Making the numbers count

Fiona Christian and David Wakelin, AES 2019

Outline

- **Introduction to administrative data**
- **Defining success**
- **Tools or measures of success**
- **Data custodians**
- **Data dictionaries**
- **Restrictions in data sets**
- **Lead time**

Key points

1. Know what success looks like

2. Know if you have measures in place to capture outcomes

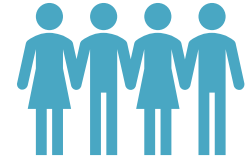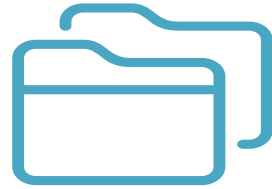3. Know who your data custodians are and how to work with them

4. Access or develop a data dictionary

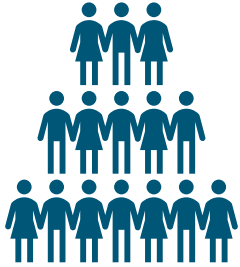5. Understand your data limitations

6. Provide sufficient time for data maturity (or entry)

Introduction to administrative data

Why admin data is great!

Profile users

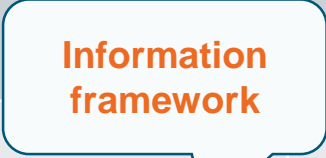Duration and intensity

Change and progress over time

Who it works for and what contributes to success

What does success look like? What is an outcome?

- Families are less stressed and can maintain their caring role

- People with dementia are connected to the community and their peers

- Young people adopt safe drinking practices

- Trained frontline workers recognised DFV, respond and refer appropriately

- Fewer community members drive unlicensed

5. End result achieved. Service/ product remains viable

4. Users satisfied with the service/ product

3. Target group use/ re-use the service/ product

2. Target group access the service/ product

1. Target group know about the service/ product and how to access it

After Funnel and Rogers 2011

Tools or measures to capture outcome data

Outcomes	Attributes	Performance information	Possible methods and data sources
Policy / longer term			
Intermediate			
Immediate			
Service delivery (activities and outputs)			
Resources (inputs)			

Program logic

Information framework

Know who your data custodians are, and how to <u>work</u> with them

Are they in your agency or another organisation?

Do they have peak times when they cannot help you? Or other demands to respond to?

Do they have a data access process you have to complete?

Are there restrictions on what data can be provided, or in what form?

Are there restrictions on how the data can be used, or where it can be housed?

Access or develop a data dictionary

What variables are collected (or not)?

Costs time to ask questions of data custodians

May rely on unnecessary tools when good data is available

Access or develop a data dictionary

Australian Government
Australian Institute of
Health and Welfare

Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Services National Minimum Data Set

Data Collection Manual 2018–19
June 2018

AIHW

Data item	Responses
Client_id	Unique identifier allocated by service Provider
First Name	
Last Name	
Post Code	
Gender	Male Female Other
Age	
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	Yes, Aboriginal Yes, Torres Strait Islander Yes, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander No
CALD	Yes/ No
Main language spoken at home	Text
Disability or long-term illness	Yes/ No
Date referred	dd/mm/yy
Referral source	FACS referral CHP ACHP Community support provider Employment Agency Self-referred Non-gov or other Promotional activity held by OP provider
Eligibility status	Living in public housing Living in Aboriginal housing On NSW Housing register Rent choice recipient Living in community housing

Variable	Position	Label	Measurement Level	Role	Column Width
CONTACT_ID	1	<none>	Nominal	Input	8
CONTACT_START_DT	2	<none>	Scale	Input	11
CONTACTOR_TYPE	3	<none>	Nominal	Input	28
CONTACT_OUTCOME	4	<none>	Nominal	Input	29
CONTACT_PR_REP_ISSUE	5	<none>	Nominal	Input	30
PR_CONTACT_REASON	6	<none>	Nominal	Input	30
PERSON_ID	7	<none>	Nominal	Input	8
DOB	8	<none>	Scale	Input	11
GENDER	9	<none>	Nominal	Input	7
INDIGENOUS_STATUS	10	<none>	Nominal	Input	14
PLAN_ID	11	<none>	Nominal	Input	10
REGION	12	<none>	Nominal	Input	24
CSC	13	<none>	Nominal	Input	50
IA_ID	14	<none>	Nominal	Input	8
PRE_NATAL_FLG	15	<none>	Nominal	Input	1
PRIMARY_REPORTED_ISSUE	16	<none>	Nominal	Input	30
SECONDARY_REPORTED_ISSUE1	17	<none>	Nominal	Input	30
SECONDARY_REPORTED_ISSUE2	18	<none>	Nominal	Input	30
FINAL_REQ_RESP_PRIORITY	19	<none>	Nominal	Input	23
SAS2_ID	20	<none>	Nominal	Input	8
SAS2_START_DT	21	<none>	Scale	Input	11
SAS2_CREATEDT	22	<none>	Scale	Input	11
PAC_CREATEDT	23	<none>	Scale	Input	11
SA	24	<none>	Nominal	Input	1
SA_ATTACHMENT	25	<none>	Nominal	Input	1
RISK_ASSESS	26	<none>	Nominal	Input	1
JND_ID	27	<none>	Nominal	Input	8
JD_START_DT	28	<none>	Scale	Input	11
SA_OUTCOME	29	<none>	Nominal	Input	30
FINAL_RISK_LEVEL	30	<none>	Nominal	Input	30

Variables in the working file

Understand the limitations of the data set

How are people recorded and identified?

