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1 7 Basic Tools of Quality

Cause-and-effect diagram : Identifies many possible causes for an effect or problem and sorts ideas into useful categories. (also called Ishikawa or fishbone chart)

Check sheet : A structured, prepared form for collecting and analyzing data; a generic tool that can be adapted for a wide variety of purposes.

Control charts : Graphs used to study how a process changes over time.

Histogram : The most commonly used graph for showing frequency distributions, or how often each different value in a set of data occurs.

Pareto chart : Shows on a bar graph which factors are more significant.

Scatter diagram : Graphs pairs of numerical data, one variable on each axis, to look for a relationship.

Stratification : A technique that separates data gathered from a variety of sources so that patterns can be seen (some lists replace “stratification” with “flowchart” or “run chart”).