# Presenting information effectively

Steven Fiala & Anne Celovsky

Grantees & Contractors Meeting
October 29, 2019



Center for Prevention and Health Promotion
Health Promotion Chronic Disease Prevention Section

Our time together

1. Science of data viz

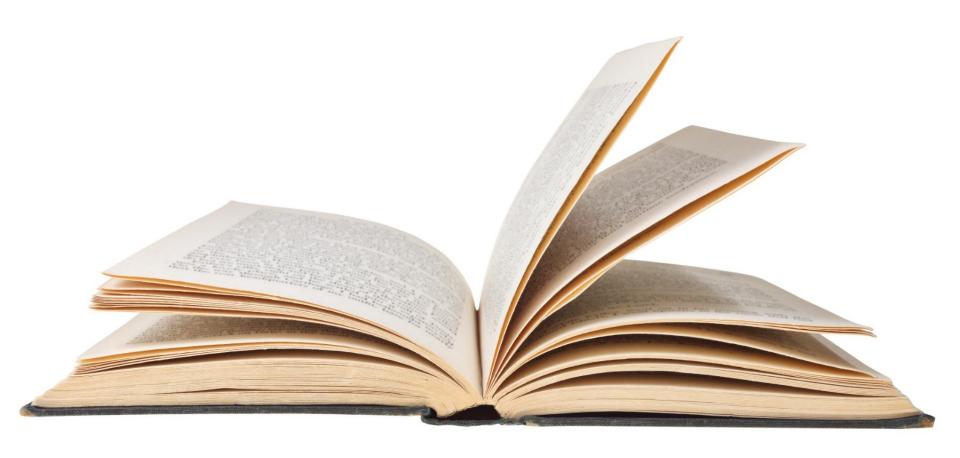
- 2.Best practices
- 3. Examples
- 4. Continued learning





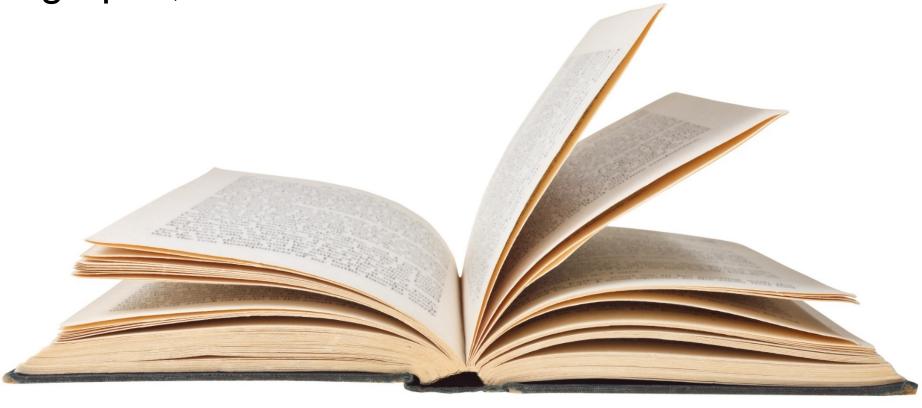
# Information design

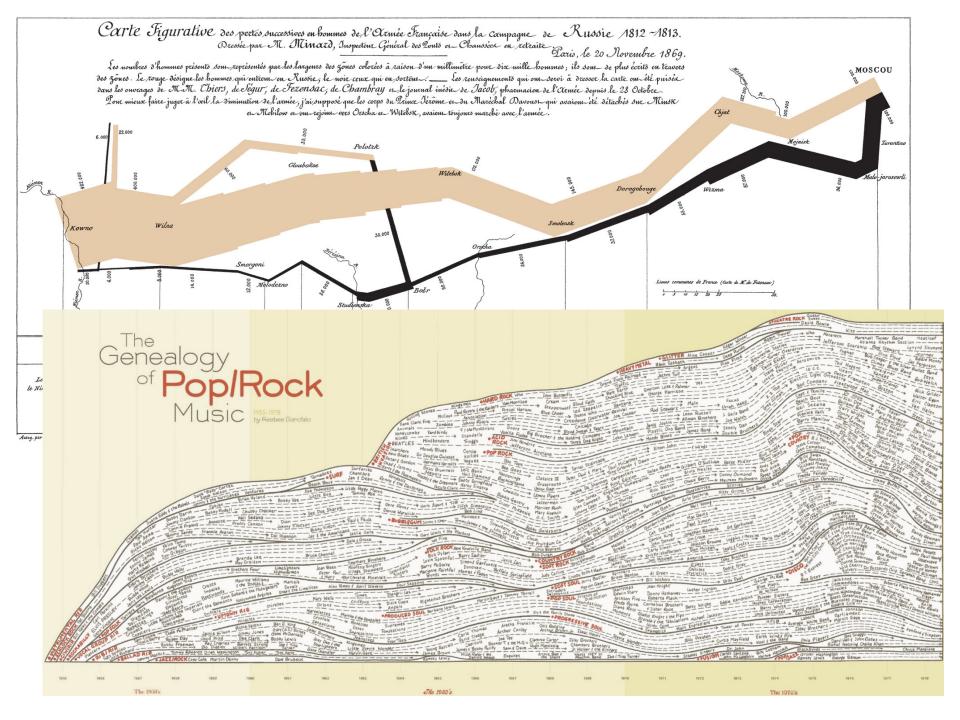
Practice of presenting information in a way that fosters efficient and effective understanding of it

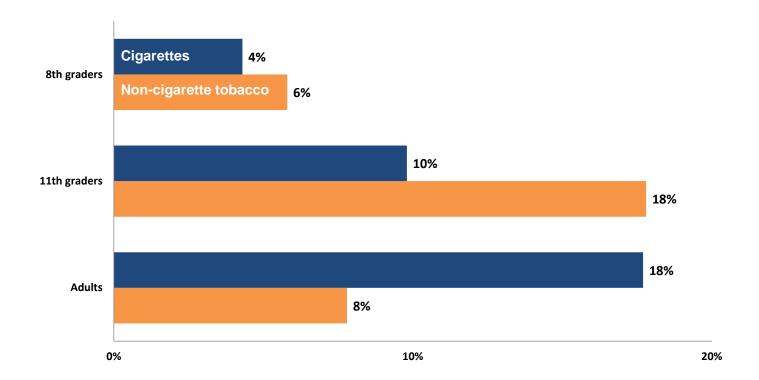


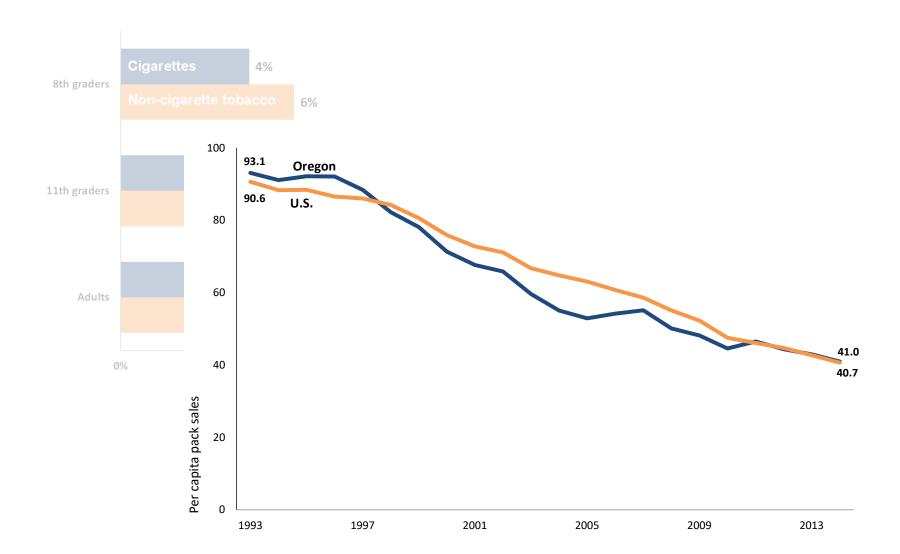
#### Data visualization

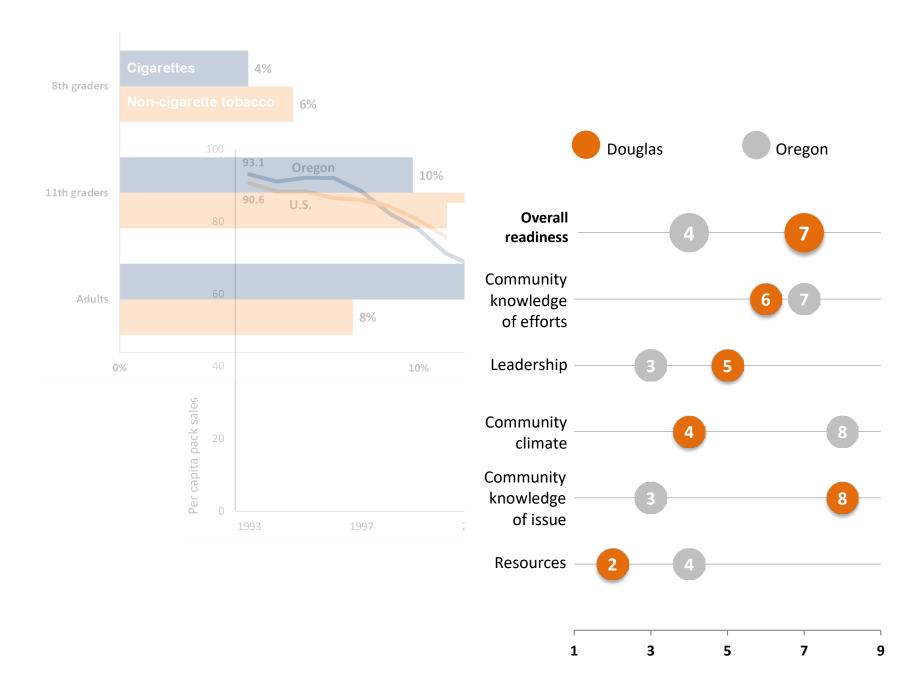
Process of applying information design practices to data visuals such as charts, graphs, and tables



