

Longitudinal Analysis Best Practices

Comparing the Options

	Time Set Constraints	Matching Over Time	Time Set Limits
Creates a cohort group	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Creates a matched* cohort group	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Constrains the contents of more than one cell at a time	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Constrains based on attributes (i.e., grade level) in every time period selected	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Displays records over more than 2 years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shows movement of specific groups (i.e., performance levels) from year to year	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Matches in each year based on specified criteria (i.e., test scores)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
An “apples-to-apples” comparison	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Displays the same number of records from year to year	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Attributes used for matching must be placed on the same axis (row) as time periods	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Allows you to set time periods on both the X & Y axis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Displays a matched cohort of two different tests in two different years	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

* Students who don't meet specific user-defined criteria are filtered out.

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1. I want to see how many of my first graders stayed with me through a specific grade level.

Use the Matching Wizard to match across grade levels without using the ensuring attribute. This will show only your non-mobile population.

2. I want to isolate a group of students who are Unsatisfactory in Reading Performance and see if they improve over time.

Create a TimeSet Constraint on the Unsatisfactory group and add additional years to the query.

3. I want to see how students are moving across performance levels over time – where they were and where they are in a single query.

*Use Time Set Limits to constrain a previous year's assessment results (and grade level, etc.) and compare it to the same test in a subsequent year. **Hint:** this method can also be used to look at results on two **different** assessments.*

4. I want to see student performance by grade level among the students who were promoted and took a specific test every year.

Use the Matching Wizard to constrain the grade levels across selected years, and use the Ensuring Attribute to make sure that all students took the assessment every year.