chd 29064
## 10      stroke 20391
## 11     kidney_disease 15901
```

From the summary statistics, it shows that arthritis is the most common chronic health condition that people have been told that they have.

I will generate a bar plot for better understanding.

```
chronic_cond$condition_type <-  
  factor(  
    chronic_cond$condition_type  
    , levels = chronic_cond$condition_type[order(chronic_cond$count)]  
  )  
  
ggplot(data = chronic_cond, aes(x = count, y = condition_type)) +  
  geom_bar(stat = 'identity', fill = '#99ccff') +  
  ggtitle('Most common chronic health condition that people have been  
told that they have') +  
  xlab('Count') +  
  ylab('Type of condition') +  
  scale_x_continuous(labels = NULL  
                      , lim = c(0, 180000)) +  
  theme(axis.ticks.x = element_blank()  
        , axis.ticks.y = element_blank()  
        , panel.grid = element_blank()) +  
  geom_text(aes(label = format(count, big.mark = ","))  
            , hjust = -0.1, size = 3)
```

Most common chronic health condition that people have been told that they have



Research question 2: For arthritis management where doctor suggest to lose weight, what is the typical weight?

```
having_arthritis <- brfss2013 %>% filter(arthwgt == 'Yes')  
  
having_arthritis <- having_arthritis %>%
```

```
mutate(weight2_num = as.numeric(as.character(weight2)))

having_arthritis %>%
  summarise(
    average_weight = mean(weight2_num, na.rm = TRUE)
    , standard_deviation = sd(weight2_num, na.rm = TRUE)
    , max_weight = max(weight2_num, na.rm = TRUE)
  )
```

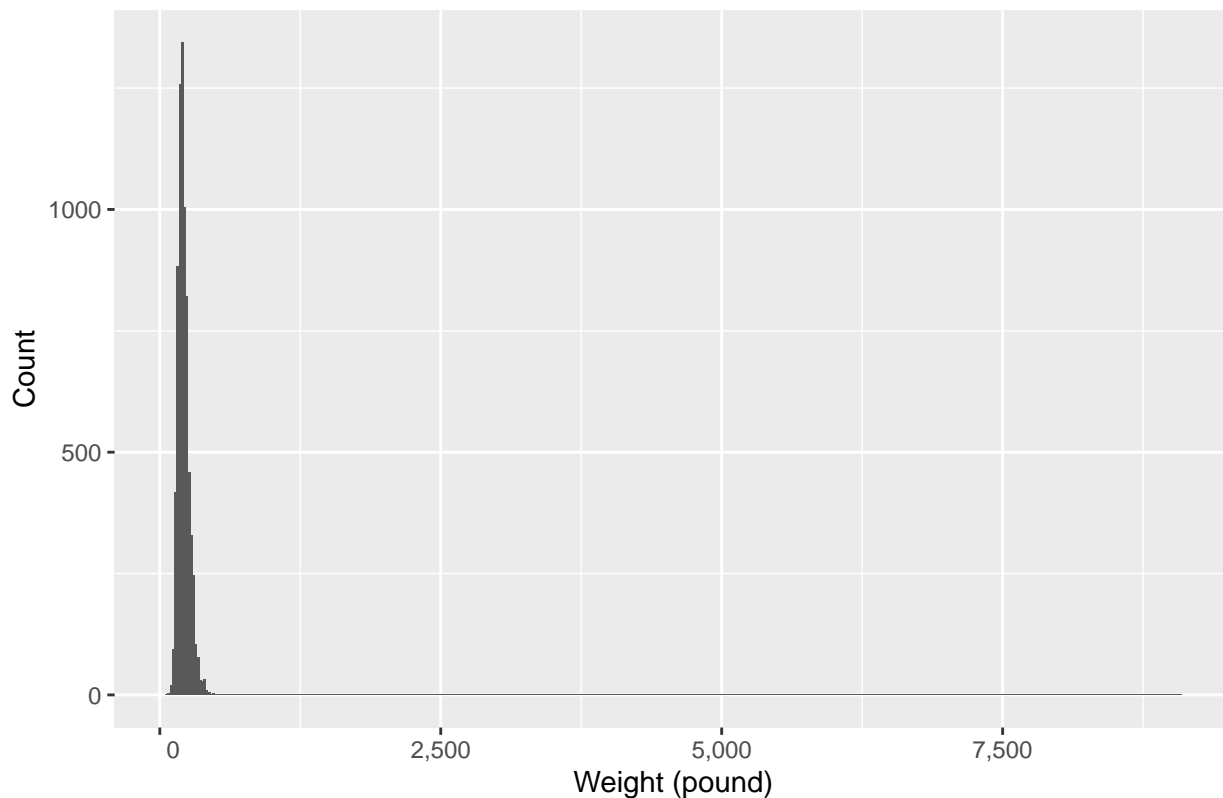
```
##   average_weight standard_deviation max_weight
## 1         216.0014          156.4615      9077
```

From the summary statistics, it shows that the average weight for people having arthritis due to weight is 216 pounds. The standard deviation of 156 pounds is very large, so there should be an outlier, which is confirmed by the max weight of 9077 pounds.

I will generate a histogram so that the outlier is more obvious shown by the limit on the X axis.

