
Tools

Run Chart

Identifying Trends

Background

A run chart is a line graph of data plotted over time. The purpose is to study the system to identify trends, patterns, shifts, or cycles.

When to Use

- When comparing performance measures before and after implementation of a solution
- When early identification of system performance is needed

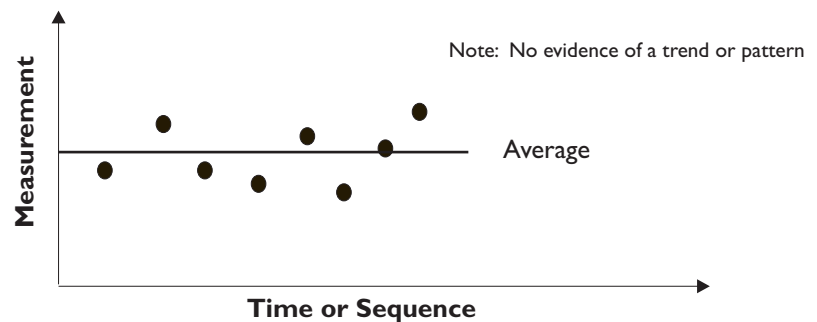
How to Use

1. Determine the process performance measure to be tracked.
2. Collect the data. **(25 data points is a rule of thumb)**
3. Create a graph with a vertical and horizontal axis. The vertical axis is the full range of measurements. The horizontal axis is the data collection time sequence.
4. On schedule, plot the collected data. Watch for trends, patterns, shifts, or cycles. If none appear, calculate the average: the sum of the measured values divided by the number of data points.

Hint

Resist reacting to normal variation in data points. Focus energy on recognizing meaningful trends and patterns. **Seven data points roughly forming a pattern (upward or downward) is a rule of thumb for system impact.**

How Does It Look



Next Steps

Explore strategies that can positively impact the performance of the system toward goal. Goal Examples: (A) Improved student achievement as shown by an upward pattern in reading comprehension (B) Improved student discipline as shown by a downward pattern in disciplinary infractions.

