

Understanding Piped/Repeated Data

Piped data can be many things; it can be answers that have been drawn from answers to a previous question, it can be a single question repeated dynamically based on answers to previous questions, and it can be a page repeated multiple times based on previous answers. Piped data differs from other data recorded in Alchemer in that the questions and answer options that store the data are not built into the survey, but are instead generated dynamically on the survey while it is being taken. This presents a major difference in how the data is stored.

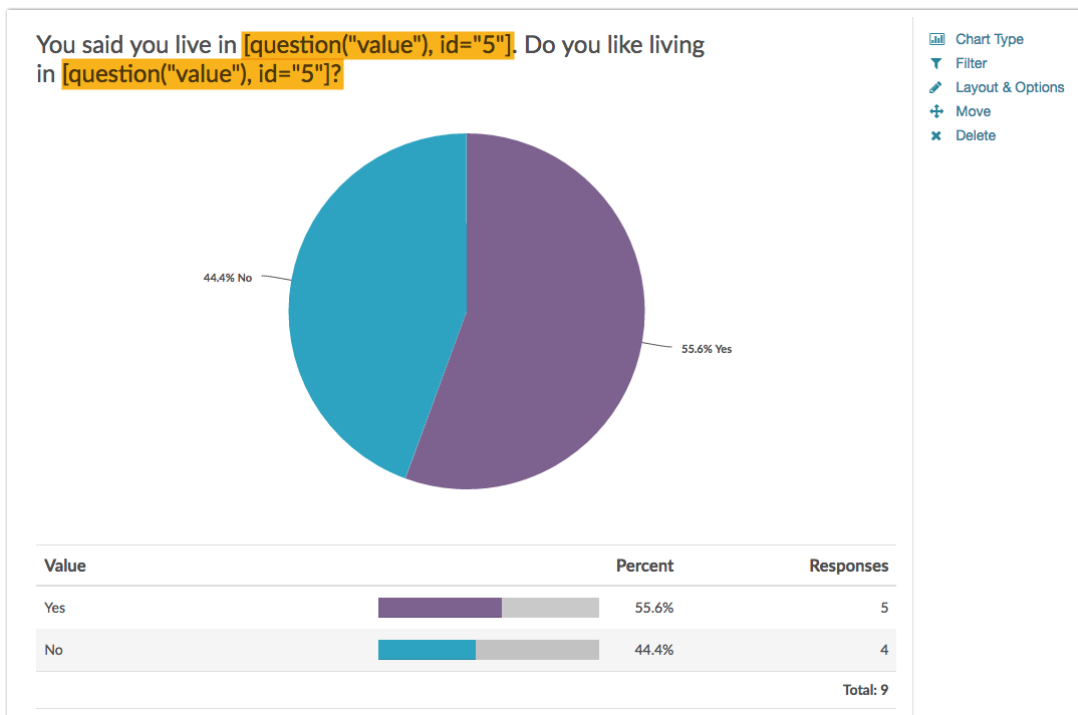
In this document we will discuss how the various piping features report and export so that you are aware of what you are getting into when using piping.

Simple Piping

Using simple piping, a.k.a merge codes, you can display a single answer from a previous question *on a later page*. This is typically used in the question title or in a text/instruction element. Check out our [Simple Piping Tutorial](#) to learn more!

Reports

Merge codes used in question titles and/or answer options will not dynamically display in a Standard Report or Legacy Summary Report as the data is aggregated across all instances of this merge code value.



As a workaround, you can edit the element via the **Chart Type** option and customize the title to

display something a little cleaner.

Edit Report Element

CHART TYPE FILTER LAYOUT & OPTIONS

Title

You said you live in [state of residence]. Do you like living in [state of residence]?

[Edit Description](#)

Exports

In the CSV/Excel Export of the raw data, the merge code will also be displayed in the column header, which displays the question title, and the individual cells where the merge code answer option was selected.