```
ggplot(data=having_arthritis, aes(x=weight2_num)) +
  geom_histogram(binwidth = 20) +
  ggtitle('Distribution of weights of the people having arthritis due to weight') +
  xlab('Weight (pound)') +
  ylab('Count') +
  scale_x_continuous(labels = function(x) format(x, big.mark = ",",
                                                    scientific = FALSE))
```

Distribution of weights of the people having arthritis due to weight



```
quantile(having_arthritis$weight2_num, c(0.25, 0.5, 0.75), na.rm = TRUE)
```

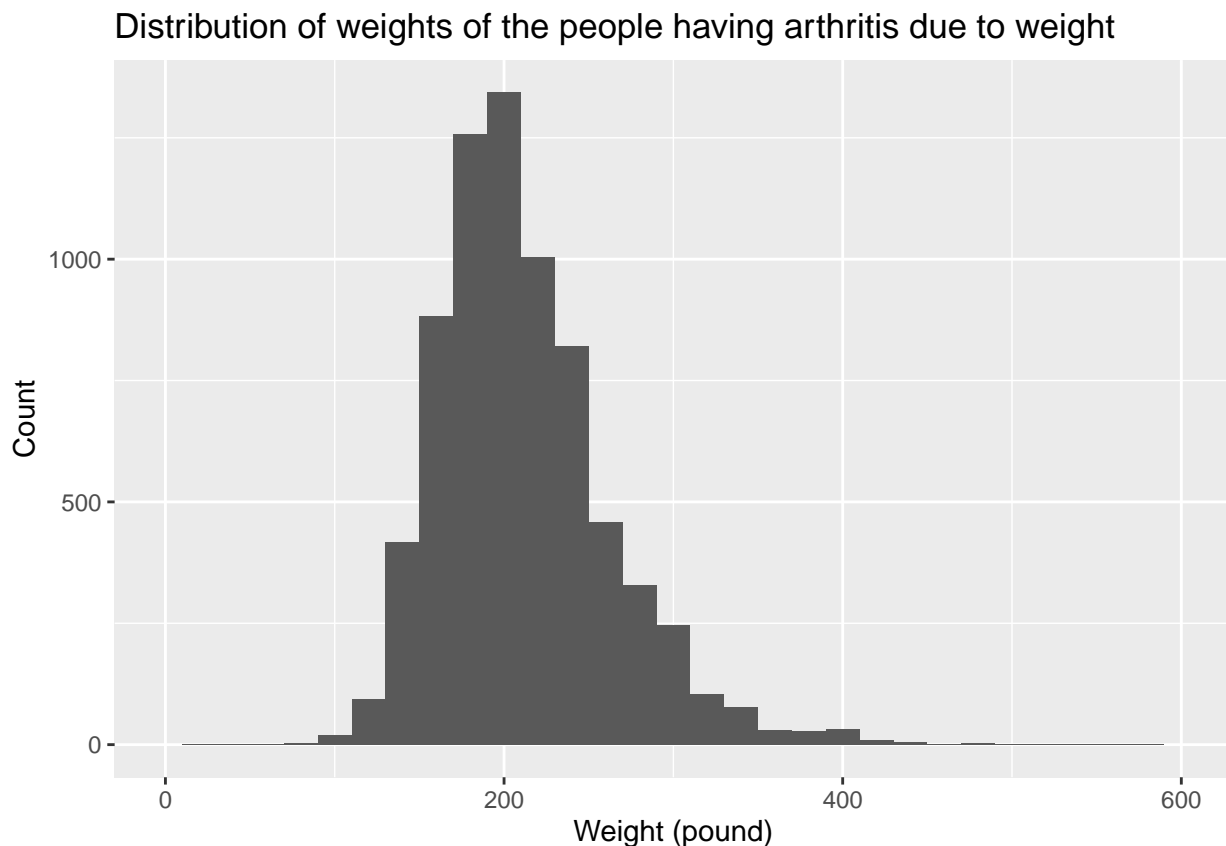
```
## 25% 50% 75%
```

