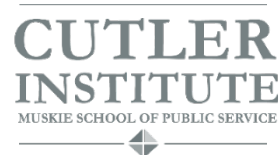


Data Literacy 101

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Data Innovation Project



Good morning!

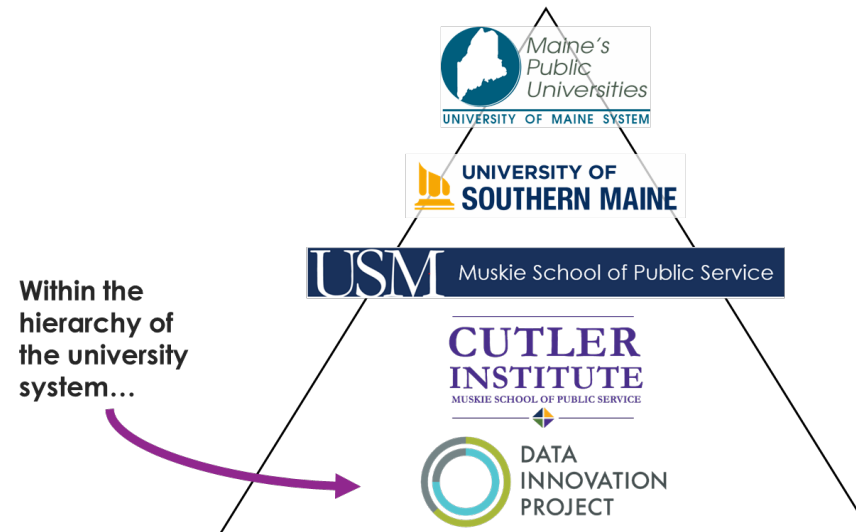
Data Innovation Project (DIP)

Founded in 2016 to build the data-informed capacity of Maine's mission-driven organizations.

Our Vision

All Maine mission-driven organizations have the capacity to engage in data-informed decision making to benefit the health and wellbeing of Mainers.

Our Story






Today's Takeaways

- There are **many forms of data** and information
- Some data sources and research are **more credible** than others
- We have tips and tools and techniques to **identify credible sources**
- When in doubt, ask an **expert!**

- individual **facts**, **statistics**, or **items** of information collected together for reference or analysis
- things known or **assumed as facts**, making the basis of reasoning or calculation
- the **recorded factual material** commonly accepted in the scientific community as necessary to **validate research findings**

What is Data?





We can have differences of opinion over how to best gather and interpret facts and information, or draw conclusions.

BUT...

Credible research and sources are clear about what facts and information have been used to draw conclusions (and how).



**How do we know that the
data and information we
are using to inform our
decisions is reliable and
sound?**

Some Guiding Questions

- 1 Who is the funder of the research? Who is the source?
- 2 What questions is the research trying to answer? How?
- 3 How many people does the research represent?
- 4 What are the sources of information?
- 5 Are there other ways to explain the findings?



Consensus is important.

Are there other studies or sources that support the claims?



What To Look For



Funding source and researcher affiliation clearly stated



Clear methods and information sources



Credible, reliable sources of information (e.g., US Census, rigorous surveys, peer reviewed articles, etc.)



Biases, flaws or limitations are stated

Claims TOO MUCH

NOT okay.

This is how the public feels about [our topic]...

These are the barriers to services...



OKAY!

This is how people in our focus group (survey) *were willing to say (said)* they feel.



These are *the barriers identified* by survey respondents (or focus group participants).

Small Numbers, BIG Claims

Enrollment in the program has increased by 50% since last year."

10 to 15 =
50%

150 to 225
= 50%



Causation versus Correlation

Fact: 100% of students who complete the DIP Applied Research Fellowship are employed afterwards.

It is **NOT** a fact that they are employed BECAUSE of our fellowship!



Lacks Important Context

"I have no idea what happens to juvenile records."

Client

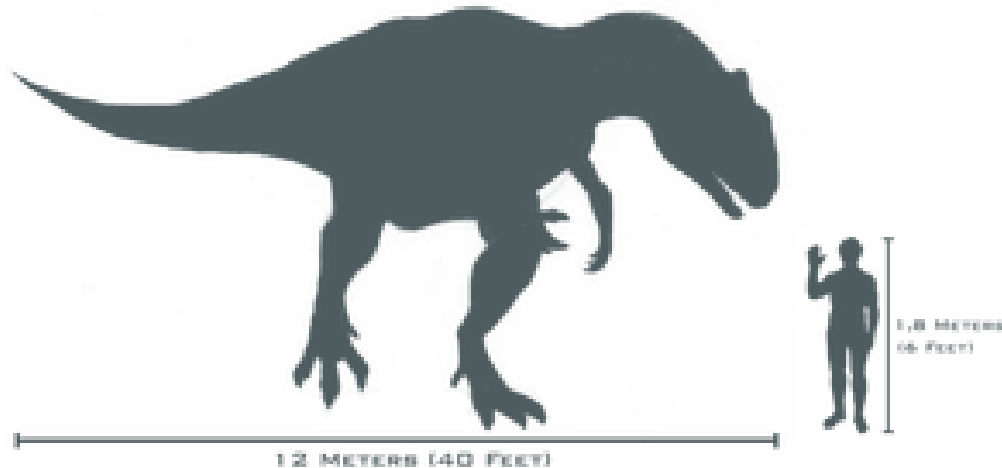
"I'm pretty sure juvenile records are sealed."

Lawyer



Lacks Important Context

Compared to what (who, when)?



Another time,
place, group,
organization.



Resources

<https://scienceisus.org/tools/how-can-i-tell-if-my-evidence-is-sound/>

<https://datainnovationproject.org/data-scan/>

<https://www.unitedforalice.org/state-overview/maine>



Thank you!

Questions?

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DATA INNOVATION PROJECT

Learn more at:

www.datainnovationproject.org