



**THRIVE**

Building Thriving Communities Together

**An ACH using data to inform and drive action**

Data doesn't  
have to be  
scary...

However,  
**VDH** data encyclopedia identified  
63 data sources  
(12/2017)

# Needle in a haystack



## PLAN

Getting from knowing what we want to taking action

Start with what you **want** to know

Look for what you **already** know

(or can find out)

THRIVE recognized 7 outcome areas for a happy and flourishing community

We were looking for data to assess how well our community is doing in each of these areas

## What we want to know

- *Well-Housed*
- *Well-Nourished*
- *Well-Educated*
- *Physically Healthy*
- *Mentally Healthy*
- *Financially Secure*
- *Socially Connected*

## What we do know

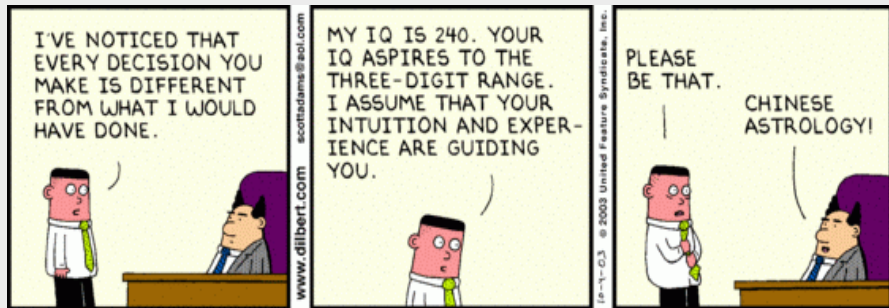
- Researched possible data sources
  - [VDH Data Encyclopedia](#)
  - AHS Community Profiles
  - BRFSS
  - YRBSS
  - CNA
  - Vital statistics
  - Self-sufficiency matrix
  - And more...
- Looked at data quality: data power, proxy power, communication power
- Recognized the limitations of data and the need for compromise (>500 indicators from Joan Marie)

% households with food insecurity	8% (HSA)
% eligible Vermonters enrolled in 3Squares	45% (WA)
	48% (OR)
% hypertension	28% (HSA)
% households spending >50% on housing	23% (WA)
# homeless	134 (DO)
% kindergarteners ready for school in all 5 domains of healthy development	84% (VT)
4-yr high school cohort graduation rates	88% (VT)
Rate of opioid deaths per 100,000	12 (HSA)
% adults with poor physical health (self-reported)	11% (HSA)
% adults with or poor mental health (self-reported)	10% (HSA)
% obese adults	26% (HSA)
% population living in households <200% poverty level	26% (HSA)
Unemployment (or employment) rate	5% (HSA)
% youth feel valued by community	52% (HSA)
% volunteer engagement	~31% (VT)

## DO

- Data was narrowed and categorized by outcome area
- Brought focused list to the Leadership Partners (approx. 10-20 indicators per outcome)
- LPs participated in a facilitated discussion, dialogue, and group decision-making
- LPs further narrowed the list and came to agreement through a voting process
- 2-5 indicators per outcome were chosen to present to the full group

# Facilitate buy-in & ownership through group dialogue and engagement



- Narrowed list of outcome indicators were brought to the full THRIVE group
- The group had further dialogue and voted on their single 'favorite' indicator per outcome
- They also voted on a single outcome to focus the action of the first 'pilot' Collaborative Action Network
- Results were agreed upon by all without expectation of consensus
- Group members were given an opportunity to share why they voted for specific indicators

# STUDY

Did this process work?

Were good decisions made?

Is turning the curve on this indicator actionable in practice?



- Meeting chairs facilitated a small group brainstorming session to define what it would look like if the community was mentally and physically healthy
- The full group came back together and each group shared their ideas
- Results were enlightening
- LPs took this information and began looking at next steps
  - Results checklist, etc.
- However...

## “Pause for breaking news...”

As LPs were looking further into next steps, more information and ideas began to shift the original focus

- Lived experience
- Anecdotal on-the-ground experience
- Looking for an opportunity for immediate action (early win)
- THRIVE group brainstorming responses

In the end, most of the group brainstorming responses actually revolved around community action and connectivity to foster and encourage health and wellbeing



## Making adjustments

LP group proposed to change the  
CAN focus to social connection



- LPs suggested a change in focus and THRIVE members discussed and agreed
- The group created an expanded outcome statement for their new focus in the community
  - All people in Washington and Northern Orange Counties feel socially connected & valued in the way they desire
- More indicators specific to this outcome were gathered and two groups discussed and came to an agreement on two primary indicators for adults, and for youth

## New direction

All people in Washington and Northern Orange Counties feel socially connected & valued in the way they desire

## Youth Indicators

- Hours spent in extracurricular activities in a typical week
- Strongly agree or agree that in their community they feel like they matter to people

## Adult Indicators

- Describe a feeling of belonging to their local community as somewhat strong or very strong
- Strongly agree or agree that they believe people in their life care about them

# ACT

Immediate opportunities

&

Next steps

## THRIVE planned a Summer Street Block Party

- An early first action to promote social connectedness and an experience to learn from
- Also acted as the THRIVE kick-off party and introduction to the community



- Continue the results checklist framework
- Look for gaps and evidence-based actions to address indicators
  - Models and ideas that are working elsewhere

# Lessons learned



- Look a little deeper, and then ask 'why?' ...at least 5 times
  - There's always more to the story
  
- Utilize available resources to the fullest
  - As broad a representation of the community as possible
  - Personal experience is invaluable
  
- Action makes traction
  - Start somewhere and do something
  - Once you have a direction, chart a course
  - There will always be a need for reevaluation and change
  
- KISS
  - Keep it simple stupid

## Questions, comments, complaints?



Brought to you by...



Will Eberle

AHS Field Services Director; Barre, Morrisville  
will.eberle@Vermont.gov

Joan Marie Misek

VDH District Director; Barre  
joanmarie.misek@Vermont.gov

Jaclyn Holden

Blueprint Quality Improvement Practice Facilitator  
jhphconsulting@gmail.com