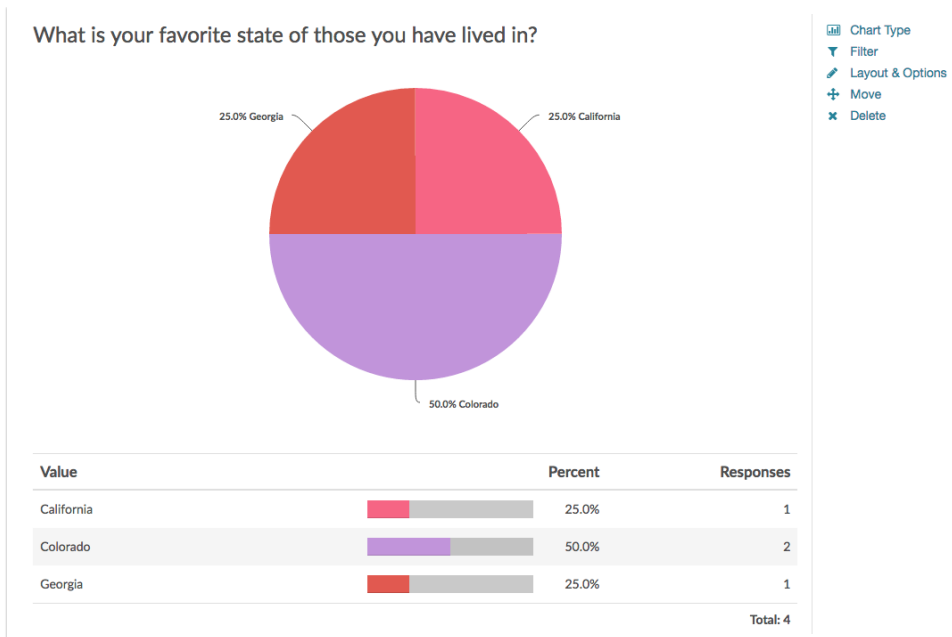
V	W	X	Y	Z	AA	AB	AC	
In which state do you live in?	You said you live in [question("value"), id="2"]. Do you like living in [question("value"), id="2"]?							
District of Columbia	Yes							
District of Columbia	No							
District of Columbia	[question("value"), id="2"]							
Kentucky	[question("value"), id="2"]							
Maine	No							
Maine	[question("value"), id="2"]							
Mississippi	No							

Option Piping

Using option piping you can use the answer(s) (either those that were selected or left unselected) from a previous question as the answer options in a question *on a later page*. Check out our [Option Piping Tutorial](#) to learn more!

Reports

Option piped questions report as any other question in reports and exports! One thing to note is that if a given option was not selected in the source question, **it will not be listed as an option in the piped question**. Can't live with this? Consider using [Answer Option Logic](#) instead of option piping!



Exports

Option piped questions report as any other question in reports and exports! One thing to note is that if a given option was not selected in the source question, it will not be listed as an option in the piped question. Can't live with this? Consider using [Answer Option Logic](#) instead of option piping!