```
## 180 203 240
```

So to be more accurate on the typical weight of the people who have arthritis due to weight, it is the middle 50% of the weights, which is from 180 pounds (i.e. 25th percentile) to 240 pounds (i.e. 75th percentile).

I will generate a histogram with limit on the X axis to exclude the outlier.

```
ggplot(data=having_arthritis, aes(x=weight2_num)) +  
  geom_histogram(binwidth = 20) +  
  ggtitle('Distribution of weights of the people having arthritis due to weight') +  
  xlab('Weight (pound)') +  
  ylab('Count') +  
  scale_x_continuous(lim = c(0, 600))
```



Research question 3: What is the top 10 types of exercise with the least percentage of people being told that they have chronic health condition?

```
brfss2013 <- brfss2013 %>%  
  mutate(told_have_chronic_cond=ifelse(  
    cvdinfr4 == 'Yes'  
    | cvdcrhd4 == 'Yes'  
    | cvdstrk3 == 'Yes'  
    | asthma3 == 'Yes'  
    | chcsncr == 'Yes'  
    | chcocncr == 'Yes'  
    | chccopd1 == 'Yes'  
    | havarth3 == 'Yes'  
    | addepev2 == 'Yes'  
    | chckidny == 'Yes'
```

```

        | diabetes3 == 'Yes'
        , 'Yes', 'No'
        )
    )

exercise_and_chr_cond <- brfss2013 %>%
  filter(
    told_have_chronic_cond %in% c('Yes', 'No')
    , !is.na(extract11)) %>%
  group_by(extract11) %>%
  summarise(
    percent_told_have_chronic_cond = round(sum(told_have_chronic_cond == 'Yes')
                                           / n() * 100
                                           , 1)
  ) %>%
  rename(exercise_type = extract11) %>%
  arrange(percent_told_have_chronic_cond)

top_10_exercise_types <- head(exercise_and_chr_cond, 10)
top_10_exercise_types

## # A tibble: 10 x 2
##   exercise_type percent_told_have_chronic_cond
##   <fct>                <dbl>
## 1 Lacrosse                23.1
## 2 Soccer                  25.5
## 3 Rugby                   26.3
## 4 Touch football          28
## 5 Basketball              31.4
## 6 Running                 31.5
## 7 Hockey                  32.5
## 8 Volleyball              32.6
## 9 Rock Climbing           34.2
## 10 Jogging                36.1

```

The above summary statistics shows the top 10 types of exercise with the least percentage of people being told that they have chronic health condition. It shows that most of them are high intensity exercise.

I will generate a bar plot for better understanding.

```

top_10_exercise_types$exercise_type <-
  factor(
    top_10_exercise_types$exercise_type
    , levels = top_10_exercise_types$exercise_type[
      order(
        top_10_exercise_types$percent_told_have_chronic_cond
        , decreasing=TRUE
      )
    ]
  )

ggplot(data=top_10_exercise_types
       , aes(x=percent_told_have_chronic_cond
             , y=exercise_type)) +
  geom_bar(stat = 'identity', fill = '#99ccff') +

