Reading Statistical Tables

Basic principles for understanding what the researcher is trying to tell you (that is, questions you should ask yourself when reading a table):

- What is the source of this table?
- How many variables are presented? What are their names?
- What is represented by the numbers presented in the first column? In the second column?

Table 1. Prevalence of Each Category of Adverse Childhood Experiences and ACE Score by Sex*

	No. (%)		
	Women (n = 9367)	Men (n = 7970)	Total (N = 17 337)
Adverse childhood experiences			
Emotional abuse	1227 (13.1)	602 (7.6)	1829 (10.5)
Physical abuse	2530 (27.0)	2382 (29.9)	4912 (28.3)
Sexual abuse	2310 (24.7)	1276 (16.0)	3586 (20.7)
Battered mother	1281 (13.7)	920 (11.5)	2201 (12.7)
Household alcohol/drug abuse	2759 (29.5)	1896 (23.8)	4655 (26.9)
Mental illness in household	1937 (20.7)	1058 (13.3)	2995 (17.3)
Parental separation or divorce	2293 (24.5)	1738 (21.8)	4031 (23.3)
Incarcerated household member	485 (5.2)	324 (4.1)	809 (4.7)
ACE score			
0	3271 (34.9)	3044 (38.2)	6315 (36.4)
1	2299 (24.5)	2237 (28.1)	4536 (26.2)
2	1443 (15.4)	1297 (16.3)	2740 (15.8)
3	969 (10.3)	685 (8.6)	1654 (9.5)
4	665 (7.1)	382 (4.8)	1047 (6.0)
5	390 (4.2)	212 (2.7)	602 (3.5)
6	210 (2.2)	74 (0.9)	284 (1.6)
≥7	120 (1.3)	39 (0.5)	159 (0.9)

*For ACE Study waves 1 and 2 combined. ACE indicates adverse childhood experiences. See "Methods" for definitions of each type of adverse event.

Source: Dube, S. R., Anda, R. F., Felitti, V. J., Chapman, D. P., Williamson, D. F., & Giles, W. H. (2001). Childhood abuse, household dysfunction, and the risk of attempted suicide throughout the life span: findings from the Adverse Childhood Experiences Study. *Jama*, *286*(24), 3089-3096.

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Table 1. Demographic data for girls and women aged 13–24 years

	Participants (n=1244)*
Age-group	
13–17 years	575 (46·4%)
18–24 years	669 (53·6%)
Community setting	
Urban	201 (14·9%)
Rural	1043 (85·1%)
Orphan status†	
Biological mother died	125 (9·6%)
Biological father died	241 (18·4%)
Death of both biological parents	83 (7·6%)
Death of at least one biological parent‡	449 (36·0%)
Marital status	
Married	127 (9·7%)
Not married	1112 (90·3%)

Source : Reza, A., Breiding, M. J., Gulaid, J., Mercy, J. A., Blanton, C., Mthethwa, Z., ... & Anderson, M. (2009). Sexual violence and its health consequences for female children in Swaziland: a cluster survey study. *The Lancet*, *373*(9679), 1966-1972.

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Table. 1 Unregistered births (1000s) in 2003 by region and level of development

	Births	Unregistered children
World	133 028	48 276 (36%)
Sub-Saharan Africa	26 879	14 751 (55%)
Middle East and north Africa	9790	1543 (16%)
South Asia	37 099	23 395 (63%)
East Asia and Pacific	31 616	5901 (19%)
Latin America and Caribbean	11 567	1787 (15%)
CEE<comma> CIS<comma> and Baltic states	5250	1218 (23%)
Industrialised countries	10 827	218 (2%)
Developing countries	119 973	48 147 (40%)
Least developed countries	27 819	16 682 (71%)

Source : Marmot, M., Friel, S., Bell, R., Houweling, T. A., & Taylor, S. (2008). Closing the gap in a generation: health equity through action on the social determinants of health. *The Lancet*, *372*(9650), 1661-1669.

Chapter 3:
Graphics Presentations

Pie Charts
Bar Graphs
Histograms
Line graph

Pie Chart

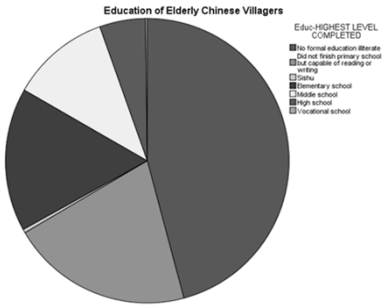
Typically shows the differences in frequencies or percentages among categories of nominal or ordinal variables.

