

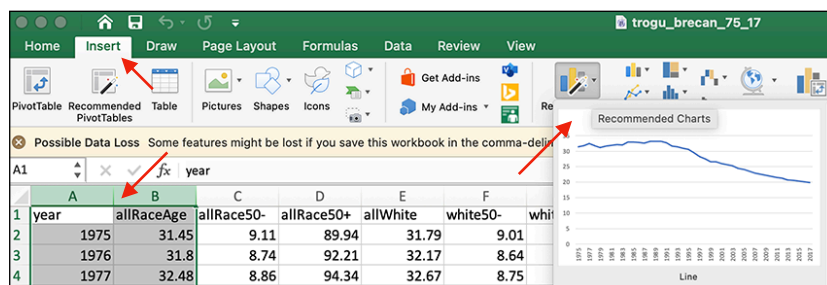
**Note: in Fall 2025 we downloaded 2023 data. For graphs 5 through 12, please adjust labels, coding, and file names from 2019 to 2023 accordingly. Thanks.**

## 1.2 Generate graphs (breast cancer) step-by-step

Assignment page link: [1.2 Generate graphs](#)

Below are the steps to create the raw graphs in Excel, Tableau, and R.  
See also the iLearn assignment page for more detail.

 Note: "Play video" symbols next to descriptions are linked to related video content describing some of these steps.



01 Single line graph (Excel)

### (1) Single line graph (US – 1975–2017)

For graph 1, plot a line for female breast cancer death rates (rate/100K) for all US, all races, all ages, for the years 1975 to 2017. In **Excel**, open the dataset file [lastName\\_brecan\\_75\\_17.csv](#) and select the cells from the columns *Year* and *All Races Females All Ages* (in my file the header name is *allRaceAge*).

With the cells selected, click → Insert (button next to Home on left) →

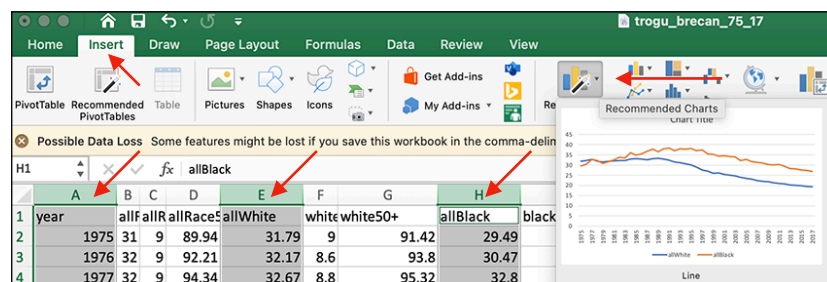
Recommended charts → Line.

That's it. The wording in the header names might be slightly different in your file. Move the chart so it does not sit on top of the data cells. Select all the empty cells now under the chart (not shown). Print → Print: Selection → Save as Adobe PDF → Press Quality. Save only the PDF page that includes the chart.

Name the file:

[01\\_lastName\\_single\\_line\\_excel.pdf](#)

It might look cropped in Illustrator but Release Clipping Mask should fix it. Or modify page set up or print area to get everything before printing.



02 Double line graph (Excel)

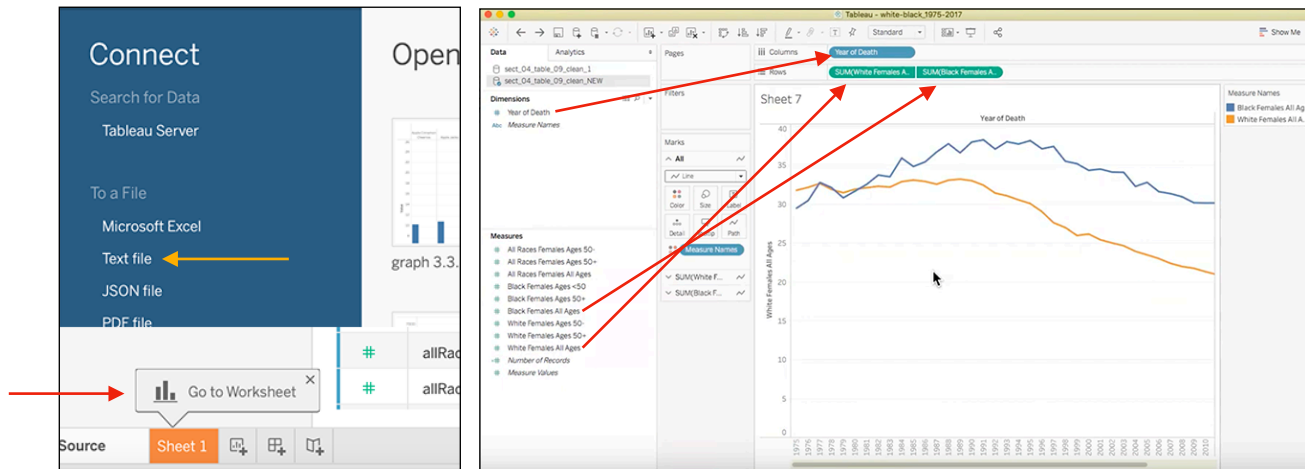
### (2) Double line graph (US Black & white – 1975–2017)

For the second graph, also in **Excel** and using the same dataset, we plot two different lines together, one for Black and the other for White. Repeat the steps used for graph 1 above but select *Year*, *White Female All Ages* (*allWhite*) and

*Black Female All Ages* (*allBlack*). You could play with the various elements: axes, labels, etc, by right-clicking and editing them (Select Data, Format Axis, etc) but for now the basic graph is sufficient. Repeat the steps used for graph 1 for saving the chart (save as Adobe PDF).

Name the file:

[02\\_lastName\\_double\\_line\\_excel.pdf](#)



After opening **Tableau** (at top-left): -->  
Connect --> To a file: Text file (csv) -->  
[lastName\\_brecan\\_75\\_17.csv](#)

After importing the dataset, create a new  
"Sheet 1" from bottom left menu (or  
press New Worksheet).

All the Tables (header names) will be at  
left, divided into Dimensions (or  
qualities, at top) and Measures (or  
quantities, below) however these labels  
become visible only when you drag  
items up and down. In my older Tableau  
videos these are always on. Dimensions  
are more like categories (qualities) and  
measures are more like actual quantities  
(quantitative).

