



## Connecticut General Assembly Appropriations Committee Results Based Accountability 101

Charter Oak Group, LLC  
Rev. 2 (11/7/11)

### Objectives for Today

- **Understand the basic concepts and language of Results Based Accountability (RBA)**
- **Distinguish among the different types of performance measures and know how to use them for accountability and program improvement**
- **Learn how RBA is being used in Connecticut and determine how it can be helpful to your agency**

**SIMPLE**  
**COMMON SENSE**  
**PLAIN LANGUAGE**  
**MINIMUM PAPER**  
**USEFUL**

## Two Key Principles for Achieving Measurable Community Results

- 1. Start with ends and work backwards to means**
- 2. Use data-driven, transparent decision making**

Results Accountability  
is made up of two parts:



Population Accountability  
about the well-being of  
**WHOLE POPULATIONS**

For Communities – Cities – Counties – States - Nations

Performance Accountability  
about the well-being of  
**CLIENT POPULATIONS**

For Programs – Agencies – and Service Systems

Results and Performance  
Accountability



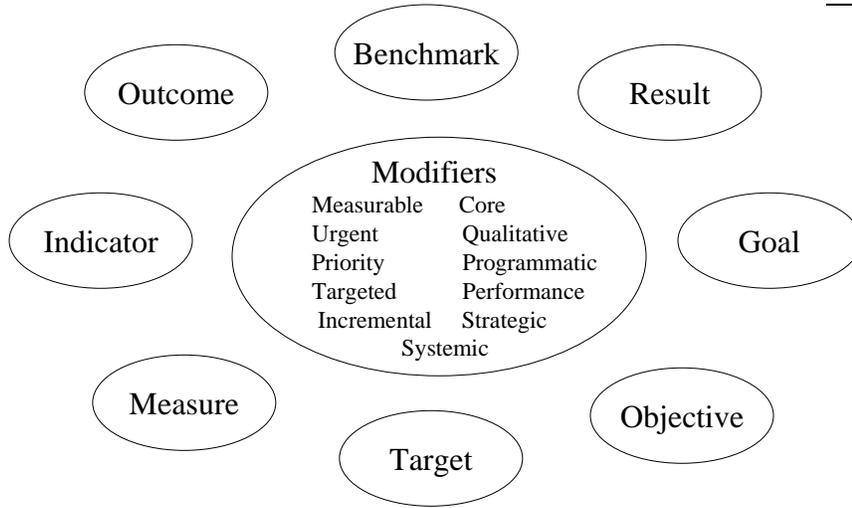
**COMMON LANGUAGE**

**COMMON SENSE**

**COMMON GROUND**

# THE LANGUAGE TRAP

Too many terms. Too few definitions. Too little discipline

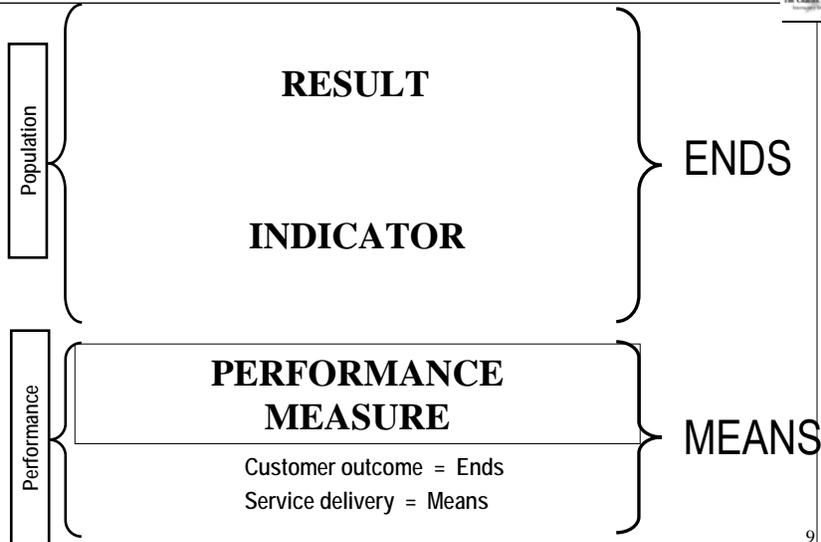


# DEFINITIONS



Population	}	<b><u>RESULT</u></b>
		<p>A condition of well-being for children, adults, families or communities.</p> <p>Children born healthy, Children succeeding in school, Safe communities, Clean Environment, Prosperous Economy</p>
Performance	}	<b><u>INDICATOR</u></b>
		<p>A measure which helps quantify the achievement of a result.</p> <p>Rate of low-birthweight babies, Rate of high school graduation, crime rate, air quality index, unemployment rate</p>
		<b><u>PERFORMANCE MEASURE</u></b>
		<p>A measure of how well a program, agency or service system is working.</p> <p>Three types:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How much did we do?</li> <li>2. How well did we do it?</li> <li>3. Is anyone better off? = Customer Outcomes</li> </ol>

# From Ends to Means From Talk to Action



## IS IT A RESULT, INDICATOR, OR PERFORMANCE MEASURE?



- |                      |                                                                       |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT</b>        | 1. Safe Community                                                     |
| <b>INDICATOR</b>     | 2. Crime Rate                                                         |
| <b>PERF. MEASURE</b> | 3. Average Police Dept response time                                  |
| <b>RESULT</b>        | 4. A community without graffiti                                       |
| <b>INDICATOR</b>     | 5. % of surveyed buildings without graffiti                           |
| <b>RESULT</b>        | 6. People have living wage jobs and income                            |
| <b>INDICATOR</b>     | 7. % of people with living wage jobs and income                       |
| <b>PERF. MEASURE</b> | 8. % of participants in job training program who get living wage jobs |

## Connecticut Glossary of RBA Terms



- The Appropriations Committee standardized the terms we use in Connecticut
- Terms in Connecticut glossary are consistent with Friedman's RBA approach
- Provides everyone in Connecticut -- executive branch, legislative branch, and communities -- with a common language and the ability to understand each other

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## POPULATION ACCOUNTABILITY

**For Whole Populations  
in a Geographic Area**



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## Results



- Results (population results or quality of life results) are conditions of well-being for children, adults, families or communities, stated in plain English (or plain Spanish, or plain Korean...).
- They are things that voters and taxpayers can understand. They are not about programs or agencies or government jargon. Results include: "healthy children, children ready for school, children succeeding in school, children staying out of trouble, strong families, elders living with dignity in setting they prefer, safe communities, a healthy clean environment, a prosperous economy."
- Definition: A condition of well-being for people in a place, stated as desired result. "All \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_." e.g. All children in Connecticut born healthy and developmentally on target from Birth to 3" or "A clean and healthy Long Island Sound for Connecticut's residents" or "All Connecticut citizens secure and free from crime."

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## Results



**Population**  
+  
**Geographic Area**  
+  
**Condition of Well Being**  
=  
**Result**

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## Connecticut Early Childhood Result Statements



- Ready By Five, Fine By Nine
- Goal 1: All Children Healthy and Ready For School Success at Entry To Kindergarten
- Goal 2: All Children Healthy and Achieving School Success By Age 9
- All Infants and Very Young Children Achieve Optimal Health and Development In Safe, Nurturing Families and Environments

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## Result Statements Developed by Non-profits and Funders



- Connecticut children of all races and income levels are ready for school by age five and are successful learners by age nine
- Families and individuals live in stable, affordable housing
- All Connecticut residents are healthy throughout their lives
- All children and youth in Connecticut become resilient, empowered, productive and engaged citizens
- All Capital Region adults are self-sufficient
- All Capital Region residents enjoy a healthy economy

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## Criteria for Choosing Indicators as Primary vs. Secondary Measures

### Communication Power

Does the indicator communicate to a broad range of audiences?

