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Model Systems
Knowledge Translation
Center

Effective Use of Ring or Donut Charts

Purpose	This tool provides guidelines and tips on how to effectively use ring or donut charts to communicate research findings.
Format	This tool provides guidance on ring or donut charts and their purposes, and shows examples of preferred practices and practical tips for column charts.
Audience	This tool is designed primarily for researchers from the Model Systems that are funded by the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR). The tool can be adapted by other NIDILRR-funded grantees and the general public.

The contents of this tool were developed under a grant from the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR grant number 90DP0012-01-00). The contents of this fact sheet do not necessarily represent the policy of Department of Health and Human Services, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government.

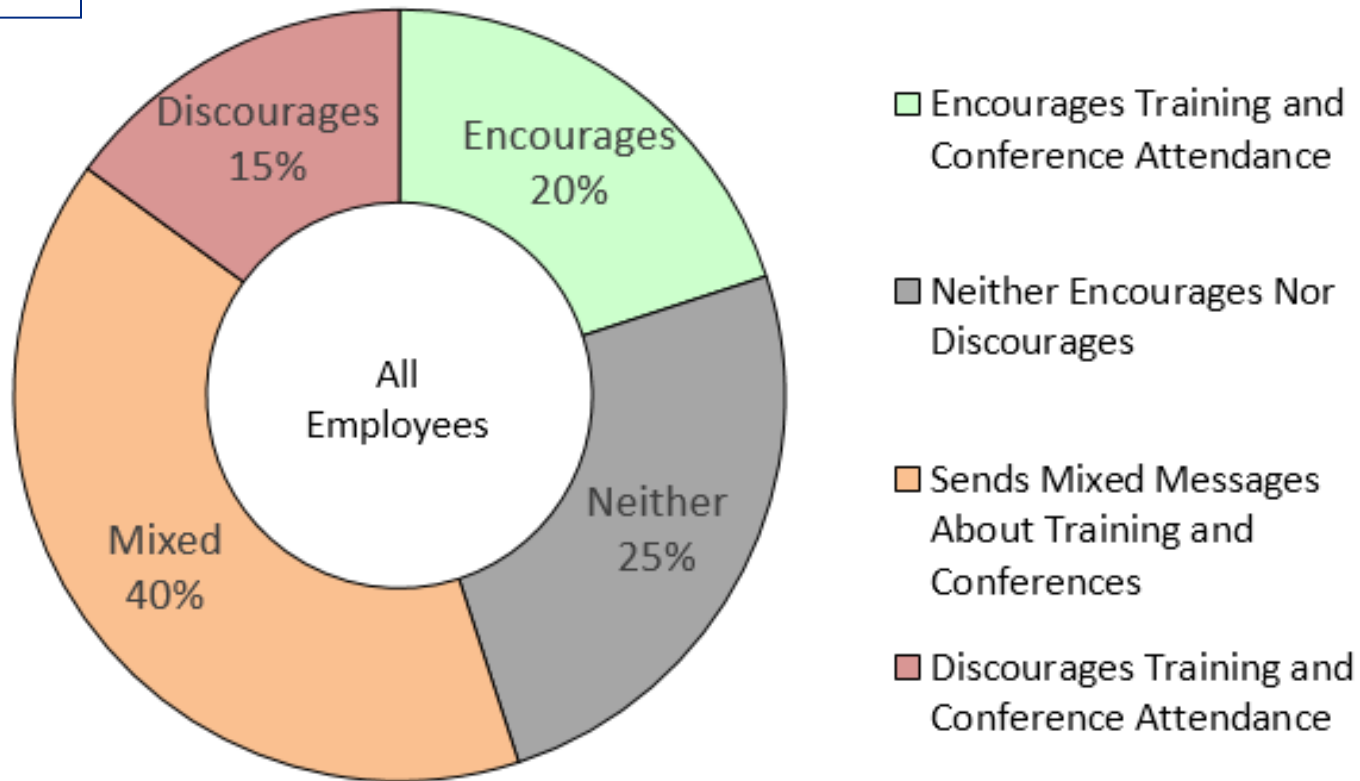
Ring or Donut Charts

- ▶ The primary use of a Ring Chart is to display the proportional relationship of various components to a whole, but for more than one data series simultaneously.
- ▶ A single ring chart is much like a pie chart, except arrayed as a ring (or “donut”).
- ▶ A multi-ring chart - with concentric rings of data - can display data distributions for multiple sub-groups simultaneously. In essence, a multi-ring chart is a pie chart that can display more than one data series in one image. Example: One ring may depict the racial distribution of clients served at Site A, while a second concentric ring would display the racial distribution of clients served at Site B.
- ▶ Multi-ring charts can also be use to depict nested hierarchical relationships between data series. For example an inner ring might display the number of clients served in a period by gender. Then an outer ring might display (within each gender segment) the number of clients served by race.

