

Strategies for Reading Data about Pesticides on Food

1. Find something striking

It could be a fruit or vegetable with the highest or lowest rates of pesticide residue, or one that you and your family eat frequently.

2. Try saying it different ways

The data for that food is in percents. Try expressing the percent in at least three of the ways below:

- ___ %
- ___ out of 100
- ___ in 10
- One in ___
- ___ in ___ (other numbers)
- A fraction word: a *quarter*, *half*, *a fifth*, *two-thirds*, etc.

Write down your statements. Circle the statement that seems the strongest.

Example: How many eggplants still had pesticides?

- 25% of eggplants
- 25 out of 100 eggplants
- More than 2 in 10 eggplants
- One in four eggplants
- A quarter of the eggplants

3. Repeat for a few other foods.

Did you circle the same phrasing for all the foods, or did it change?

4. Compare foods to each other

If you're feeling confident, compare the data from one food to another. If you want to compare the pesticide rates of fruit "A" to the rates in vegetable "B":

- A is ___ times B
- A is ___ % of B
- A is ___ % lower than B / higher than B
- A is [double, triple, a quarter of, half of, a fifth of, two-thirds of] B
- [Draw your own graph or infographic comparing A to B]

5. Choose the one you think makes the most newsworthy statement

Note: Fruits and vegetables are still very good for you! To reduce or avoid pesticides, wash or peel them, buy organic, or grow your own.