

Data Visualization Guide

2020

Overview

A well-designed data visualization can transform understanding of complex global challenges. Translating data into a visual format that supports easy interpretation, however, is an art that requires careful selection of the right chart type. A variety of digital tools exist to aid in the design of effective data visualizations. Here are a few curated by the [Global Health Education and Learning Incubator at Harvard University \(GHELI\)](#) to get you started!

RESOURCES

THE DATA VISUALIZATION CATALOGUE

Link: <http://www.datavizcatalogue.com>

Description: This resource catalogs a diverse range of information visualization types. To inspire their own work, users can search visualizations by function (e.g., comparisons, relationships, distributions). Each visualization type is accompanied by a short description, including strengths and weaknesses.

DEPICT DATA STUDIO: INTERACTIVE CHART CHOOSER

Link: <https://depictdatastudio.com/charts>

Description: This tool allows the user to identify the best type of graph is suited for their data, based on number of data points and desired function. Each visualization is accompanied with a description, tutorial, additional resources, and examples.

TABLEAU PUBLIC

Link: <https://public.tableau.com/en-us/s/download>

Description: Tableau Public is a free, downloadable for creating and sharing data visualizations online. Visualizations that are published to Tableau Public can be embedded into web pages and blogs, as well as shared in multiple formats. No programming skills are required to use. The tool is accompanied by a series of [how-to videos](#) to get started.

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GOOGLE CHARTS

Link: <https://developers.google.com/chart>

Description: Google Charts allows users to design free, interactive charts for browsers and mobile devices. It includes a variety of chart types, with customizable design and ability to integrate with a variety of other data tools. This tool is accompanied by a series of guides, organized by chart type.

DATAWRAPPER

Link: <https://www.datawrapper.de>

Description: This tool is especially for storytellers. Datawrapper includes 19 interactive chart types, 3 responsive maps, and a variety of customizable data tables. It includes options for live updating graphics, templates that follow best data visualization practices, and no coding required. Graphics are viewable across devices and platforms. The tool is accompanied by a [series of guides](#), organized by chart type.

RAWGRAPHS

Link: <https://rawgraphs.io>

Description: RAWGraphs is an open-source data visualization framework built with the goal of making the visual representation of complex data easy for everyone. RAWGraphs includes data privacy tools, a variety of unique templates and customizable features, and options to export final visualizations in multiple formats. The tool connects spreadsheet applications (e.g., Microsoft Excel, Apple Numbers, OpenRefine) and vector graphics editors (e.g., Adobe Illustrator, Inkscape, Sketch). RAWGraphs also provides a library of [quick reference guides](#) to get started.