



Evaluators' Institute 201



An Introduction to Quantitative & Qualitative Analyses for GEAR UP Evaluators



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**NCCEP/GEAR UP Annual Conference
July 17, 2013 ~ San Francisco, CA**

Overview

- **GEAR UP Objectives & GPRA Indicators**
- **Benefits of a Mixed Methods Approach**
- **Quantitative Methodologies**
 - Advantages/best uses
 - Types of data included
 - Managing data & conducting inferential analyses
 - Reporting quantitative findings
- **Qualitative Methodologies**
 - Advantages/best uses
 - Types of data included
 - Managing data & conducting analyses
 - Reporting qualitative findings



GEAR UP Objectives & GPRA Indicators

Overall GEAR UP Goals

**Raise Postsecondary
Participation & Achievement**

**Strengthen Academic
Preparation & Achievement**

**Increase Postsecondary
Awareness & Aspirations**



GEAR UP Objectives & GPRA Indicators

Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) Indicators

- Ten indicators phrased as “The percent of GEAR UP students who...”
- Address academic achievement, high school graduation, college enrollment & progress, knowledge of financial aid and college benefits, parent engagement.
- Designed to track progress toward achieving the program’s goals.



Benefits of Mixed- Methods Approach

Benefits:

- Ensures comprehensive evaluation
- Data triangulation increases reliability & validity of findings

Quantitative Methodologies



Advantages

- Objective
- Measure associations/differences
- Statistical significance
- Effect size

Best Uses

- Summative outcomes
- Formative evaluation
- Numeric data
- Large amounts of data

Types of Data Included

- Categorical (student characteristics)
- Ordinal (letter grades, standardized test proficiency levels)
- Continuous (test scores)

Managing Data

- Setting up the dataset(s)
 - Relational files
 - Level of data
 - Level of analysis
- Knowing the data
 - Missing values
 - Variance
- Understanding the question(s)
- Understanding the answer(s)



Conducting Inferential Analyses

- Types of data define analysis options
- Common analyses
 - t-test
 - chi square
 - correlation
- Compare within GEAR UP or against comparison group





Quantitative Methodologies

Reporting Quantitative Findings

- Organization/structure
 - By program goals/objectives
 - By topic of interest
- Use clear, concise (non-technical) language
- Include graphs and tables with the narrative
- Consider type of report and audience
 - Data summary sheet
 - Full report
 - Presentation

Qualitative Methodologies

Advantages/Best Uses

- Understand the program context
 - Organizational structure
 - Culture & climate
 - Leadership
- Examine program processes
 - Modifications to service delivery
 - Stakeholder perceptions of effectiveness
- Insight into student, parent, and staff attitudes, awareness, and knowledge



Types of Data Included

- Focus group sessions
- Interview (in-person or phone)
- Survey data

Managing Data

- Categorizing
- Extracting themes
- Determining the question(s)



Conducting Analyses

- Support for quantitative data and findings
- Specific evaluation methods
- Additional research





Reporting Qualitative Findings

- Synthesize focus group results across groups and organize by topics. Examples:
 - Organizational climate
 - Challenges & suggested changes
 - Program strengths
- Categorization of survey comments
- Tabulation of similar open-ended survey responses
- Word clouds



Questions?

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