After importing the dataset and starting a  
new sheet, make sure "Years" is a  
Dimension at top, or else drag it there.  
Then make sure it's a number or a date (it  
should **not** be a currency, so the year  
1975 should **not** look like this: 1,975). If  
the year has the comma, right-click  
"Year" dimension (at top) and "Change  
Data Type" to either "Number" or "Date".

Drag the "Year" dimension to the  
Columns field at top; Drag the "All white"  
measure to the Rows field at the top (the  
line for white rate should appear); Now  
drag the "All Black" measure also to the  
Rows field (the line for Black rate should  
also appear).

**Note:** If the lines appear as separate  
graphs instead, click "All Black" in the  
rows field at top and check "Dual Axis"  
in the drop-down menu (not shown).

Left and right scales now do not align;  
right-click the Axis on right and select  
"Synchronize Axis" (the two lines will be  
on the same scale). Print --> Save as  
PDF.

Go to Page Setup and select Print  
Scaling / Automatic / Landscape

Go to Print / Save as PDF

Name the file:

[03\\_lastName\\_double\\_line\\_tableau.pdf](#)

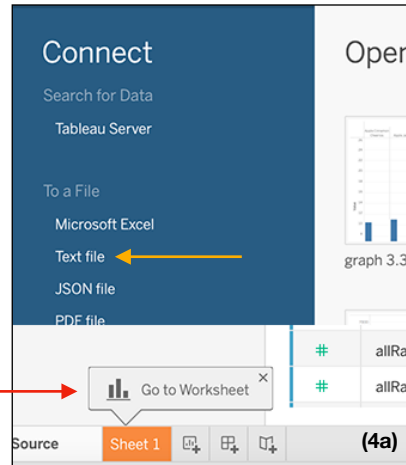
### 03 Double line graph (Tableau)

The video, from 45:40 to 49:23, shows a  
slight different sequence but the end  
result is the same. Despite the video's  
title (Breast Cancer Scatterplot) that  
section shows a way to switch from  
bars to lines. The dataset file names and  
the header names shown in the video  
may differ from your dataset.

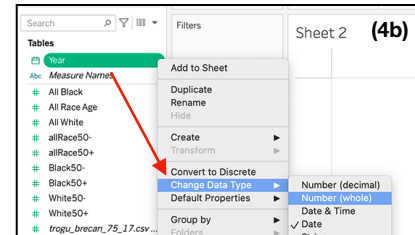


### 3. Connected scatterplot – 1975–2017

Still in **Tableau** and using the same dataset, for the third graph, we will plot a line connecting dots (the years) that appear to be going backwards. Each year shows the rates for black (Y vertical axis) and white (X horizontal axis) for that particular year. In the first 15 years the rate for black rises steadily while the rate for whites stays about the same. In the next 15 years both rates drop steadily, although in general black rates remain higher than white rates.



### 04 Connected scatterplot (Tableau)

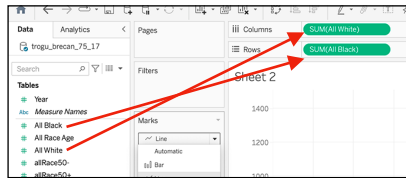


Follow the video from around **53:30** until about **59:00**. After connecting to the dataset (4a) and starting a new worksheet, make sure that "Year" is in the upper section (Dimensions) in the Tables pane at left. If it's in the lower section (Measures) together with all the other variables, drag it to the Dimensions section above. Then (4b above) right-click it --> Change Data Type --> Number (Whole).

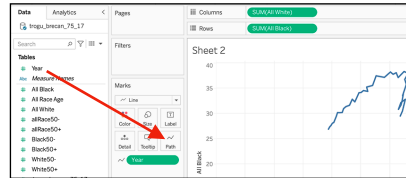
Connected scatterplot reference

*Driving Safety, In Fits and Starts*

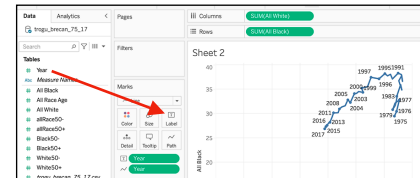
<https://archive.nytimes.com/www.nytimes.com/interactive/2012/09/17/science/driving-safety-in-fits-and-starts.html>  
The New York Times, September 17, 2012



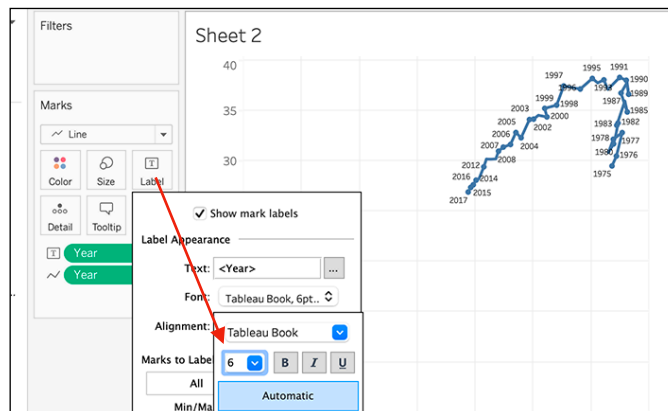
**(4c)** Next: drag white rate to columns field; drag black rate to rows field. Change Marks from Automatic to Line (shown in pic below the red arrows crossing). Shape button immediately below (not shown) will change to Path.



**(4d)** Drag Years to Path (line will appear);



**(4e)** Drag Year to Label. This will add the year labels to dots just formed on the line.



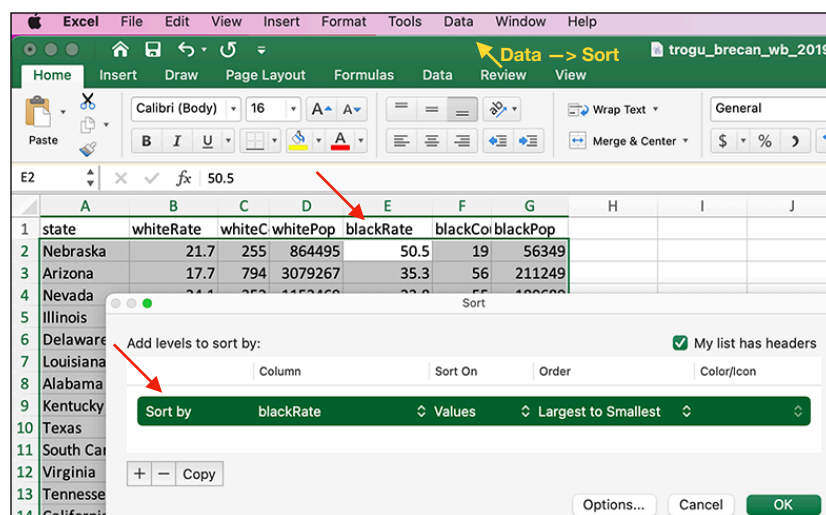
**(4d)** Click Label to edit year's font size -- make it 6pt. Click also "Allow labels to overlap other marks" at bottom of menu (not shown).

