APA Figures

A figure is different than a table in the kind of information it presents. Figures can be graphs, charts, drawings, and photographs, whereas tables present data in columns and rows. Figure 1 below is an example of a figure labeled per APA style. Note that the label is placed under the figure itself. The type handling of figure labels is the exact opposite of tables, i.e., “Figure #” is in italics, and the descriptor begins immediately after it in Roman type. (FYI, the publication mentioned in Figure 1 has excellent suggestions for presenting data in your APA papers and in future publications.)

Figure 1. This is an example of a figure caption where you would describe the contents of the figure, plus citation information. Notice the figure does not have a title. Adapted with permission from “Title of Article,” by A. N. Author and C. O. Author, Year, Title of Journal, Volume, p. xx. Copyright [year] by the Name of the Copyright Holder (usually the publisher).