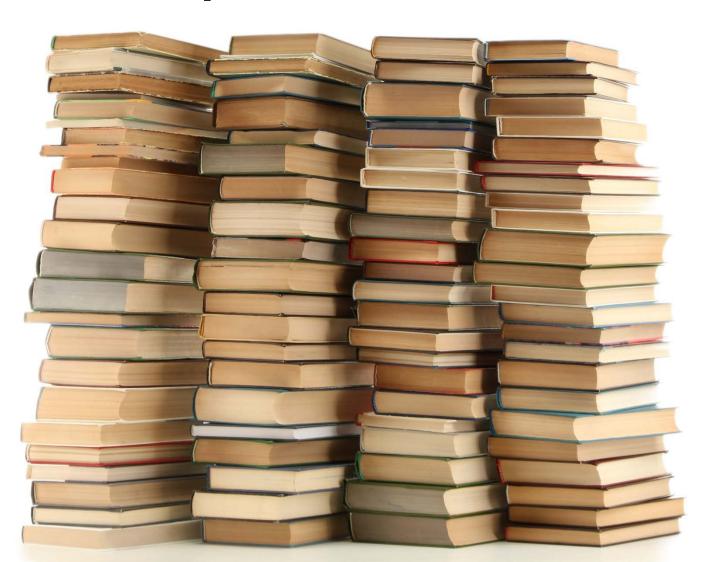


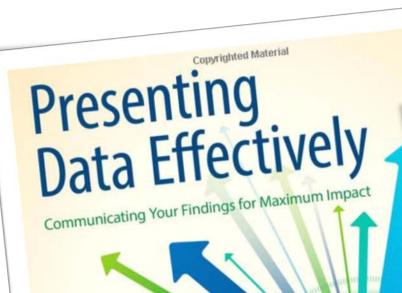






# Best practices exist!











# Pictorial superiority effect

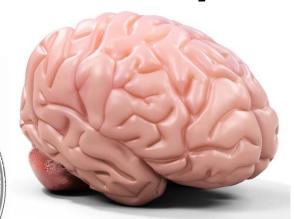
Vision dominates

Take advantage of the eye!

Move information along the memory

continuum

Affix in memory



Focus attention



#### **Early attention**

Color

Alignment

Orientation

Order

Size



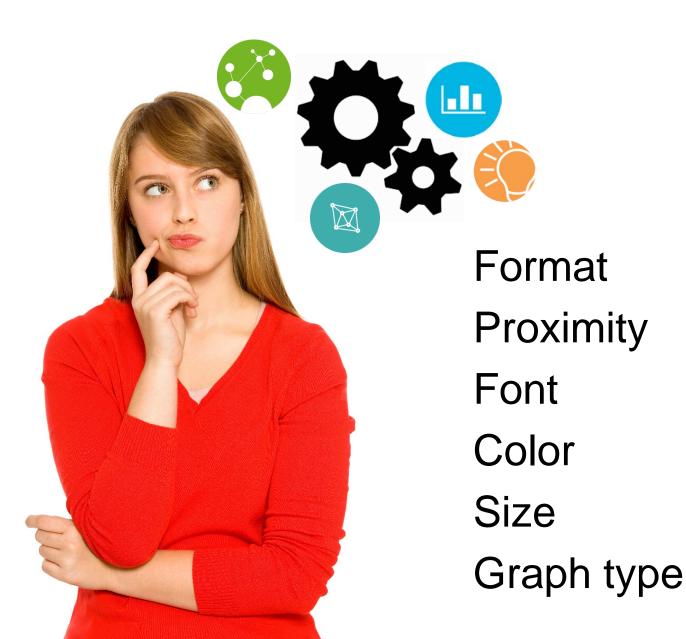
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1 2 3 7 5 8 9 0 2 3 3 9 3 2 3 8 9 34 2 38 93 4 27 95 4 2 38 64 5 2 3 94 1 2 37 58 90 2 3 3 93 23 8 9 34 2 38 93 2 27 95 42386452394123758 90 2 3 3 93 23 8 9 34 2 38 93 4 27 95 6 2 38 94 1 2 37

