



Count Me In!

Making Data Collection a Priority

A Native Alliance Against Violence Project



Defining Data



Common Beliefs about Data Collection



Always about numbers



Counting people and services



Takes a lot of time and money



Hard to get right



Takes away from "real work"



Can be frustrating



May be used against us



Requires specialized knowledge/training





- **Stories**
 - Honor the human experience
 - Are treasured by tribal communities
- **Truths**
 - Can inspire a call to action
 - Often involve facts (data)

Storytelling through Data



Collecting Different Types of Data

	Qualitative	Quantitative
Definition	Descriptive information	Numerical, measurable information
Can it be counted?	No	Yes
Data type	Words; objects; pictures; observations; symbols	Numbers and statistics
Examples	Gender; ethnicity; occupation	Age; salary; population



Methods to Collect Data



Focus Groups

Meeting of participants to discuss a topic of common interest



Interviews

Structured (i.e., scripts or protocol) or unstructured methods recorded with writing, audio, and/or video



Case Studies

Observing an individual participant over time



Surveys

Collecting measurable and/or descriptive information



More than Numbers

- **Honoring Stories**
 - Only reporting numbers cannot speak to an agency's or community's mission
 - Consider: Who, What, When, Where, Why
- **Details and Context of Story Provide:**
 - Truth- removes subjectivity
 - Transparency- builds reliability and trust
 - Accountability- provides opportunity for growth and change
 - Understanding
 - Depth



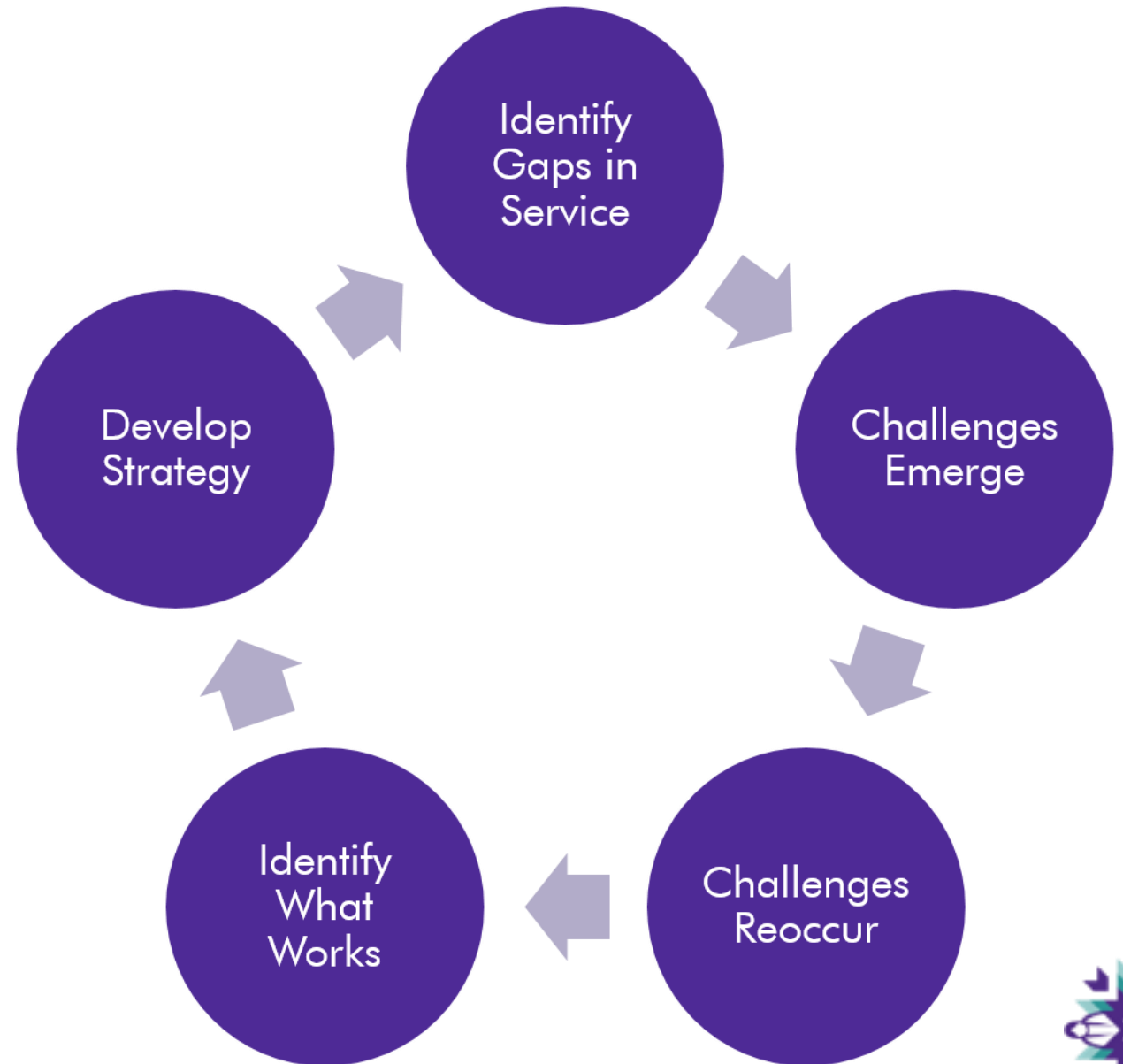
Analysis: Keeping it Simple and Finding the Story