### Proxy Power

Does the indicator say something of central importance about the result?

Does the indicator bring along the data HERD?

### Data Power

Quality data available on a timely basis.

## Communication Power

- Does the indicator communicate to a broad range of audiences?
  - Public square test: If you briefly describe the indicator and give your fellow citizens the data (e.g., less than 60% of third graders are reading at grade level), they would understand the indicator and its importance to the result
  - Elevator test: If you are in the elevator with a legislator and have that short ride to make the point, the indicator will quickly highlight an important issue associated with the result
- Communication power means that the data must be simply stated, clear, and understandable to diverse audiences.

## Proxy Power



- Does the indicator say something of central importance about the result or is it peripheral?
- Does this measure capture an important aspect of the result? Does it really get to the heart of the matter in a technical sense?
- Indicators run in herds. If one indicator is going in the right direction, often others are as well. You do not need a dozen indicators telling you the same thing

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## Data Power



- Do we have quality data on a timely basis? We need data which is reliable and consistent. And we need timely data so we can see progress - or the lack thereof - on a regular basis.
- Problems with data availability, quality or timeliness can be addressed as part of the data development agenda.

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# Choosing Indicators

## Worksheet

Outcome or Result Safe Community

Candidate Indicators	Communication Power	Proxy Power	Data Power
Measure 1	H M L	H M L	H M L
Measure 2			
Measure 3	H	H	H
Measure 4	H	H	L
Measure 5			
Measure 6			
Measure 7			
Measure 8			

Data Development Agenda

## Three Part Indicator List for each Result

### Part 1: Primary Indicators

- 2 or 3 or 4 "Headline" Indicators
- What this result "means" to the community
- Meets the Public Square Test

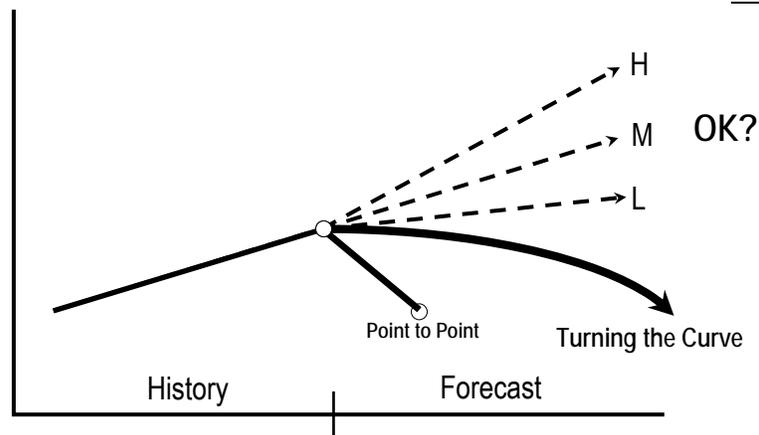
### Part 2: Secondary Indicators

- Everything else that's any good (Nothing is wasted.)
- Used later in the story behind the baseline

### Part 3: Data Development Agenda

- New data
- Data in need of repair (quality, timeliness etc.)

## The Matter of Baselines



Baselines have two parts: history and forecast

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## Caution

- Data are not the same as reality. Think of a leaking roof. No water in the bucket under the leak does not prove that the roof is fixed. In fact, the ceiling may be about to come down.
- Data are a proxy for the condition of well-being we want. Our result is not a dry bucket; it is a fixed roof and a dry house.
- The better the proxy, the closer to reality we get. Having more than one indicator increases the chance that we have actually captured reality.
- The rating of headline indicators is not the last word. You must look at the identified indicators and see if, as a whole, they encompass the important dimensions of the result statement.
- Iteration is central to RBA. The indicators may cause you to go back and tweak the result statement.

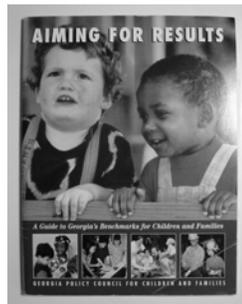
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## The 7 Population Accountability Questions

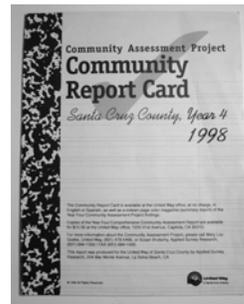
1. What are the quality of life conditions we want for the children, adults and families who live in our community?
2. What would these conditions look like if we could see them?
3. How can we measure these conditions?
4. How are we doing on the most important of these measures?
5. Who are the partners that have a role to play in doing better?
6. What works to do better, including no-cost and low-cost ideas?
7. What do we propose to do?

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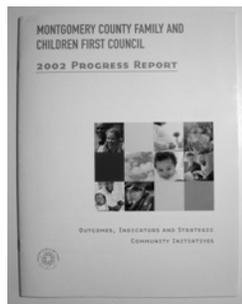
## REPORT CARDS



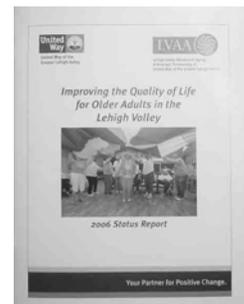
Georgia



Santa Cruz, CA



Dayton, OH

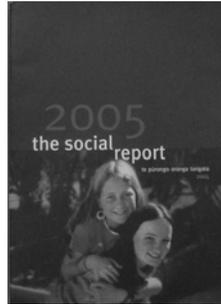


Lehigh Valley, PA

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REPORT CARDS

Country



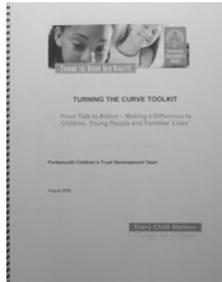
New Zealand

Neighborhood



Kruidenbuurt Tilburg, Netherlands

City



Portsmouth, UK

State Team Outcome # 2  
Pregnant Women and Young Children Thrive

**Heartening Indicators:**

- Early Prenatal Care:** Line graph showing an increase in the percentage of pregnant women receiving prenatal care in the first trimester from 1990 to 2000. The rate rose from approximately 65% to 85%.
- Parental Children (ages 0-6) with Elevated Lead Levels:** Line graph showing a decrease in the percentage of children with elevated lead levels from 1990 to 2000. The rate fell from about 15% to 10%.
- Breastfeeding Among Healthy Infants:** Bar chart comparing Vermont's rate to the Healthy Babies Goal (60%) for the years 1996-97 and 1998-99. Vermont's rate was significantly higher, around 75%.

**Troublesome Indicators:**

- Low Birthweight Infants:** Line graph showing a decrease in the percentage of low birthweight infants from 1990 to 2000. The rate dropped from about 10% to 8%.
- Smoking During Pregnancy:** Line graph showing a decrease in the percentage of women who smoked during pregnancy from 1990 to 2000. The rate fell from about 25% to 15%.
- Asthma Hospitalizations:** Bar chart showing a decrease in asthma hospitalizations per 1,000 Vermont residents from 1989-98. The rate decreased from about 15 to 10.

**The Story Behind the Curve**

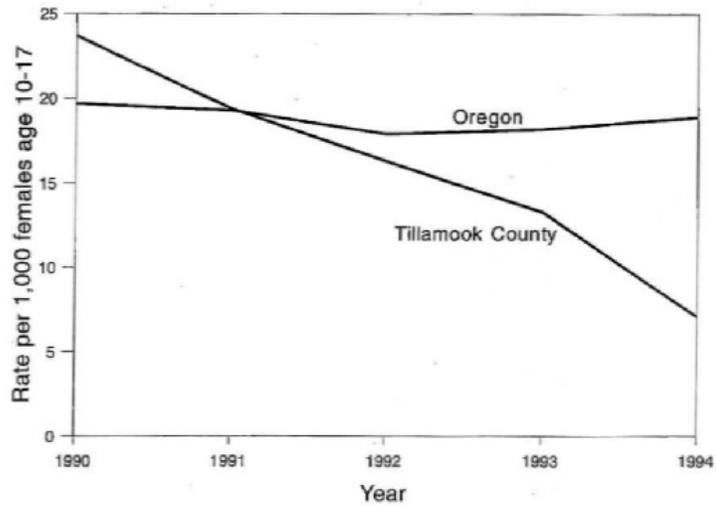
In all three areas of improving indicators, success can be attributed to a systems wide approach to address prenatal care, lead levels and breastfeeding. Community leaders, home visitors, medical care providers and state agencies all working together have made the difference. Vermont is a national leader in early childhood prevention supports.

