

What Data Should We Collect: Don't Overdo It

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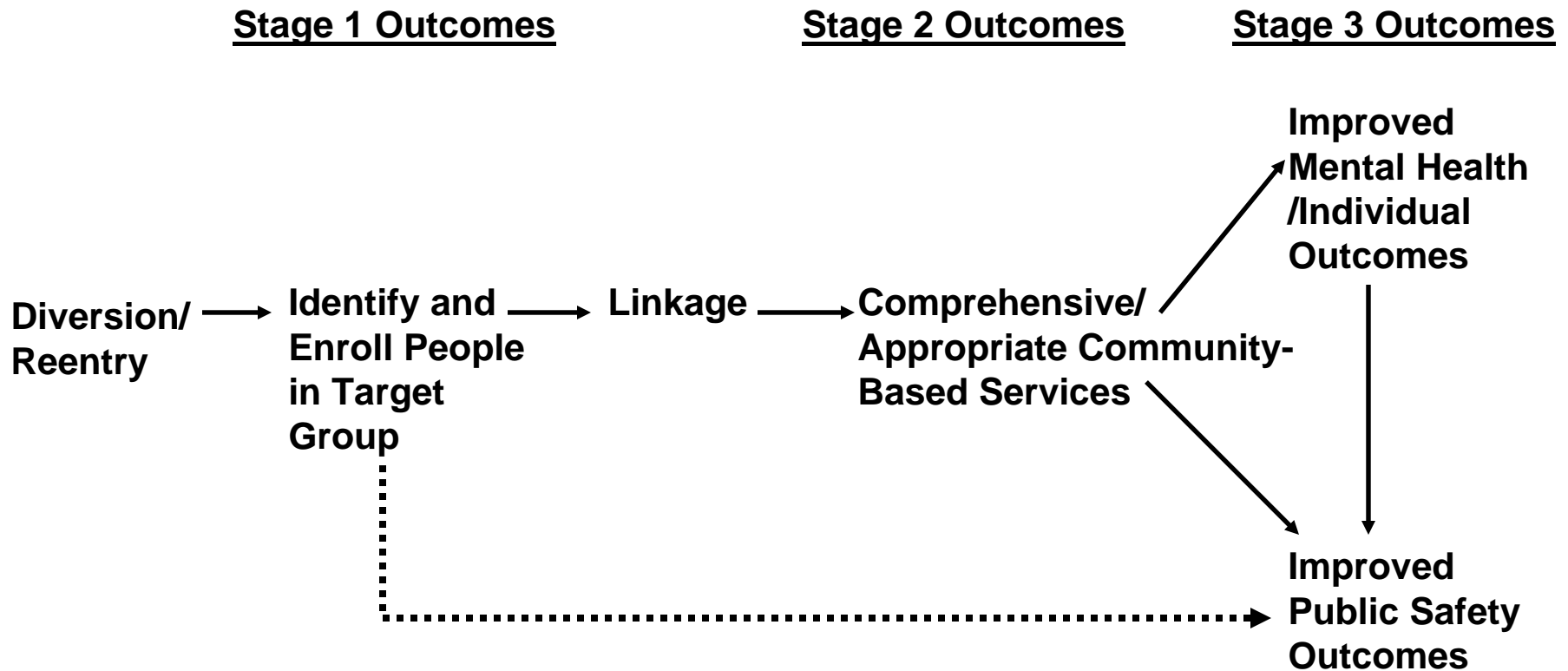
Themes

- Don't collect more data than you need
- Less data collected completely and appropriately is better
- To know what data you need, first must know how you will use it
 - What are the questions you will need to answer for \$ and for media?
- As in the rest of your program, good partnerships needed for good data

“What did I buy?”

“What good did it do?”

Program Logic Model



Stage 1 Measures

1. How many and who served?

- Number screened
- Where did they come from
- Number eligible
- Number accepted
- Relevant characteristics of accepted and not accepted
- Time between key decision points

NIJ-BJA Mental Health Court Evaluation Study Referral Data Sheet

1. Study ID: 1 / / / / /
Site/ ID#

2. Date of Referral: / / / / /
mm/dd/yy

3. Referring Agent (Agency)

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Court Judge | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Other Judge/Magistrates |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Police/Law enforcement | 8. <input type="checkbox"/> District Attorney's Office |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Jail Mental Health Staff | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Probation |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Public Defender's Office | 10. <input type="checkbox"/> Court Officials |
| 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Defense Attorney (Private) | 11. <input type="checkbox"/> Private Citizen |
| 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Community Mental Health | 96. <input type="checkbox"/> Other; <i>specify</i> _____ |