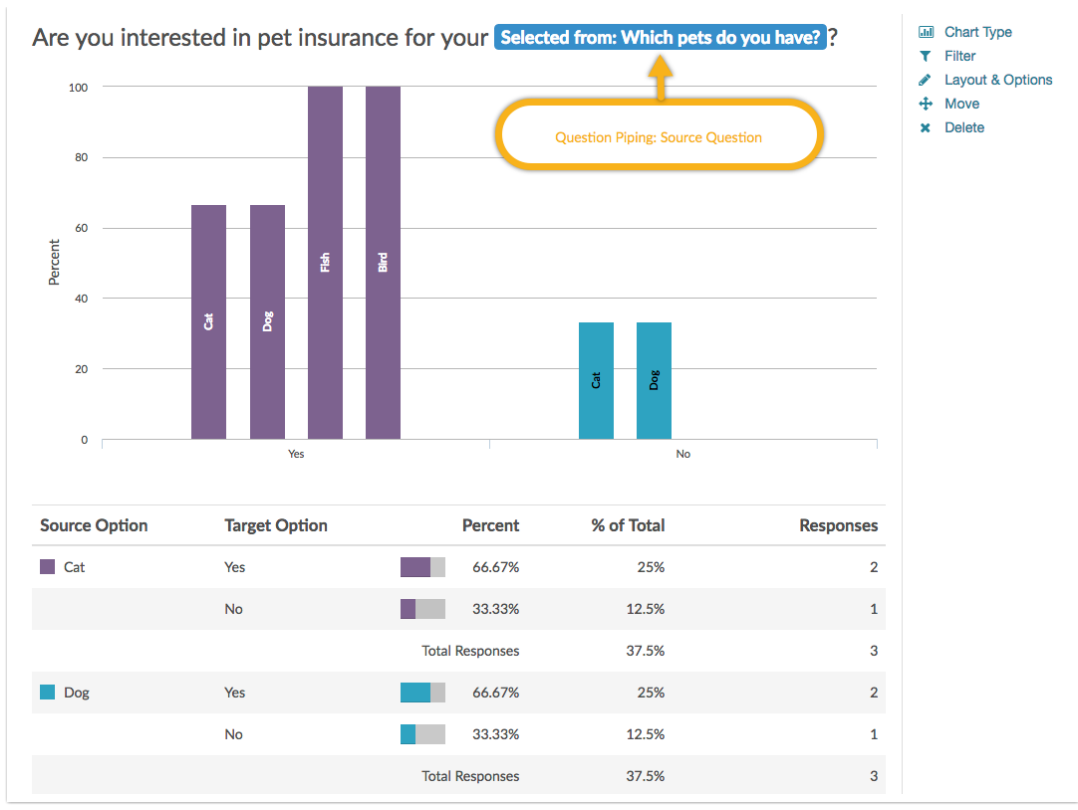
BU	BV	BW	BX	BY	BZ	CA
What is your favorite state of those you have lived in?	Of the states in which you have not lived, which would you least like to move to?					
District of Columbia	Vermont					
Florida	Missouri					
Michigan	South Dakota					
Delaware	New Mexico					
Minnesota	Iowa					
Florida	West Virginia					

Question Piping

Using question piping you can **repeat a question** *on a later page* using the answer(s) (either those that were selected or left unselected) from a previous question. Check out our [Question Piping Tutorial](#) to learn more!

Standard Report

The [Standard Report](#) will automatically create **segments** based on the source question option so that you can make comparisons across the responses to the piped question.



Below the segmented chart, you will find a grid providing further information. By default, the grid will be grouped by **Source Option** (from the source question).

Source Option	Target Option	Percent	% of Total	Responses
Cat	Yes	66.67%	25%	2
	No	33.33%	12.5%	1
Total Responses			37.5%	3

Note: Be careful to consider the source question you are piping from. If there are a lot of answer options there will be a lot of data points when reporting.

If you prefer to view your data grouped by **Target Option**, edit the element via **Layout & Options**. Locate the **Piped/Repeated Question Options** section and select **Target Option** under the **Group Piped/Repeated Charts by** menu.

Edit Report Element

CHART TYPE FILTER LAYOUT & OPTIONS

Answer Options With no Data

Answer Option Names

Original Option Title

Reporting Value

Order Answers By

Number of Responses (Highest to Lowest)

Original Order it Appeared in the Survey

Alphabetically by Answer Title

Chart Size

Small

Medium

Large

Axis Values

Option Percents

Option Counts

Piped/Repeated Question Options

Group Piped/Repeated Charts by

Target Option

This setting can also be toggled for your entire report via **Overall Options > Charts > Group Piped/Repeated Chart by**. The result is as follows:

Group By Target Option

Target Option	Source Option	Percent	% of Total	Responses
Yes	Cat	33.33%	25%	2
	Dog	33.33%	25%	2
	Fish	16.67%	12.5%	1
	Bird	16.67%	12.5%	1
Total			75%	6

Group By Source Option (Default)