# **Working memory**

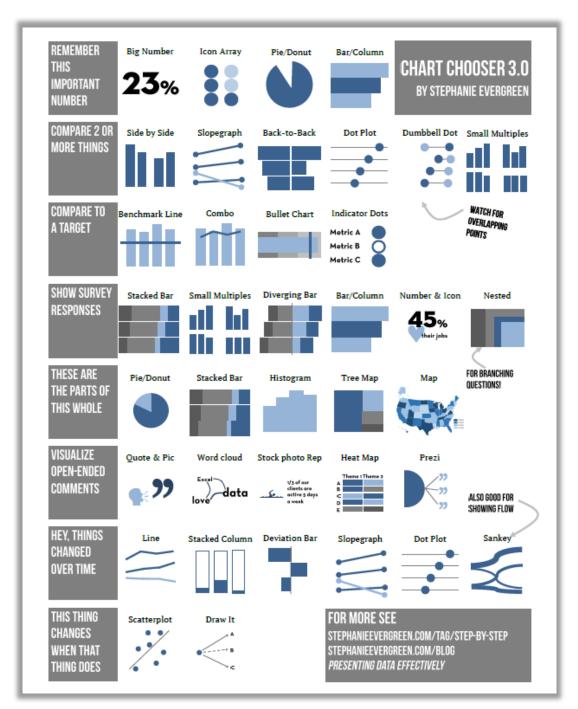


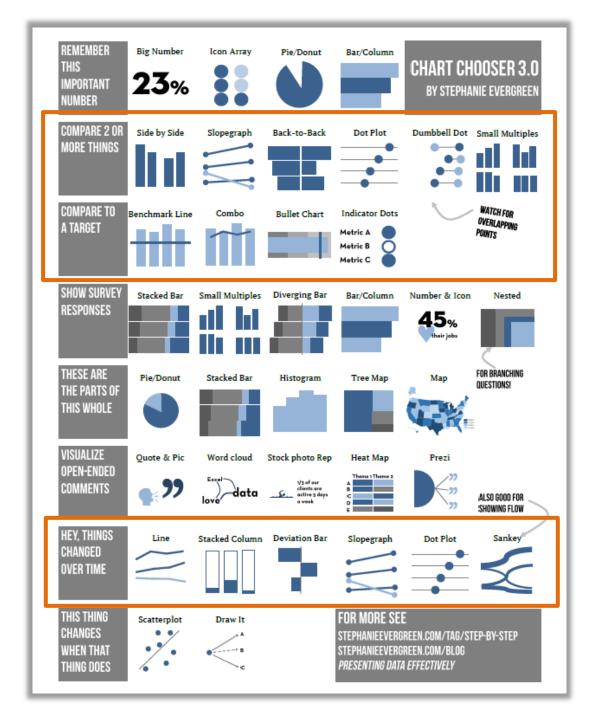
### **Working memory**

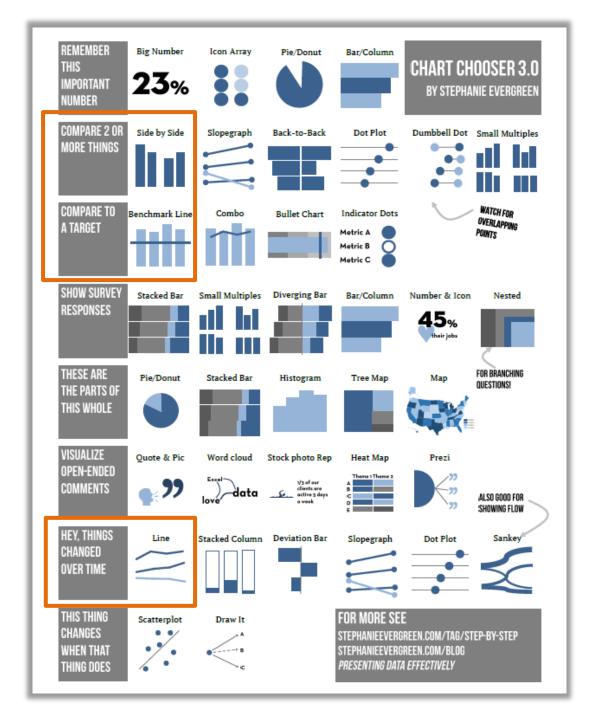


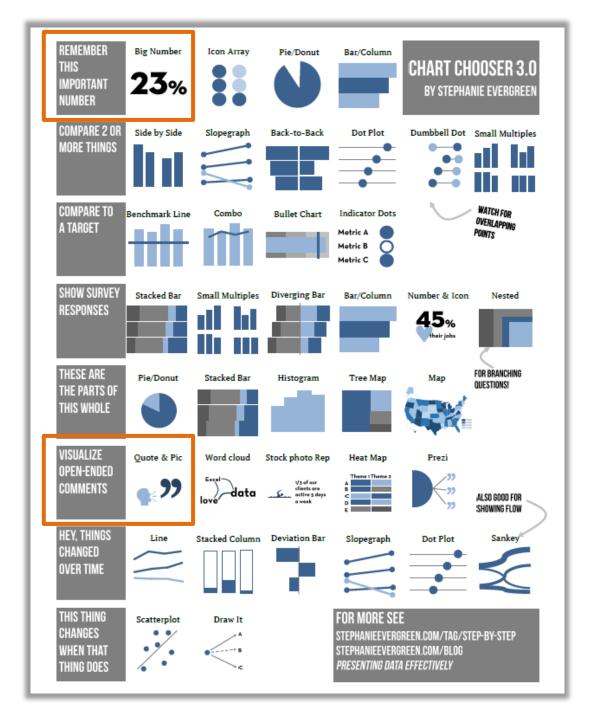
# **Long-term retention**

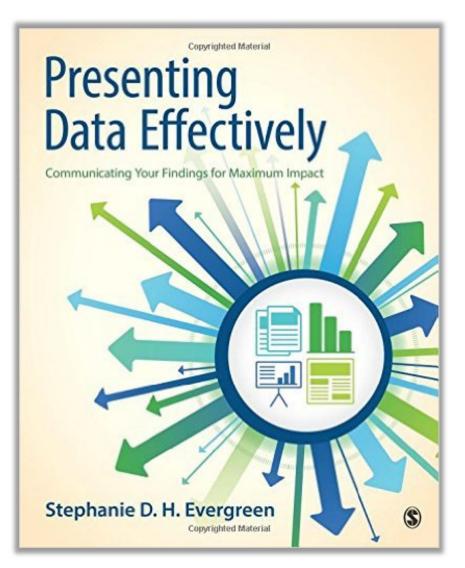


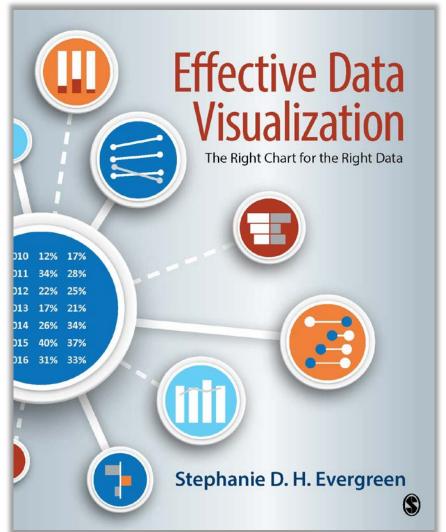














#### Stephanie says...

[We can't] assume that the average viewer takes the time to engage with the data and to pull out the most pertinent elements."

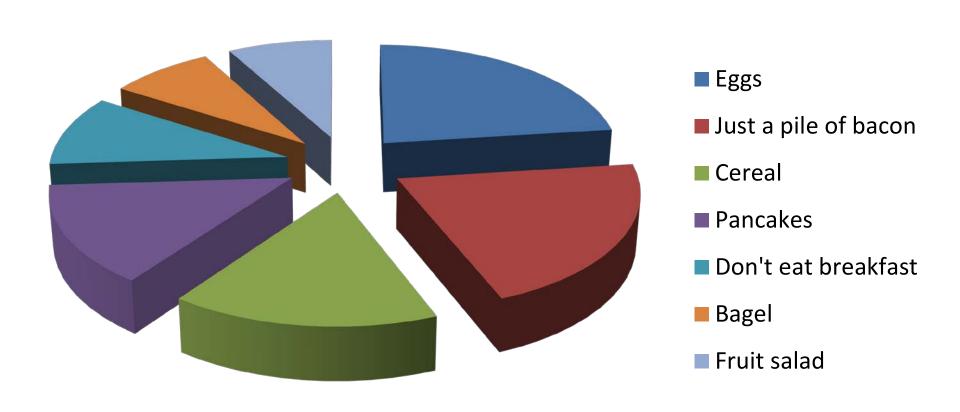


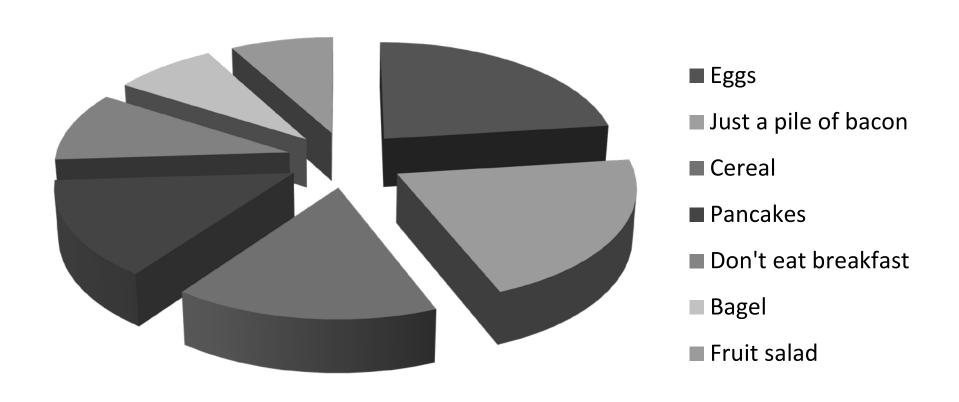
#### Stephanie says...

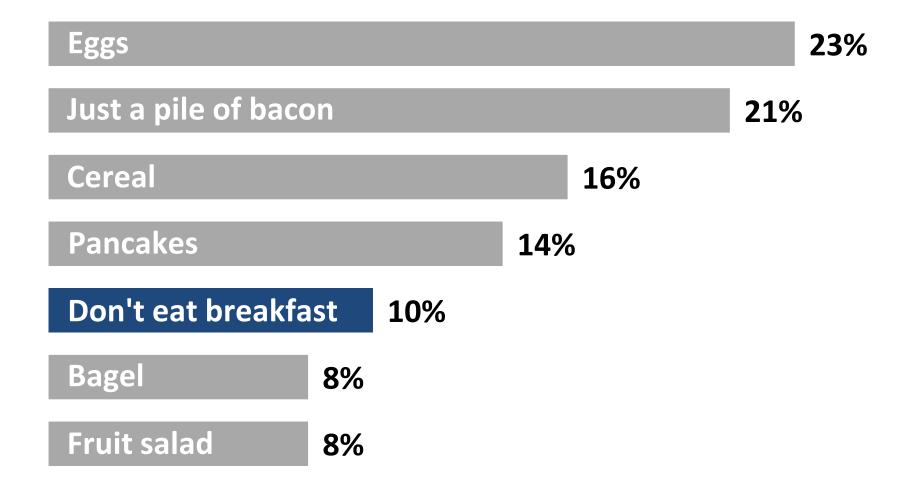
It is about displaying data in ways that align with how the human brain operates and how people retain information.



