



Data Gaps

Regional Epidemiological Outcomes
Workgroup (REOW)

ODMHSAS

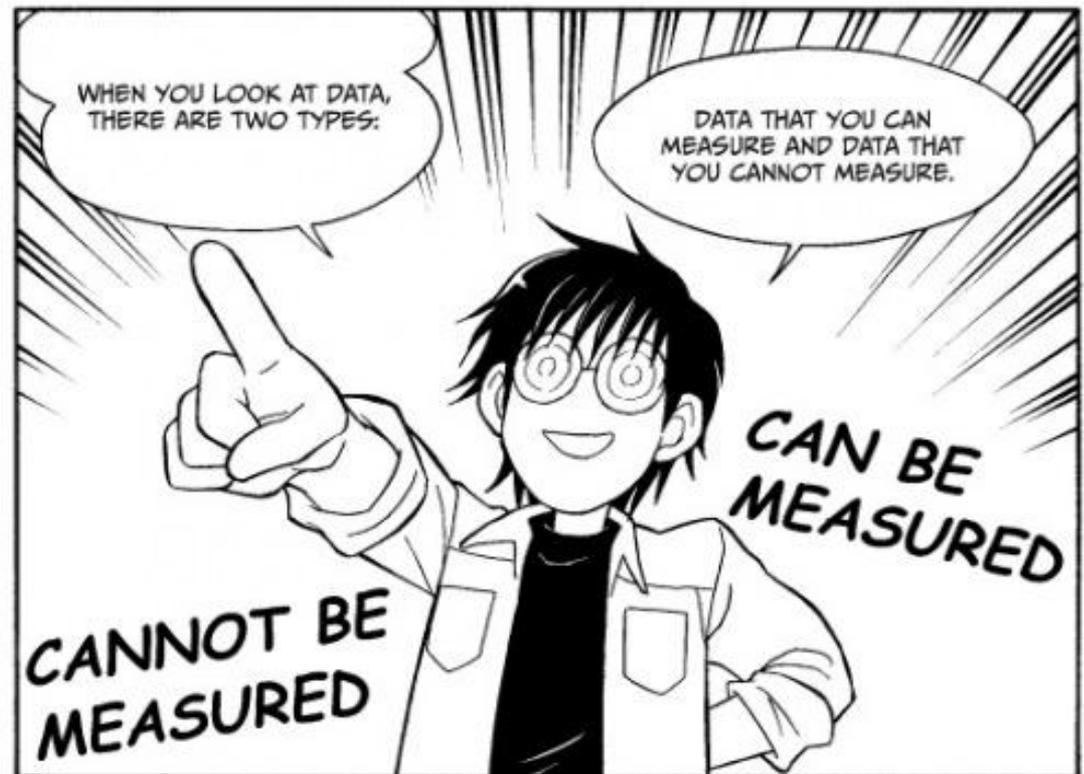
Creating Healthier Oklahoma Communities

Data

- ▣ Data is one of the important factor in any prevention strategy.
- ▣ “Outcome based approach” and outcome can only be measured by Data.
- ▣ Any flaw in data will under or over estimate the outcome.

Data

- ▣ Important to understand the available data and identify any gap.



Data Gaps

- Definition : Any missing data that impairs one's ability to meet the project goals.

- Can be classified into two major groups.
 - 1) Physical data gaps
 - 2) Technical / statistical data gaps

Physical Data Gaps

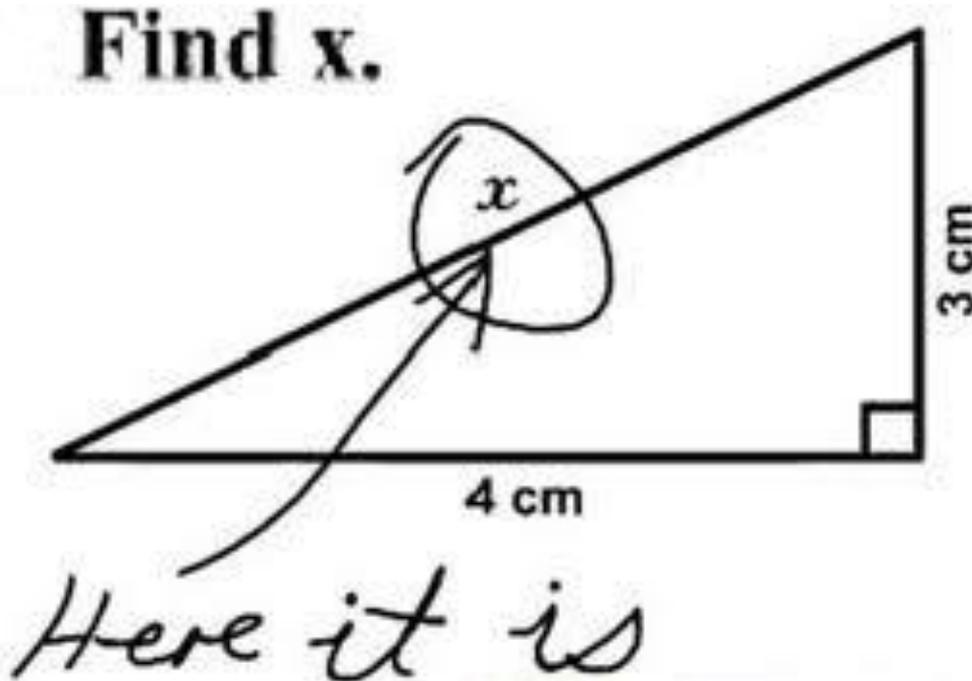
- As the name suggest, its just the absence of relevant data. Can be because of variety of reasons.
- 1) Break in continuity i.e., data is missing for certain years or time period
- 2) Data is available but not for your county.
- 3) The numbers are so low that no meaningful conclusion can be drawn.
- 4) Data is available but the variable of interest was not added in the survey.