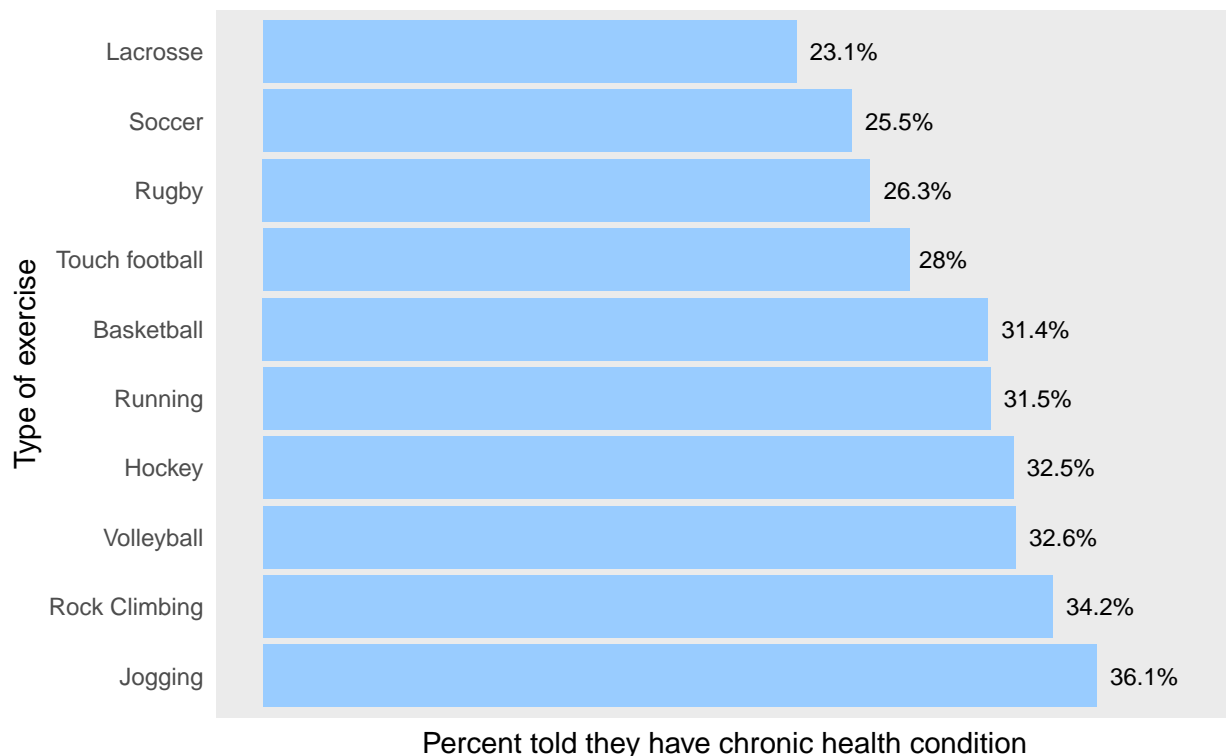
```

```

ggtitle('Top 10 types of exercise with the least percentage of people being
told that they have chronic health condition') +
xlab('Percent told they have chronic health condition') +
ylab('Type of exercise') +
geom_text(aes(label = paste(percent_told_have_chronic_cond, '%', sep = ''))
, hjust = -0.2, size = 3) +
scale_x_continuous(labels = NULL, lim = c(0, 40)) +
theme(axis.ticks = element_blank()
, panel.grid = element_blank())

```

Top 10 types of exercise with the least percentage of people being told that they have chronic health condition



I will also do a summary statistics of the top 10 types of exercise with the most percentage of people being told that they have chronic health condition, so that you can compare the percentages from both statistics.

```

bottom_10_exercise_types <- exercise_and_chr_cond %>%
  arrange(desc(percent_told_have_chronic_cond)) %>%
  head(n=10)

```

```
bottom_10_exercise_types
```

```

## # A tibble: 10 x 2
##   exercise_type                percent_told_have_chronic~
##   <fct>                        <dbl>
## 1 Tai Chi                      77.2
## 2 Household Activities (vacuuming, dusting, home re~
## 3 Bicycling machine exercise   71.1
## 4 Bowling                      70.5
## 5 Gardening (spading, weeding, digging, filling) 69.8

```

##	6 Snorkeling	68.8
##	7 Fishing from river bank or boat	68.3
##	8 Raking lawn	67.5
##	9 Upper Body Cycle (wheelchair sports, ergometer, e~	66.7
##	10 Mowing lawn	66