Enhancing graphics

Session 10

PMAP 8551/4551: Data Visualization with R
Andrew Young School of Policy Studies
Spring 2026

Typical publication workflow

Create plot in R and ggplot2

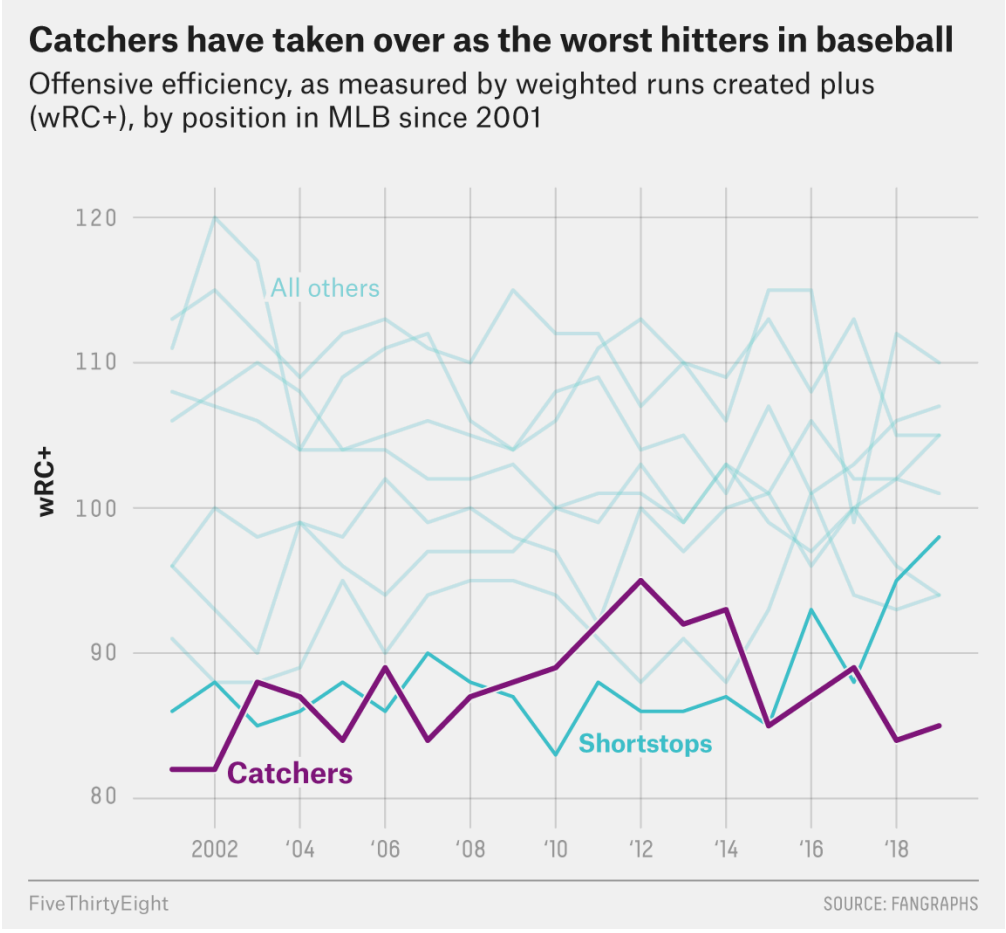
Export plot as a vector

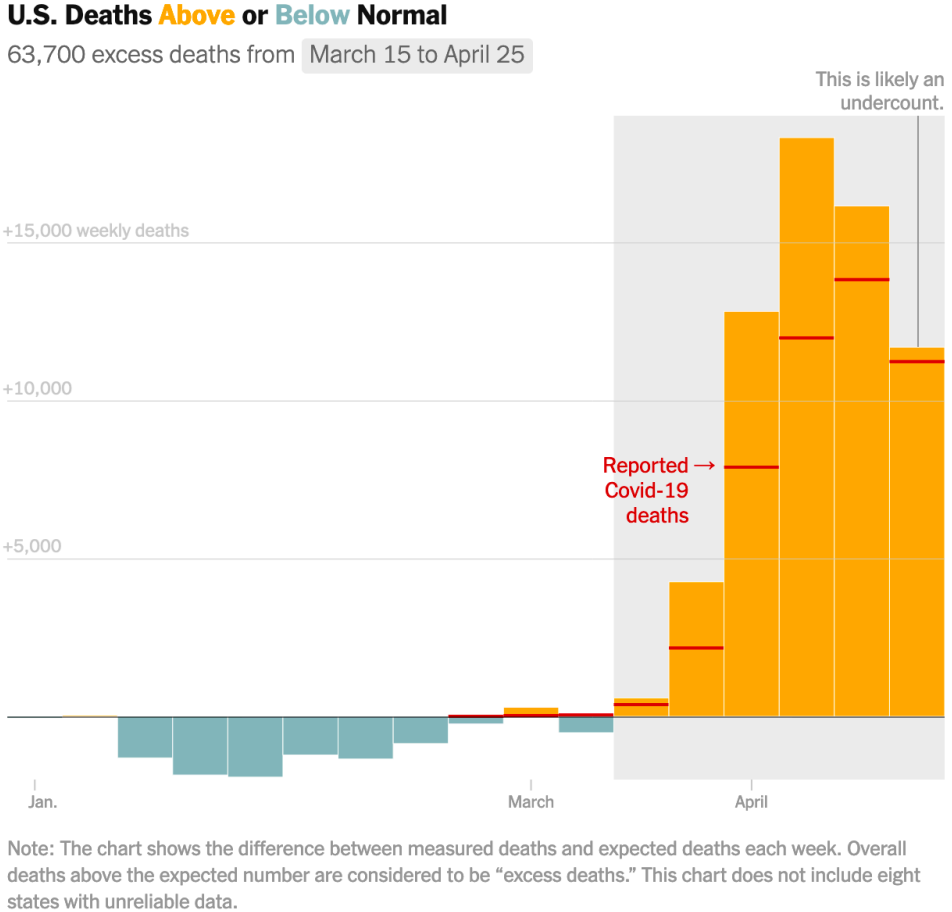
Edit the vector in an external program
to make it match in-house style
(or just be fancy and well-designed in general)

or

Extract parts of the vector for use in Javascript for interactivity

In-house styles





Hot dogs

Winners from Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Contest

It's that time of year again. Since 1916, the annual eating competition has grown substantially attracting competitors from around the world.