Technical / Statistical Data Gaps

- ▣ Wide confidence interval.
- ▣ Incorrect sampling technique.
- ▣ Bias in the data.
- ▣ Data doesn't represent your community.
- ▣ Inconsistent Data collection Technique.

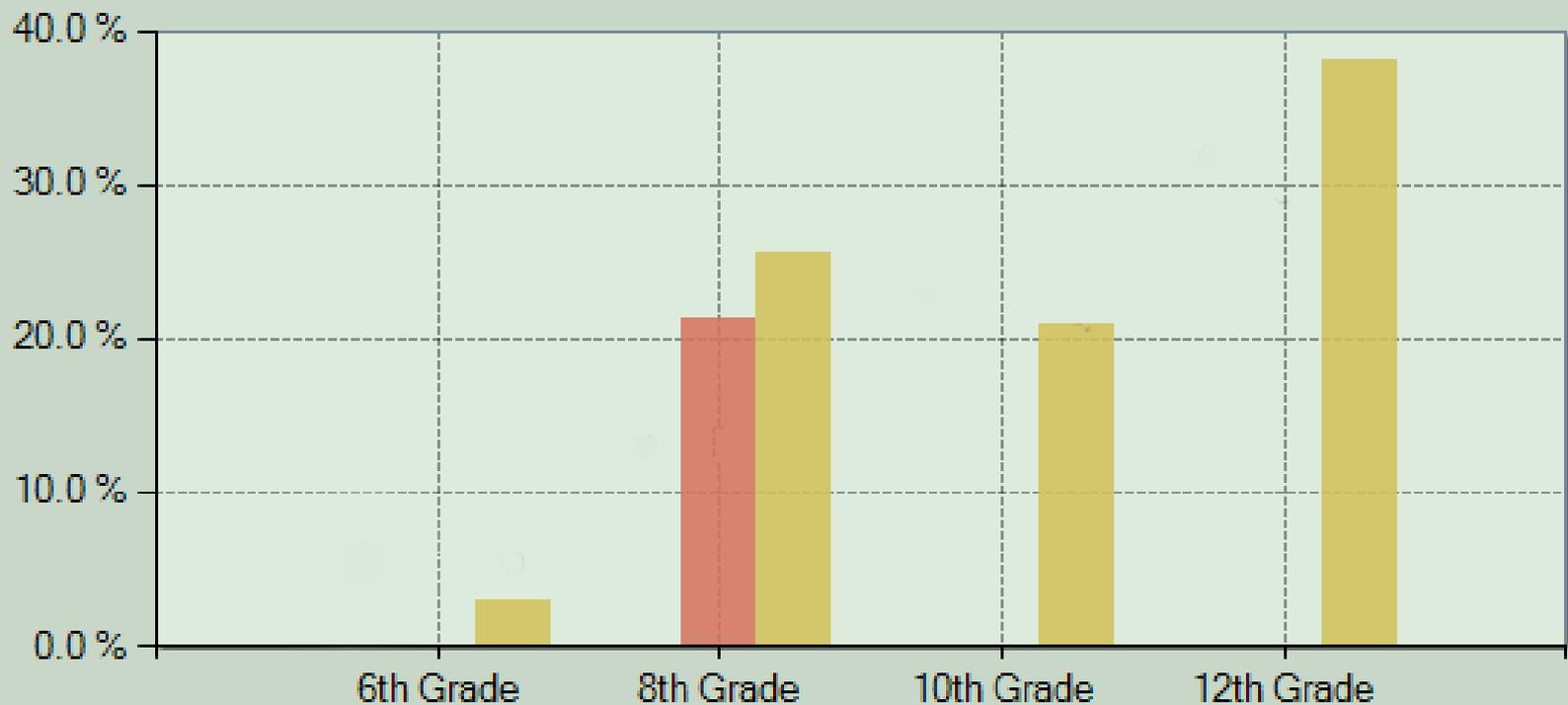
Common Physical Data Issues

- ▣ Validity of existing data.
 - Data is not capturing what it was intended to capture.



