Choosing the Right Chart — Student Guide

Notes for SHS • Data Science • Topic 82 • All research examples are fictional

Choose the chart from the analytical question

Question	Starting visual
Compare categories	Bar chart
Rank categories	Sorted horizontal bars
Change over time	Line or period columns
Numerical distribution	Histogram or box
Relationship between two numerical variables	Scatter
Part to whole	Bars, 100% stacked, or careful pie
Two categories over two periods	Slope/dumbbell
Two categorical dimensions	Heatmap
Geographical pattern	Map only with verified geography

The ten-second quality check

Are your units, denominator, scale, source, missing data, legends, alt text and interpretation all correct?