Further edits are shown in video to make the chart more closely cropped: Right-click both Axes (All White and All Black) / Edit Axes / Range / Custom / Fixed -- to start at 15 and end at 45 (Fixed start and end).

Print --> Save as PDF (Don't export to PowerPoint).

Name the file:

[04\\_lastName\\_connected\\_scatterplot\\_tableau.pdf](#)



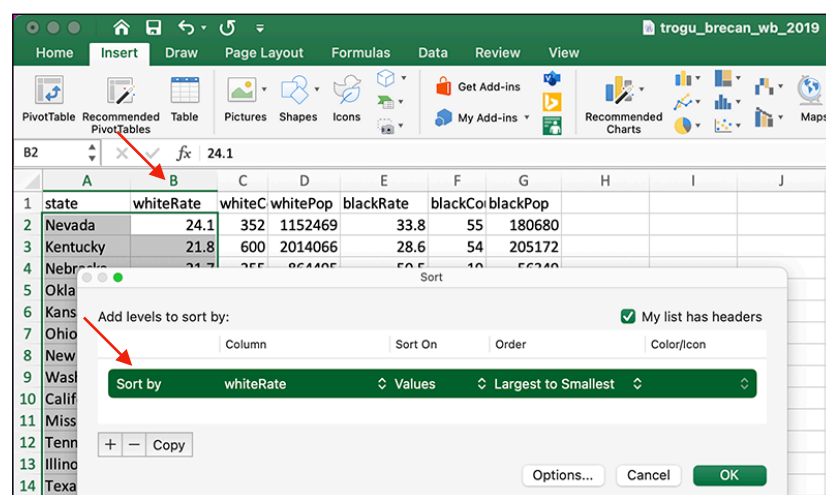
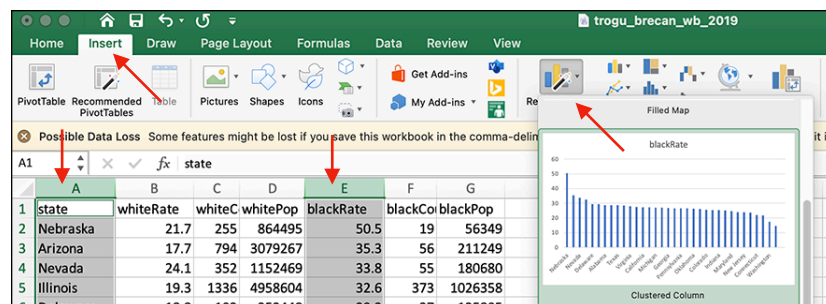
## 05 Bar chart black rate (Excel)

Charts 5 and 6 show death rates (rate/100K) for individual states for 2018, sorted from high to low.

### 5. Single bar chart (Black – US states 2019 – sorted High to Low)

(5a) In Excel, open dataset file: [lastName\\_brecan\\_wb\\_2019.csv](#) then select **BlackRate** cells and sort the column: Data → Sort → Expand selection → Sort by BlackRate → Order: Largest to smallest. Note: sorting can also be done without selecting the cells first, in which case the “Expand Selection” prompt will not come up.

(5b) Then select BlackRate and the State column: → Insert (next to Home) → Recommended charts → Clustered column. Note that it says clustered even if it shows a single column. Excel calls horizontal bars “bars”; and vertical bars “columns”. Enlarge the chart so that every bar has its own State label. Move it away from the data cells. Play around with Page Setup (landscape) and select cells under the chart; Print → Print: Selection → Save as Adobe PDF. Name: [05\\_lastName\\_bar\\_chart\\_black\\_excel.pdf](#)

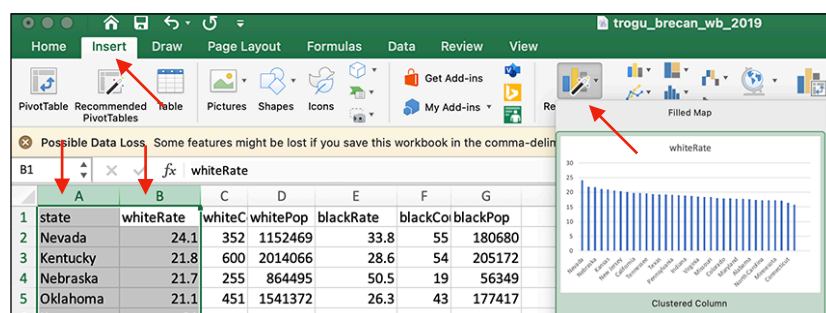


## 06 Bar chart white rate (Excel)

### 6. Single bar chart (White – US states 2019 – sorted High to Low)

(6a) Using the same dataset file: [lastName\\_brecan\\_wb\\_2019.csv](#) select **WhiteRate** cells and sort the column: Data → Sort → Expand selection → Sort by WhiteRate → Order: Largest to smallest.

(6b) Then select WhiteRate and the State column: → Insert (next to Home) → Recommended charts → Clustered column. Enlarge the chart so that every bar has its own State label. Move it away from the data cells. Play around with Page Setup (landscape) and select cells under the chart; Print → Print: Selection → Save as Adobe PDF. Name: [06\\_lastName\\_bar\\_chart\\_white\\_excel.pdf](#)





## 1.2 Generate graphs step-by-step

**Note: Use find/replace inside the script window to quickly update the pasted code from the 2019 to the 2023 headers. Use find / replace for all such needed updates to match your current dataset information.**

## 07 Bar chart black rate (R)

Install R. Install and start RStudio.



The video link at left shows how to create the bar chart (note: the dataset in video is older). The code below is current. You can also open this [annotated R file](#). Cut and paste the page into BBEdit if it opens as a webpage. Then open it in RStudio, not R. You can use the file to avoid retyping everything, just make sure your header names are the same as in the code, or adapt code as needed.