Despite many factors that contribute to infant mortality and low birth weight, smoking cessation continues to be the prime area for focus of prevention if we are to bend the curve on infant mortality and low birth weight. Children at higher risk of developing asthma were more likely to be low birthweight babies. Exposure to tobacco smoke in utero or in early life resulted in chronic allergies at an early age, or not breast fed.

Recommendation	Accomplishments in 2000	Recommendations for 2001	Accomplishments in 2001
Community members have universal access to a comprehensive system of care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued outreach through Healthy Babies with more than 7,600 pregnant women invited to receive home visits.</li> <li>Successfully obtained 3 year grant from the Common Wealth Fund and the National Association of State Health Policy which in partnership with Medicaid will look at other ways to engage new families that have been difficult to engage.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with Department of Health (DCH) related to National Association of State Health Programs grant, especially as related to developing a statewide system for families.</li> <li>Work with DCH to develop one common Parent Information Packet.</li> <li>Work through community tobacco grants to assure families have access to smoking cessation help.</li> <li>Develop a common parent information booklet to be used by all providers.</li> <li>Focus on ways all providers of care to pregnant women and their families access smoking cessation resources.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with Department of Health (DCH) related to National Association of State Health Programs grant, especially as related to developing a statewide system for families.</li> <li>Work with DCH to develop one common Parent Information Packet.</li> <li>Work through community tobacco grants to assure families have access to smoking cessation help.</li> <li>Develop a common parent information booklet to be used by all providers.</li> <li>Focus on ways all providers of care to pregnant women and their families access smoking cessation resources.</li> </ul>
Homeless babies are breast fed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Established Breast Feeding Work Group to address ways to reach out to the public and especially employers on benefits to breast-feeding and ways to support breast-feeding women in our communities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support establishment of a <i>Statewide Breast-feeding Work Group</i> to increase awareness of benefits of breast feeding and assist employees in supporting families as the mother returns to work.</li> <li>Work with Department of Health Breast Feeding Work Group to enhance public education and develop a hotline for breast-feeding women, their families and general public.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participate when possible with Touchpoint trainings to increase care providers awareness of the Brazelton approach to working with families.</li> </ul>
Support proven interventions that work to improve outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Healthy Babies State Team focused on three objectives and provided specific training for home visits to take action to address infant mortality, immunization rates, and smoking cessation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider other national models including <i>Healthy Steps</i> and <i>Touchpoints</i>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participate when possible with Touchpoint trainings to increase care providers awareness of the Brazelton approach to working with families.</li> </ul>
Children are not exposed to environmental toxins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Creation of Children's Environmental Health Task Force.</li> <li>H 192, the Healthy Schools Air Quality Act, passed legislation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to increase knowledge of parents and health care providers on environmental health risk for children, especially those factors they can prevent or eliminate in all children.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify resources to invite Dr. Michael Shannon, pediatric environmental expert, to speak to community partners.</li> <li>Work with DCH initiative to eliminate children's exposure to environmental tobacco smoke.</li> </ul>
Parents and caregivers have the knowledge, skills and resources to promote positive child development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expansion of Parent and Community Leadership Training.</li> <li>Expanded Social and Rehabilitation Consumer Advisory Boards.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with parents, health care providers and child care providers to assure children have safe drinking water.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase awareness of issues related to nitrates in water.</li> <li>Increase testing of private well systems.</li> <li>Increase awareness of how to disinfect private water sources.</li> <li>Increase awareness of proper preparation of formula of juices with water.</li> </ul>

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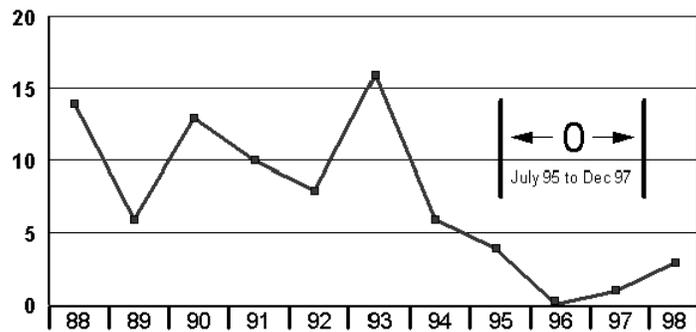
### Teen Pregnancy Rates, 1990-1994



Source: Oregon Health Division, Center for Health Statistics

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### Boston Juvenile Homicides 1988 to 1998



Note: Juvenile is less than age 17.

Data Source: Boston Police Department

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## Population versus Program Accountability



### **Population Accountability**

- About the well being of entire populations, like all young children in Waterbury
- Not about any program or service system

### **Performance Accountability**

- About the well being of client populations only
- Applies to programs, agencies, or service systems

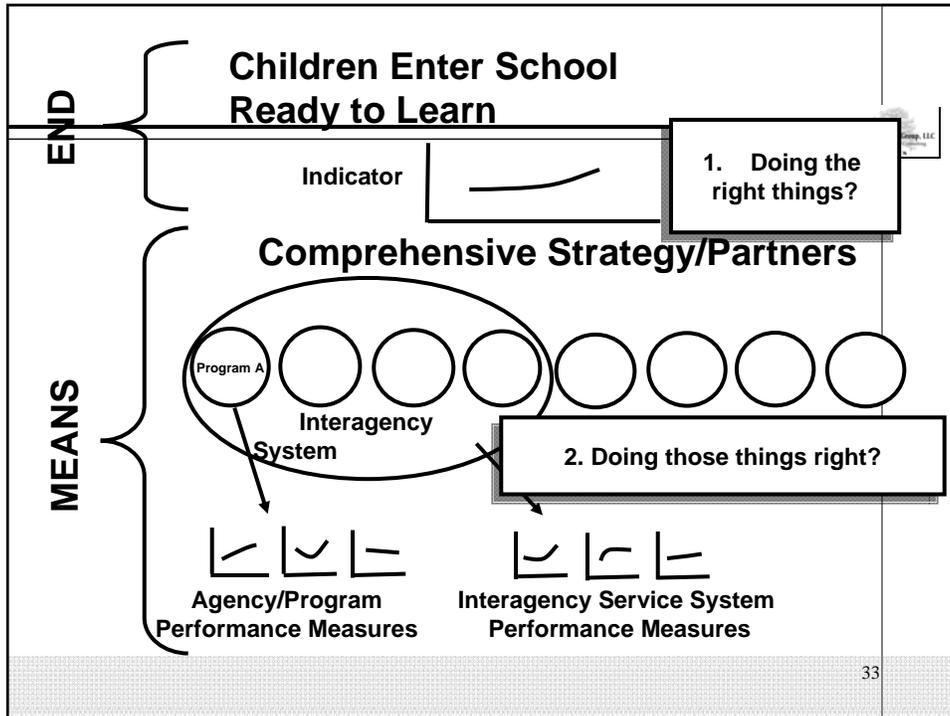
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## Population versus Performance Accountability



- At the population level, we ask what strategies (collections of activities or services) we want to buy to achieve our quality of life result
- At the program level, once we have decided to buy a particular program or service, we want to know how well it is being implemented and whether anyone is better off

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		Program Performance Measures	
		Quantity	Quality
Input Effort		How much service did we deliver?	How well did we deliver it?
	Output Effect	How much change/effect did we produce?	What quality of change/effect did we produce?

