

Topic: Quick Charts in Excel

Portfolio Projects
with
Pizzazz



Welcome to Today's Lecture!

Today's Lecture

- Charts in Excel are easy to make if you have a small dataset.
- Not the greatest for a formal report – but you can do it
- Best for quick analysis

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Why use Excel instead of R or Python?

- If you need to load data into a statistical program to make a chart (because you have a big dataset), then you should do it
- If you have a small dataset that fits easily on an Excel spreadsheet, you might have questions about it
 - Might be part of your curation to decide what variables to take from a bigger dataset for your project
- There are ways to answer quick questions with quick charts in Excel

Resources

Blog post where I make an Excel chart:

<https://dethwench.com/faers-data-for-portfolio-projects/>

Blog post where I make several Excel charts:

<https://dethwench.com/descriptive-analysis-for-data-science-portfolio-projects/>

Datasets for portfolio projects:

<https://dethwench.com/curated-datasets-for-data-science-portfolio-projects/>

Ideas for portfolio projects:

<https://dethwench.com/portfolio-project-examples-for-data-science/>



Issues with making Excel charts

Considerations

- Hard to make sure you are doing it right if you have a large dataset
- Data need to be mostly “chart ready” – not need much transformation
- There is some nuance in working with Excel’s automated functions to get the chart to look the way you want
- It takes a very long time to format the chart just right. **If you need to do a lot of manicuring, remake in R in *ggplot2*.**

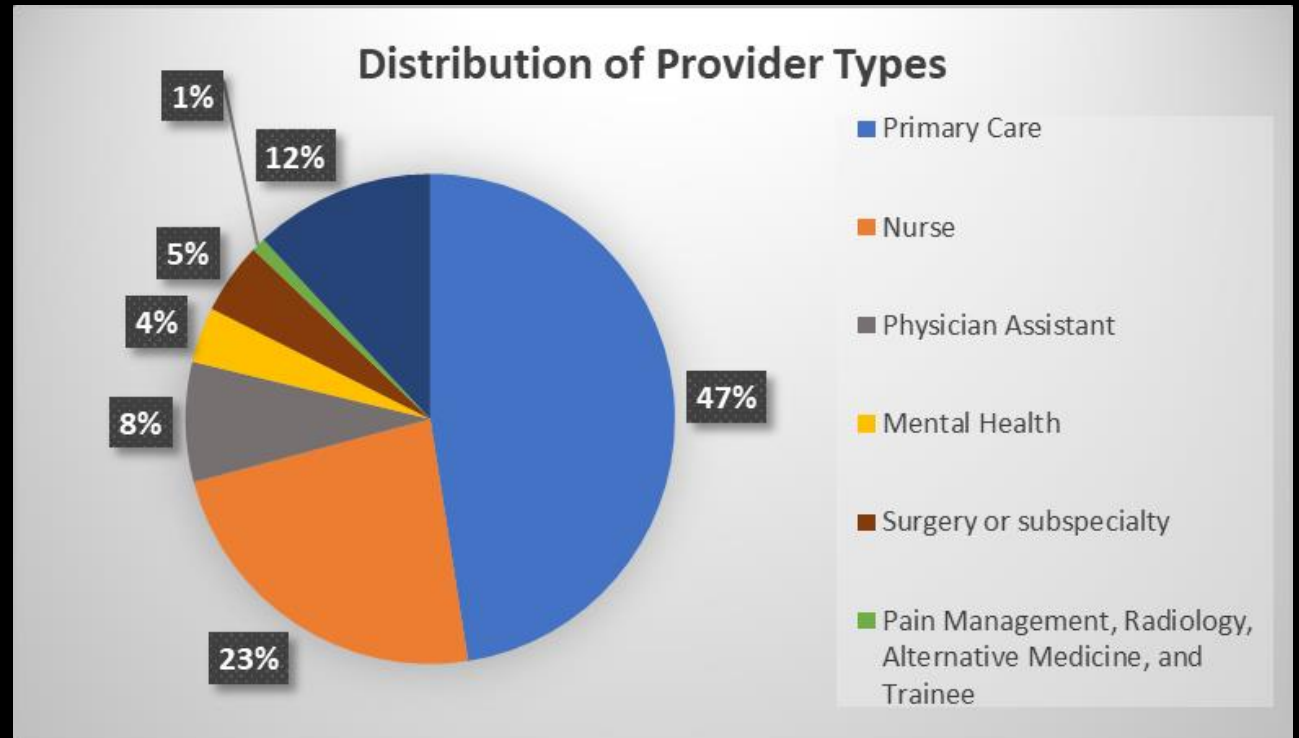
Best Practices for Charts in Excel

1. Put the raw data on one tab, and charts on another tab.
2. Use Excel functions to get a base chart that visualizes what you want.
3. You can make a lot of formatting changes, but be wary that they might be erased through Excel’s automation.
4. Copy chart as an image out of Excel and put it elsewhere



Conclusion: Excel Charts

- Excel charts can come out pretty good if you get fussy with them, and spend a lot of time.
- They can be especially helpful when curating data and communicating with a team about it.
- Can also work for a quick project where you don't want to use statistical software.





Questions?

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