Quantitative Assessment Methods

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Quantitative Assessment Methods

This program will focus on guiding you through the process of planning for gathering and analyzing quantitative data. Quantitative data is data that can be analyzed as numbers as opposed to qualitative data. In addition, this session will briefly cover issues of how to make decisions about how such data is gathered, analyzed and used to make a decisions and arguments. Specific attention will be focused on how to build the structures that make gathering such data easier.

Learning Outcomes Examples

Participants will learn a process of making a decision about what data to collect and how simplify the collection of information.

Participants will be able to apply the methodologies of quantitative data to their own area of student affairs.

Participants will be better prepared to make decisions about how they will plan for using and presenting data.

"If we are to convince our colleges and universities of the worth of our centers we must begin to evaluate the outcomes of our services.

This is especially important as we move into times of budgetary restraint." (Victor Barr, 1997)

Quantitative vs. Qualitative.

- I think of the two (quantitative versus qualitative) as complementary ways of gathering and presenting evidence to support your case.
- Qualitative is both a first step (What's going on here? or Exploratory?)
- and frequently gives us the data to tell the story. It though can mostly tell us perceptions
- Quantitative helps us to look below the surface and see what is going on in a more definable way. It also provides data that for some is more convincing.

Need to think through ahead of time – What story will I need to tell and what data is needed to tell the story and be convincing?

First Decision Points



- •What point do you need to be able to make?
- •Who is you audience(s)?
- •How do you want to make your point?

None stand alone

What point do you need to be able to make?

 What is the question at hand and how can you get to the best data to be able to answer it?

Question: Counseling Center Are you really that busy?



Who is you audience(s)?

- Is it one targeted audience?
- Are there more than one?
- For each audience what type(s) of data are convincing?

Counseling Center

Question: Are you really that busy?

Audience: VC Rogers, Departmental Review, Chancellor



Who is you audience(s)? For each audience what type(s) of data are convincing?

Counseling Center Audience:

VC Rogers

Departmental Review

Chancellor



What type of data is the best way to make your *point?*

- Survey
- Usage data
- Process data
- Comparison data
 Question:
- Outcome data

At its heart evaluation is a three step sequence Objectives ----->Means---->Measures

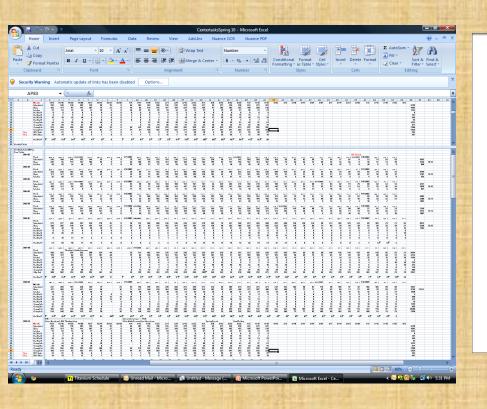


Data Issues

- Validity of measures
- Ease of use of measures
- Data standardization at UT and External to UT



Counseling Center Data Sources



The Association for University and College Counseling Center Directors Annual Survey

Reporting Period: September 1, 2008 through August 31, 2009

Victor Barr, Ph.D.
Director, Counseling & Psychological Services
University of Tennessee at Knoxville

Robert Rando, Ph.D.

Director, Counseling and Wellness Services
Associate Professor, School of Professional Psychology
Wright State University

Brian Krylowicz, Ph.D.
Director, University Counseling Services
Truman State University

Evelyn Winfield, Ph.D. Director, University Counseling and Testing Western Michigan University

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Evaluations vs. Research

- Research is a proving causality and involved tight control, specificity and rigor. It can be artificial – random assignment.
- Evaluation, on the other hand, has come the way
 of technology rather than science. Its accent is
 not on theory building but on product delivery or
 mission accomplishment. Its essence is to
 provide feedback leading to a successful outcome
 defined in practical, concrete terms.
- "The purpose of evaluation is to improve, not to prove." (Stufflebeam et al 1978)

Data to collect and how? Creating the Hook

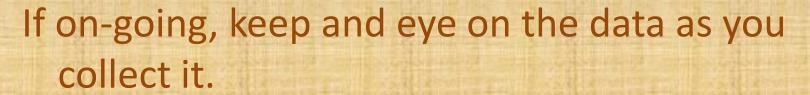
What data will you collect?

How will you set it up easily collect the data?