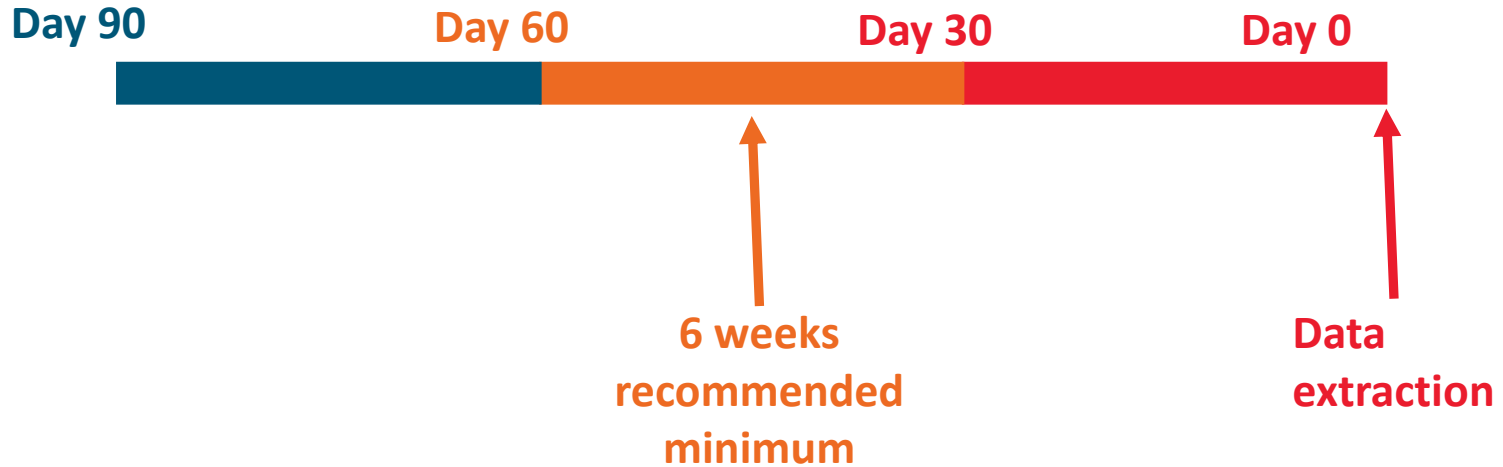How is updated information stored?

Which variables are misunderstood or used inconsistently?
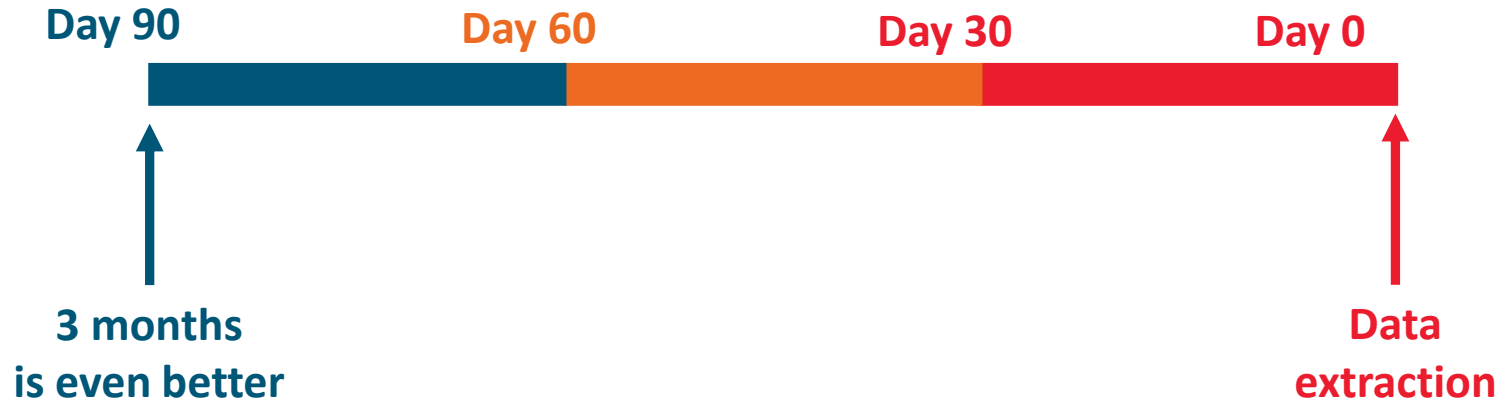
Which fields are optional?

What data cleaning and counting rules are used for reporting?

Provide sufficient time for data maturity (or entry)

Day 90   Day 60   Day 30   Day 0

6 weeks recommended minimum

Data extraction

Provide sufficient time for data maturity (or entry)

Recap

1. Know what success looks like

2. Know if you have measures in place to capture outcomes

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4. Access or develop a data dictionary

5. Understand your data limitations

6. Provide sufficient time for data maturity (or entry)

Get in touch

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