4. Age: years

5. Gender: 0. Male 1. Female

6. Racial background (Choose primary race if more than one race)

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| 0. <input type="checkbox"/> Caucasian | 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic |
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> African American | 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Other <i>specify</i> _____ |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Asian | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown |

7. Most Serious Current Criminal Charge: _____

8. Number of Current Criminal Charges:

Clinical Characteristics:

9. Major Mental Disorder (Axis I): 1. Yes 0. No 9. Unknown

10. Primary Axis I Diagnosis (If known): _____
 DSM-IV code: . .

11. Substance Use Disorder(s)? 1. Yes 0. No 9. Unknown

12. Date of Referral Disposition (or removal from Court's referral list): / /
mm/dd/yy

13. Accepted for the Mental Health Court

Rejected for the Mental Health Court

14. IF ACCEPTED:

1. Defendant enrolled in MH court
 0. Defendant declined to enroll in MH court

15. IF REJECTED: Reason

1. Ineligible because of mental disorder (e.g., only substance problem or does not have a SPMI)
 2. Ineligible because of criminal charges (e.g., charged with a violent offense)
 3. District Attorney's office declined
 4. Public Defender's office or private defense attorney declined
 5. Judge declined
 6. Probation declined
 7. Mental health providers declined
 8. Other; *specify*: _____
 9. Unknown

Check here if the referral was neither accepted nor rejected for the Mental Health Court. For example, if the person was released from jail on "time served" before a decision could be made.

**FOR QUESTIONS: PLEASE CALL ALLISON REDLICH AT 518-439-7415, EXT. 232.
 Send forms to Policy Research Associates, 345 Delaware Avenue, Delmar, NY 12054**



Main MHC Referring Agents

CA 1	Other Judge/ Magistrate (58%)	Public Defender's Office (28%)
NC	Public Defender's Office (78%)	District Attorney's Office (17%)
PA	Forensic Diversion Program (33%)	Public Defender's Office (29%)
NV	Court Officials (34%)	Other Judge/Magistrate (30%)
NY	Public Defender's Office (43%)	Competency Examination Order (29%)
ID	Public Defender's Office (80%)	Probation (13%)
CA 2	Mental Health Court Judge (58%)	Other Judge/Magistrate (42%)

Demographic Characteristics

	Mean Age	% Men	% Caucasian
CA 1	37	72	56
NC	36	61	50
PA	38	67	52
NV	36	45	75
NY	29	71	8
ID	26	53	93
CA 2	35	54	71
Total	36	60	58

Criminal Charges

	% Felony	% Drug	% Violent
CA 1	69	74	3
NC	17	6	12
PA	7	10	18
NV	47	14	4
NY	89	23	19
ID	93	33	20
CA 2	100	100	0
Total	46	28	11

Mean Time from Referral to Court Decision

CA 1	1 day
NC	11 days
PA	47 days
NV	19 days
NY	38 days
ID	21 days
CA 2	36 days
Total	29 days

Disposition Decisions

	% Accepted	% Defendants opted out
CA 1	89	0
NC	100	0
PA	44	8
NV	49	4
NY	50	7
ID	20	7
CA 2	21	8
Total	52	5

What Should Your Form Look Like?

- 1. What questions must you answer?**
- 2. What data do you need?**
- 3. Get a data partner/staff to design**

