


# Q Step Internship: The Food Standards Agency (FSA)

Juliet Barton, BSc Sociology

 Through the Q-Step programme I worked at the Food Standards Agency in London over summer. Working mainly with their biannual attitudes public tracker survey, using the software SPSS.

## Objectives

- Use the data set to look for relationships between demographic variables and key variables of interest for the FSA, such as awareness and trust in the FSA, and concerns for health issues such as BSE, GM and hormones.
- Merge all existing waves of the tracker, 1-10.
- From the large 10 wave data set, to run both bi-variate and multi-variate cross tabulations, looking for significant relationships between demographics, and the variables of interest for the FSA.
- Running multiple cross tables on these variables, to find out which relationships are the most important – analyse the findings.
- Produce bar/line graphs on most the cross tables run for bi-variate and multi-variate analysis.

## Methodology

- Used SPSS to merge all data sets.
- Ran cross tabulations both bi-variate, and multi-variate in SPSS, with Chi-square tests.
- Used Excel to produce graphs, and help clean up data needed for the merge of all waves in SPSS.

## Outcome/Findings

Presented my findings to the team of social scientists, statistics and analytics at the FSA.

The merged data set will be used beyond my time at the FSA, and given to other departments to use for their own projects.

My findings also prompted work to be done further in some areas.

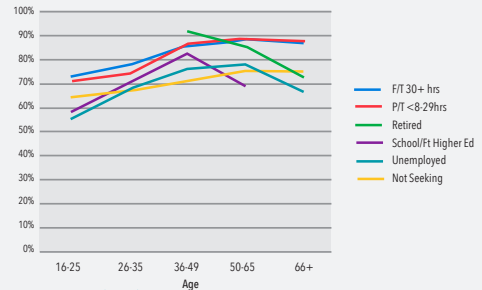


Figure 1 Age, awareness and work status

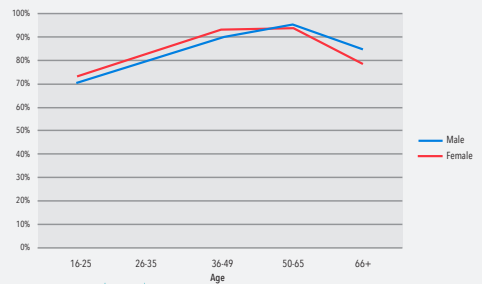


Figure 2 Age, awareness and gender

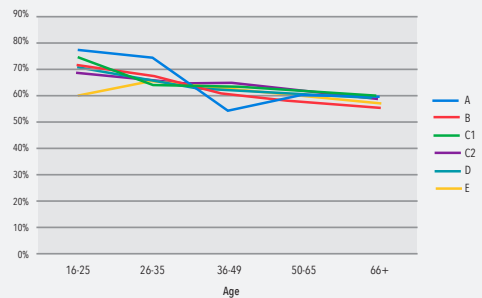


Figure 3 Age, trust and class (I trust it a lot/trust it)

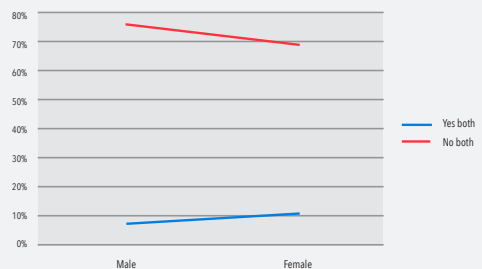


Figure 4 Concern for BSE and Hormones, with Gender

## What I've learnt

- Using quantitative data in an everyday workplace.
- Built knowledge of SPSS, and many of its functions.
- Analysing data to produce my own findings.
- Writing reports on all my findings in a formal style, and presenting my own work to colleagues.