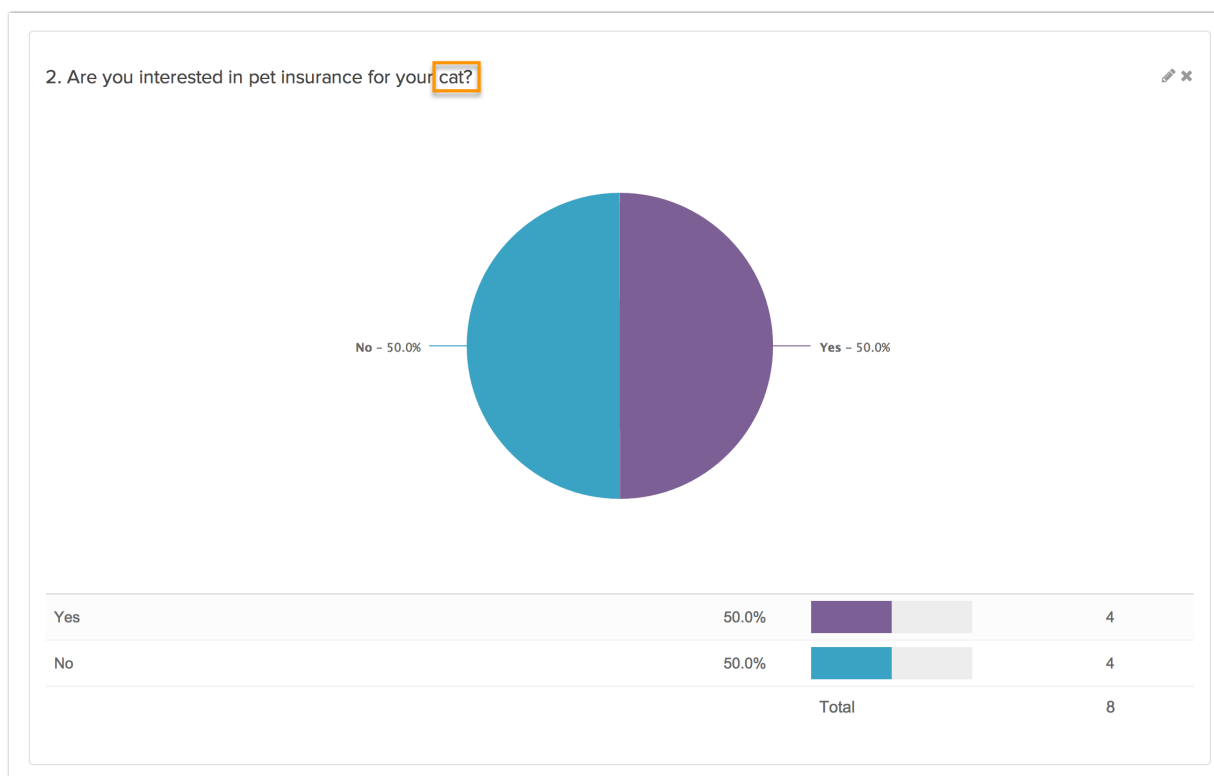
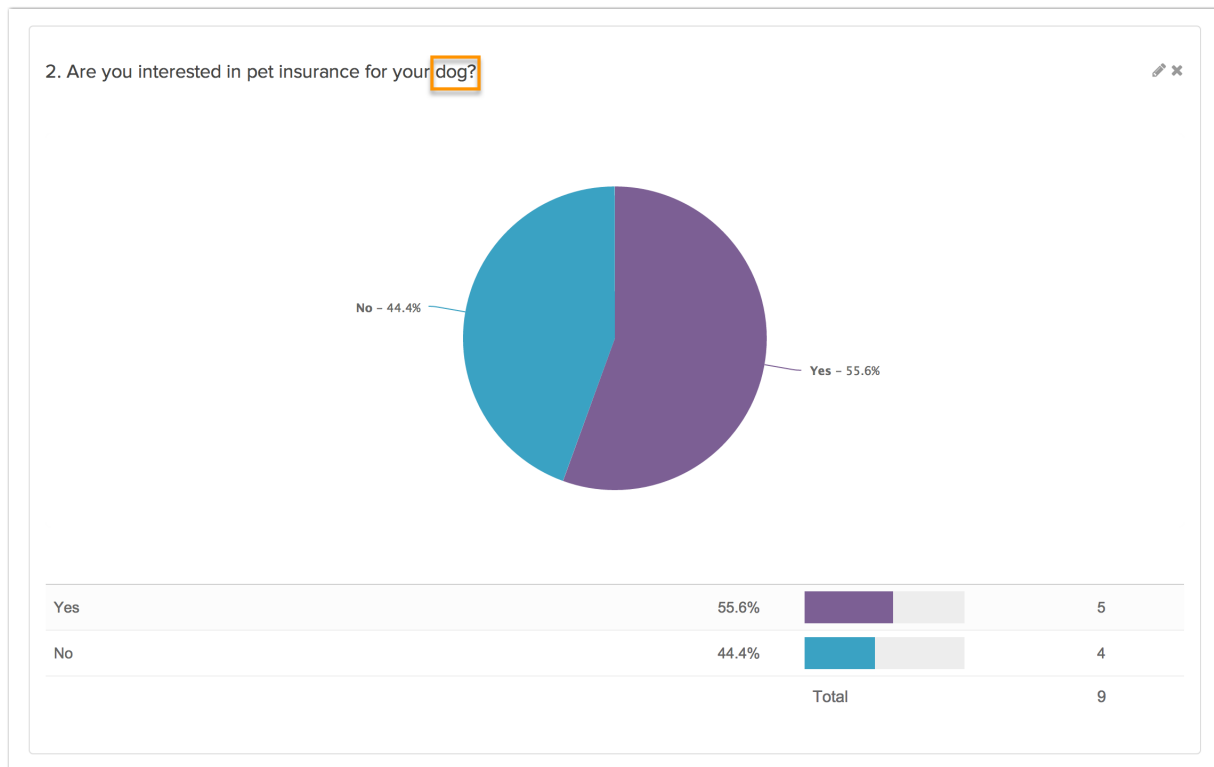
Source Option	Target Option	Percent	% of Total	Responses
Cat	Yes	66.67%	25%	2
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Total Responses			37.5%	3