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Program Performance Measures		
	Quantity	Quality
Effort	How much did we do?	How well did we do it?
Effect	Is anyone better off?	
	#	%



Education		
	Quantity	Quality
Effort	How much did we do?  Number of students	How well did we do it?  Student-teacher ratio
Effect	Is anyone better off?	
	Number of high school graduates	Percent of high school graduates



Health Practice					
	Quantity                      Quality				
Effort	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">How much did we do?  <b>Number of patients treated</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;">How well did we do it?  <b>Percent of patients treated in less than 1 hour</b></td> </tr> </table>	How much did we do?  <b>Number of patients treated</b>	How well did we do it?  <b>Percent of patients treated in less than 1 hour</b>		
How much did we do?  <b>Number of patients treated</b>	How well did we do it?  <b>Percent of patients treated in less than 1 hour</b>				
Effect	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">Is anyone better off?</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Incidence of preventable disease (in the practice)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Rate of preventable disease (in the practice)</td> </tr> </table>	Is anyone better off?		Incidence of preventable disease (in the practice)	Rate of preventable disease (in the practice)
Is anyone better off?					
Incidence of preventable disease (in the practice)	Rate of preventable disease (in the practice)				

Drug/Alcohol Treatment Program					
	Quantity                      Quality				
	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">How much did we do?  <b>Number of persons treated</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;">How well did we do it?  <b>Unit cost of treatment</b></td> </tr> </table>	How much did we do?  <b>Number of persons treated</b>	How well did we do it?  <b>Unit cost of treatment</b>		
How much did we do?  <b>Number of persons treated</b>	How well did we do it?  <b>Unit cost of treatment</b>				
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Is anyone better off?					
<u>Number</u> of clients off alcohol/drugs	<u>Percent</u> of clients off alcohol/drugs -at exit -12 months post-exit				

## What Quadrant?



- % participants who got jobs
- staff turnover rate
- # participants who got jobs
- % of children reading at grade level
- cost per unit of service
- # applications processed
- % patients who fully recover

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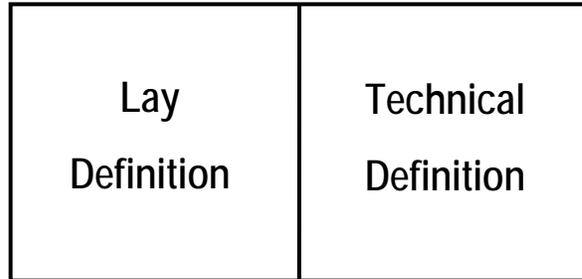
## What Quadrant?



- % of customers satisfied with outcome of service (from survey)
- % of customers satisfied with service quality (from survey)
- % of applications processed within 2 working days
- # on waiting list
- % of teachers with certification

40

# All Data Have Two Incarnations

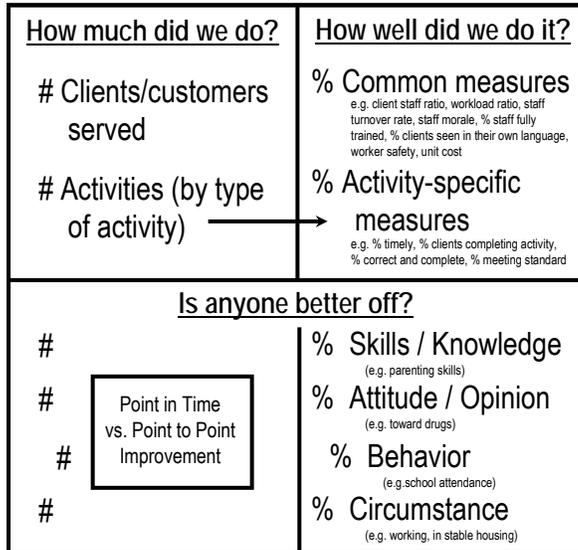


HS Graduation Rate

- % enrolled June 1 who graduate June 15
- % enrolled Sept 30 who graduate June 15
- % enrolled 9<sup>th</sup> grade who graduate in 12<sup>th</sup> grade

# Separating the Wheat from the Chaff

Types of Measures Found in Each Quadrant



## Selecting Headline Performance Measures



**How much did we do?**  
# Clients/customers served  
# Activities  
(by type of activity)

## Selecting Headline Performance Measures



**How well did we do it?**  
% Common measures  
e.g. workload ratio, staff turnover rate,  
% staff fully trained, unit cost  
% Activity-specific measures  
e.g. % timely intakes, % accreditation  
standards met

# Selecting Headline Performance Measures

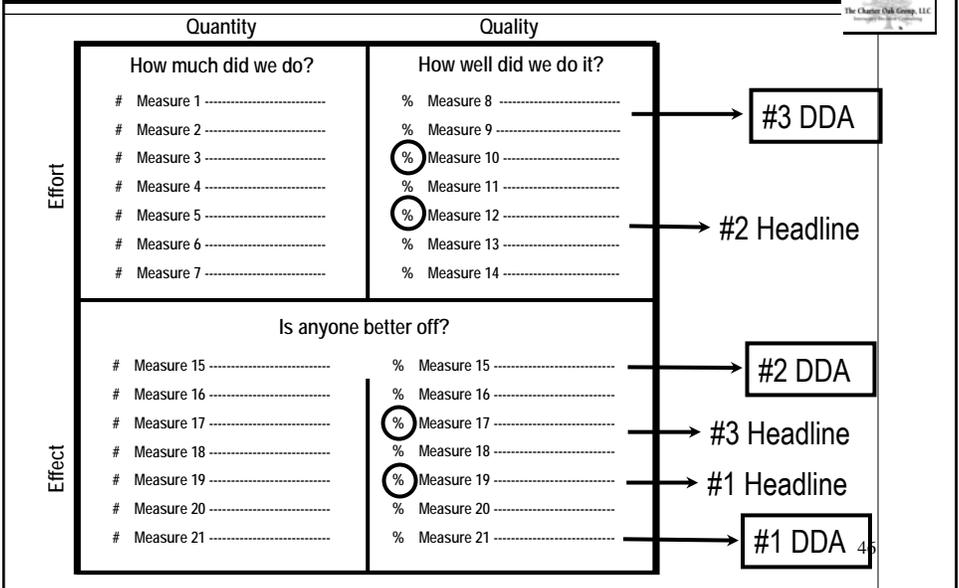
The Charter Oak Group, LLC  
Management Consulting

**Is anyone better off?**

- #/% Skills / Knowledge  
(e.g. cognitive, social, physical)
- #/% Attitude  
(e.g. toward language, parenting)
- #/% Behavior  
(e.g. reading to child at home)
- #/% Circumstances  
(e.g. child care, transportation)

# Choosing Headline Measures and the Data Development Agenda

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Management Consulting



# Not All Performance Measures Are Created Equal



How much did we do? <b>Least Important</b>	How well did we do it?
	Is anyone better off? <b>Most Important</b>

# The Matter of Control



How much did we do? <b>Most Control</b>	How well did we do it?
	Is anyone better off? <b>Least Control</b> PARTNERSHIPS

## Performance Accountability For Programs, Agencies and Service Systems



1. Who are our customers?
2. How can we measure if our customers are better off? — LR
3. How can we measure if we are delivering service well? — UR
4. How are we doing on the most important of these measures?
5. Who are the partners with a role to play in doing better?
6. What works, what could work, to do better?
7. What do we propose to do?

