

Exercise: Designing Tables and Figures

Create a table that clearly presents the study findings described in the memo. Then draft a graph (of any type you consider appropriate) that presents the same data.

MEMO

To: Principal Investigator

From: research assistant

About: Summary of findings: study of patients' preferences in medication delivery systems in outpatient settings

The researchers collected data on patients' preferences in the form of their medications. A survey was administered to three different sets of patients at three different times during the past 20 years.

Data were available on 200 participants; half adults and half children (equal numbers of boys and girls).

The forms of medication delivery system were shots, pills, and patches.

In 2006, the numbers of respondents for each group were: shots (men, 26, women 11, boys 2, girls 2); pills (men 7, women 8, girls 18, boys 24); patches (women 31, men 17, boys 24, girls 30).

The totals for women in 1986 were 23 for shots, 2 for pills, and 25 for patches, while for men the totals were, respectively, 22, 15, and 13. The totals for boys were 1 for shots, 10 for pills, and 39 for patches, while for girls the totals were 2 for shots, 27 for pills, and 21 for patches.

In 1996, the numbers who preferred shots were 15 women, 8 men, 2 boys, and 1 girl. The numbers who preferred patches were 20 women, 20 men, 25 girls, and 34 boys. The numbers who preferred pills were 22 women, 20 men, 25 girls, and 14 boys.

Overall, the numbers for each form of medication were

1986: shots, 48; pills, 54; patches, 98

1996: shots, 26; pills, 73; patches, 101

2006: shots, 41; pills, 57; patches, 102.

The survey was administered three times (1986, 1996, 2006) to identify trends in patients' preferences for the form in which they received medications.