The R code shows how to sort the data (by Black rate), and also add state name labels at a 45-degree angle.

After starting RStudio, import the dataset first (7a), then start the new R script or open the downloaded one.

```
barplot(brecan19$blackRate,
names.arg=brecan19$state)
```

```
sortbyBlack <-
brecan19[order(brecan19$blackRate,
decreasing = TRUE), ]
```

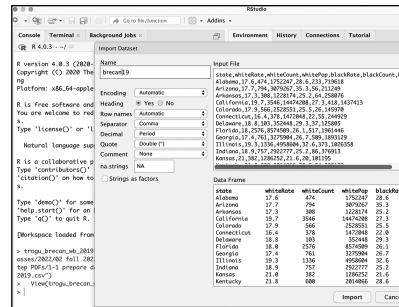
```
barplot(sortbyBlack$blackRate,
names.arg=sortbyBlack$state)
```

```
midpts <-
barplot(sortbyBlack$blackRate,
main="Black chart title -- vertical
labels")
```

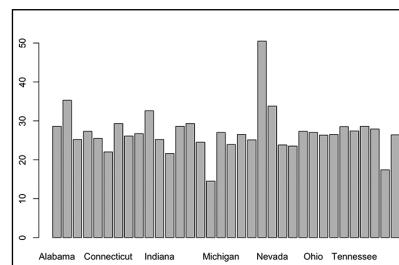
```
text(x=midpts+.8, y=-.7,
sortbyBlack$state, cex=0.5, srt=90,
xpd=TRUE, pos=2)
```

```
barplot(sortbyBlack$blackRate,
main="Black chart title -- 45-degree
labels")
```

```
text(x=midpts+.8, y=-.7,
sortbyBlack$state, cex=0.5, srt=45,
xpd=TRUE, pos=2)
```



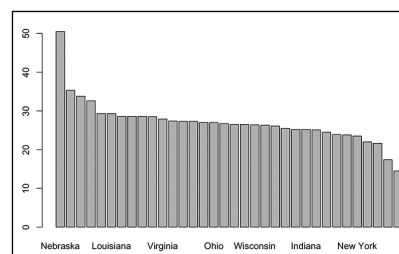
(7a) Import dataset: `lastName_brecan_wb_2019.csv` into RStudio and shorten name to `brecan19`. Make sure to select: heading, Yes. See assignment 1 for additional R tips.



(7b) Open annotated R file or start a new script. Type and run (can be on a single line):

```
barplot(brecan19$blackRate,
names.arg=brecan19$state)
```

Note that the chart is sorted alphabetically by state from left to right because the states column was already sorted in the original file. Whichever column is sorted in the original will be the default rendering, but since we are interested in the black rate (the data shown by the height of the bars) in the next step we will sort the dataset by black rate from high to low.

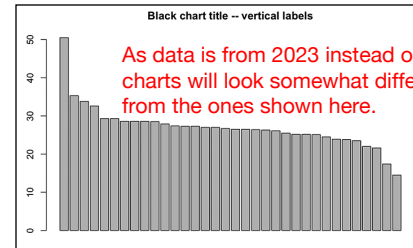


(7c) To create the new sorting by black rate, type:

```
sortbyBlack <-
brecan19[order(brecan19$blackRate,
decreasing = TRUE), ]
```

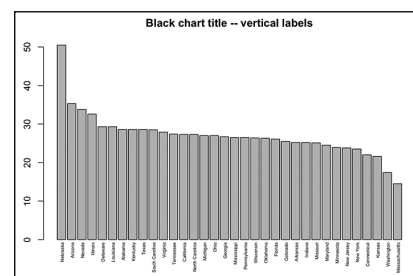
There will be no change in the plot yet. Only a new dataset will be created. Now type and run the original code but with the new name (`sortByBlack`) to render the new graph:

```
barplot(sortbyBlack$blackRate,
names.arg=sortbyBlack$state)
```



(7d) Since not all names fit horizontally, the next code will define anchor points for the state names to fit vertically. A title is also added, that's the only visible change for now. Type and run:

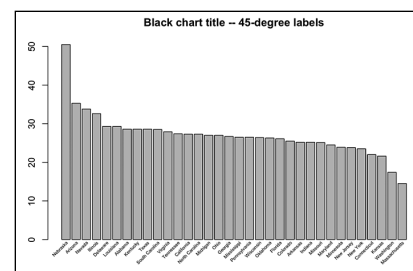
```
midpts <-
barplot(sortbyBlack$blackRate,
main="Black chart title -- vertical
labels")
```



(7e) Type and run:

```
text(x=midpts+.8, y=-.7,
sortbyBlack$state, cex=0.5, srt=90,
xpd=TRUE, pos=2)
```

The x and y anchor values can be adjusted as desired. It's better now because all state names are displayed, but it's not ideal yet. In the next two similar steps, the labels will be at 45 degrees.



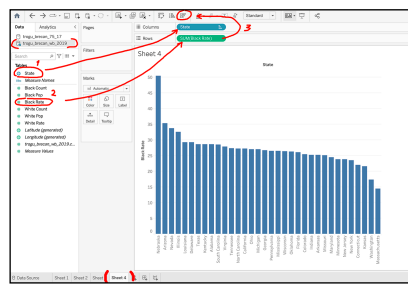
(7f) Type and run the two lines below one after the other:

```
barplot(sortbyBlack$blackRate,
main="Black chart title -- 45-degree
labels")
```

```
text(x=midpts+.8, y=-.7,
sortbyBlack$state, cex=0.5, srt=45,
xpd=TRUE, pos=2)
```

Export the plot to Adobe PDF, letter size landscape format and name it:  
[07\\_lastName\\_bar\\_chart\\_black\\_R.pdf](#)

You should repeat the process for white race (adapting the code) to practice steps.

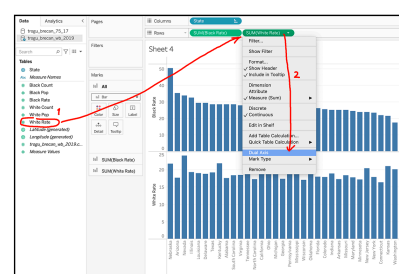


(8a) Connect to dataset (text) — click on the Tableau icon at top left if still in the previous graphic, or start a new file, to connect: [lastName\\_brecan\\_wb\\_2019.csv](#) New sheet.