Example: We identify that the number of victims requesting services at the victim services agency is steadily increasing.

- What is the story here?
- Consider all possibilities. Your first assumption might not be the right answer.



Data Analysis is a Process



Putting Your Data to Work



Example: Communicating Needs to Tribal Council¹

An agency seeks funds for heating:

“People are burning clothes to stay warm, 20 or more people at a time in one room using an electric heater, and families who have been out of propane for days and not able to have hot food or drinks... Seeking financial assistance so that tribal members can be provided with propane fuel and wood.”



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**HEAT IS A MAJOR CRISIS ON RESERVATION: PEOPLE ARE
BURNING CLOTHES TO STAY WARM**

BY LEVI RICKERT / CURRENTS / 09 FEB 2014



Example (Cont.): Communicating the Need Differently



2,300 people live in our community

~25% are 65+ years old

~40% are under 18 years old

~20% are under 5 years old



The National Weather Service reported record low temperatures in January:

17 days of sub-zero temperatures (without considering wind chill)



Related Emergencies (according to dispatch and hospital records):

8 house fires caused by electric heaters, stoves, and candles

22 cases of hypothermia (3/4 of them were children)



Requests for financial assistance:

Increased from 300 to 675 (a 125% increase over the same period last year)

275 people did not receive assistance due to lack of funding





Collaborate for Change

- **Stakeholders**
 - Anyone with a vested interest in the information and outcome
 - Include everyone in your community
- **Leaders**
 - Anyone with influence or power
 - May be formal or informal



Engage Your Community Stakeholders²



How Else Can Your Data Help?



Program Improvement



Budgets and Fundraising
(Federal and State Funders)



Accountability
(i.e., tribal consultation,
state meetings, community
forums)

For more information on ways to put your data to work, visit www.victimresearch.org



Ethical Considerations



Before Beginning an Assessment

Review

- Grant guidelines
- Special conditions
- The “Solicitation Companion Guide” and decision tree at:

<https://ojp.gov/funding/Apply/Resources/ResearchDecisionTree.pdf>

For questions about what is and isn't “research”, contact Ginger Baran at: Virginia.Baran@usdoj.gov