Legacy Summary Reports

In Legacy Summary Reports there will be a report element for each answer option in the source

question that was piped.

Be careful to consider the source question you are piping from. If there are a lot of answer options there will be a lot of data points when reporting.



Exports

Because question piping repeats the piped question there will be a column of data for each answer option in the source question that was piped in a CSV/Excel export of your raw data.

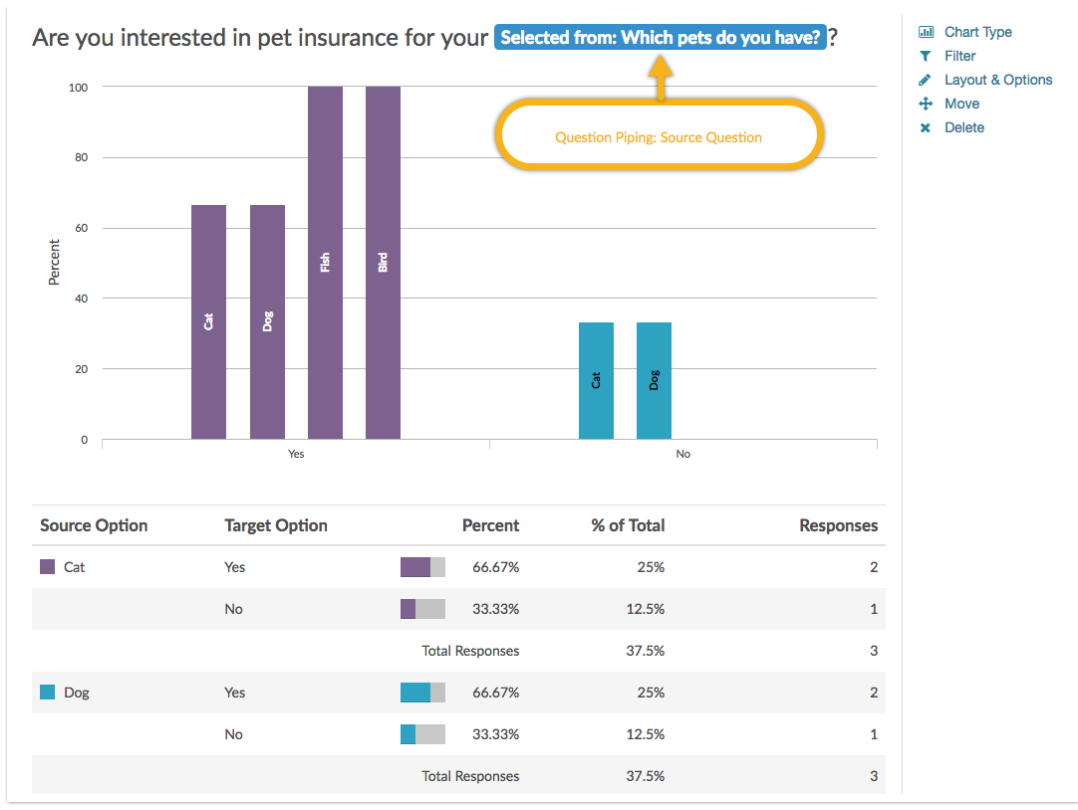
V	W	X	Y	Z	AA
Which pets do you have?	Other:Which pets do you have?	Dog:Are you a dog owner?	Cat:Are you a cat owner?	Rabbit:Are you a rabbit owner?	Bird:Are you a bird owner?
dog		Yes			
cat			No		
dog		Yes			
bird					Yes
rabbit				No	
bird					No
dog		Yes			
dog		Yes			