**Graphs and Charts** 

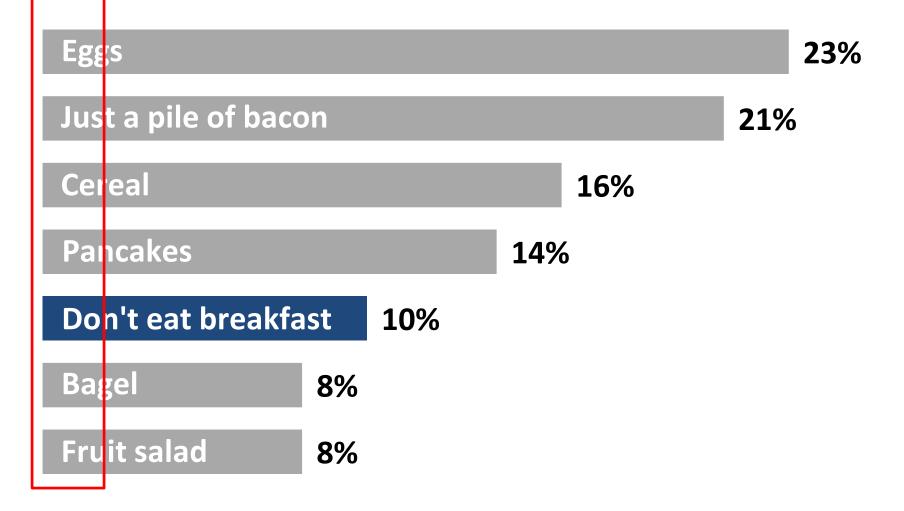


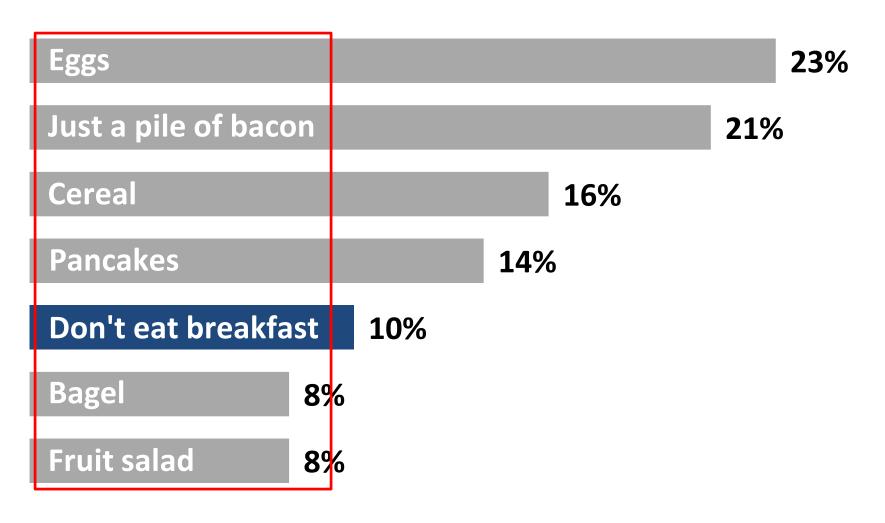


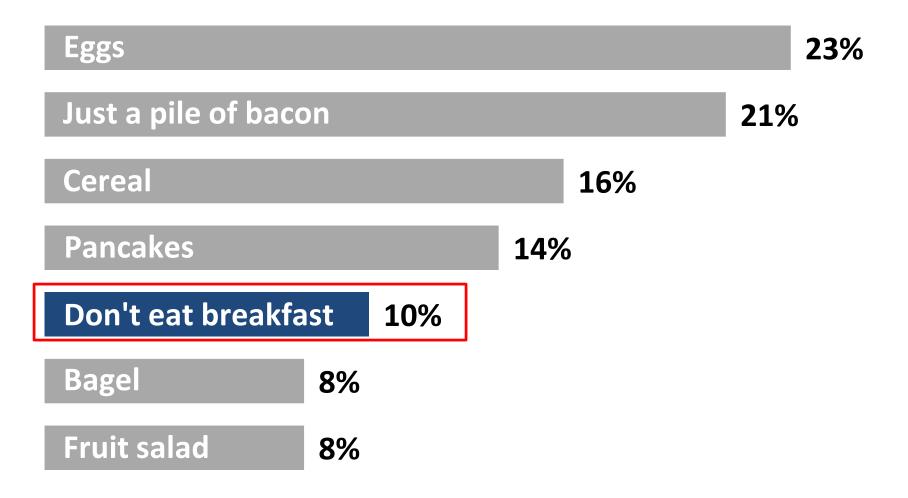


Eggs			23%
Just a pile of bacon			21%
Cereal		16%	
Pancakes		14%	
Don't eat breakfast	10%		
Bagel 8%			
Fruit salad 8%			

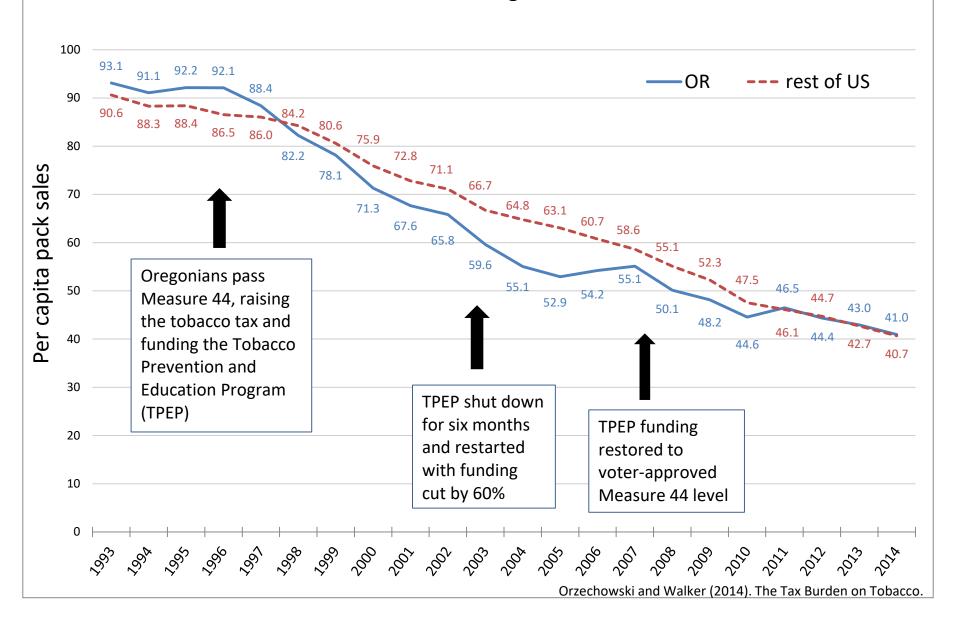
Eggs		23%
Just a pile of bacon		21%
Cereal	16%	
Pancakes	14%	
Don't eat breakfast 10%	<b>6</b>	
Bagel 8%		
Fruit salad 8%		

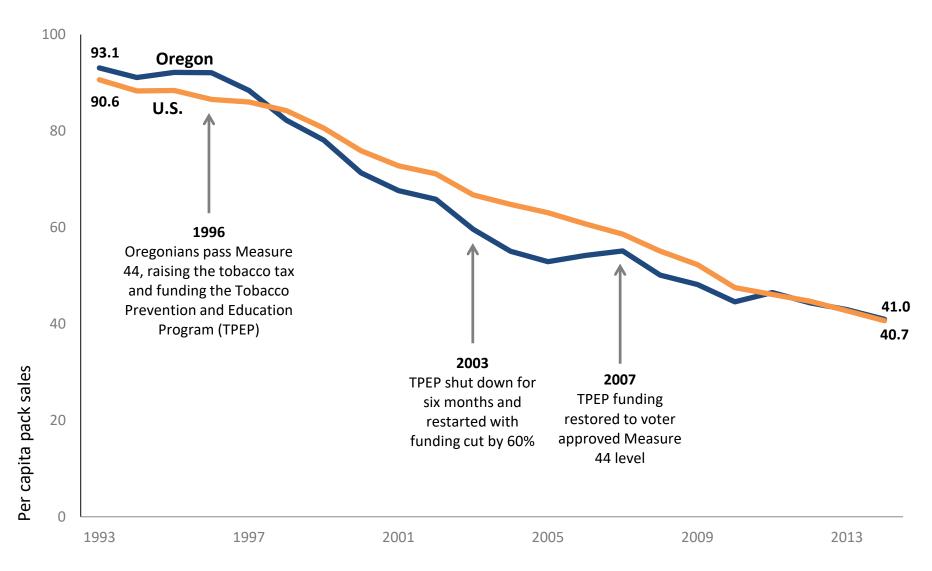


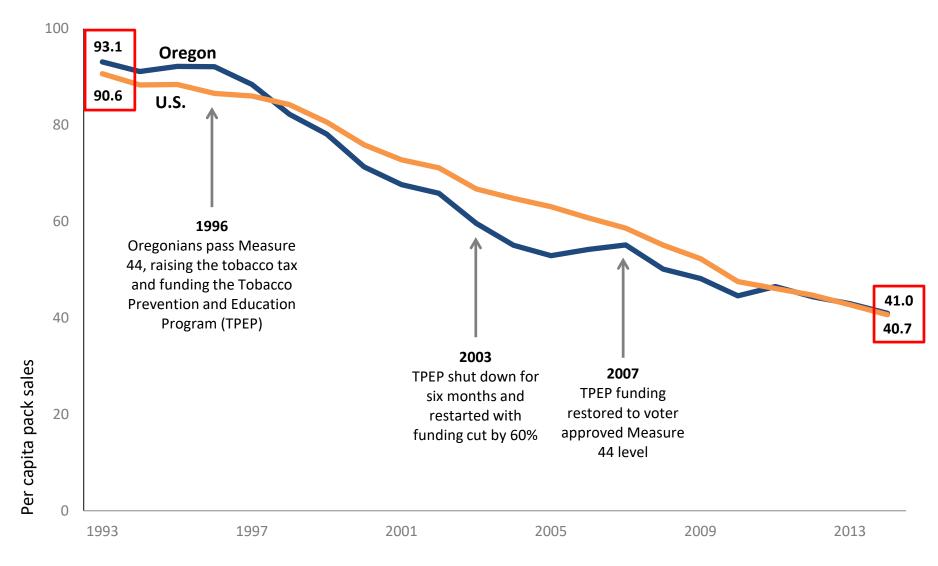


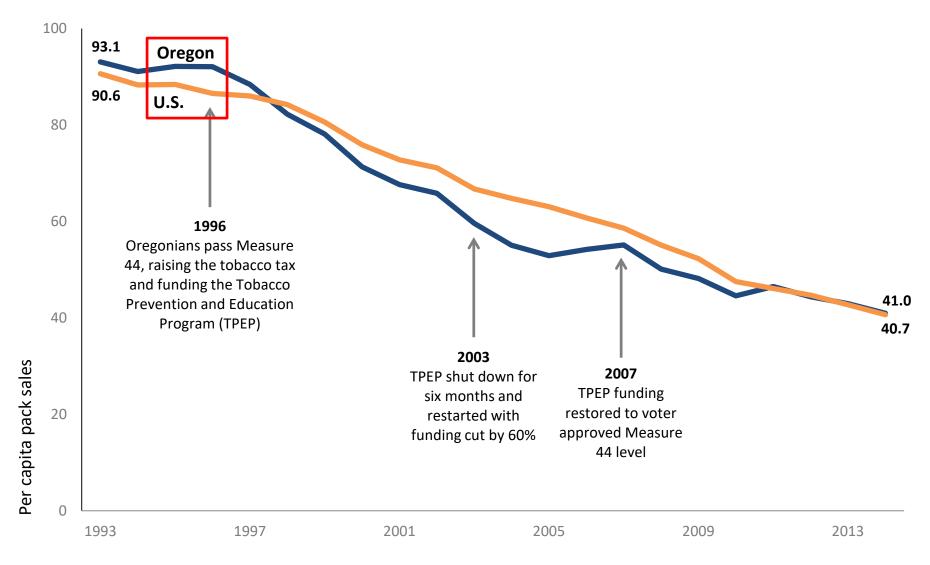


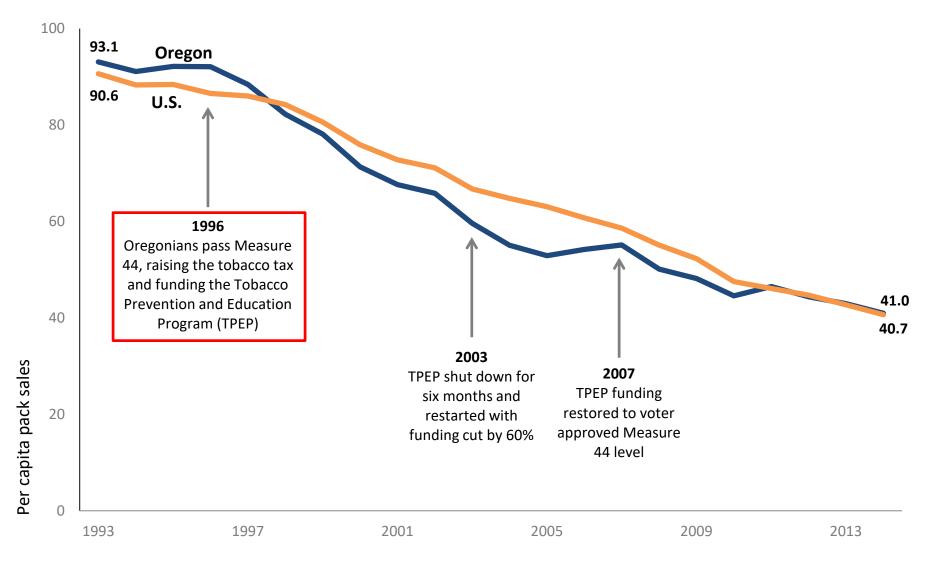
# Per capita cigarette pack sales, Oregon vs. rest of United States, FY 1993 through 2014

