Creating Effective Evidence Collection Systems

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University of Arizona
Reclaiming Futures Leadership Institute
April 9, 2014
Evidence Collection and Program Performance: An Example

Data Collected

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Reduction in Alcohol Consumption Among Program Participants

Drinks Consumed
- Prior to Service
- After Service

Reduced Consumption
## Data Collected v 2.0

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Reduction in Alcohol Consumption: Program Participants

Drinks Consumed

- Prior to Service
- After Service

Reduction in Alcohol Consumption: Female Participants

Drinks Consumed

- Prior to Service
- After Service

Reduced Consumption

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Effective data collection is critical to building a comprehensive evidence base.

Collection systems do not need to be sophisticated to the point of complexity to be effective.

Effective collection of data, especially data regarding juveniles, which can have confidentiality concerns can face several obstacles.
What Can Effective Evidence Collection Do for a Program?

• Continuous Improvement

• Highlight Successes

• Provide Guidelines for Future Programs
Designing a Data Collection System

- Addresses specific needs of a program
- Clearly delegated processes
- Participatory process
- Useful system
Software for Data Collection

• Most important element regardless of the program used is that the system is user friendly for those charged with the task of entering data; does not need to be sophisticated, but must be one in which staff is well-equipped to use

• Examples include:
  – Microsoft Access Database, Microsoft Excel
  – Site specific and/or state specific data collection systems
  – Web-based data collection systems
Barriers to Effective Data Collection and Utilization

- Limited resources
- Sharing data once it has been collected
- Ability to access collected data
Group Activity

- Service Improvement
- Community Engagement
- Program Monitoring
- Building Financial Support
Wrapping Up

• One thing I may/will take back to my team is…
Further Questions

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Questions: For questions about this presentation or the National Cross-Site Evaluation, contact Monica Davis, Evaluation Coordinator at 520-295-9339 x211 or midavis@email.arizona.edu.

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