Common Measures Project
Introductory Measurement
and Quality Training Course

Chelmsford, MA
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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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