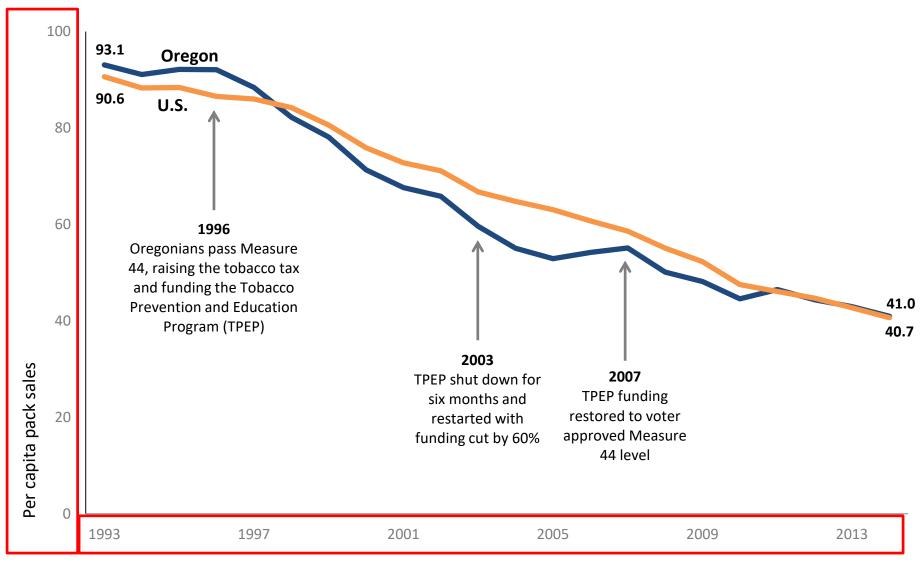


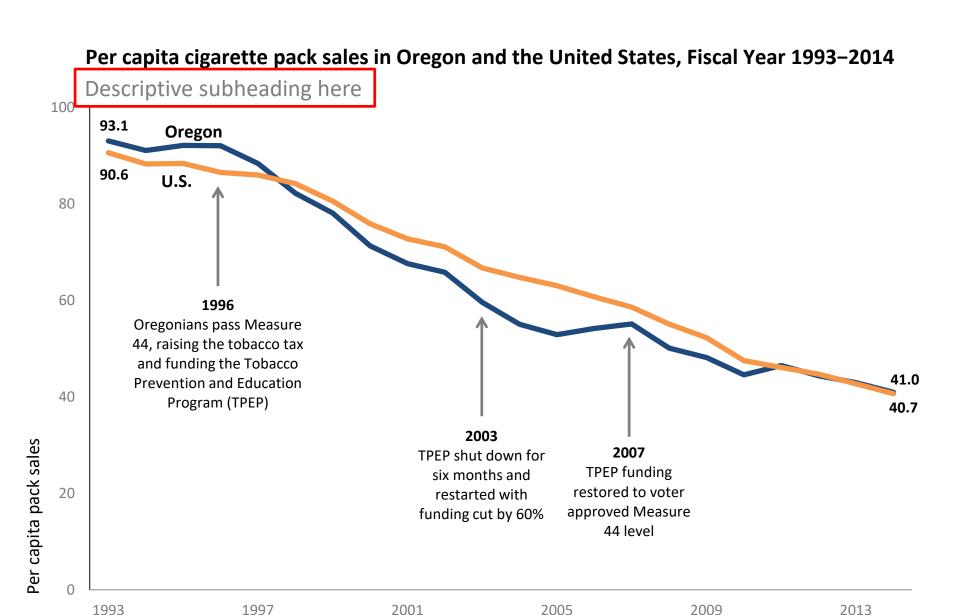












### Things to remember

- Visualize data that need attention
- Simplify, remove clutter
- Text encapsulates your message and packs a punch
- Color is used intentionally
- Thoughtful arrangement makes a visualization easier to interpret





**PowerPoints & Fact Sheets** 

### Make a point



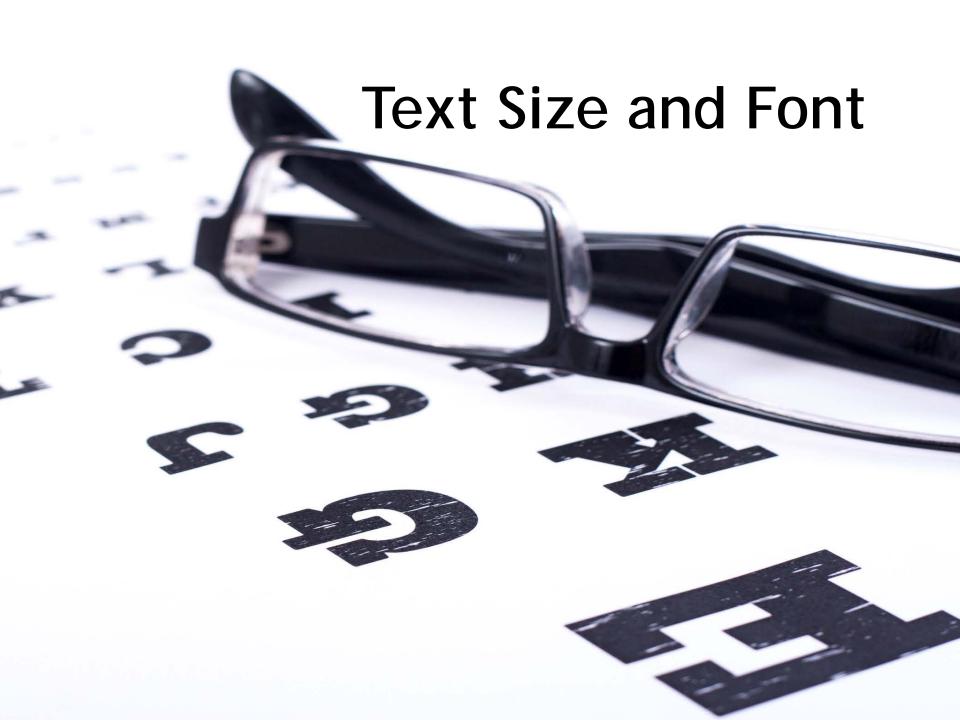
### Problem: Too many bullet points

- Audience members can't read your slides and listen to you speak at the same time.
- A slide filled with words screams "ignore the presenter"!
- You might as well stand silently for 2 minutes while they read, because they aren't listening to you.
- Slides are to help the audience remember your information, not to help you remember your own information.
- A typical audience member can read 3 to 5 words per second, but then they need time to comprehend, conceptualize and contextualize.

### Solution: Use 3-5 key points

 Text should be reserved only for key words.

- Details and explanation should be delivered verbally.
- Don't worry about the number of slides you have. Slides are free.



### Problem: Text is hard to read

Always avoid script type fonts. These fonts are hard to read.

Don't use anything smaller than an 24 point font.

Additionally, changing fonts throughout a presentation tends to distract and confuse readers.

Text that is centered can also be difficult to read. Our brains are used to reading left to right, so left justify as much as possible

### Solution: Use large, san serif fonts

Look for a font with thick, even lines.

Fonts should be easily read on screen.

 Consistently apply the same font for the entire presentation.

Left align your text for easier reading.