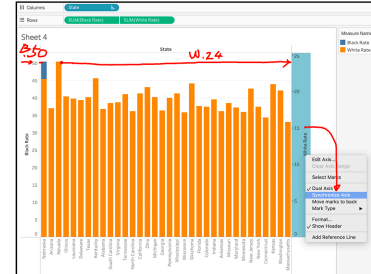
Drag States to Columns field  
Drag Black Rate to Rows field  
(Notice how Tableau renders the header names in a more friendly way than the actual dataset names.  
Select Black Rate in Rows field and click high-to-low sorting button (bars will be sorted from state with highest rate (Nebraska) to lowest (Massachusetts)).

## 08 Double (clustered, grouped, etc.) bar chart (Tableau)

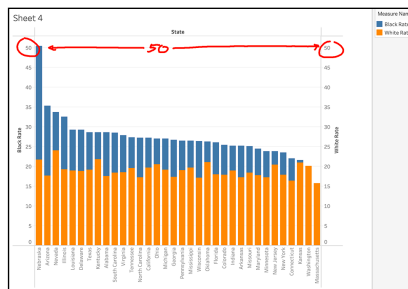
--> For Fall 2025, replace 2019 data with 2023 data from CDC.  
Rename files with 2023 ending.



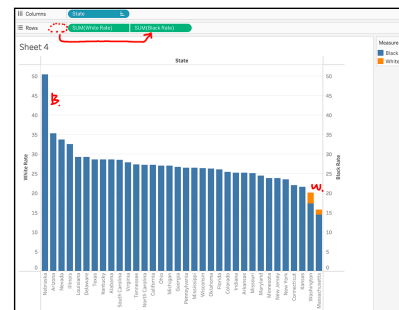
(8b) Drag White Rate to Rows field (both charts will display)  
Note: if graphic changes to dots, change Marks from "Automatic" to "Bar" (not shown).  
Right-click White Rate item and select Dual Axis from drop-down menu.  
(Charts will overlap)



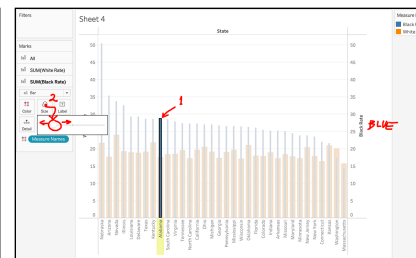
(8c) Black and white vertical scales need to be the same (Black tops out at 50 and white at about 25). Right-click White axis and select Synchronize Axis.



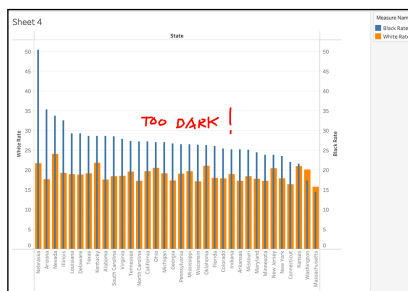
(8d) Now the scales are same and the Black rate and White rate bars are proportional to each other. However the Black (blue) bars could be confused for being "stacked" on top of the White (orange) bars, instead of physically behind and having a full height starting from zero.



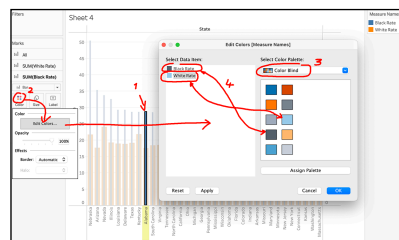
(8e) Make the blue bars thinner but first move them in front of the orange ones.  
Switch the position of the Black and White items at top (first White, then Black).



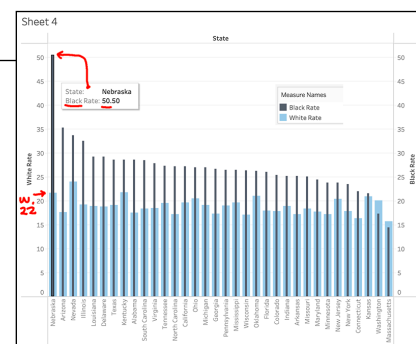
(8f) Select a blue bar, then click the Size button, use slider to make bar thinner (about one third). Orange bars will now be visible under the thinner blue bars.



(8g) But the default bar colors are still too dark, too saturated, too everything. In next step, change the colors so they are less active



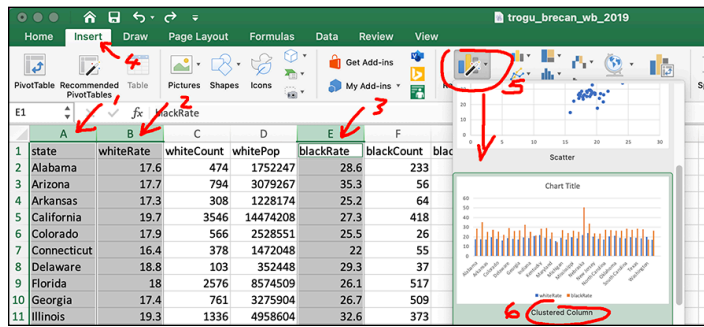
(8h) Select a bar again (1), then click the Color button and Edit Colors (2), change the color palette and select Color Blind (3), click color item in list at the left (current) and then click color in list at right (4). Use dark gray for the "black" thin bars in front; use light blue for the "white" thicker bars in front.



(8i) Final result. It can be improved further in Illustrator by making the state labels at bottom at a 45-degree angle and making all typography black type, not the default Tableau gray. The latter can be changed in Tableau too. Tableau charts are interactive and mouse over will reveal the specific data points.