Issues cont.....

Percentage Of Youth Indicating Binge Drinking In The Past Two Weeks



Woods

2006 2008 2010

Issues cont.....

- ▣ Low levels of survey participation.



“For better or for worse? How much worse?”

Issues cont.....

Youth Online: High School YRBS



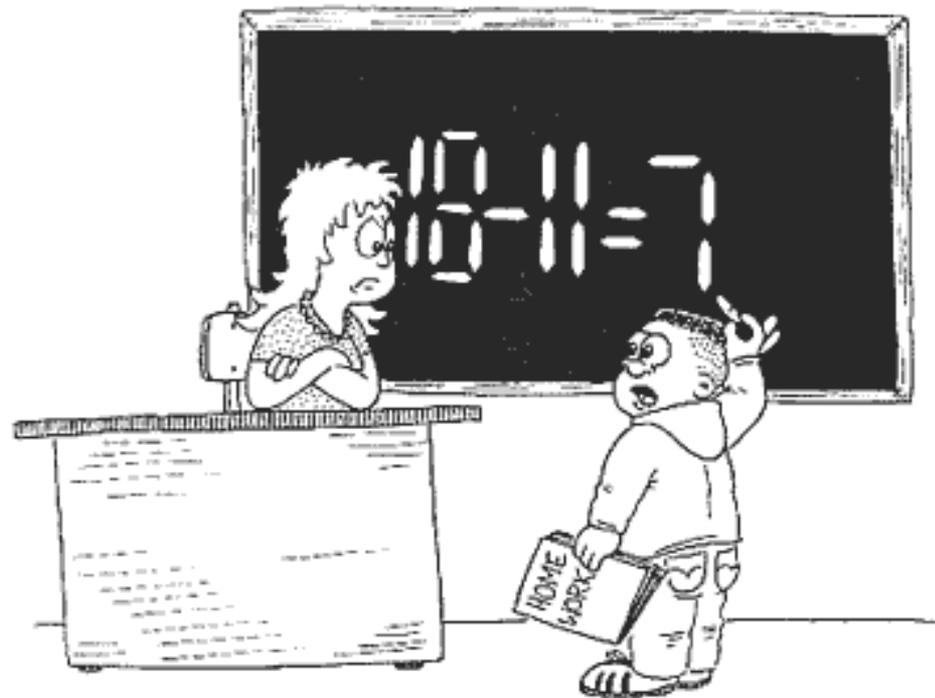
Oklahoma 2009 Results

Had At Least One Drink Of Alcohol On At Least 1 Day
(during the 30 days before the survey)
Among 9th-Grade Students
Oklahoma, High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2009

Year	Sex	Total	Female	Male
2009		30.4 (24.6–36.9) 357 [†]	32.6 (24.4–42.1) 174	28.4 (20.9–37.4) 183

Issues cont.....

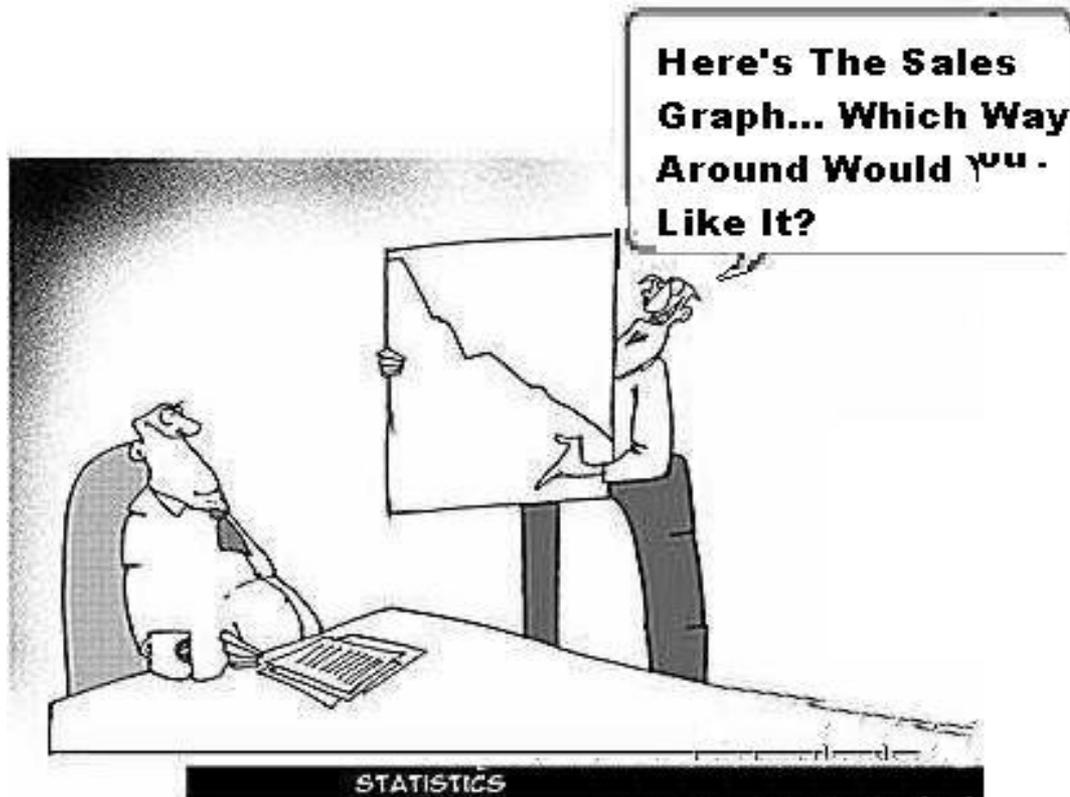
- ▣ New and emerging issues that are not being tracked.