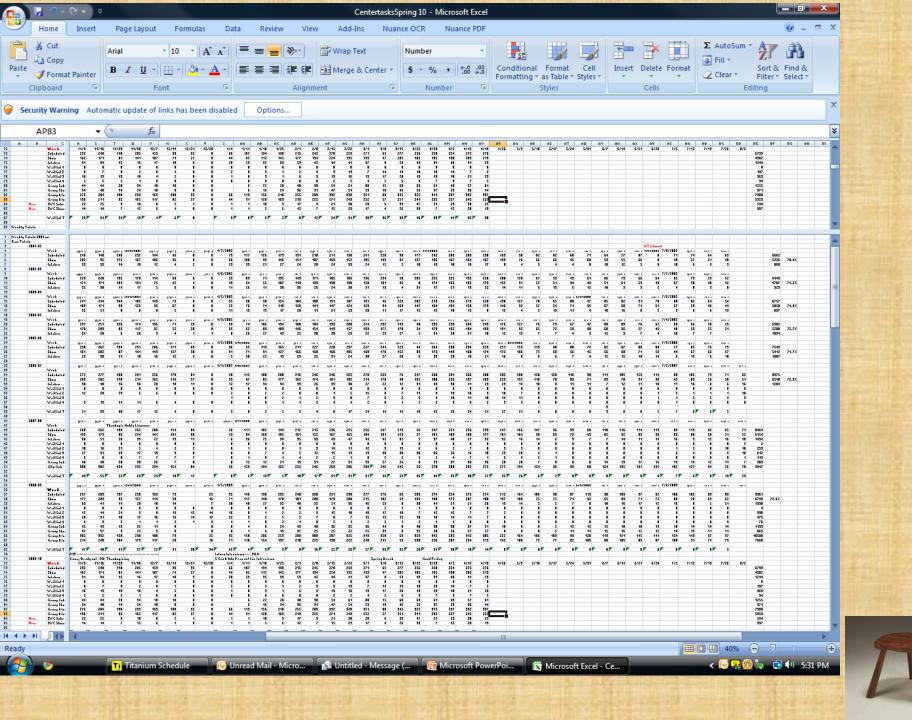
How do you plan to use the data?

Will data storage be an issue?

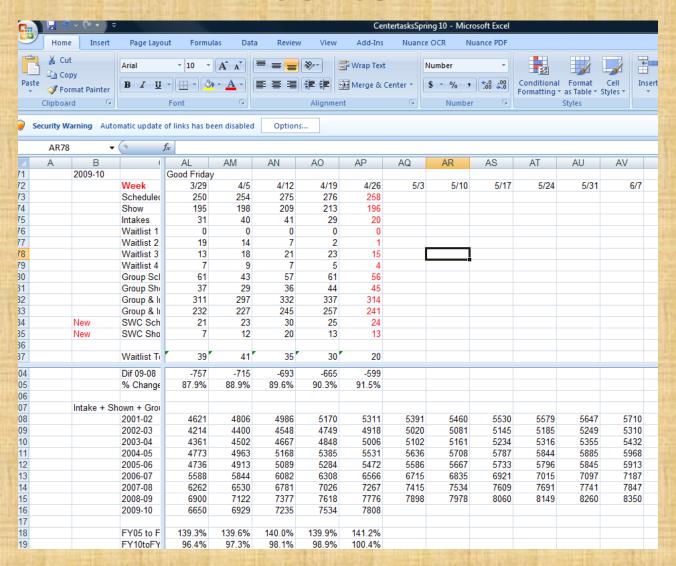
Desk drawer is not adequate.







Weekly Data Gathered by Counseling Center





Caveats

- Check your data regularly.
 Verify as you go.
 Will it make your point at the end?
 Does your data make sense?
- Back up you data regularly.



Presenting your data



Things to Remember

Remember <u>Point to be made</u> and <u>Audience</u>

Analyze data

How will you present your results? What is the venue – report, PowerPoint, etc. Remember
 Point to be made and Audience.



