



DECODING DATA

A quiz to assess how we interpret charts, tables, and graphs

Charts, tables, and graphs are popular ways to make information accessible. But not everyone is confident interpreting them.

It's often assumed that a data visualization—like a bar chart or scatter plot—makes statistics more digestible for the everyday reader. But in some cases, even professionals who work with data on a regular basis can find it hard to quickly, easily, and accurately interpret graphs.

From workshops to online courses, many resources exist to help people build their data visualization skills. But scant resources exist to help them assess their **data viz literacy**¹—that is, their ability to accurately interpret data visualizations.² This quiz:

- Helps **learners** in data-related courses assess their own data viz literacy.
- Helps **trainers** teaching data-related content understand their participants' data viz literacy.

The quiz provides a foundation for IREX's Data For Leaders training. Learn more about that [here](#).

What does this quiz assess?

This 18-question quiz presents **nine visuals** to users, who answer **two multiple-choice questions** about each one.³ The quiz helps assess familiarity with different types of **visuals** and **concepts**, including:

VISUALS



Pie charts



Histograms & bar charts



Choropleth maps



Line charts

CONCEPTS

- Associating color with data
- Recognizing insufficient data
- Reading legends and detecting trends
- Interpreting averages, ranges, ratios, and distributions

Take the quiz—and make your own versions!

Take the survey, which takes about 10 minutes to complete, and share it with people who might find it useful. More importantly, improve the quiz by **making your own changes to it**: access a PDF copy of the quiz [here](#), as well as [frequently asked questions](#) that help explain the goals and approaches behind this quiz.

TAKE THE QUIZ



¹ One of the few available tools to assess visual literacy is the Visualization Literacy Assessment Test (VLAT).

² There is no one definition of “visual literacy”, “chart IQ”, or “graph fluency”. Read more about these tensions [here](#).

³ These visuals are among the top ten most Googled visuals and are relevant to global development contexts.