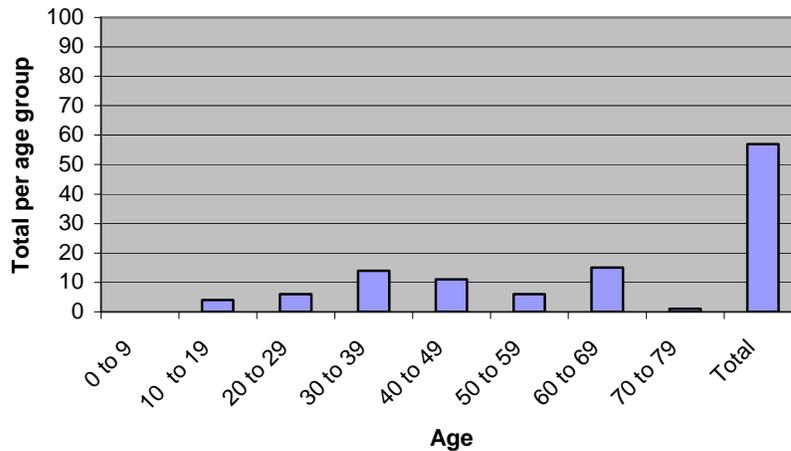


The Instability Group

Interpretive Summary: Earthquake Experiences Data

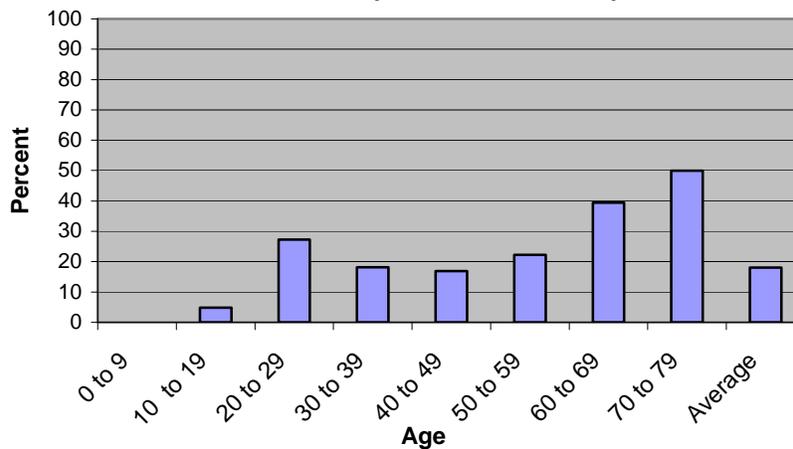
Our group looked at the relationship between the ages of people and the likelihood they had felt an earthquake. We hypothesized that older people would be more likely to have felt an earthquake, because earthquakes don't seem to happen that often where we live. We found out that, up to a point, the older you are the more likely it is that you have experienced an earthquake, but there was a problem with looking at plain numbers (Chart 1). Not very many people were polled at the older ages (70 and over), so plain numbers aren't very helpful in telling the story.

Chart 1: Number per age group with earthquake experience



We then compared percentages instead of plain numbers, and the results were more interesting.

Chart 2: Percentage per age group who have experienced an earthquake



Even though there are fewer older people represented, it appears they are more likely to report having experienced earthquakes than younger people.

Conclusion: It appears that if you live to be over 70 you have a 50-50 chance of experiencing an earthquake (cool). Three-fifths of us agree with this statement. See R.M. and J.G. for an alternative conclusion.

Next we will look at where the earthquakes are because chances really depend on where you are on the planet.