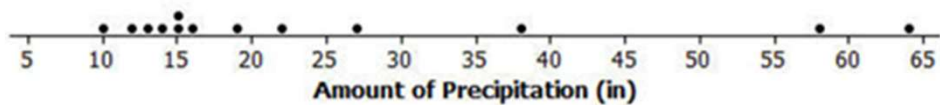


Interpret Median

1. The amount of precipitation in each of the western states in the United States is given in the table as well as the dot plot.

State	Amount of Precipitation (inches)
WA	38.4
OR	27.4
CA	22.2
MT	15.3
ID	18.9
WY	12.9
NV	9.5
UT	12.2
CO	15.9
AZ	13.6
NM	14.6
AK	58.3
HI	63.7



a) How do the amounts vary across the states?

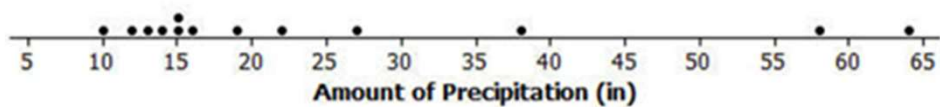
b) Find the median. What does the median tell you about the amount of precipitation?

c) Do you think the mean or median would be a better description of the typical amount of precipitation? Explain your thinking.

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a) How do the amounts vary across the states?

Answers will vary. The spread is pretty large: 54.2 inches. Nevada has the lowest precipitation at 9.5 inches per year. Hawaii, Alaska, and Washington have more rain than most of the states. Hawaii has the most precipitation with 63.7 inches, followed by Alaska at 58.3 inches.

b) Find the median. What does the median tell you about the amount of precipitation?

The median is 15.9 inches. Half of the western states have more than 15.9 inches of precipitation per year, and half have less.

c) Do you think the mean or median would be a better description of the typical amount of precipitation? Explain your thinking.

The mean at 24.8 inches reflects the extreme values, while the median seems more typical at 15.9 inches

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