

Riddles Wrapped in Mysteries Inside Enigmas: Issues with Getting and Using Administrative Data for Impact Evaluations

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Findings First: Issues We Encountered

- Micro-level issues
 - Missing data for some months
 - Data formats that impeded aggregation
 - Data repositories designed for purposes conflicting with ours
- Macro-level issues
 - Data gate-keepers
 - HIPAA Privacy concerns for aggregate data
 - Length of time required to access retrospective administrative data
 - Reconciling data from different sources

Assumptions Dashed

- Much of the retrospective data would be relatively easy to collect
 - Data was already being collected as part of administrative processes
 - Law enforcement data would be especially easy because reports are always being generated for local stats and state and national repositories (e.g. Uniform Crime Reports)
 - Security Forces at the Air Force Bases would already be working with local police departments
- Distinguishing the data for underage (< 21) and of-age would be straightforward
- Data would be directly usable to assess impact

What Follows

- Description of the EUDL Demonstration Program
- Air Force bases and their surrounding communities
- Description of evaluation metrics and data sources
- Data acquisition issues by site and data source
- Administrative challenges and ways to address them
- Lessons learned

Block Grants

Technical Assistance

EUDL

Military
Discretionary
Grants

Evaluation

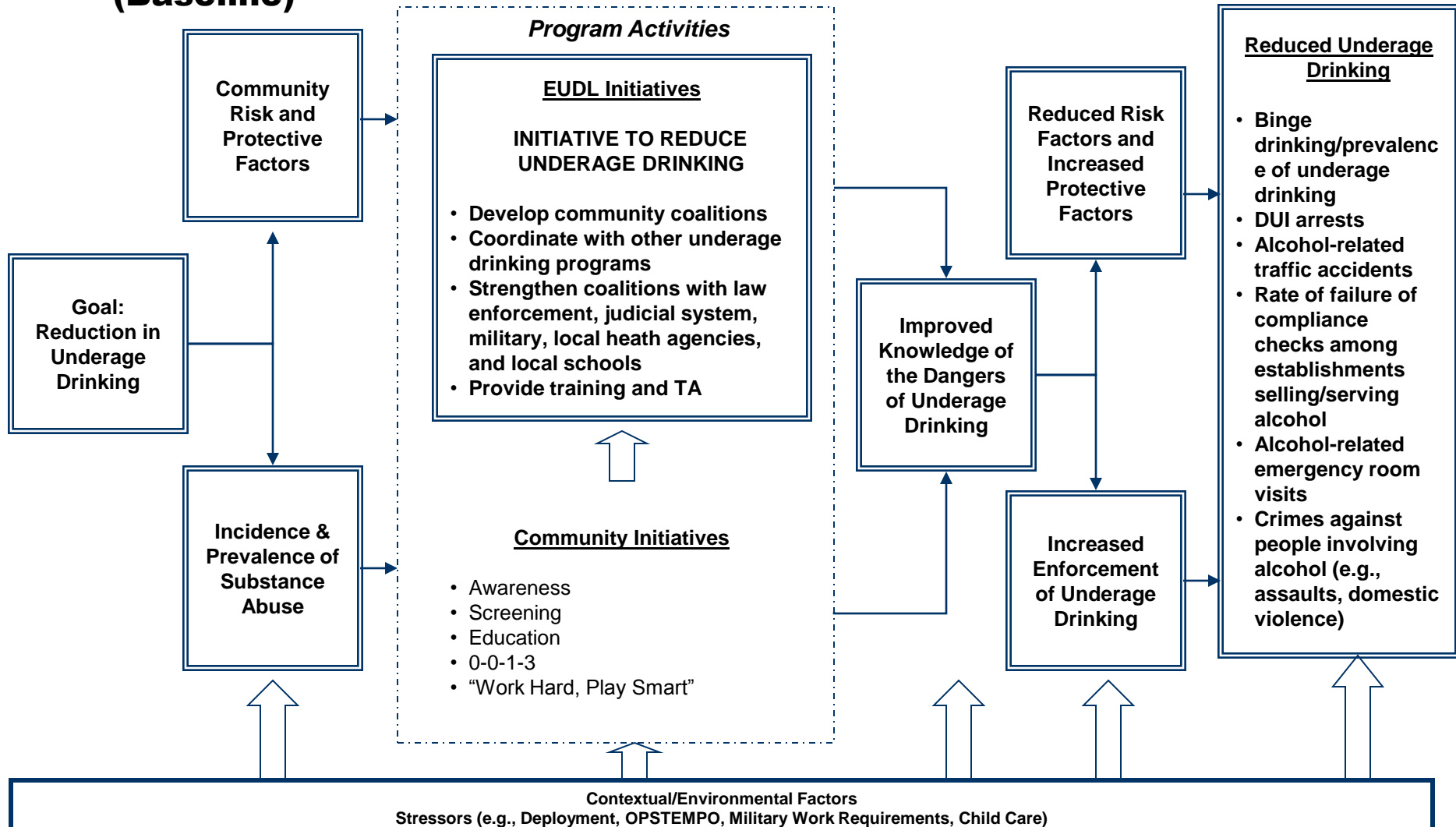




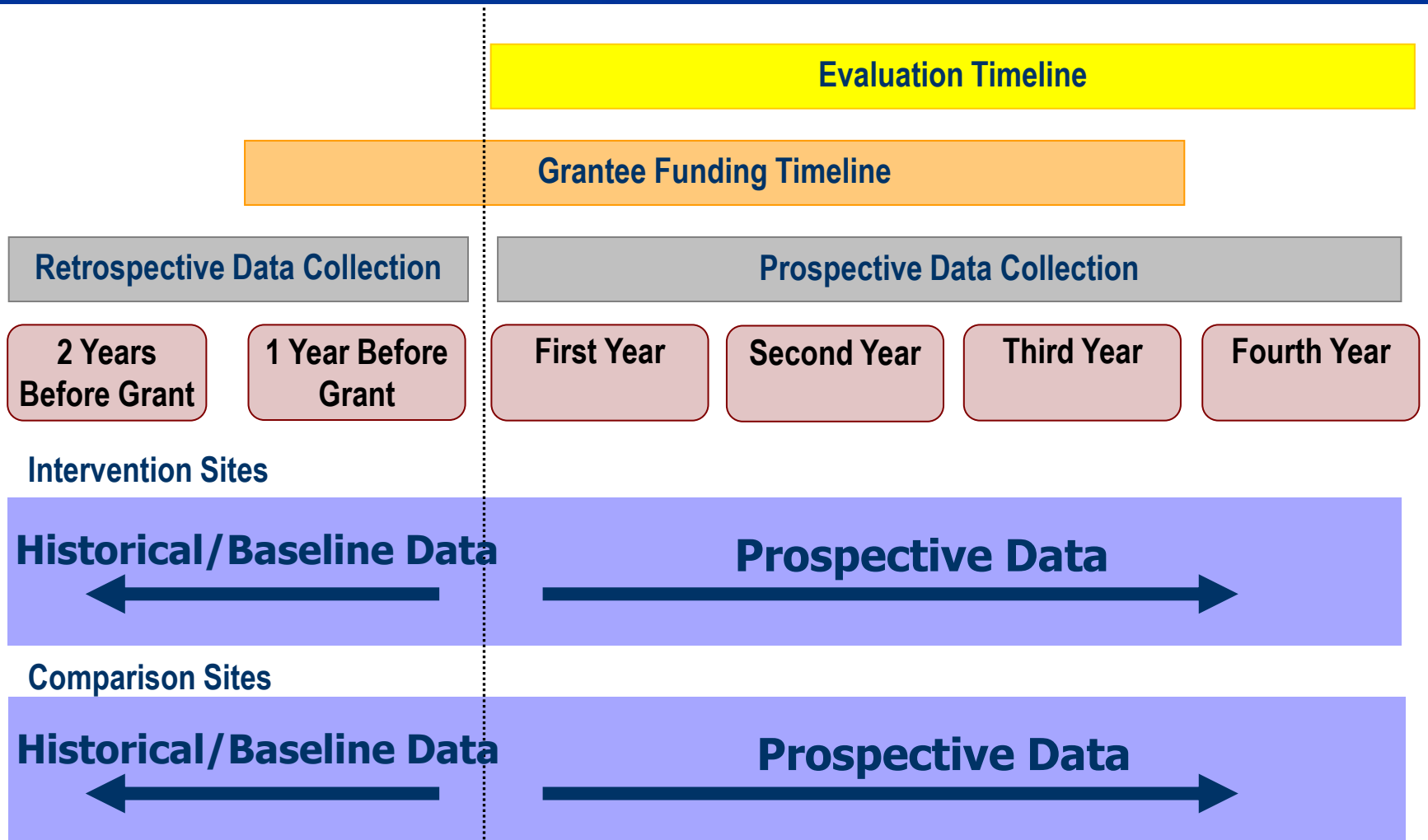
Logic Model

Program Goals → **Activities** → **Outcomes** → **Impacts**

(Baseline)



