

Objectives

- Understand accepted graphing conventions (e.g., the three-quarters rule).
- Be able to construct different types of graphs and understand when each is most appropriate for the data given.
- Use common software applications to create graphs.



Basic Terms

- Graph: A visual representation of numerical information
- X axis – abscissa (horizontal)
- Y axis – ordinate (vertical)
- Skew



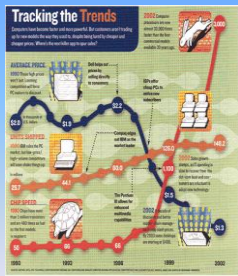
General Suggestions For Graphing

- Think about what you are trying to communicate
- Show trends, not detail
- Use a consistent format with a series of graphs
- Follow the “3/4 Rule”



General Suggestions For Graphing

- Minimize chart junk
- Use 2-dimensional graphs
- Always begin y axis at 0
- When common sense dictates, VIOLATE THESE RULES!



Line Graph

- Used to show change over time
 - DV on y-axis
 - Continuous IV on x-axis

Graph on next slide



Frequency Polygon

- **Depicts frequencies of discrete numeric data**
 - Frequency on y-axis
 - Scores on x-axis

Graph on next slide





Relative Frequency

- **Compares two groups of different sizes based on percent frequency**
 - Based on % frequency column

Graph on next slide



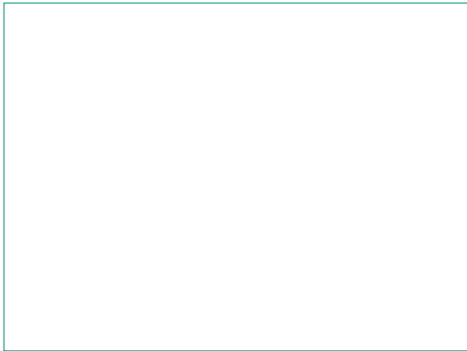
Skew (positive and negative)

- **Freq on y-axis and scores on x axis**
- **Normal curve**
 - **Positive skew**
 - Scores cluster to the left
 - **Negative skew**
 - Scores cluster to the right

Graph on next slide







Bar Chart

- Summarizes nominal data
 - One axis represents categories
 - Other axis represents frequency or %

Graph on next slide





Histogram

- **Used for discrete, numeric data**
 - Each bar = data point
 - Touching bars = sequential relationship
 - Why not continuous data? Many data points low frequency

Graph on next slide



How many bars are too many? How many colors?

Stem-and-Leaf Plot

- Summarizes numeric data
 - "Stems" aligned in first column
 - "Leaves" attached to second column

Stem	Leaves
2	9
3	3 5 5 5 6
4	0 4 4 4 6 7
5	0 0 6 7 7 7 8
6	0 0 5 5 6 6 7
7	0 0 8 9