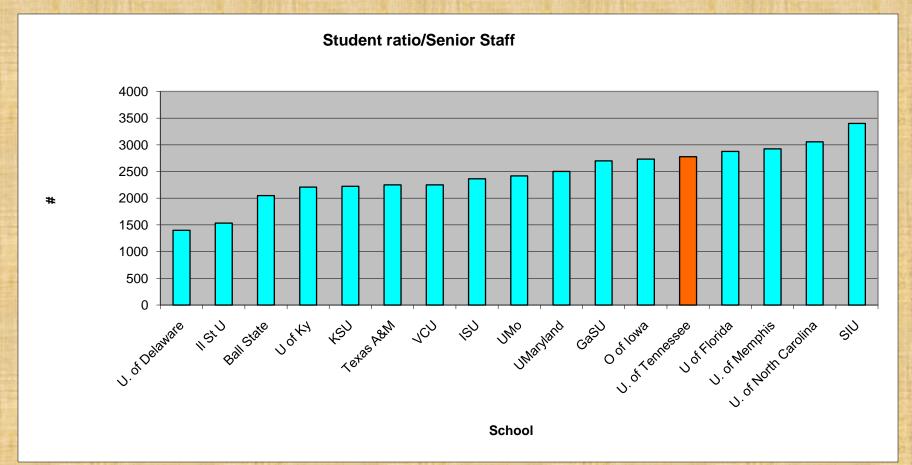




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Use of Comparison Group



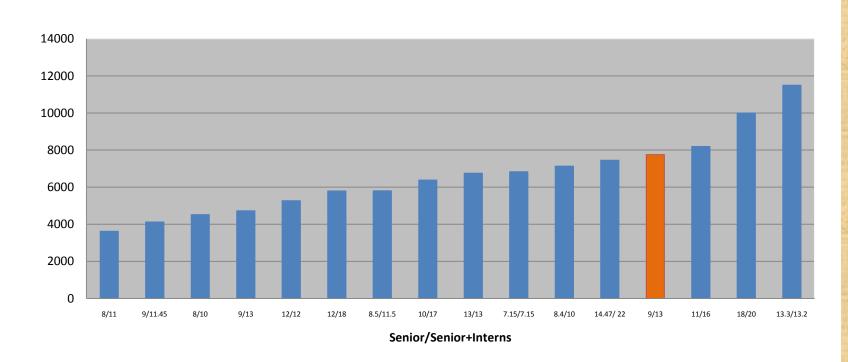
Question: Are you really that busy?

Audience: VC Rogers, Departmental Review, Chancellor



Use of Comparison Group

What is the total number of sessions provided by your center?

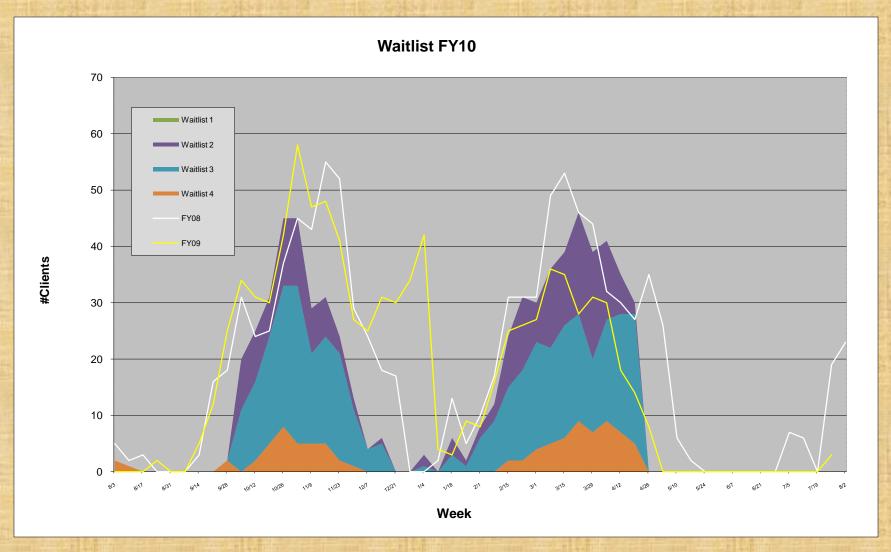


Public Universities of 25001-30,000

Question: Are you really that busy?

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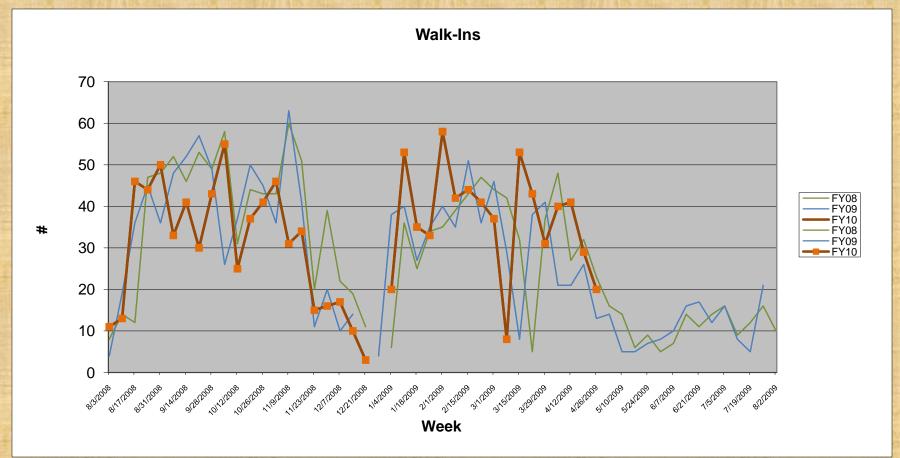
Counseling Center

- Issues to Consider
 - We started putting more emphasis on group counseling 3 years ago.
 - This last fall we made the walk-in briefer and mores structured.
 - We added to out array of services Stress and Wellness Clinic .

