



ENABLING QUALITY IMPROVEMENT IN PRACTICE

Tower Hamlets Our Latest Newsletter (18/02/2019)



Funnelling a bit of EQUIP info your way

Happy Valentine's Day, folks! Our data analyst, Alex, has prepared a gift for you on this day of love. Won't spoil the surprise telling you what it's about, but it sounds like fennel (and can look like it, too, depending how you like slicing your fennel). From Alex:

In a Nutshell

This week we will explain what to the naked eye, looks unexplainable. You would have seen them around. They appeared seemingly out of nowhere and are now used quite extensively. They are complicated but simple to read. They allow us all to see ourselves in a way we haven't done so before. What are they?

Do you know what they are yet? If you haven't guessed they are the elusive funnel plot!

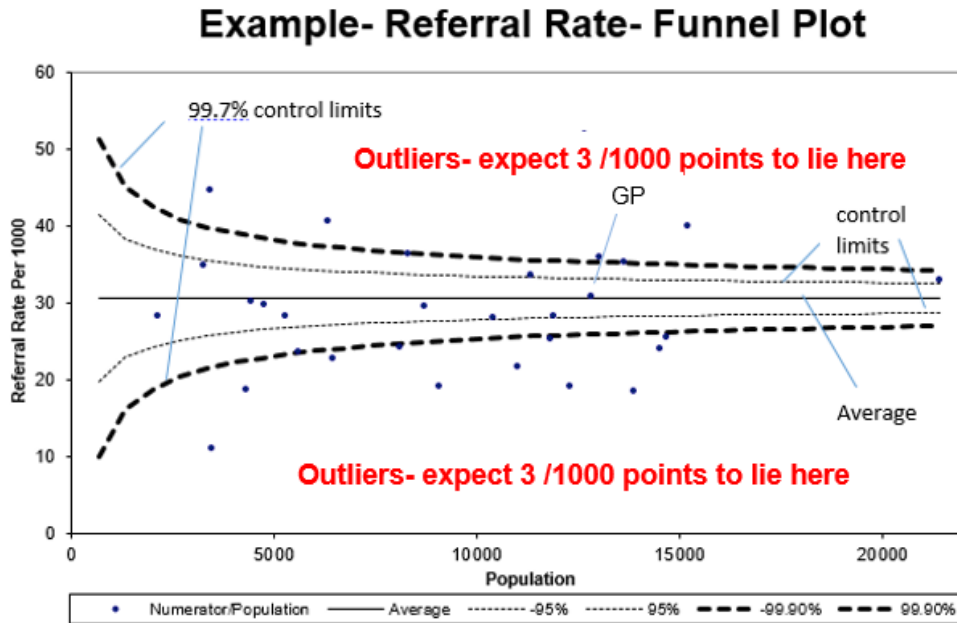
First things first, **what are they?** Funnel plots are ...

- Graphs that display variation within a system
- Identify outliers
- Are commonly used in healthcare for comparing the outcomes of organisations/providers
- Plot an outcome against the times it could have occurred

E.g. referral rate vs list size

- A tool that can be very helpful for deciding where to focus your efforts

What do funnel plots look like?



*Points outside the funnel are considered outliers

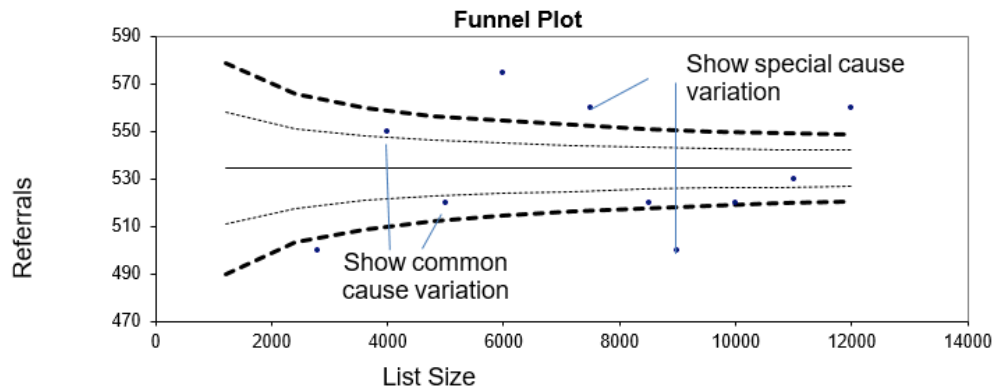
How do you interpret funnel plots?

- 1) Identify your practice on the funnel plot
- 2) Does your practice lie outside the bold dotted lines (99.7% control limit)?
 1. If your practice lies outside the bold dotted lines, your practice shows special cause variation and is a statistical outlier for that particular area

Special cause variation: variation that is caused by special circumstances or events that are out of the ordinary

1. If your practice lies within the bold dotted lines, your practice shows common cause variation and is not an outlier

Common cause variation: variation caused by 'normal' events



What do you do if your practice is an outlier?

Stay curious, and stay calm.

Start a project on LifeQI/complete an audit to understand the possible causes for the unexpected variation.

To document projects on LifeQI please follow the steps below:

- 1) Start a new QI project on LifeQI
- 2) Obtain data for continuous time periods e.g. weekly/ monthly referral data
- 3) Plot data on a run chart on LifeQI
- 4) Identify points that may indicate non-random variation
- 5) Investigate possible causes for non-random variation. Make sure to note all findings on LifeQI
- 6) As a QI team, develop an aim and change ideas, which may affect the aim, and create PDSAs to reduce/increase measure. These may include peer review of referrals or the increased use of Advice & Guidance
- 7) Document reflections and PDSAs on Life QI

For more information about LifeQI: <https://qi.elft.nhs.uk/resources/life-qi-resources/>

For more information about funnel plots, why we use them and what stuff means are e.g. control limits, please refer to the following:

- 1) <http://equiptowerhamlets.nhs.uk/qi-tools/>

- 2) <http://www.haelo.org.uk/funnel-plot/>
- 3) Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0x_RIoL2EB8
- 4) How to build a funnel plot: <http://drawingwithnumbers.artisart.org/not-a-funnel-cake-nor-funnel-charts-its-funnel-plots/>

That's it, folks, our nugget for the week. Whether you are celebrating it or hating it for being a massive commercial ploy, thank you for being our Valentine! Our love for EQUIP practices shows special cause variation today. J

Virginia