

Strengthening Data Literacy

American Rescue Plan Funding
Evaluation + Impact Capacity Building



Goals for our workshop

- Being a data person
- Data neutrality
- Data life cycle



A few caveats:

- We use a number of terms interchangeably: Data, Analytics, Evidence, Research, Impact, Evaluation
- Strengthening data literacy takes time: we won't solve all of the data challenges today
- This work cannot be done alone
- The Data and Policy Analytics Unit is your partner in this work



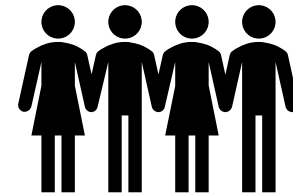
American Rescue Plan Act & Evidence



CT received \$2.8B from
US Treasury Dept. (UST)



UST building on
Evidence Based
Policymaking Act



Unprecedented
opportunity to improve
data culture



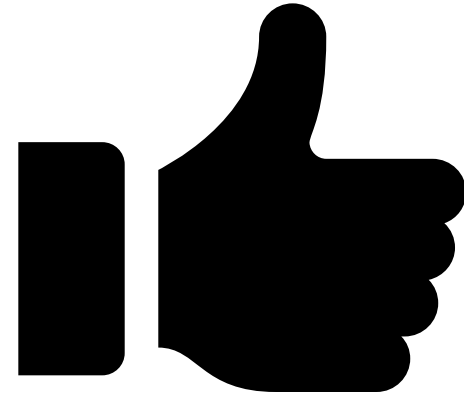
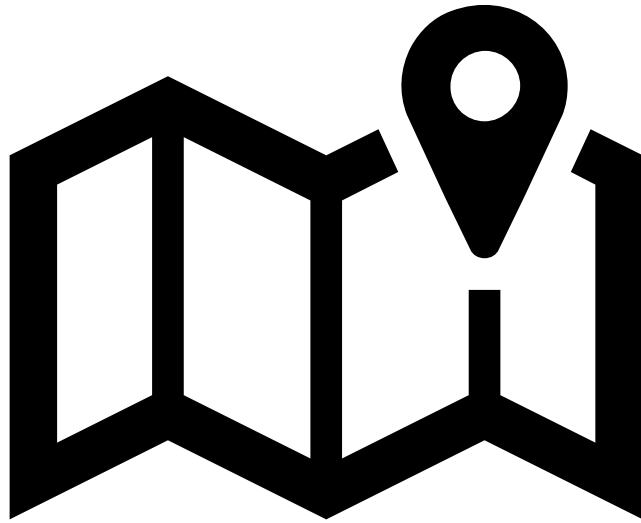
**Strengthening data literacy
starts with seeing data..**



You are already a data person..



You are already a data person..



Data people are...

Comfortable with numbers and charts

Confident interpreting facts and figures

Critical of reports and analyses



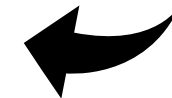
Data people are...

Data are more than just numbers...



Comfortable with numbers and charts

Interpretation is half the battle...



Confident interpreting facts and figures

Critical of reports and analyses



Skepticism and curiosity are necessary



Data people are...

Comfortable with ~~numbers and charts~~ information (in all forms)

Confident interpreting **AND translating** facts and figures

Curious about and Critical of facts they hear and share ~~reports and analyses~~



I am a data person.



Action Step #1: Notice data around you



Data are neutral and objective.



Most people think....

Data are neutral and objective.

People don't like to argue with numbers...

Data are not neutral

Best & Worst States to Have a Baby

Adam McCann, Financial Writer • Aug 9, 2021



Data are not neutral

Methodology

In order to determine the best and worst states to have a baby, WalletHub compared the 50 states and the District of Columbia across four key dimensions: 1) Cost, 2) Health Care, 3) Baby-Friendliness and 4) Family-Friendliness.

We evaluated those dimensions using 31 relevant metrics, which are listed below with their corresponding weights. Each metric was graded on a 100-point scale, with a score of 100 representing the most favorable conditions for expectant parents and newborns.

Finally, we determined each state and the District's weighted average across all metrics to calculate its overall score and used the resulting scores to rank-order our sample.

Baby-Friendliness – Total Points: 20

- Parental-Leave Policy Score: Double Weight (~5.71 Points)
- Mom Groups per Capita: Full Weight (~2.86 Points)
- Child-Care Centers per Capita: Full Weight (~2.86 Points)
- Share of Nationally Accredited Child-Care Centers: Full Weight (~2.86 Points)
- Birth Rate: Full Weight (~2.86 Points)
- State Policy for Medicaid-Covered Parenting Programs: Full Weight (~2.86 Points)
Note: This binary metric measures if a state has or does not have a Medicaid-covered parenting programs.

Family-Friendliness – Total Points: 20

- Family-Friendliness: Full Weight (~20.00 Points)
Note: This metric is based on WalletHub's ["Best & Worst States to Raise a Family"](#) ranking.