Page Piping

Using page piping you can **repeat a page** using on the answer(s) (either those that were selected or left unselected) from previous question. Check out our [Page Piping Tutorial](#) to learn more!

Standard Report

The [Standard Report](#) will automatically create **segments** based on the source question option so that you can make comparisons across the responses to the piped question.



Below the segmented chart, you will find a grid providing further information. By default, the grid will be grouped by **Source Option** (from the source question).

Source Option	Target Option	Percent	% of Total	Responses
Cat	Yes	66.67%	25%	2
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If you prefer to view your data grouped by **Target Option**, edit the element via **Layout & Options**. Locate the **Piped/Repeated Question Options** section and select **Target Option** under the **Group Piped/Repeated Charts by** menu.

Edit Report Element

CHART TYPE FILTER LAYOUT & OPTIONS

Answer Options With no Data

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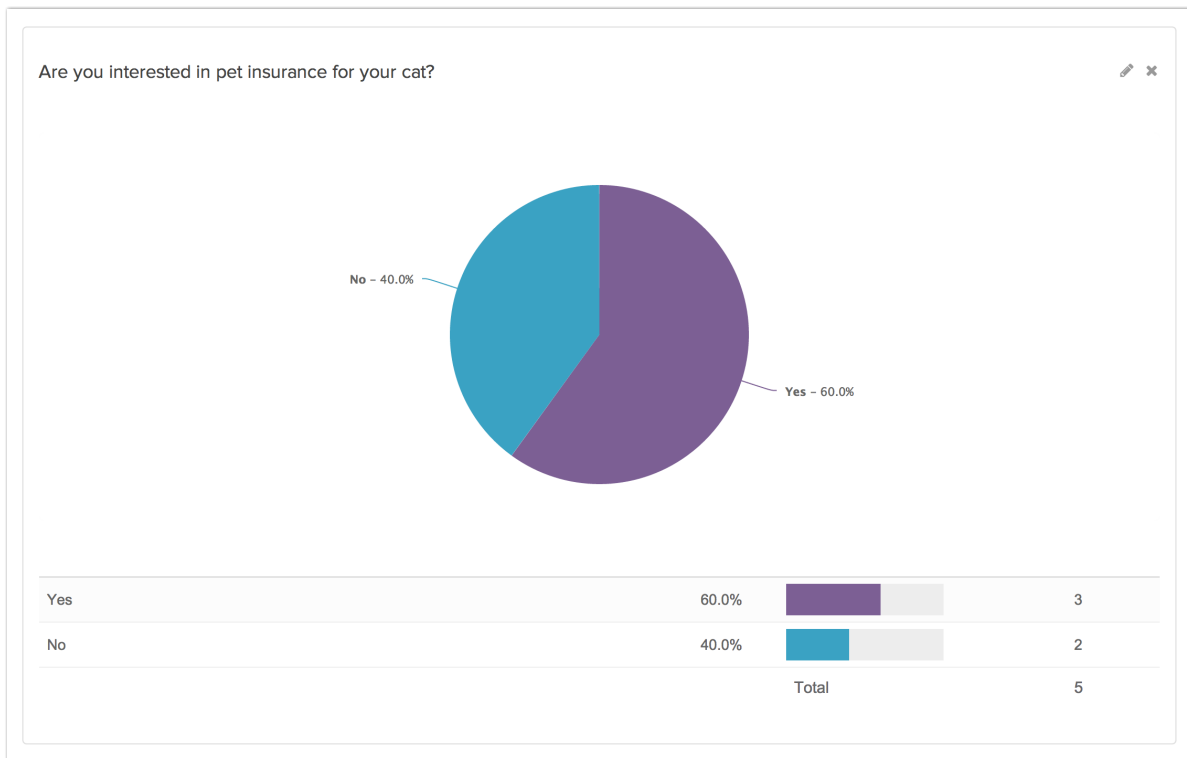
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Source Option	Target Option	Percent	% of Total	Responses
Cat	Yes	66.67%	25%	2
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Legacy Summary Reports