Go to Page Setup and select Print Scaling / Automatic / Landscape  
Print and Save as PDF. Name the file:

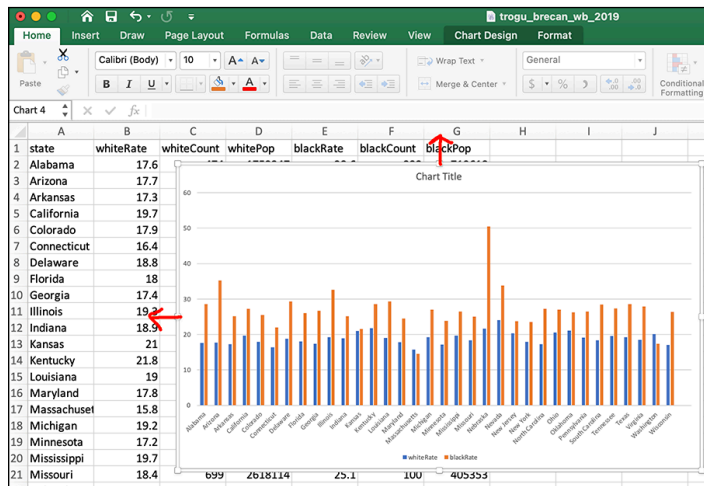
## 09 Double bar chart (Excel)



(9a) Open this file in Excel:

[lastName\\_brecan\\_wb\\_2019.csv](#)

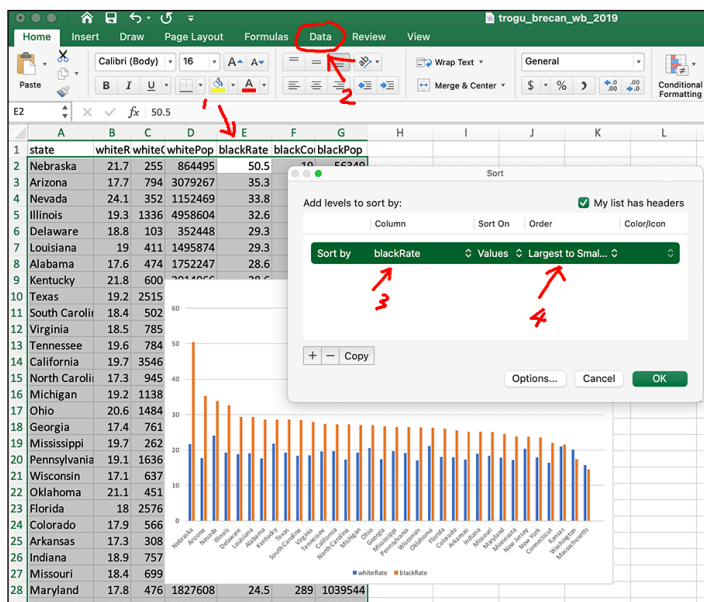
Select State, white rate, and black rate columns. Use Command on Mac (Not shift) and Ctrl on PC to select separate multiple columns. Click Insert —> Recommended charts —> Clustered Column. Similar to the double line graph, but with states in horizontal axis instead of years. While for years you should not change the order of the dates, here you will change the order of the states from sorted by alphabetical to sorted by black rate. Since it's a double chart, only the "black" set of bars will be sorted high-to-low. The other set (white) will just follow the order determined by the first sorting.



(9b) Expand the resulting chart so that all state names are visible

Note the current alphabetical sorting in my example the states were ordered that way. This is a **very bad** default setting for the chart if the spreadsheet happens to be already sorted alphabetically!

Sort the chart in the next step.



(9c) Select black rate. Click Data —> Sort. In the prompt (not shown) confirm Expand Selection (all cells will become selected).

In sorting pane, select black rate and largest to smallest.

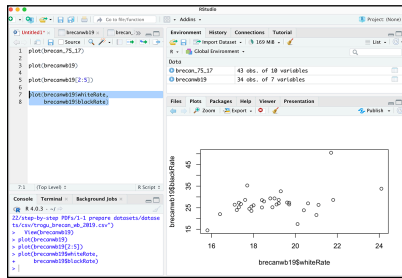
After the chart is sorted, move it away from over the data cells and put it on top of blank cells. Select blank cells under chart and Print —> Selection —> Save as Adobe PDF.

Name the file:

[09\\_lastName\\_double\\_bar\\_chart\\_excel.pdf](#)

Important: choose Save as Adobe PDF, not just Save as PDF. That way, the type will render properly and not scrambled when the file is opened in Illustrator.

## 10 Scatterplot US states 2019 (RStudio)



(10a) In RStudio, you have already draw this plot as Scatterplot #3 in Assignment 1.1. The steps are repeated here. After importing the file:

[lastName\\_brecan\\_wb\\_2019.csv](#) and shortening the name to `brecan2019`:

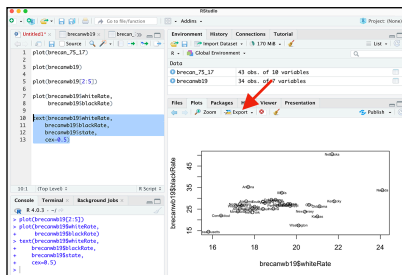
Save the plot (Export to PDF). Experiment with the proportions of the plot as you export it. Try for example a square, the nominal format of the next plot.

Name the file:

`10_lastName_scatterplot_states_R.pdf`

Type and run:

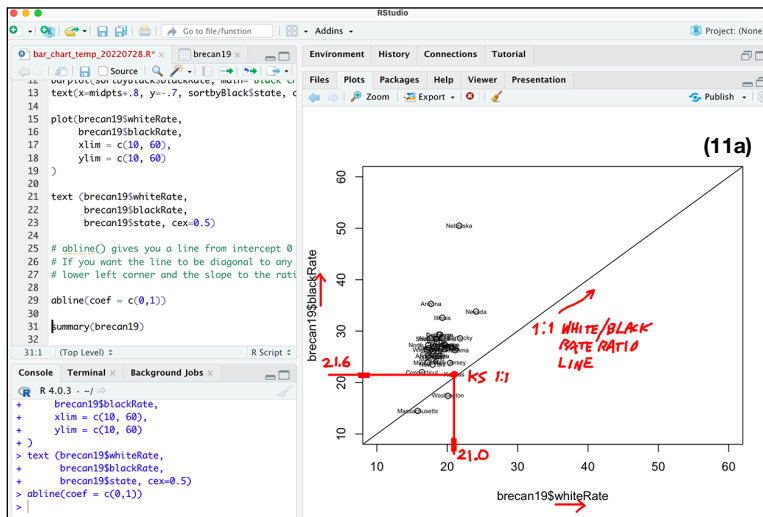
```
plot(brecan19$whiteRate,
     brecan19$blackRate)
```



(10b) Then, add the names of the states on top of each data point. Type and run:

```
text(brecan19$whiteRate,
     brecan19$blackRate,
     brecan19$state,
     cex=0.5)
```

## 11 Scatterplot US states 2019 – same length axes (RStudio)



(11a) In the same R file, repeat steps as in #10 but make the two X and Y axes the same length (from rate 10 to rate 60).