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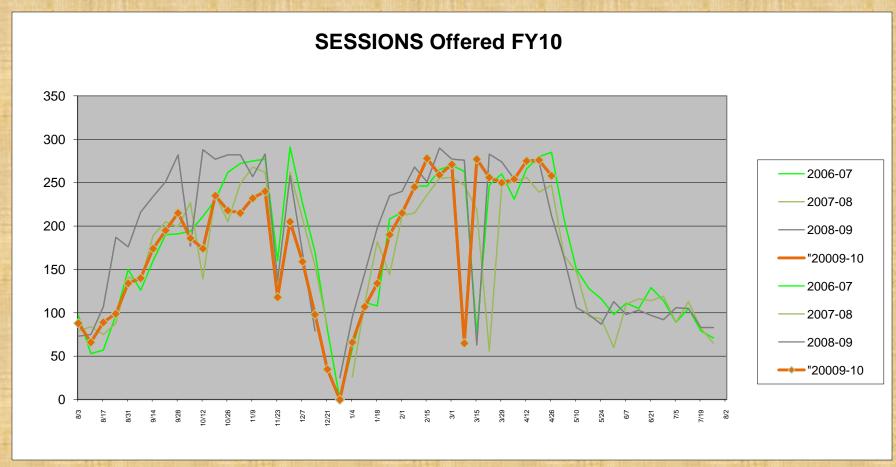




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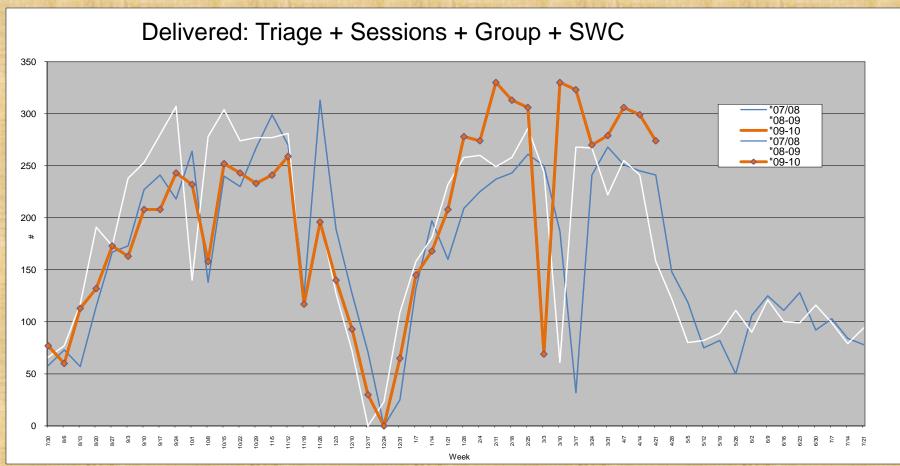




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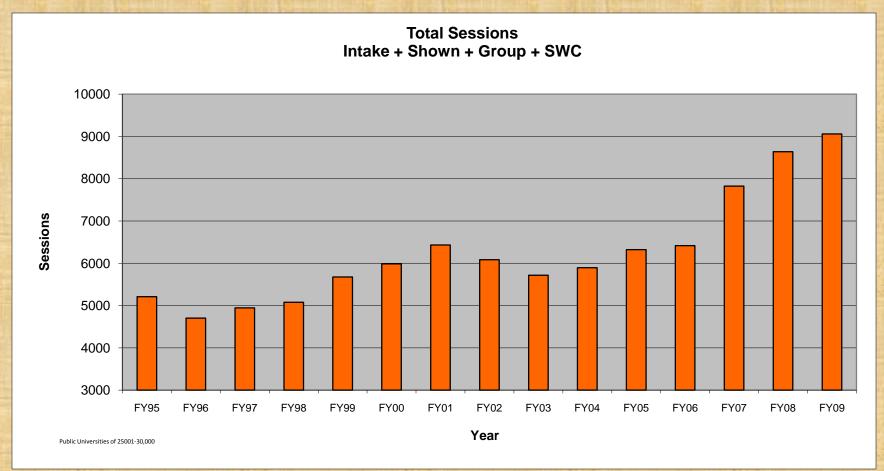




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