

# **Data & Statistics**

**Using data to evaluate programs**

# Data and Statistics 101

- Don't use single data points in isolation
- Be aware of unintended consequences of focusing on specific data points

ex: The easiest way to raise graduation rates is to transfer students to Alt Ed.

# Data and Statistics 101

- Correlation is not Causation
- Focus on performance data and not on participation/process data based on correlations

Does a student do better in college if they take an AP course?

# Data and Statistics 101

- Be careful and note when performance data is not standardized

Standardized tests vs GPA

Much of state data is “self reported”

# Data and Statistics 101

- % of what you want to evaluate

ex: 45% of students who took AP passed- this is only a measure of the group that took the test- not a school-wide measure of how many took the test or what % of school passed

# Data and Statistics 101

Process/Participation v Performance Data			
Take an advanced class	Take an AP class	Pass an AP class	Score 3 or higher on AP exam
No definition- data is not comparable across campuses or districts	Defined process data that is standardized- AP class must have approved outline	Performance data but grading is subjective and not standardized- not comparable across campuses or districts	Performance data that is standardized

# Data and Statistics 101

Measuring & Reporting Performance Data			
% of graduates who took an AP course	% of test takers passing AP exam	% of students in AP course passing exam	% of graduates passing an AP exam
Measure of school- but measuring process data	Measuring performance but only those who took the test- % could go up by reducing number of students taking the test	Measuring performance but only those who took the course- % could go up by reducing number of students taking course	Measures performance data of school

# Data and Statistics 101

- Larger populations need to use disaggregated data to see gaps and identify areas of improvement



# Data and Statistics 101

- Use of data
  - Use of data within rules to meet evaluation criteria
  - OR
  - Use of data to reflect the best information available to identify strengths and areas for focus