# l am sans. I am serif.



1 2 3 7 5 8 9 0 2 3 3 9 3 2 3 8 9 34 2 38 93 4 27 95 4 2 38 64 5 2 3 94 1 2 37 58 90 2 3 3 93 23 8 9 34 2 38 93 2 27 95 4 2 38 64 5 2 3 94 1 2 37 58 90 2 3 3 93 23 8 9 34 2 38 93 4 27 95 6 2 38 94 1 2 37

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#### **Solution:**

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### Problem: Bad color combinations

RED

GREEN

ORANGE

BLUE

BLUE

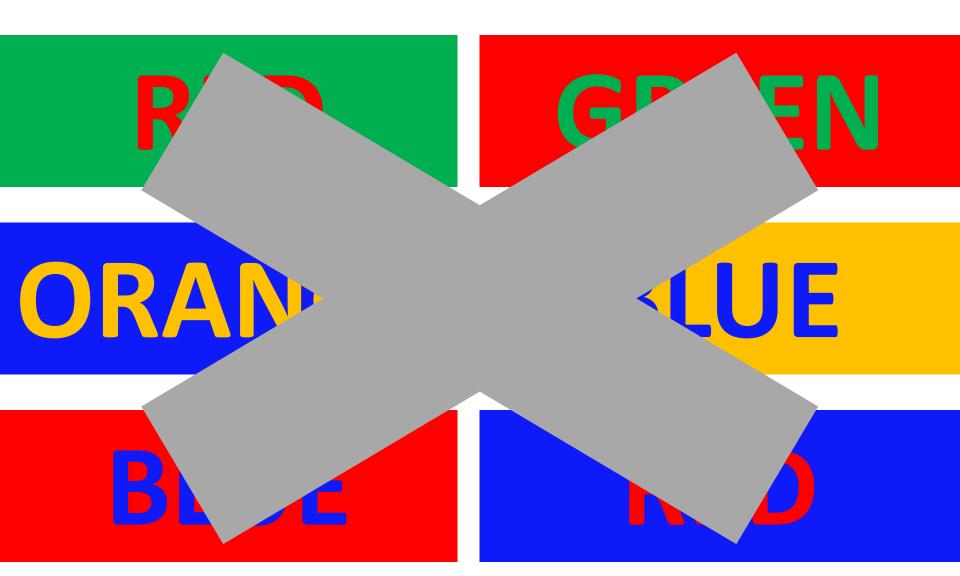
RED

### Stereopsis

a visual illusion where the impression of depth is conveyed in two-dimensional color images, usually of red-blue or red-green colors

- Does this look fuzzy?
- It the text wobbly?
- How long do you think you can continue to stare at these slides?

### Problem: Bad color combinations



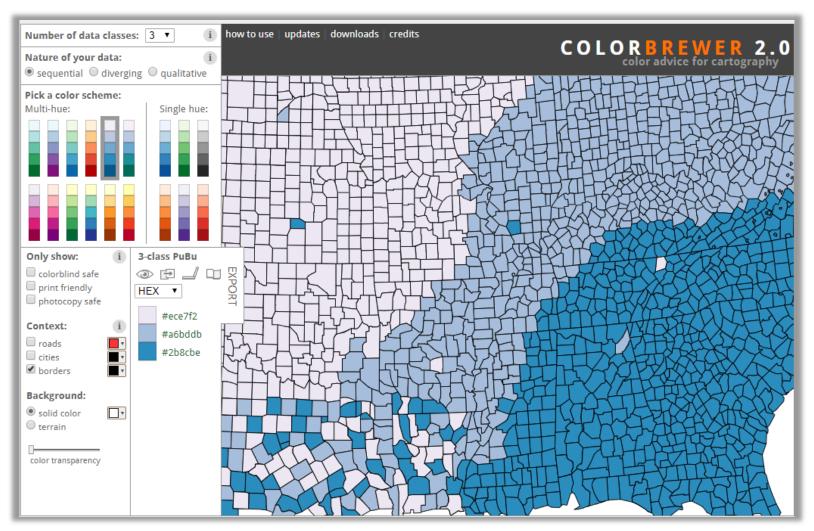
### Solution: Limit color choice

 Limit color choice to two main colors with white being the third (background).

 Make sure the text and background colors are distinct and unique.

### Solution: Make meaningful color choices

Don't pick colors for decoration.
 Pick colors to draw attention and to categorize.



http://colorbrewer2.org/



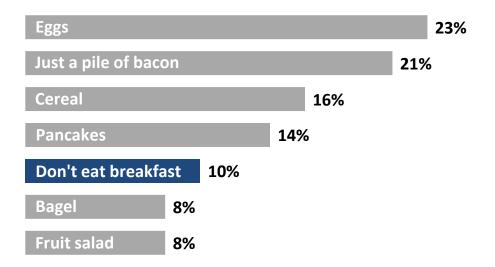
### Images

### Problem: Images are too small

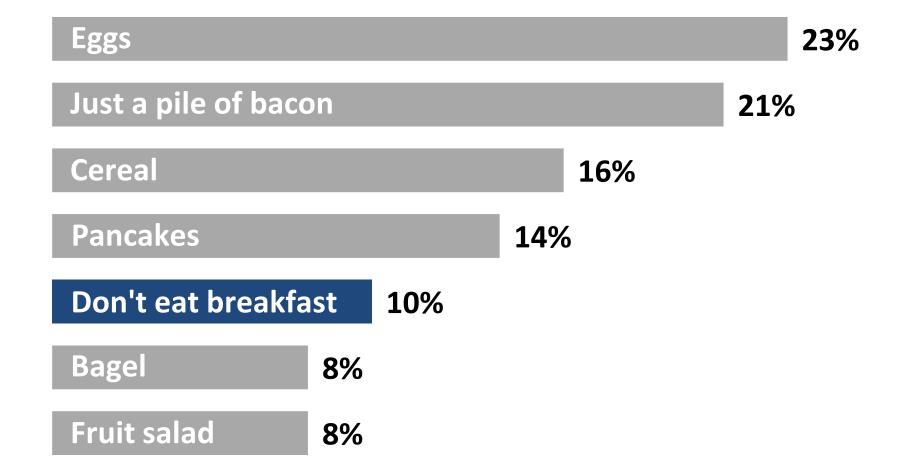




### Problem: Images are too small



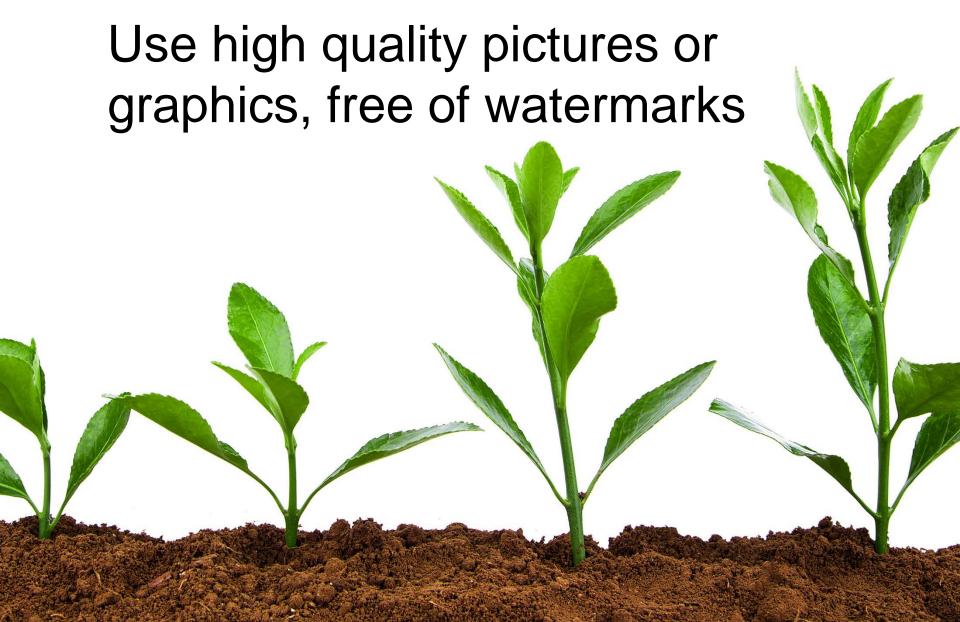
### Solution: Enlarge your images



### Problem: Images do not look professional



#### Solution:





## Pictorial superiority effect

Vision dominates

Take advantage of the eye!

### Which will you remember?



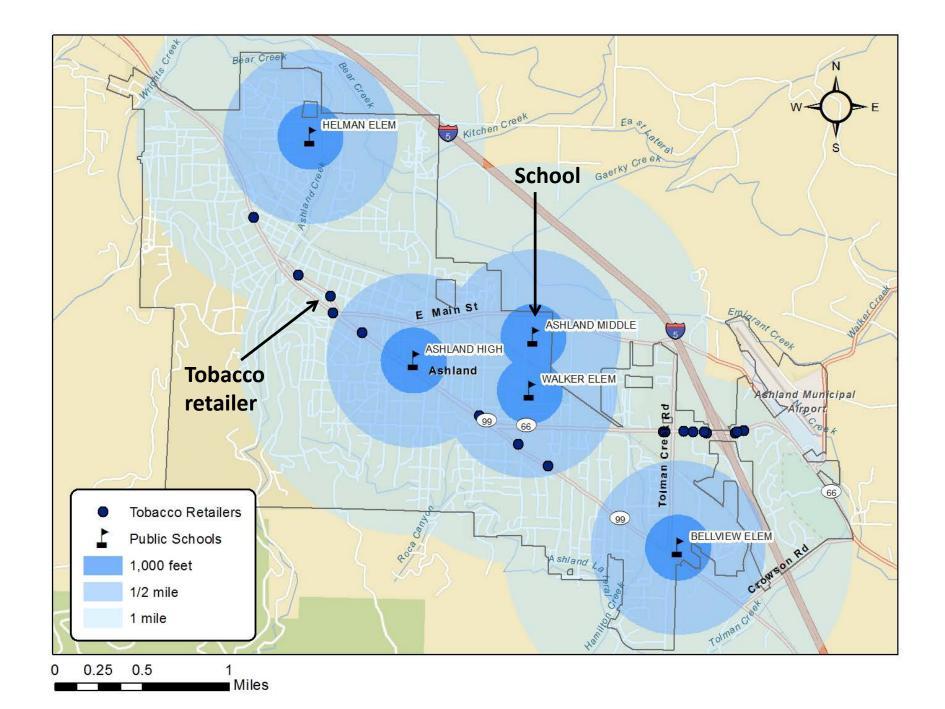
Hedgehog wearing a Santa hat

Hedgehog wearing a Santa hat

= 10% recall after 3 days = 65% recall after 3 days







## Things to remember

- Visualize data that need attention
- Simplify, remove clutter
- Text encapsulates your message and packs a punch
- Color is used intentionally
- Thoughtful arrangement makes a visualization easier to interpret