I swear I didn't use a calculator.

Issues cont.....

- ▣ Certain demographic and / or geographic populations are not addressed, or the numbers are too low to provide reliable estimates for them.



Most Common Technical Data Issues

- High Percentages with wide Confidence intervals.



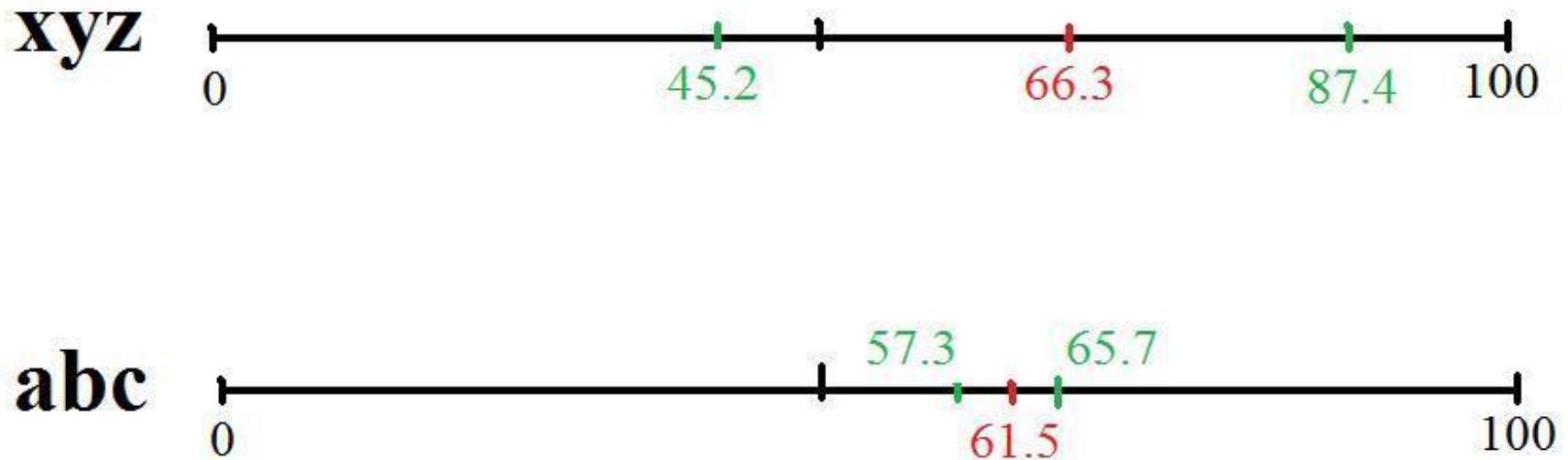
Conf int. continued.....

- Hypothetical Situation.

- xyz risk factor is 66.3% prevalent with conf Int. (45.2, 87.4)
- abc risk factor is 61.5% prevalent with conf Int. (57.3, 65.7)

Conf int. continued.....

Confidence Interval for xyz & abc



How to handle Data Gaps

- 1) Identify the data gaps.
- 2) Justify, how addressing this data gap will help towards preventive decisions.
- 3) Develop a plan to address data gap.
 - e.g., Refine the available data to minimize the gaps.
 - Explore alternative variables or data resources.
 - Collect additional data or new data.
 - Where possible use statistical techniques.

Thank You



Amir L Butt MBBS, MPH

REOW Coordinator

**Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and
Substance Abuse Services**

405-521-6173