Ring or Donut Charts – Single Ring

Perceived Department Practices Concerning Paid Time Off
For Professional Training and Conferences
Department of Social Services - 2014

Sums to 100%



In considering the current practices of the Department of Social Services regarding Paid Time Off for Professional Training and Conferences, would you say that the Department?

Ring or Donut Charts – Multi-Ring Non-Hierarchical

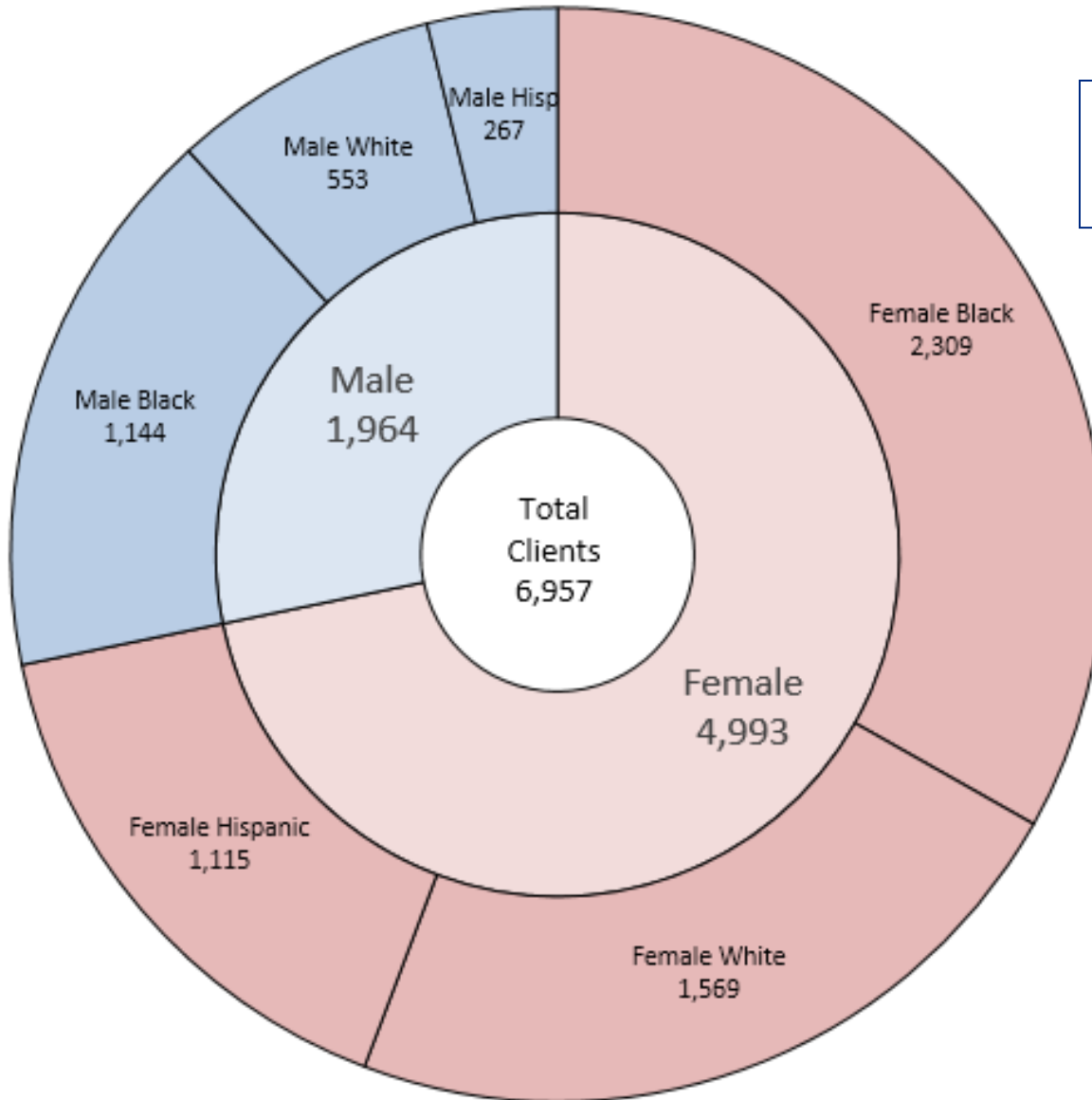
Perceived Department Practices Concerning Paid Time Off For Professional Training and Conferences



- Outer Ring**
Direct Client Service Employees
- Mid Ring**
Mid-Level Managers and Professionals
- Inner Ring**
Senior Professionals and Executives

Direct Service Employees perceive less encouragement (green) and more discouragement (pink)

Ring or Donut Charts – Multi-Ring Hierarchical



Clients Served By Chatham Food Bank By Gender and Race-Ethnicity December 2014

Inner Ring
Clients Served By Gender

Outer Ring
Clients Served By Race-Ethnicity For Each Gender

Count Data.
Component counts sum to next inner ring.