

PIE CHART

What it is:

A pie chart is used to show visually the proportions of parts of something being studied. The area of each slice of the pie shows the slice's proportion to the entire category being studied and to the other slices. A pie chart shows data at one point in time, like a snapshot; it does not show change in data over time like a line chart does.

How to use it:

Determine proportions. Find the total value for the entire category being studied and calculate the percentage for each segment or part.

Calculate degrees. Convert the percentage values for each segment into degrees relative to the 360 degrees in the circle. (For example, $12\% \times 360 \text{ degrees} = 43 \text{ degrees}$)

Construct the chart. Draw a circle and divide it into appropriately sized segments.

Add labels and a title. Label each segment or add a legend to identify the segments. Then clearly title the chart.

Pie Chart Example

