

Data Activity: Self-Guided Data Analysis



Over the course of the last nine months we have been providing quarterly calls to support you to build your skills in finding, reviewing and analyzing the child outcomes data in the DMS. You have completed several activities to introduce you to, or provide more practice in, the analysis of your own local data. The purpose was to empower you to use your data for program improvement at the local level. The activity for July's quarterly call is to allow you to determine what it is you would like to learn from the data and use your new or improved skills to walk through the necessary steps to using the data for program improvement.

Before the July call, please answer as many of the questions below as you can. Send your answers to your Program Consultant (PC) one week before your scheduled call. During the call, your PC will work with you toward answering the question you have identified.

Regarding your child outcomes data, please answer as many of the following questions as you can before your scheduled quarterly call:

1) What question do you want to answer?

2) Why is this question of interest to you?

3) What comparison do you want to make? E.g. comparison over time with different groups of children (demographic, age at entry, length of time in service), comparison across outcomes, comparison to state data and/or across provider agencies.

4) What kind of results might you expect and why?

5) What reports could you use to answer your questions? (what do you already know and what else do you need to know to answer your questions)

6) What data sources do you have locally that could help you answer your questions and could you link to that? E.g. additional data system, details about individual children, Medicaid eligibility, information about special populations, military status.

7) What conclusions can you draw from this data and how might you use it for program improvement?

8) Has your data helped you identify any providers who you need to follow-up with?

9) How could you share this information with your providers?

Examples of questions you might ask for this activity:

What is the relationship between child outcomes and length of time in service?

What is the relationship between type and quantity of services, service setting, and child outcomes?