FPSI

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### Program Report Card: Recycling in Connecticut, CT DEP

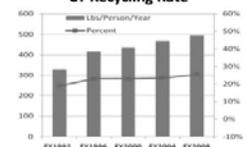
**Quality of Life Result:** All Connecticut residents live in a "clean and wholesome" environment in which natural resources are conserved and protected.

**Contribution to Result:** Waste minimization and prevention programs (source reduction, materials reuse, recycling, composting) optimize the percentage of solid wastes diverted from disposal, thereby minimizing the volume of waste burned or disposed. This saves energy, prevents greenhouse gases, conserves natural resources, saves landfill space, reduces pollutants and toxicity, and lowers the potential for degradation of air and water. *Less waste means less waste problems and a better environment.*

**Partners:** Municipalities, CRRA, regional resources recovery and solid waste authorities, DECD, OPM, CT General Assembly, regional solid waste and recycling operating committees, academic institutions, environmental advocacy groups, property tax reform advocates.

#### Performance Measure 1: STATEWIDE RECYCLING RATE

##### CT Recycling Rate



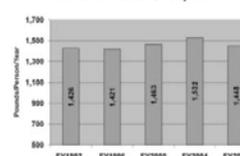
#### Story behind the baseline:

Mandatory recycling was put into place in 1989 to decrease the amount of waste disposed. CGS 22a-220(j) set a 40% recycling goal for the year 2000. While total tons have risen, the percent of Municipal Solid Waste ("MSW") recycled has stalled at 25% due to an overall increase in waste generation and disposal. This trend could require public expenditures for additional disposal capacity. Locating, permitting, and building new RRFs and landfills is a costly and time-consuming process. If all municipalities reached 40% recycling, the cost savings would be about \$35 million dollars statewide in avoided disposal fees.

**Proposed actions to turn the curve:** Ensure partners' actions conform to state solid waste management plan; Focus on municipal compliance; support legislation to improve recycling of certain wastes; target enforcement in key sectors; improve collectors' registrations and ensure collectors act on their enforcement role.

#### Performance Measure 2: PER CAPITA DISPOSAL RATE

##### Pounds/Person/Year MSW Disposed



**Story behind the baseline:** Data in chart includes residential and commercial waste. DEP estimates each CT person annually accounts for 900 lbs residential MSW. US EPA estimates that 500 pounds residential MSW per person annually is a sustainable disposal rate. The general lack of an economic signal at the individual level on the costs of disposal results in a failure to properly value recycling. Statewide education is limited due to the variety of collection services and recycling practices resulting from municipal, rather than regional, control of solid waste management.

**Proposed actions to turn the curve:** DEP will improve data reporting and post data on website to aid municipalities in measuring their progress toward the goal. Recognize exemplary municipal recycling rates. Encourage collectors and municipalities to use unit-based pricing for solid waste disposal to change how residents value recycling. Encourage partners to act regionally.

#### Performance Measure 3: CLOSING THE GAPS IN INFRASTRUCTURE PERMITTED CAPACITY

##### Recycling Infrastructure

Waste type	Permitted facilities (#)	Capacity meeting current need (%)
Bottles, cans, paper	6+	100%
Food Waste	1	10%
Electronics	6	varying
Soil	0	marginal

**Story behind the baseline:** Current infrastructure has sufficient capacity to process current tonnages of commodity recyclables (paper, bottles, cans). Infrastructure is lacking for processing certain significant sectors such as electronics, food waste, other organics, and soil) and for marketing and using processed recyclables. CT food waste is 13% of all waste disposed or 331,468 tons annually. There is one permitted food waste recycler in CT.

**Proposed actions to turn the curve:** Prioritize permit applications that close the capacity gap in specific sectors. Revise regulations to clarify reuse of soils and construction materials. Focus on permitting of collectors, processors, and waste streams with lagging recycling rates. Encourage partners to invest in making home composting units widely available. Ensure partners assist in development of industries, technologies, and commercial enterprises within the state that are based upon recycling, reuse, treatment, or processing of solid waste. Ensure partners encourage private investment in local recycled materials industries and marketing as part of green jobs promotion.

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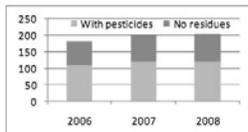
**The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station Program Report Card: Crop Quality and Food Safety**

*Quality of Life Result:* All Connecticut residents have access to safe products and safe, locally-grown, high-quality food.

*Contribution to Result:* By conducting research on new crops for our farmers and testing for pesticides and other contaminants, we provide new locally grown crops for our farmers and farmers' markets, help preserve farmland, and reduce exposure to unwanted chemicals in our food. Results are disseminated to state residents and the scientific community through publications and talks.

*Partners:* CT Depts. of Agriculture, Consumer Protection, and Public Health; US FDA, USDA, US EPA; CT farmers and markets; food banks.

**Performance Measure 1:** Reduce exposure of CT residents to food and other products containing pesticides or other unwanted chemicals.



**Story behind the baseline:** With increased commerce from foreign countries and with our domestic, large-scale food processing, there is greater potential for product contamination. Sometimes foods and other products contained unwanted chemicals, such as pesticide residues. For example, pomegranate juice contained benomyl and was recalled. Other discoveries include detection of lead paint in toys (2 recalls), sanitizer fluids in CT milk (analyzed within 4 hours of receiving samples), melamine in dog food and wafer rolls (2 recalls), and ethylene glycol in toothpaste and fruit punch. Our tests resulted in 3 national recalls in 2008. These regulatory actions ensure consumer access to safe foods and other products.

**Proposed actions to turn the curve:** Pesticide extraction and analyses generally take about 4 days. New methods will be developed to detect lower amounts of pesticides more efficiently and to more quickly remove unsafe foods and other products from commerce. Further staff reductions or program cuts will greatly impede work output.

**Performance Measure 2:** Develop new crops for CT farmers that offer fresh and nutritional food for CT residents.

Number of new crops and cultivars evaluated.

Year	# Crops Evaluated	# Cultivars Evaluated
2006	8	96
2007	9	93
2008	10	106

**Story behind the baseline:** There is increased public interest in growing new specialty crops with little or no pesticides. Cultivars (varieties) of fruits and vegetables and different cultural methods have been field-tested. Recently, different crops, such as Chinese cabbage, were high yielding and could be grown in CT with little or no pesticides. Yields averaged about 17.5 tons/acre. At a retail price of about \$0.99 per pound, there is a potential crop value of about \$38,400 per acre. Farmers are including this crop in their farm operations; 24 CT farmers are growing 9 specialty crops with low-cost cultural methods. At fruit growers' requests, peach plums were evaluated at our farms for CT production. With an expected value of \$52,270 per acre, two of CT's largest commercial orchards now include peach plums, which are in consumer demand and can be made into a premium jelly.

**Proposed actions to turn the curve:** New information on crop programs will be transferred to farmers at grower meetings. A brochure was mailed to 500 farmers on the new crops program, but additional lectures will be given to describe new study results.

**Performance Measure 3:** Improve soil quality and minimize the use of fertilizers on lawns and nursery stock.

Total soil tests performed.

Year	# Soil Tests
2006	10,018
2007	10,377
2008	11,699

**Story behind the baseline:** Fertilizers are used extensively by homeowners, landscapers, golf course managers, and farmers. In many cases, these chemicals are applied without knowledge of soil quality. This practice can lead to polluted surface and groundwater, thereby encouraging rapid growth of algae and invasive aquatic plants. People who own or rent lake-front properties are concerned about reduced water quality. A benefit of testing soil samples is less fertilizer leaching into surface and ground water and less detrimental effects to Long Island Sound. Around 4-5% of soils tested do not need additional fertilizer, thus saving those homeowners \$11,700 in fertilizer costs.

**Proposed actions to turn the curve:** Information will be included in soil-test reports to advise state residents on the proper use of fertilizers to prevent environmental contamination. Field studies have been designed to determine minimal amounts of fertilizers needed to reduce costs for proper Christmas tree growth in farms. Results will be transferred to growers at public meetings.