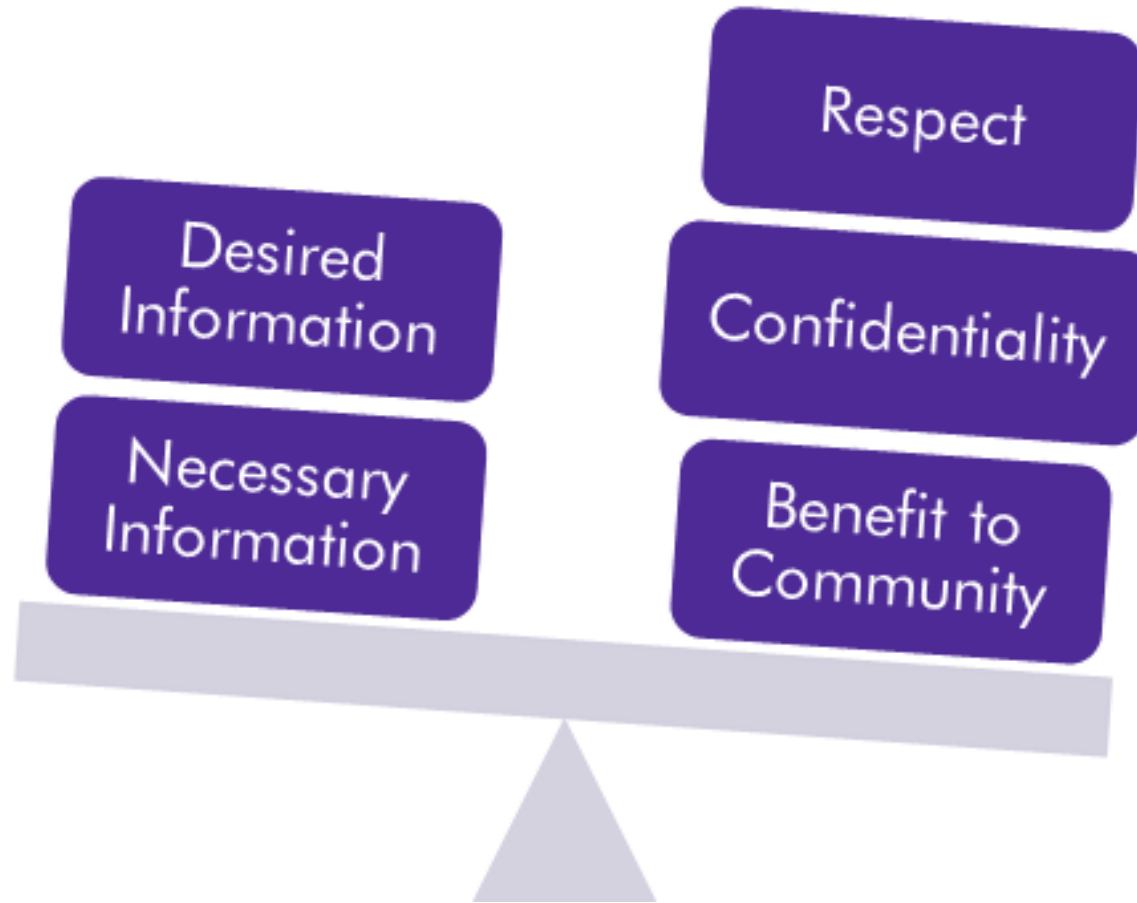


Know Why You Need the Data You Plan to Collect

- Program Assessments can help clarify:
 - What are we doing?
 - How are we doing it?
 - Who is or isn't receiving our services?
 - Are recipients satisfied?
 - How does the staff feel?
 - How can we improve?



Data Collection Requires Careful Consideration



To Consider When Creating Surveys



In person vs. online



Wording



Defining terms



Order and number of questions



Age appropriateness



Example: Domestic Violence Survey Questions

Have you ever been a victim of domestic violence?

Or

Have you ever experienced or are you experiencing:

Physical abuse (hitting, pushing, kicking, choking, biting, slapping, restraining, or other physical aggression, etc.)

Sexual abuse or rape (any unwanted sexual contact, refusal to use contraceptives, forced to view pornography, take unwanted sexual pictures, etc.)

Verbal abuse/emotional abuse (name calling, destroying personal items, threatening to leave, threatening suicide, posting hurtful things on social media, harassing phone calls/text messages, spreading rumors, etc.)

Intimidation/threats (threatening use of a weapon, harm to family member or pet, etc.)

Controlling behavior/isolation (telling you what you can wear, who you can be friends with, what time to be or call home, etc.)

Stalking (following around, contacting friends, family, work, or neighbors; tracking on social media, sending unwanted cards, letters, flowers, etc.)

Economic abuse (withholding money, stealing money, selling property without permission, etc.)



Obtain Informed Consent from Participants³



Explain purpose, duration, and process



Disclose incentives for participation



Ensure participation is voluntary; there are no negative consequences of declining or withdrawing



Disclose any potential risks of participating



Disclose any potential benefits of participating



Provide contact information



Example: Informed Consent

Participation in this survey is completely voluntary and anonymous; the data will be collected to assist in the planning of needs of survivors of sexual assault and the community. No identifying information will be collected.

You have the option to skip any questions that make you feel uncomfortable.



Confidentiality

Shared or reported data must not contain
“Personally Identifying Information”

- Names
- Race
- Birth Date
- Addresses
- Phone Numbers
- Email Addresses
- Social Security Numbers

Review the VAWA Confidentiality Provisions at
[justice.gov](https://www.justice.gov) for more information



Use of OVW Funds



OVW funds cannot be used to conduct human subjects research.



OVW funds can only be used for assessments for program improvement purposes (e.g., listening sessions with victims).



Contact OVW's Senior Program Analyst for Research and Evaluation at Virginia.Baran@usdoj.gov, (202) 305-2093 for more information.



Technical Assistance (TA)



Available Training and TA



Workshops and one-on-one TA at OVW events and conferences



Webinar and distance learning opportunities



Resource materials and semi-annual newsletters including: tip sheets, best practices, and FAQs



Tailored on-site or teleconference TA



Web portal for project communication and resource sharing



Project Summary

Providing training and technical assistance to Tribal Governments and Tribal Jurisdiction Program grantees

Scope of Training and TA

- Data collection
- Analysis
- Using data to develop projects that increase tribal understanding and effective response to:
 - sexual assault
 - domestic violence
 - dating violence
 - stalking
 - sex trafficking



Disclaimer

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