Data come from somewhere

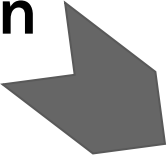
Someone had to decide what data to make

**Data Life
Cycle**



**Data
reporting**

**Data
collection**



**Data
analysis**



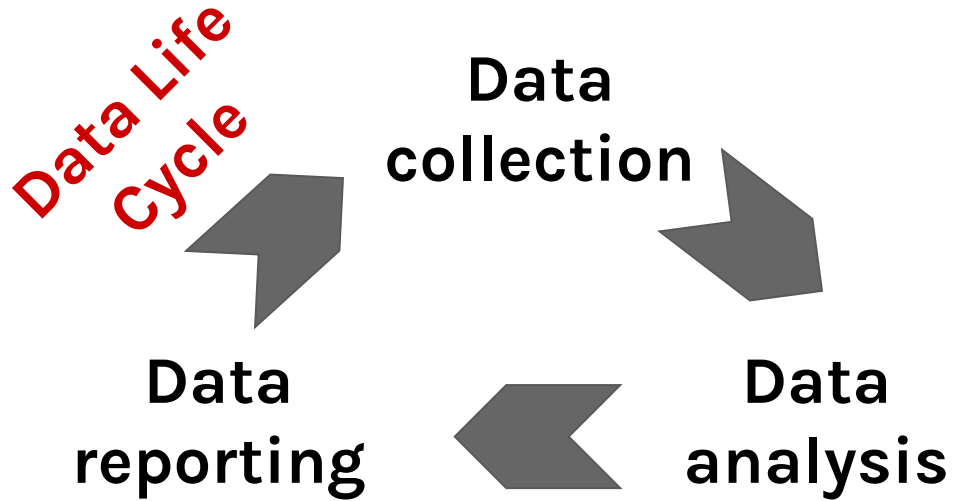
Someone had to decide what insights matter

Data alone does not equal impact.



Data are people.

Data come from somewhere



Data alone does not equal impact.



Data are people.

**Action Step #2:
Always consider the sources**



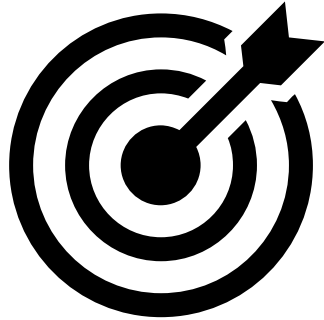
Where do you start?



Start where you are.



Start where you are.



Mission



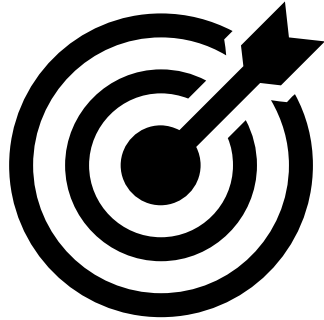
Questions



Evidence



Start where you are.



Mission



Questions



Evidence



Questions and Data go together



What data?



Data come in many forms...

Quantitative



Qualitative



There no one way to collect data!



Which one is best?

It depends...



It depends on...

Do you have questions you want to answer using data?

Will data analysis get you answers to your questions?

Do you have enough data?

Can you break your data into groups to make comparisons?

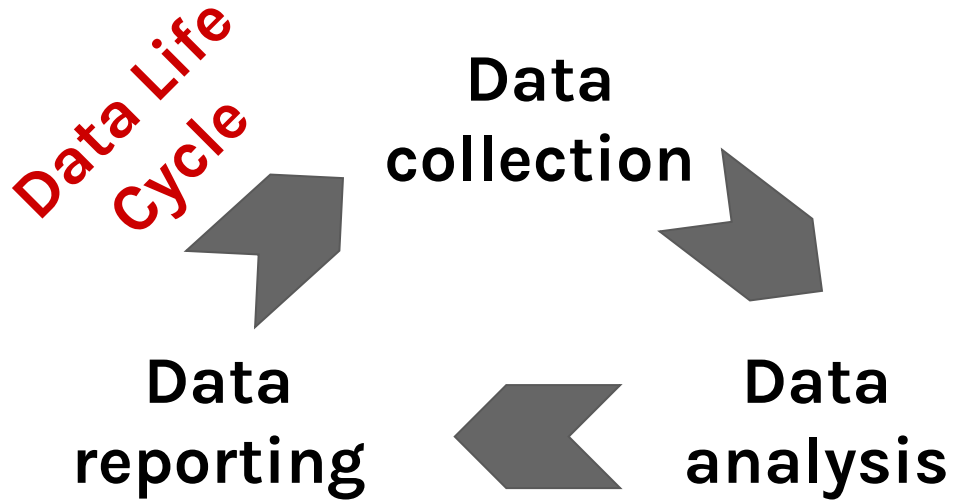
Do you have data collected over many points in time?



Action Step #3: Find your data catalog



Data come from somewhere



Data alone does not equal impact.



Data are people.

How to turn data into insights...

Data extraction: Getting the data

Data management: Cleaning the data

Data analysis: Manipulating the data

Data storytelling: Extracting insights from the data



Action Step #4:

Start exploring the data life cycle of your project, program and agency



In summary (for now): Action Steps

1. Notice data around you
2. Consider the sources
3. Find your data catalog
4. Start exploring the data life cycle of your project, program or agency



In the future...

- Building analytical skills
- Advancing analytical skills
- Survey and form design
- Data Storytelling
- Creating data visualizations in Excel
- Creating data visualizations in Datawrapper



What comes next....

Building Data Capacity: Documentation meets:

- March 7th
- March 21st

Strengthening Data Literacy: Data Collection meets:

- March 14th
- March 28th

Every Tuesday, Eval + Impact FAQs: 10-11am



Stay in touch...

Evaluation and Impact Unit @ OPM

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+ Data and Policy Analytics team