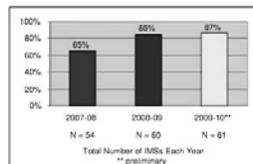
**Program Report Card: Interdistrict Magnet School Program (Connecticut State Department of Education)**

*Quality of Life Result:* All Connecticut students have a successful transition to adulthood, assume a contributing role in a world-class workforce, and become productive members of their community and society at large.

*Contribution to Result:* Interdistrict Magnet Schools (IMSA) are one of the public school choice options that are raising the educational attainment level of participating students throughout the state through high-quality, racially/economically integrated education. These schools directly provide educational choices that contribute to a more highly educated work force and reduce racial, ethnic and economic isolation. IMSAs maximize the opportunity for each student to achieve his or her highest potential by offering challenging, relevant and rigorous curriculum and instruction. In addition, these programs provide a creative and flexible environment that values each student's unique abilities, talents, interests and learning styles. Greater student learning and engagement in school lead directly to a more prosperous adulthood with greater contributions to the economy and society.

*Partners:* Institutions of higher education, business and industry, theme-specific associations/groups, educational researchers and parents.

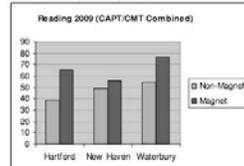
**Performance Measure 1:** Number and percentage of IMSAs meeting statutory racial isolation target of at least 20% white students.



**Story behind the baseline:** The percentage of IMSAs meeting the standard (at least 20% white) is continually growing, currently at 87%, up from 65% two years earlier. However, approximately 40% of the schools meeting the standard are only marginally above it, thus risking falling below the standard with only a slight shift in white student enrollment from year to year. Enhanced marketing, better recruitment strategies and the influence of specific requirements resulting from the Sheff decision (requiring Hartford-area IMSAs to meet a specific student diversity standard) help explain the two-year improvement in this measure. The number of IMSAs increased from 54 to 61 between 2007-08 and 2009-10.

**Proposed actions to turn the curve:** The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) will build upon existing enrollment management plans (EMPs) in assisting IMSAs that are below or marginally above the threshold with expanding and improving their recruitment strategies. An EMP is a school-level mechanism designed to ensure sufficient enrollment, equitable access, and that student systems to support success and retention are in place. Recruitment strategies may include greater interaction between IMSA administrators and potential feeder school children and families, action videos, and other methods beyond program literature.

**Performance Measure 2:** Percentage of Hartford, New Haven and Waterbury resident students at or above proficiency in reading in both IMSAs and the city public schools (non-magnets).



# of Students Tested in Reading (2009 CMT/ CAPT)

	New		
	Hartford	Haven	Waterbury
Magnet	1955	2216	628
Non-magnet	7560	5443	7897

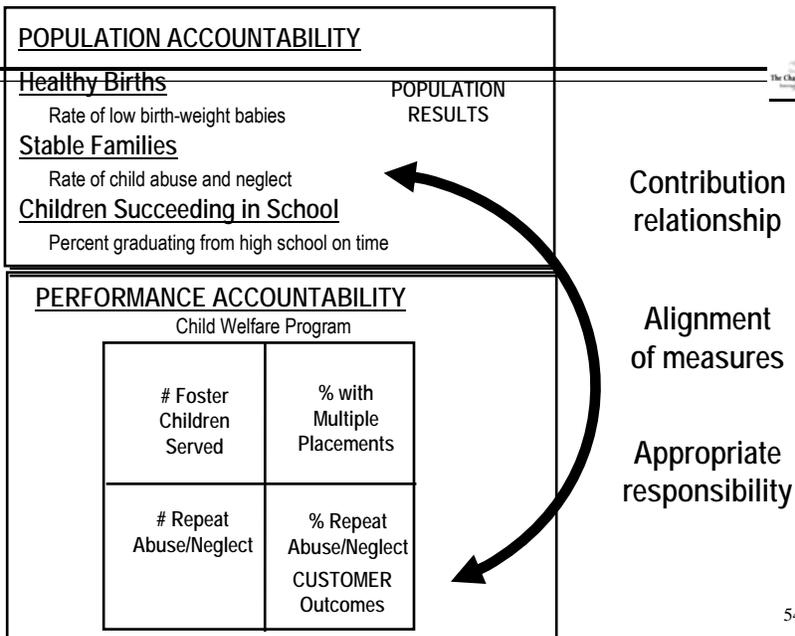
*Note:* These data reflect students in tested grades only. These three cities are chosen as they are the only urban areas with at least three IMSAs serving significant numbers of city students from which to base valid comparisons.

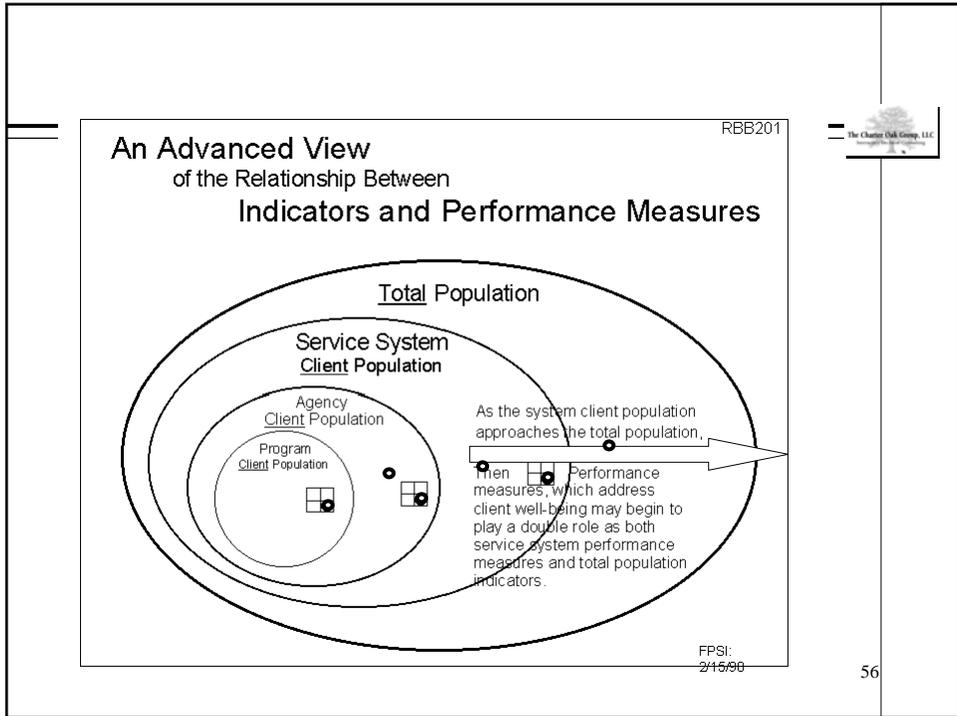
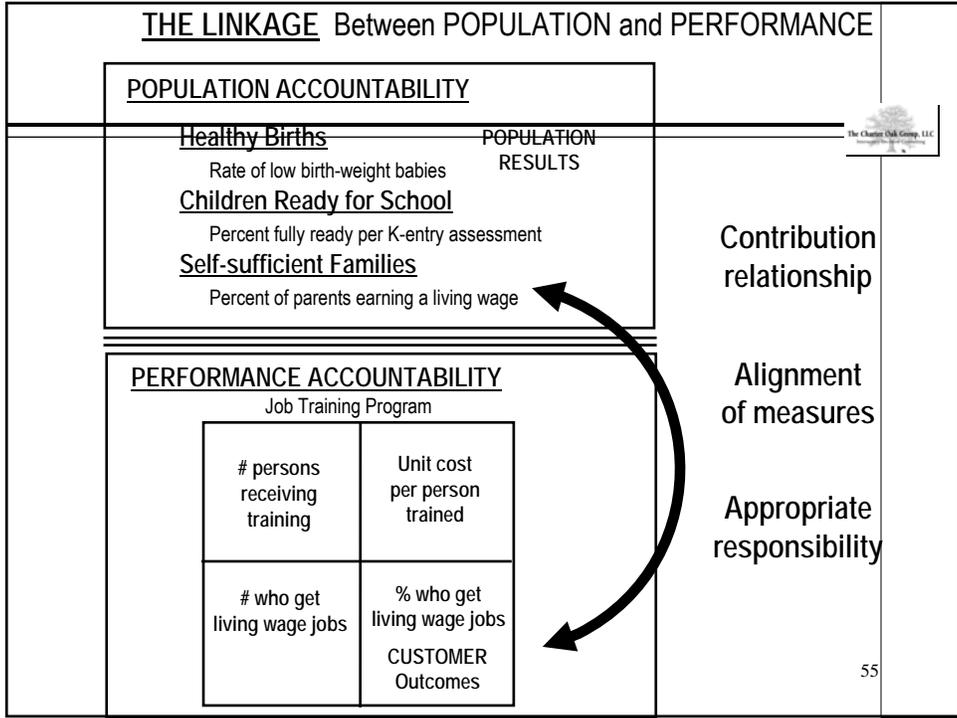
**Story behind the baseline:** Resident students of urban centers who attend IMSAs outperform students in the city public schools in reading. The distinction between magnet and non-magnet schools is nearly identical for mathematics. To control for differences in the baseline of students when they enter IMSAs, an analysis of student academic growth between 2008 and 2009 yielded nearly identical results – IMS students grew at a greater rate than non-IMS students, and New Haven's IMS student growth lagged behind that of Hartford and Waterbury.