Note that since the plot area in R is like a rubber sheet, you want to export this plot to a square format when saving the PDF. On screen it's not square, and it doesn't have to be, however the two axes will have the same data range length. Watch out for bad spacing characters if cut/pasting code; they will look red in RStudio so delete them if that happens.

```
plot(brecan19$whiteRate,
     brecan19$blackRate,
     xlim = c(10, 60),
     ylim = c(10, 60))
```

```
text(brecan19$whiteRate,
     brecan19$blackRate,
     brecan19$state, cex=0.5)
```

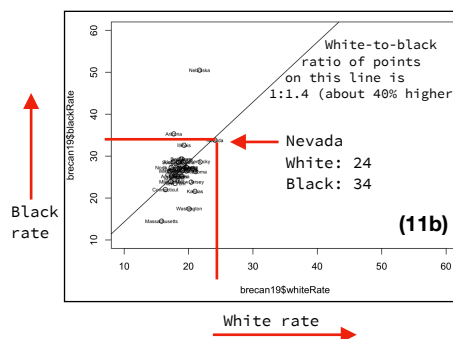
```
abline(coef = c(0,1))
```

**NOTE: with the 2023 data, you can set both xlim and ylim at (15, 30) to obtain a better fitting, zoomed-in graph. Make sure to set a custom square size when exporting the plot to PDF to ensure a square graph frame.**

Change the last line of code to:

```
abline(coef = c(0,1.5))
```

to get a different sloped line →



The last line of code (abline) adds a diagonal line to the graph that shows the spots where the rates between Black and White would be the same ratio (proportion), or 1:1 and therefore no disparity would exist between the groups. As you see most states above the line show a disparity.

(11b) Changing the abline code to 0,1.5:  
`abline(coef = c(0,1.5))`

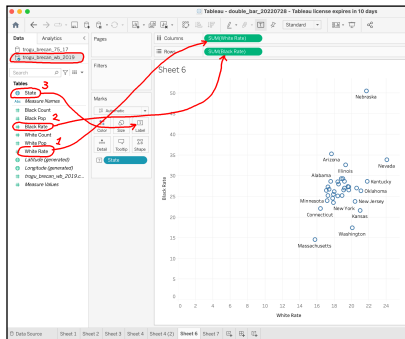
moves the line near to where most states are (black rate is about 50% higher).

Export / save plot, name file:

`11_lastName_scatterplot_same_length_axes_R`

`abline()` gives you a line from intercept 0 with slope 1 in an existing plot. If you want the line to be diagonal to any plot just set the intercept to the lower left corner and the slope to the ratio of increase between the two axis.

## 12 Scatterplot US states 2019 (Tableau)



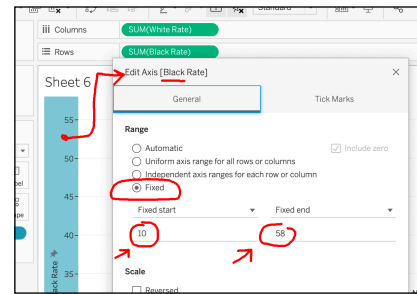
(12a) Use again dataset  
[lastName\\_brecan\\_wb\\_2019.csv](#)

After you connect to the text file, start a new sheet (bottom menu). Plot the two variables Black rate and White rate for 2019:

Drag Black to the rows fields

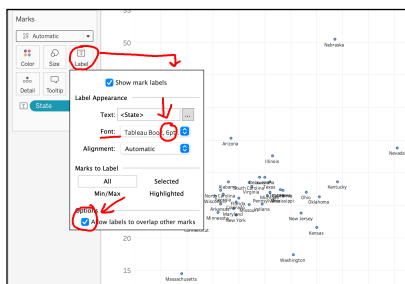
Drag White to the columns field

Drag States to Label in the Marks field (or drag to plot area).



(12b) Edit the axes, right-click left Black axis and make the range fixed: 10 to 60 (this includes the range for Black rate; Repeat the step for horizontal axis but set the range from 15 to 30 (not shown).

**Note:** for 2023 data, set x axis (white) at (15, 25); set y axis (black) at (15, 30).

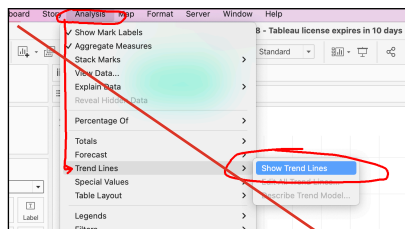


(12c) After setting the axes lengths, click Size (next to Label) to make the dots smaller. Then, make the state labels smaller: click Label, change the font size to 6 pt. and check box "Allow labels to overlap other marks" at bottom. This displays all names regardless of whether they overlap each other. The labels' positions can be edited later in Illustrator.

**Note:** The 2019 dataset may have changed slightly from what these pictures show as each year sometimes gets updated further even after it is first published.

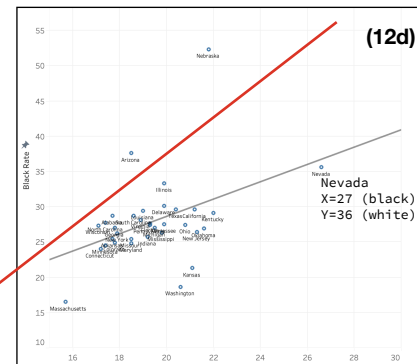
Save the plot. Print, save as PDF.  
 Name the file:

[12\\_lastName\\_scatterplot\\_states\\_tableau\\_R](#)



(12d) Add a "trend" line (similar to abline in R in #11):

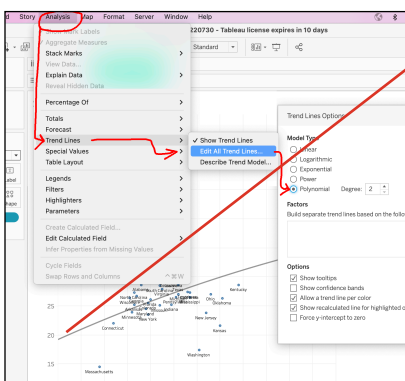
Analysis —> Trend Lines —> Show trend lines. This will display a default straight (linear) trend line, shown at right (12d). Make a note of the approximate coordinates (X,Y) of the beginning (15,22) and end of the line (30,41). If you divide Y/X (22/15 & 41/30) in both cases you get approximately 1.4 which is the simple ratio (on the line) between the White rate and the Black rate. That is, the Black rate is approximately 1.4 times the White rate (approximately 40% higher). You can see



**Note:** while this "trendline" procedure to mimic the "abline" code in R worked out approximately with Tableau when using the 2019 data, it didn't work (it's not general) with the 2023 data. If you are curious, see the workaround described in this sticky note (suggested by AI). I can show this in class if desired but not required for the assignment.

for White and a slightly better than average rate for Black (fewer deaths), lies near the line and the values are about 27 and 36.