## Why is this important?

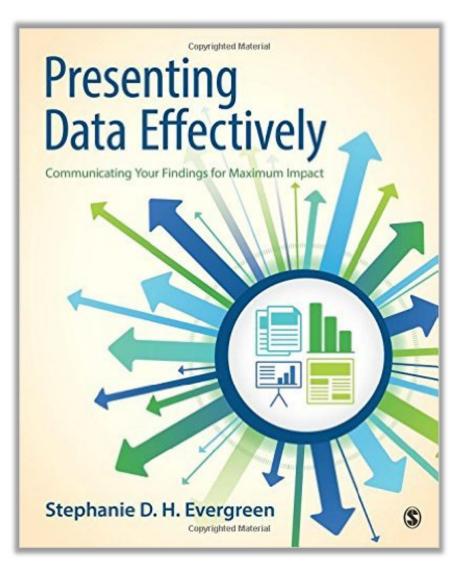


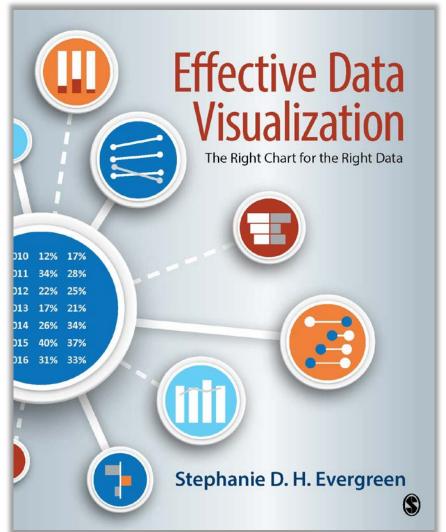
Saves time

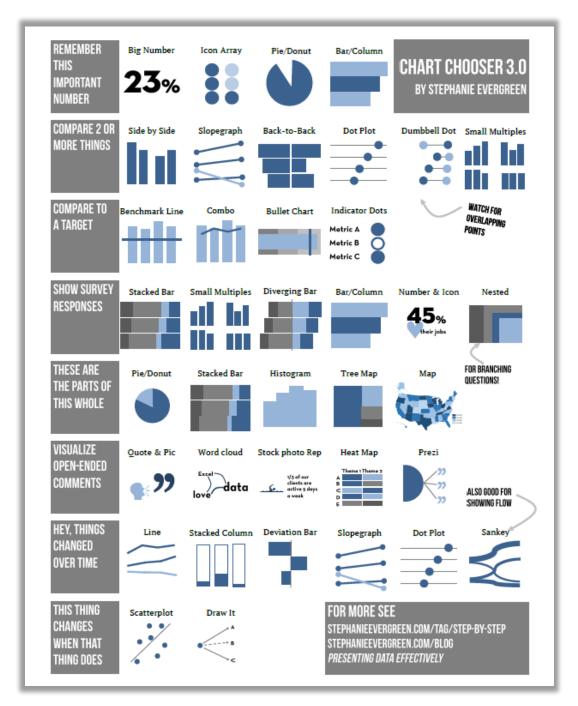


Adds credibility to organization

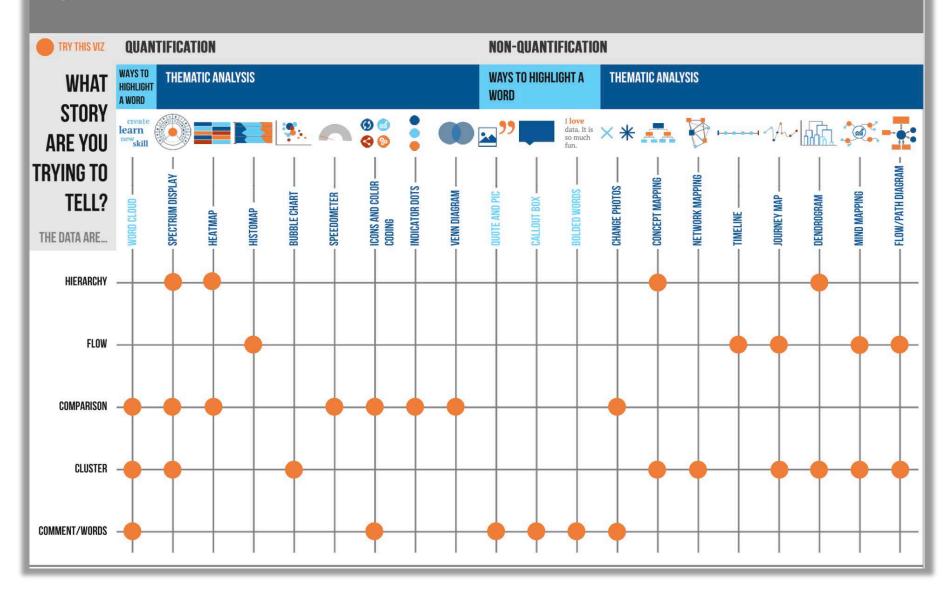








### QUALITATIVE CHART CHOOSER 3.0 BY JENNIFER LYONS & STEPHANIE EVERGREEN



### **Data Visualization Checklist**

by Stephanie Evergreen & Ann K. Emery May 2016

This checklist is meant to be used as a guide for the development of high impact data visualizations. Rate each aspect of the data visualization by circling the most appropriate number, where 2 points means the guideline was fully met, 1 means it was partially met, and 0 means it was not met at all. n/a should not be used frequently, but reserved for when the guideline truly does not apply. For example, a pie chart has no axes lines or tick marks to rate. If the guidelines has been broken intentionally to make a point, rate it n/a and deduct those points from the total possible. Refer to the Data Visualization Anatomy Chart on the last page for guidance on vocabulary and the Resources at the end for more details.

#### Text

Graphs don't contain much text, so existing text must encapsulate your message and pack a punch.

ideline			Rating			
6-12 word descriptive title is left-justified in upper left corner  Short titles enable readers to comprehend takeaway messages even while quickly skimming the graph.  Rather than a generic phrase, use a descriptive sentence that encapsulates the graph's finding or "so what?" Western cultures start reading in the upper left, so locate the title there.	2	1	0	n/a		
Subtitle and/or annotations provide additional information  Subtitles and annotations (call-out text within the graph) can add explanatory and interpretive power to a graph. Use them to answer questions a viewer might have or to highlight specific data points.	2	1	0	n/a		
Text size is hierarchical and readable  Titles are in a larger size than subtitles or annotations, which are larger than labels, which are larger than axis labels, which are larger than source information. The smallest text - axis labels - are at least 9 point font size on paper, at least 20 on screen.	2	1	0	n/a		
Text is horizontal  Titles, subtitles, annotations, and data labels are horizontal (not vertical or diagonal). Line labels and axis labels can deviate from this rule and still receive full points. Consider switching graph orientation (e.g., from column to bar chart) to make text horizontal.	2	1	0	n/a		
Data are labeled directly  Position data labels near the data rather than in a separate legend (e.g., on top of or next to bars and next to lines). Eliminate/embed legends when possible because eye movement back and forth between the legend and the data can interrupt the brain's attempts to interpret the graph.	2	1	0	n/a		
Labels are used sparingly  Focus attention by removing the redundancy. For example, in line charts, label every other year on an axis.  Do not add numeric labels *and* use a y-axis scale, since this is redundant.	2	1	0	n/a		

## Evaluation Report Layout Checklist

This checklist is meant to be used as a diagnostic guide to identify elements of evaluation reports that could be enhanced using graphic design best practices and/or the assistance of a graphic design expert. Suggestions are best suited for those using standard Microsoft Word software.

Instructions Rate each aspect of the report using the following rubric, by circling the most appropriate letter.

Use Best Practice section as a guide for improvement.

#### F=Fully Met P=Partly Met N=Not Met

Туре	Rating	Best Practice
Text fonts are used for narrative text	F P N	Use serif fonts. Nothing with lots of graphic detail.
Long reading is in 9-11 point size	F P N	Studies have shown that $11$ point text is easiest to read at length, but it can depend on the typeface (font).
Body text has stylistic uniformity	F P N	Each text section has unbolded, normal text in sentence case (no all caps), except in short areas of intentional emphasis. This supports undistracted reading.
Line spacing is 11-13 points	F P N	For lines within paragraph, generally choose 1-2 points larger than the size of the body text.
Headers & callouts are emphasized	F P N	Header should be 150-200% of body text size. Sans serif or decorative is okay. Use sentence case. Contrast with body text by using different size, style, and/or color. Too similar looks unintentional.
No more than 3 fonts are used	F P N	A change in font will indicate a change in meaning. Use font changes to guide reader through information according to importance.
Bullets are slightly less thick than text	F P N	If bullets must be used, decrease their size to slightly less (70-80%) than the point size of the font. Otherwise, they are too strong and distracting. If good spacing is used in lieu of bullets, this best practice is Fully Met.