Beyond the reading data shown, a recent UCONN study of Hartford-area IMSAs found a statistically significant positive impact of the IMS program on mathematics and reading achievement of urban middle and high school students. It is unclear if the difference in IMS student performance across cities is related to the number or percentage of city resident students attending IMSAs.

# How Population & Performance Accountability FIT TOGETHER

## THE LINKAGE Between POPULATION and PERFORMANCE





## Important Data Display Principles



- Show the data
- Engage the viewer in thinking about substance rather than about the method, graphic design, or technology used to produce the graphic display
- Avoid distorting what the data have to say
- Make large data sets coherent
  - Reveal data at several levels of detail, from a broad overview to a fine structure (drill-down approaches)
- Encourage the eyes to compare different pieces of data

\*Adapted from Tufte, 1982

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## Some Key Design Principles

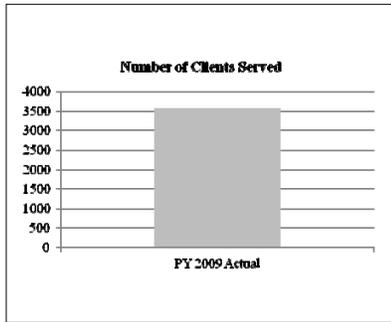


- Organization of indicator report should be driven by the audience and use of the report
- Level of detail should also vary based on audience and intended use of report. This includes:
  - How many and what kind of indicators to include
  - What kinds of comparisons to include
  - How much detail is directly accessible in the report
- Don't bury people in data. The concept of headline indicators and performance measures is crucial

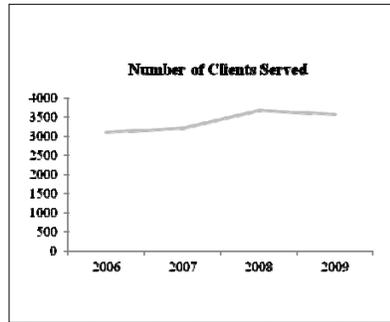
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# Report the Trend, Not a Data Point

NO

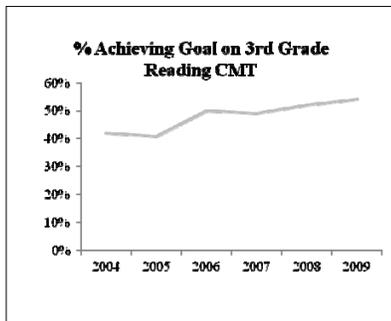


YES

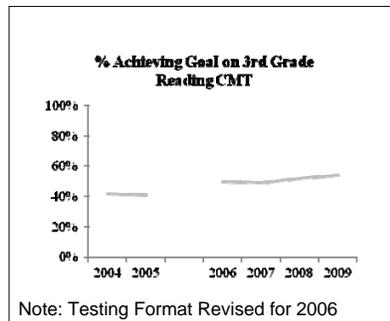


# Note Any Changes in Data Reporting

NO

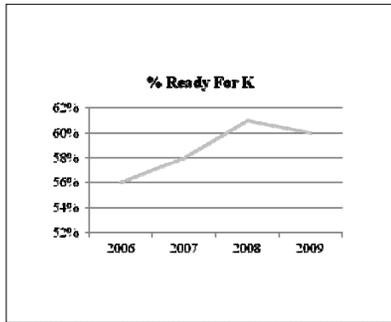


YES

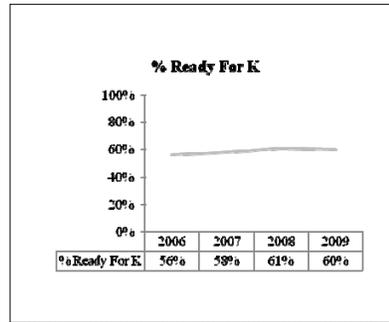


## Use 0-100 Scale Whenever Possible

NO

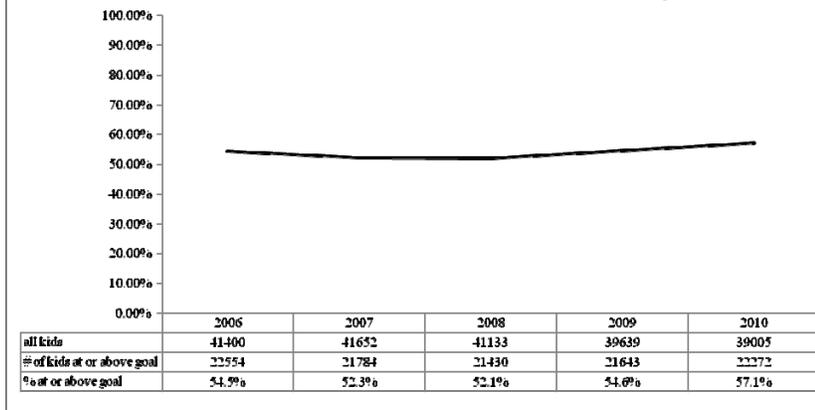


YES



## Use Chart/Table Combination

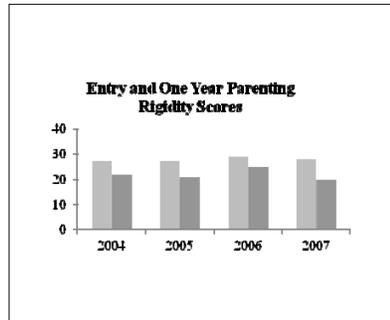
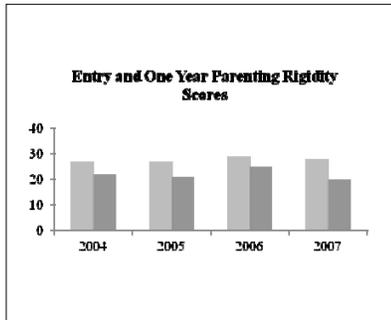
**Percent of Kids at or Above Goal on 3rd Grade Reading CMT**



# Always Tell The Story With The Data

NO

YES

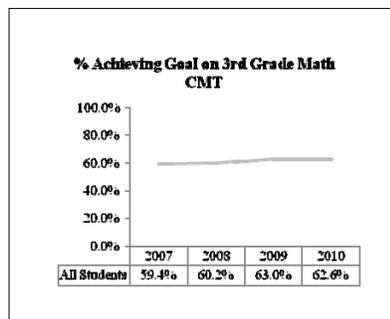
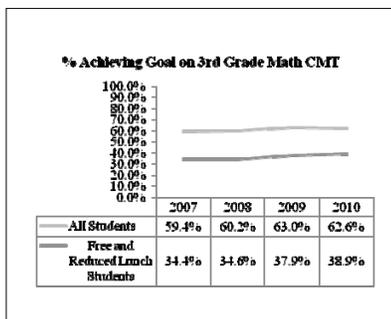


**Story behind the Baseline:** This measure shows program entry and one year follow-up scores on a parental rigidity assessment. Parental rigidity is predictive of a number of negative parenting behaviors, including abuse. The trend shows consistently lower (better) scores after participation in the program.