The pie "slices" add up to 100% of the total frequencies.

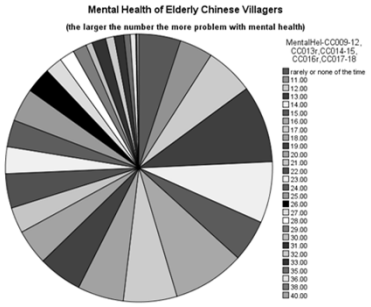
Procedures for Creating Pie Charts

- Open SPSS
- Click "graphs"
- Click "legacy dialogs"
- Click "pie"
- Click "summaries for groups of cases"
- Click "define"
- Click "percent of cases" or "number of cases"
- Click "title" and give title
- Click "define slices by" and move variable that you are interested in from the left to this box
- Click "okay"

Example of Pie Chart



A Second Example of Pie Chart



Bar Graph

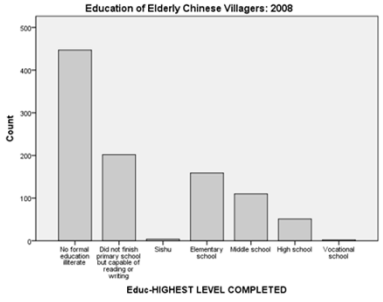
Shows the differences in frequencies or percentages among categories of a nominal or an ordinal variable.

The height of the bars are proportional to the frequency or percentage of the category.

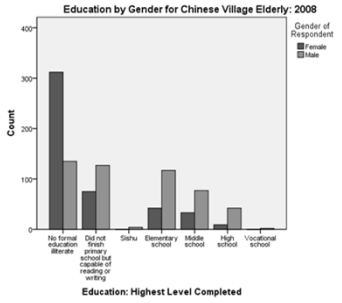
Procedures for Creating Bar Graphs

- Open SPSS
- Click "graphs"
- Click "legacy dialogs"
- Click "bar"
- Click "simple" and also "summaries for groups of cases"
- Click "define"
- Click "percent of cases" or "number of cases"
- Click "title" and give title
- Click "define slices by" and move variable that you are interested in from the left to this box
- Click "okay"

Example of Bar Graph



A Second Example of Bar Graph



Histogram

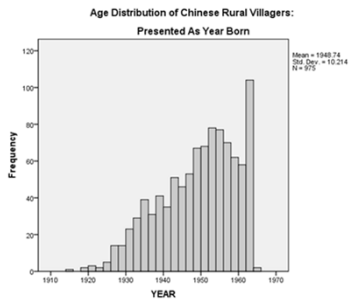
Typically displays the differences in frequencies or percentages among categories of interval/ratio variables.

The width of the bars are proportional to the width of the category and height proportional to the frequency or percentage of that category.

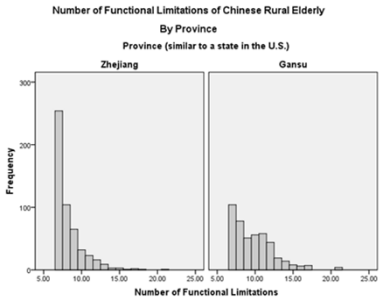
Procedures for Creating Histograms

- Open SPSS
- Click "graphs"
- Click "legacy dialogs"
- Click "histogram"
- Click "title" and give title
- Move variable of interest from list on left to "variables" box
- Click "okay"

Example of Histogram



A Second Example of Histogram



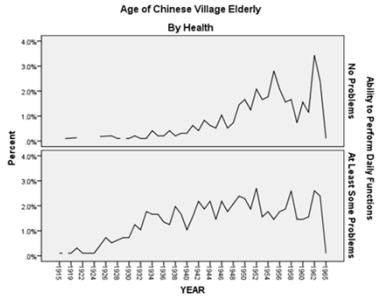
Line Graph

Typically shows the differences in frequencies or percentages among categories of an interval/ratio variable.

Procedures for Creating Line Graph

- Open SPSS
- Click "graphs"
- Click "legacy dialogs"
- Click "Line"
- Click "Simple" and "summary for groups of cases"
- Click "define"
- Clich "title" give title
- Move variables of interest from list on left to "category axis" box and "rows" or "column" box
- Click "okay"

Example of Line Graph



Thank You.