For the first time since 1999, an American reclaims the title when **Joey Chestnut** consumes 66 HDBs, a new world record. Chestnut repeats in 2008.

Through 2001-2005, **Takeru Kobayashi** wins by no less than 12 HDBs. In 2006, he only wins by 1.75. After winning 6 years in a row and setting the world record 4 times, Kobayashi places second in 2007.

70 Hot dogs and buns (HDBs)

NEW WORLD RECORD

60

50

40

30

20

10

0

Frank Dellarosa eats 21 and a half HDBs over 12 minutes, breaking the previous record of 19 and a half.

Walter Paul sets a new world record with 17 HDBs.

James Mullen wins the inaugural contest, scarfing 13 HDBs. Length of contest is unavailable.

1916 1972 1980 1990 2007

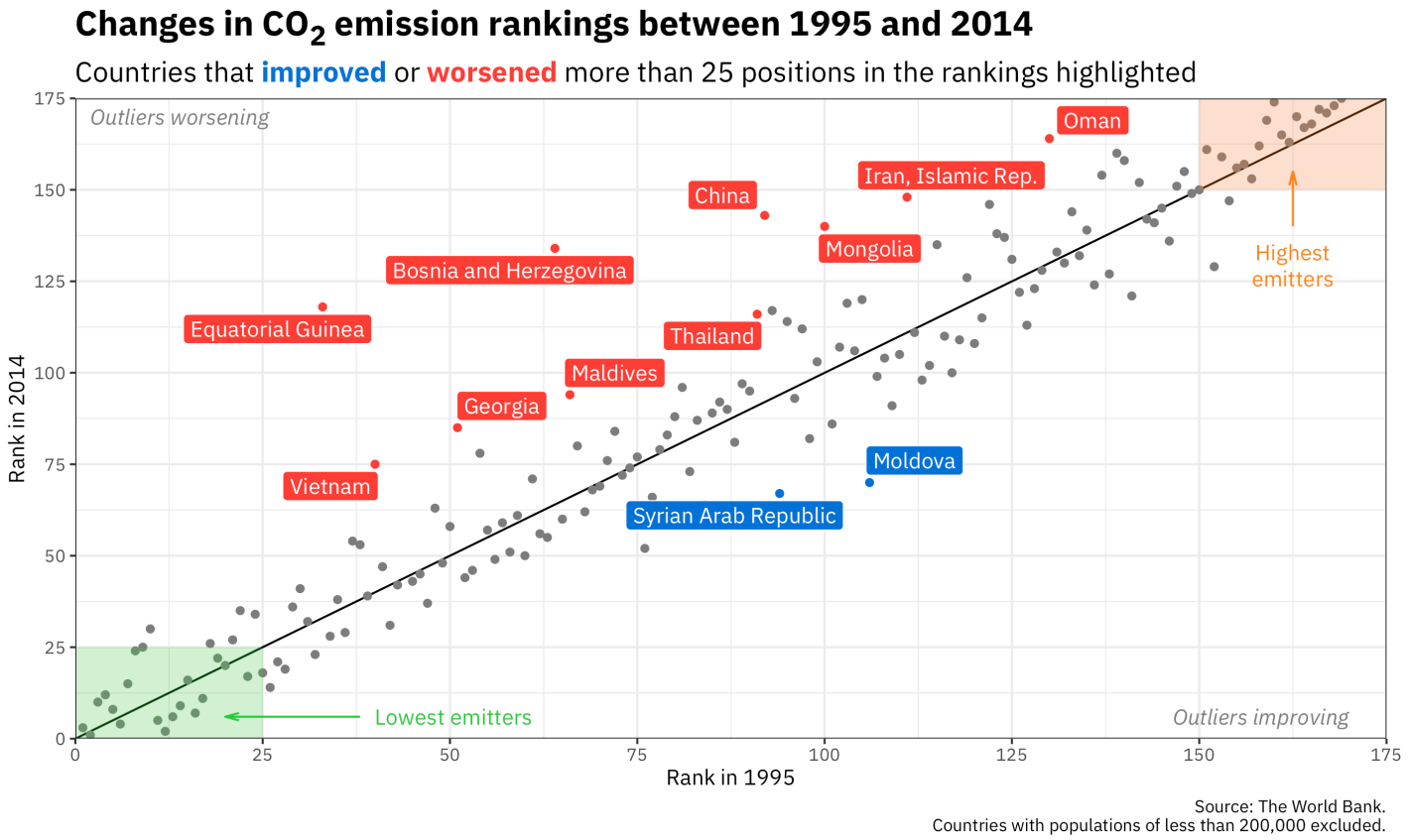
*Data between 1916 and 1972 were unavailable.

Source: Wikipedia and Nathan's Famous

FlowingData

This is all changing though!

This was made 100% in R and ggplot!



The way of the future

{patchwork} and {ggtext}
are removing the need to edit
graphs by hand in Illustrator

You can replicate an entire in-house graphic style with R alone nowadays

**Interactivity not quite at the same level,
but it's getting there with {plotly}**