# Display Important Disaggregations

If you know this...

Don't just show this...



## Other Critical Comparisons



- To a standard or expectation
- To a previous point in time
- To another place or group of places
- To similar, but not exactly the same, programs

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## The Power of RBA Thinking: Turning the Curve



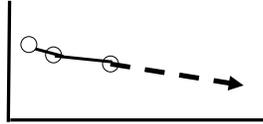
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### Turn-the-Curve Thinking™: **Talk to Action**

Result or Program:

How are we doing?

Data Baseline



Why?

Story behind the baseline

Help?

Partners *(with a role to play in turning the curve)*

Options?

What Works

Propose to do?

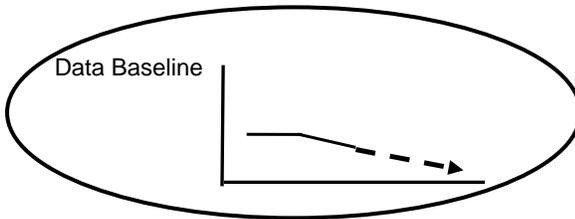
Strategy (w/ Budget)

### Turn-the-Curve Thinking™ Talk to Action

Result or Program: \_\_\_\_\_

How are we doing?

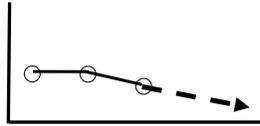
Data Baseline



### Turn-the-Curve Thinking™: Talk to Action

Result or Program: \_\_\_\_\_

Data Baseline



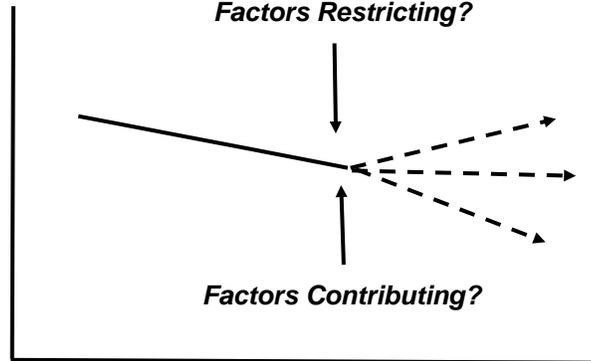
Why?

Story behind the baseline

→ Research Agenda

### Force Field Analysis

*Factors Restricting?*



*Factors Contributing?*

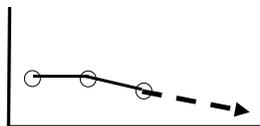
## The Story Behind the Baseline

- **Root Causes (ask “Why?” five times)**
- **Positive and negative**
- **Prioritize – which are the most important drivers of the baseline performance?**
- **Research agenda?**

### Turn-the-Curve Thinking™ Talk to Action

Result or Program: \_\_\_\_\_

Data  
Baseline



Story behind the baseline

Research Agenda

Help?

Partners (with a role to play in turning the curve)

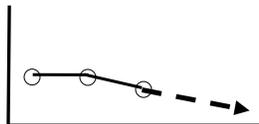
# Partners

- **Who are partners who may have a role to play in turning the curve?**
- **Does the story behind the curve suggest any new partners?**

## Turn-the-Curve Thinking™: Talk to Action

Result or Program: \_\_\_\_\_

Data Baseline



Story behind the baseline → Research Agenda

Partners (with a role to play in turning the curve)

Options?

What Works → Research Agenda

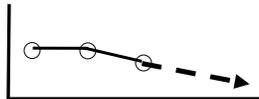
# What Works

- **Options for actions to “turn the curve”?**
- **Research-based?**
- **Low-cost/no-cost?**
- **Off-the-wall ideas?**
- **Research agenda?**

## Turn-the-Curve Thinking™: Talk to Action

Result or Program: \_\_\_\_\_

Data Baseline



Story behind the baseline → *Research Agenda*

Partners (*with a role to play in turning the curve*)

What Works → *Research Agenda*

**Criteria: Leverage; Feasible; Specific; Values**

Strategy

Propose to do?

# Action Plan

- **Leverage: will turn the curve of the baseline?**
- **Feasible (a.k.a. “reach”)?**
- **Specific: who, what, when, where, how?**
- **Consistent with values?**

## Turn the Curve Exercise: Population Well-Being

5 min: Starting Points

- timekeeper and reporter
- two hats (yours plus partner's)

5 min: Baseline

- forecast: Where is the trend line going?
- turn the curve: Is forecast OK or not OK?

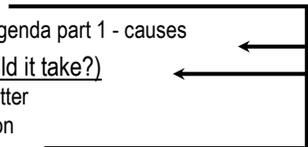
15 min: Story behind the baseline

- causes/forces at work
- information & research agenda part 1 - causes

25 min: What works? (What would it take?)

- what could work to do better
- each partner's contribution
- no-cost / low-cost ideas
- information & research agenda part 2 – what works

Two  
pointers  
to action

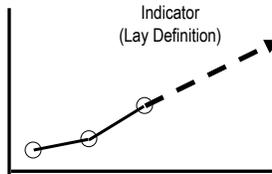


10 min: Report: Convert notes to one page

**ONE PAGE Turn the Curve Report**

**Result:** \_\_\_\_\_

Indicator  
Baseline



Story behind the Baseline

-----  
----- (List as many as needed)

Partners

-----  
----- (List as many as needed)

Three Best Ideas – What Works

1. -----
2. -----
3. -----No-cost / low-cost
4. -----Off the Wall

**Sharp  
Edges**

## How RBA Is Being Used in Connecticut



- Connecticut legislature
- State agencies
- Communities
- Non-profits
- Funders



**IN CLOSING**

“If you do what you always did...  
you will get  
what you always got.”

Never Be Afraid To Try Something New.

*Remember...*

A lone amateur  
built the Ark.

A large group of professionals  
built the Titanic.

— Dave Barry

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## Results-Based Accountability™

The Charter Oak Group, LLC  
www.resultsaccountability.com

**Mark Friedman**  
**Fiscal Policy Studies Institute**  
**Santa Fe, New Mexico**

**Trying Hard  
Is Not  
Good Enough**

How to Produce Measurable Improvements  
for Customers and Communities

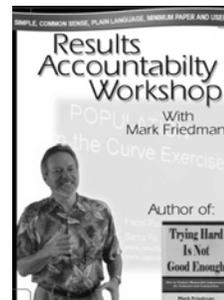
**Mark Friedman**

WEBSITES

[www.resultsaccountability.com](http://www.resultsaccountability.com)

[www.raguide.org](http://www.raguide.org)

Book - DVD Orders  
[amazon.com](http://amazon.com)  
[resultsleadership.org](http://resultsleadership.org)



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# Thank You



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