Because page piping repeats the piped page and all of its questions, the report will include the page

and all its questions for each answer option in the source question that was piped. Be very careful to consider the source question you are piping from. If there are a lot of answer options this can create a lot of data points when reporting.



How much would you expect to pay per month for pet insurance for your cat? Cat

Count	Response
1	\$20.00
1	\$30.00
1	\$40.00

Best Practice Tips for Question and Page Piping

Be careful to consider the source question you are piping from. If there are a lot of answer options there will be a lot of data points when reporting.

A lot of data points means a lot of columns in an export which can be unwieldy at best, and impossible to open at worst.

Summary Reports use a reporting element called the Piped Page Container to report on piped pages. Below we'll cover how it works and some options for customizing page piped data in your summary reports.

To check out the Piped Page Container click **Customize Report** inside of your summary report. On the **General** tab you will see your Piped Page Container with your page name in your list of Report elements. In our example we used the page piped title merge code to name our page so that is what displays in the example below. To edit the Page Piped Container click the title.

Edit Report Settings

GENERAL OPTIONS CHARTS STATS FILTER STYLE SHARE ♥ NEED HELP?

Title

New Summary Report - 29 October 2014

<input type="checkbox"/> Report Element	Element Type	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1. Which pets do you own?	Bar Chart	↑ ↓ 🔄 ✕
<input type="checkbox"/> Piped Page Container: [page("piped title")]	Pipedpage	↑ ↓ 🔄 ✕

[Renumber Questions](#) [Add All Questions](#) [Add Element](#)

From here you can edit the following:

1. The chart type for each question, pie chart, bar chart or appendix. Keep in mind data compatibility when editing these changes (check out our [Summary Report Chart Types Tutorial](#) for more info).
2. The questions on your piped page that are visible. Those selected will display in your report those unselected will not be included in your report. Note, we have an open text question available to show or hide here this is included on report creation by selecting the option to Include Open Text.
3. The values of your piping source you wish to report on.

Edit Report Element: Settings

Element Display Type

Piped Page

Element Settings

Questions from piped page:

Headline	1 Display As	2 Visible
Are you interested in pet insurance for your [page("piped title")]?	Pie Chart	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
How much would you expect to pay per month for pet insurance for your [page("piped title")]?	Appendix	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3

Piping values to be shown:

[Unselect All](#) [Select All](#)

- Dog
- Cat
- Rabbit
- Bird
- Other

Never Mind

Save

Exports

A column of data per question on the piped page is created for each answer option that was selected in the source question in the CSV/Excel export of your raw data. Be very careful to consider the source question you are piping from. If there are a lot of answer options this can create a lot of data points when reporting.

Are you inter	Are you inter	Are you inter	How much w	How much w	How much w
	Yes	No		\$40.00	
Yes	Yes		\$30.00	\$30.00	
	No				
Yes	No		\$50.00		
Yes	Yes	No	\$50.00	\$20.00	

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