Get a Data Partner/Staff

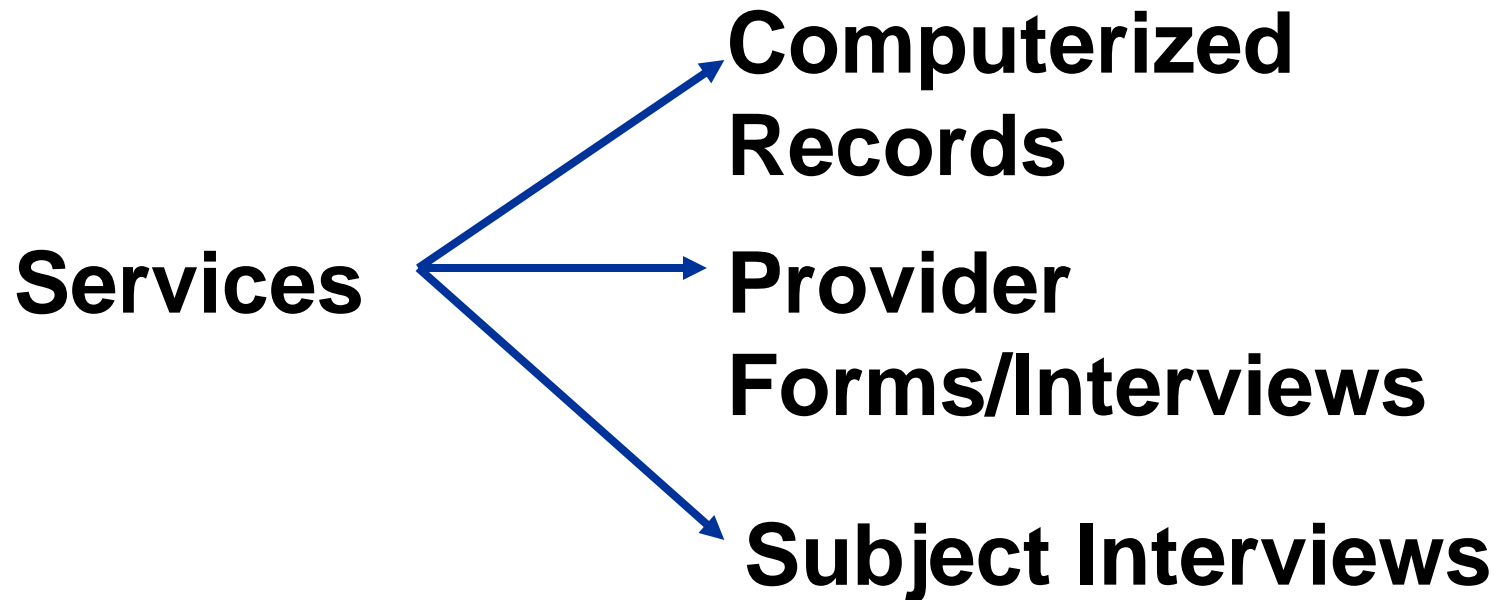
- Hire – Part-time/Temporary/Retainer
- “Beg/Borrow/Steal”
- Temper their potential grandiosity
 - Be willing to barter

Stage 2 Measures

2. Got what services?

- Case management
- Medication appointments
- Psychosocial rehabilitation
- Housing
- Residential substance abuse
- Integrated services for co-occurring disorders
- Supported employment/other vocational
- Self-help groups
- Etc.

Data from Where?



Stage 3 Measures

3. With what effects? (Before-After)

- Criminal Justice System
- Mental Health System
- Client

Use of Comparison Groups

- Desirable
- “Matched” to program enrollees
- Usually impractical due to cost
- Key = good partners

Public Health Measures

Client

- **Symptoms**
- **Days homeless**
- **Victimization**
- **Service system satisfaction**
- **Quality of life**

Public Health Measures

- **Mental Health System**
 - **Inpatient hospitalizations**
 - **ER evaluations/treatment**

Data: SAMHSA KDA (N=6 sites)

	<u>Diverted</u>	<u>Non-Diverted</u>
Hospitalization	31.7%	18.7%
ER	31.3%	23.9%

Public Safety Measures

- **Criminal Justice System**
 - **Arrests (# / rate)**
 - **All**
 - **Violent**
 - **Incarcerations (#)**
 - **New offenses**
 - **Technical violations**
 - **Jail days**

Nathaniel Project (NYC) N=53

	<u>Prior Year</u>	<u>Current Year</u>
Number of Arrests	101	7
<hr/>		
Misdemeanors	35	5
Felonies	66	2

SAMHSA KDA (N=6 sites)

	<u>Diverted</u>	<u>Non-Diverted</u>
Community days	303	245
# Arrests	1.03	1.20
Arrests/mo.	.11	.15

Case studies—a great complement!

Key Evaluation Challenges and Some Solutions

Key Challenges

1. Money set aside to do evaluation
2. Being too ambitious
3. Documenting treatment services actually received
4. Thinking about these things soon enough
5. Cost data

Solutions

- 1a. Approach local foundations
- 1b. Involve local college students
- 2a. Less, done well = better
- 2b. Get pro bono evaluation help
- 3a. Doing #'s 1 & 2
- 3b. Hard work
4. Line up a prime local evaluation ally
- 5a. Fairly sophisticated or not at all