Divide 36 by 27 and the result is about 1.3. So if every state dot where on that line, every state's W:B ratio would be the same: 1:1.3.



(12e) Change the trend line from "linear" to "polynomial". The line will bend slightly upward but it's still about the same line. If you, unlike me, studied statistics, you probably understand the difference. It's a kind of average line because if you add up all the Black values from all the states and divide the total by the total for White values, the result is about the same: 1.4 or 1:1.4 (Black is 40% higher).

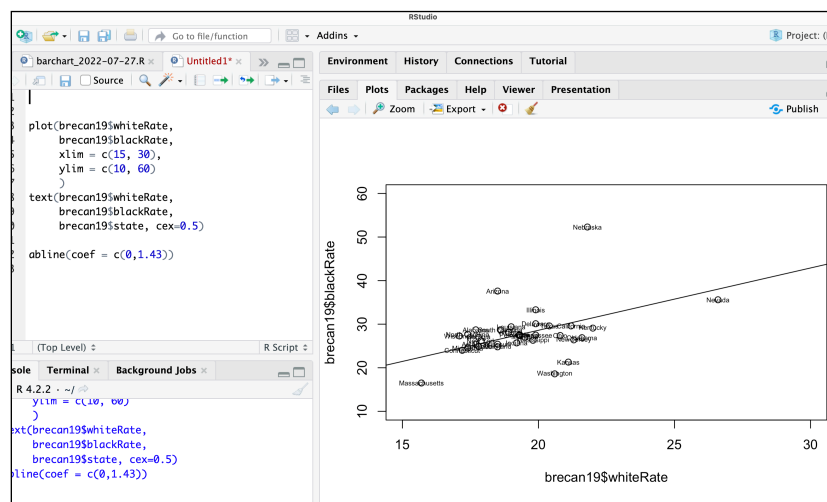
Save the plot. Print, save as PDF. Name the file:

[12\\_lastName\\_scatterplot\\_states\\_tableau\\_R](#)



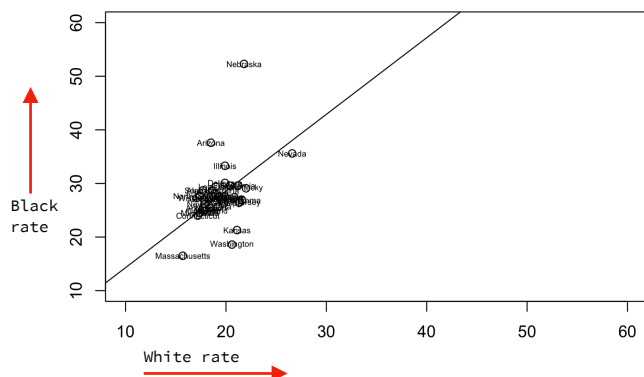
## 13 – Some reflections...

**Note: in Fall 2025, compare the 2019 data with the 2023 data.**



**(13a)** This, just for comparison, is the same plot as #12 but done again in R, using again fixed axes but setting the range of White horizontal axis close to the actual values (smaller than for Black). The “abline” is also set at 1.43, the general actual average. Below is how the code was modified from #11b, by changing the values for x and y limit, the value for the size of the label type (0.25) but leaving the ratio of the line's slope unchanged (1.43).

```
plot(brecan19$whiteRate,
     brecan19$blackRate,
     xlim = c(15, 30),
     ylim = c(10, 60))
text(brecan19$whiteRate,
     brecan19$blackRate,
     brecan19$state, cex=0.25)
abline(coef = c(0, 1.43))
```



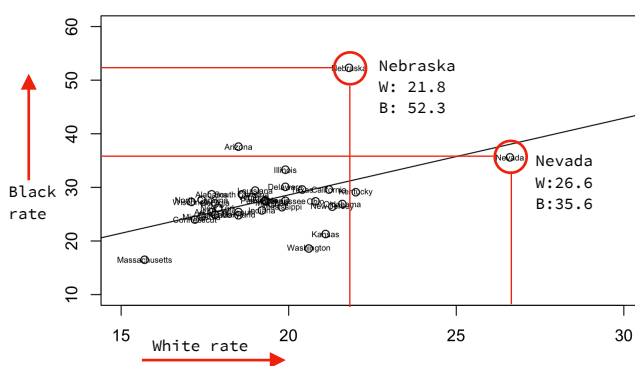
**(13b)** Compare these two versions of the scatterplot in R. Both show the same data and the same trend line (slope = 1.43).

Since the proportions (aspect ratio) of the box can be stretched in any direction, it's easy to see how one can make the same data look more or less extreme.

The data range length of the axes in the chart above left is the same (from 10 to 60) pushing the dots closer to the Black axis than to the White axis. This also puts the dots very close to each other.

In the chart on the right, by making the White axis range closer to the actual data (from 15 to 30), the dots become more legible.

Note however, that both boxes share the same distortion in that the axes themselves are not physically proportional to each other. In the chart at left, although both axes start at 10 and end at 60, the box is not a square as it would be if the divisions (the tic mark spaces) were themselves spaced by the same physical distance.



**(13c)** In the chart on the right, the true White axis from 15 to 30 (15 units) is actually physically longer (the length of the box) than the much longer Black axis which goes from 10 to 60 (50 units). Because the proportions changed, the angle of the trend line also changed, and the line does not look as dramatic as in the chart on the left.

So one should perhaps invert the axes and plot White on the vertical Y axis and Black on the horizontal X axis?

Try and see what happens.

No matter the shape of the box, some data points stick out (outliers), Nebraska for the highest Black rate (52.3) and Nevada for the highest White rate (26.6). Both are clearly noticeable in the chart on the right, however Nevada is not as noticeable in the chart on the left.