Evaluation Plan: Data collection



Air Force Bases and Communities

Community	Air Force Base	Urban or Rural	Mission
AZ Phoenix	Luke AFB	Urban	Combat Operations & Training
AZ Tucson	Davis-Monthan AFB	Urban	Combat & Support Operations
CA Yuba County	Beale AFB	Rural	Combat Support Operations.
HI Honolulu	Hickam AFB	Urban	Combat Support
MT Great Falls	Malmstrom AFB	Rural	Operational Missile Base
WY Cheyenne	F.E. Warren AFB	Rural	Operational Missile Base
MO Warrensburg /Knob Noster	Whiteman AFB	Rural	Air Combat Command / Bomber Wing

Data Sources and Metrics

- Local law enforcement
 - Compliance checks
 - Arrest and citation records (DUIs, alcohol related crimes of violence, minor in possession, etc)
- Hospitals and Clinics
 - Alcohol related ER visits
- Air Force Personnel Command
 - Demographics of each AFB
- Air Force Security Forces
 - Arrest and infraction records (DUIs, other infractions)
- Air Force ADAPT Substance Abuse Program (SUAT)
 - Reasons for referral to program (DUIs, other reasons)

Gaps in the Data We Expected To Collect

	AZ – Luke					AZ-Davis-Monthan					CA-Beale					HI-Hickam					MT-Malmstrom					WY-Warren					MO-Whiteman				
Project Year	-2	-1	1	2	3	-2	-1	1	2	3	-2	-1	1	2	3	-2	-1	1	2	3	-2	-1	1	2	3	-2	-1	1	2	3	-2	-1	1	2	3
Metric																																			
DUI/DWI	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o
Traffic Accidents									o	o						o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o
Compliance Checks		o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o						o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o						o	o	o	o	o
ER Visits											o	o	o		o						o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o
Crimes								o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o
SUAT DUI	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o
Other referral Reasons	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o
Underage referrals	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o
SUAT Traffic Accidents																																			
Binge Drinking																																			
Reasons for drinking	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	o

Data Challenges: Local Law Enforcement

Data Challenges

- Number of jurisdictions involved
- Number of different data systems
- Target formats of the data
- Information not ordinarily maintained

Response

- Get buy-in from all law-enforcement jurisdictions in evaluation "catchment area"
- Do mapping of current data captured, and data desired to identify gaps
- Change data collection forms (e.g., traffic citations) to accommodate administrative data

Data Challenges: Local Hospitals and Clinics

Data Challenges

- HIPAA Privacy Concerns
- Information not ordinarily reported to outsiders

Response

- Build relationships with hospital/clinic administrators
- Ask for data in aggregate form with no PII
- Accommodate/alleviate lingering HIPAA concerns
- If ER visits are too low to be good metrics, consider eliminating this metric

Data Challenges: ADAPT (SUAT)

Data Challenges

- Timeliness
- Congruency with data from other sources
- Missing data for some metrics, such as binge drinking

Response

- Obtain SUAT data semi-annually or annually, but with monthly totals
- Do not expect congruence with local law enforcement data
- Focus on DUI, drunk and disorderly, public intoxication, and open container violations only.

Data Challenges: Security Forces

Data Challenges

- Judge Advocate General (JAG) concerns
- Congruence with local law enforcement data
- Collaboration with local law enforcement

Response

- Meet and negotiate with JAG officers to ameliorate concerns
- Assess the working relationship between Security Forces and local law enforcement and foster collaboration and daily communication between the data

- Validate all assumptions before starting data collection
- When identifying impact metrics, perform a rigorous gap analysis between the data required to assess impact, and the type and format of administrative data available. In some cases, the gaps may be filled, either by slight or modest changes in procedures or in record-keeping.
- Do not under-estimate the amount of time or resources required to obtain retrospective administrative data. Several sites took almost one year to obtain two years' worth of such data; other sites never succeeded.

Lessons Learned II

- Those metrics that represent low-base rate phenomena may not be worth collecting at all, because the frequency of occurrence is too low to be useful.
- There may be objections from data-source providers, based on legal interpretations. Be ready for them.
- Over time, you **will** identify the most complete and robust administrative measures to use in evaluating the impact of a program.

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