#### Notes

Nice serif choices include Garamond, Palatino, Cambria

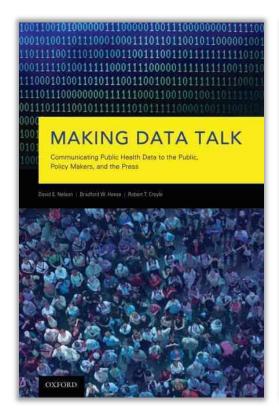
Nice sans serif choices are Trebuchet, Verdana, Calibri

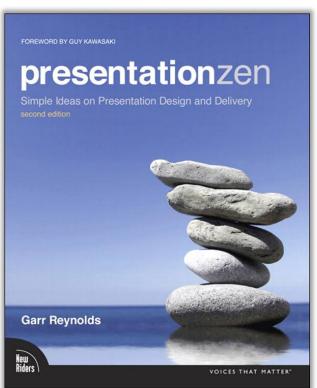
Sentence case is when the first letter of the line is capitalized and all others are lowercase, excepting proper nouns.

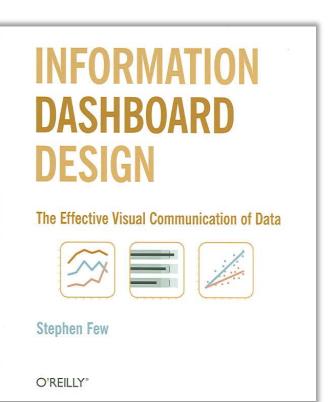
Body text is that which comprises the narrative of the report.

By contrast, header text is that which comprises your headlines and titles. Also known as display text.

- Default bullet size (too big)
- · Appropriate bullet size







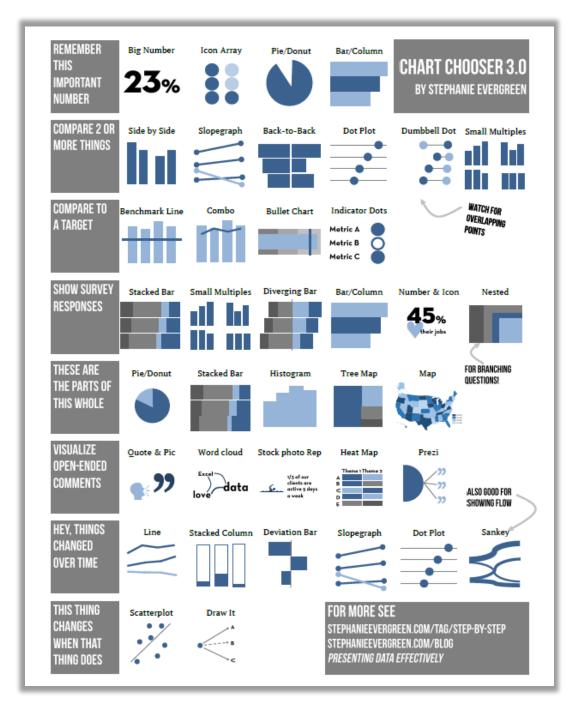




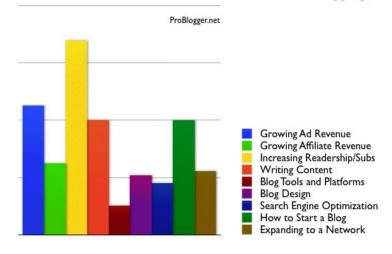
# Activity time!

# Activity Evaluate and re-design

- Take a few minutes to evaluate the chart or graph below.
   What is it trying to tell you?
- 2. Think about how the chart or graph could be re-designed using some of the data visualization best practices that were discussed. How could it be improved?
- 3. Re-create the chart or graph based upon the improvements you identified.
- 4. Discuss at your table what **improvements** you made and describe any difficulties you may have encountered while doing so.
- 5. Report back: Please designate one person from your table to share back to the large group. Describe one thing you did to improve the chart or graph.



#### What Do You Most Want to Learn About Blogging?



## HIV infection, by age at diagnosis, Oregon, 2005–2012

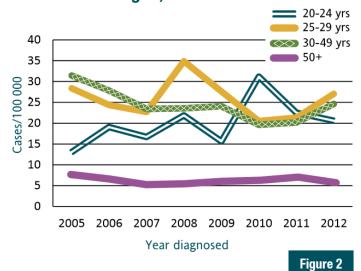
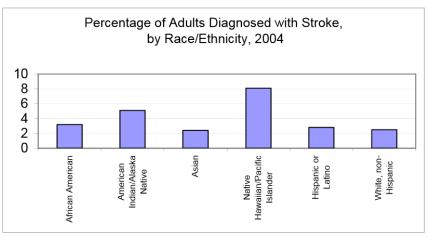
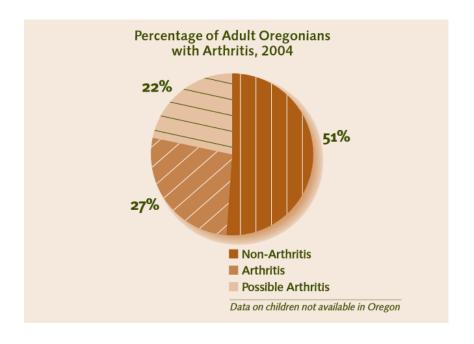


Figure 30



Source: National Health Interview Survey, 2004



### What Do You Most Want to Learn About Blogging?

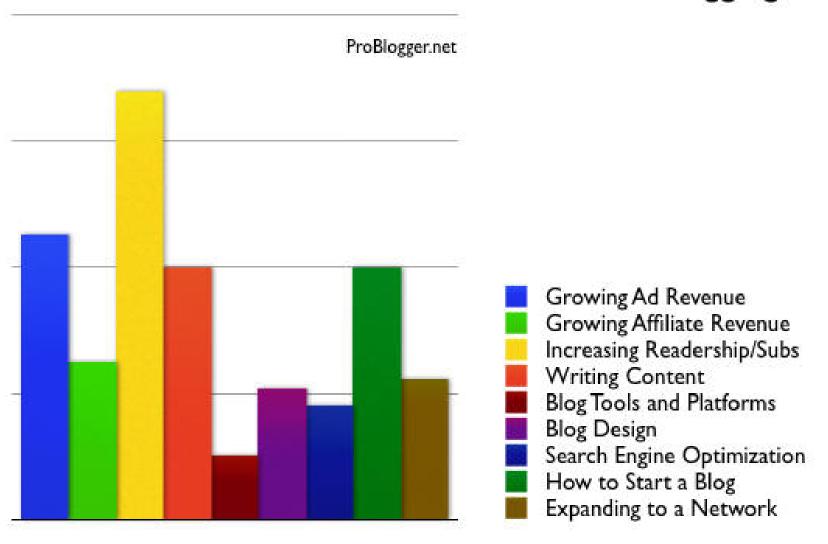
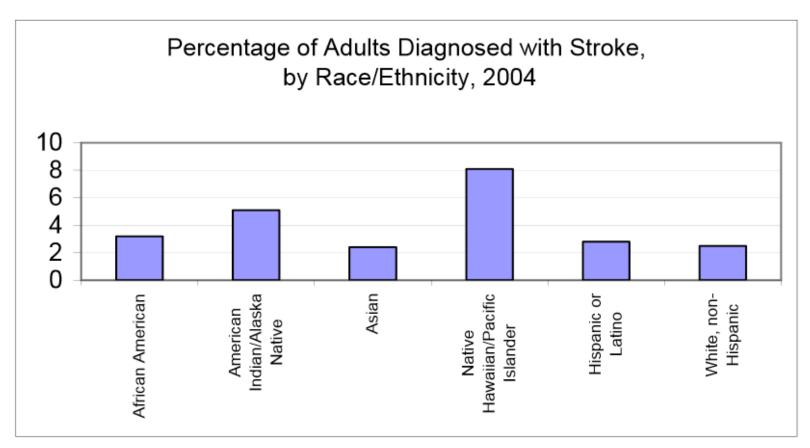
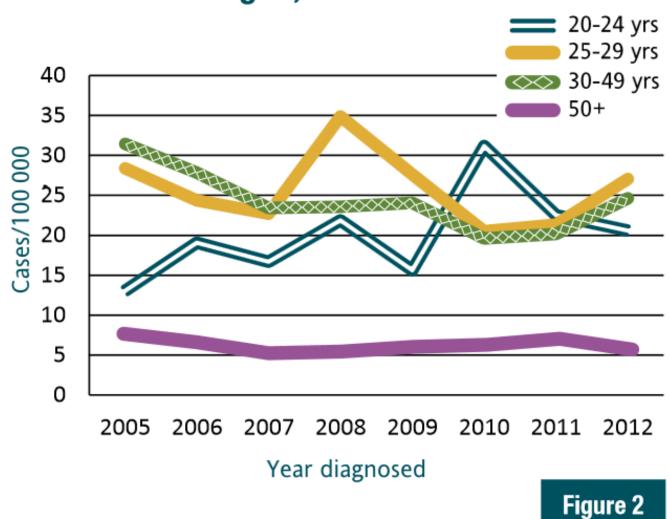


Figure 30

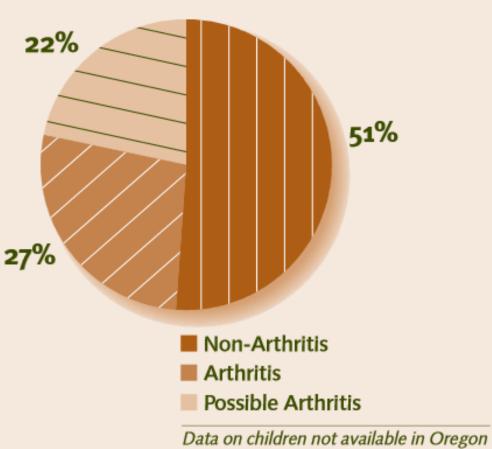


Source: National Health Interview Survey, 2004

# HIV infection, by age at diagnosis, Oregon, 2005–2012



### Percentage of Adult Oregonians with Arthritis, 2004





# Thank



0 5 10 15 20 25

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