

Common Measures Project Introductory Measurement and Quality Training Course

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Introductions

About me:

- Several years experience with measurement and QA related to ERP and other innovative programs
 - Led the development of several relevant guides and tools
- Work closely with statisticians and QA professionals
- I am a policy specialist, NOT a statistician or QA professional, so...
 - Hopefully you will understand what I say, but
 - I may leave some questions unanswered for now

Training Agenda

- Introduction and Overview
- Data Quality Indicators
- Statistics, Part I: Intro to Statistics in ERP
- Statistics, Part II: Benchmarking and Comparison
- Establishing the Universe
- Lunch
- Principles of Good Data Collection
- Working with Secondary Data
- Major Exercise: Choosing Data Sources

Why Measurement and Quality Training?

Ultimate goal of project:

- To enable participants to measure the performance of a group or groups...
- With sufficient quality...
- To enable intra- and particularly interstate comparisons



About the Training

- Focus on ERP statistical measurement approaches
 - Lessons from training applicable to other approaches
 - Training should help consider potential use of other kinds of data sets
- Focus on comparison of results
 - Both intrastate and interstate
 - Aggregation of results NOT covered



Why Emphasize QA?

- Ensure adequate planning in advance so that:
 - Analyses will support anticipated decision-making
 - Experimental design and data collected will support analyses
- Get the right results, defensible results
- Avoid surprises
- Better ensure that data represent actual conditions



EPA QAPP Requirements

- EPA's outcomes/measures policy requires organizations receiving EPA financial assistance to assess environmental results
- Congress driving better accountability and stronger link to EPA strategic goals in Agency Assistance Agreement programs
- Data collection (or modeling) assumed required in order to assess results
- EPA QA policy requires Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPPs) for any assessments collecting data



Common Measures QAPP Commitments

- States committed to agreeing on and living up to QA plan
- No data collection before QA plan is approved



Flow of Training Modules

- Concepts are very interrelated
- Each module builds upon previous modules
- Ask questions—but they might be tabled until later
- Limited amount of time to cover a lot of material



Many Examples Drawn From Homework

Examples include:

- A variety of **media**
- A variety of **sectors/groups**
- Emphasis on **leading candidate groups** (SQGs, auto body shops, dentists, USTs)
 - Use of examples is NOT meant to endorse those groups
 - Today's goals do NOT include picking groups or indicators



For more information...

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