

Glossary of Data Analysis Terms and Concepts

Term	Definition
Accurate	Data that are correct (free from error), clear, and have adequate detail
Aggregate	A whole formed by combining several elements
Aggregate child-level assessment data	The combined data collected by an agency on the status and progress of the children it serves. Provides summary information about groups of children enrolled in specific classes, centers, home-based or other options, groups, or settings; other groups of children, such as dual language learners, or by specific domains of development
Analysis	An investigation of the component parts of a whole and their relationship in making up the whole
Availability	Data is present and ready for use; obtainable
Baseline	An accurate measurement of existing developmental and process levels prior to implementing change to allow a clear measurement of the impact of inputs and activities
Child-level assessment data	The data collected by an agency on an individual child from one or more valid and reliable assessments of a child's status and progress, including but not limited to direct assessment, structured observations, checklists, staff or parent report measures, and portfolio records or work samples
Code	A method used to label important pieces of information
Compare	To estimate, measure, or note the similarity or dissimilarity between
Correlation	Having a mutual relationship or connection in which one thing affects or depends on another. Two things may correlate but that does not mean the first thing causes the second
Dashboard	A visual display of the most important information needed to achieve one or more objectives which fits entirely on a single page so it can be monitored at a glance
Data	Facts or information usually used to calculate, analyze, or plan something
Disaggregate	To separate into its component parts
Factor	A circumstance, fact, or influence that contributes to a result or outcome
Hypothesis	An idea or theory that is not proven but leads to further study or discussion
Information	Data collected, organized, ordered, and imbued with meaning and context
Integrity	The accuracy and consistency of data over its entire life cycle
Mean	The average of a group of numbers
Median	The middle value of numbers when they are ordered from smallest to largest



Term	Definition
Mode	The value that occurs most frequently in a given set of data
Outlier	A person or thing differing from all other members of a particular group or set; events or observations which do not conform to an expected pattern
Pattern	Something that happens in a regular and repeated way
Personally Identifiable Information (PII)	Data that could identify a specific individual, including but not limited to a child's name, name of a child's family member, street address of the child, social security number, or other information that is linked or linkable to the child
Predictive	Data that is useful to calculate behavior and anticipate the consequences of change
Qualitative	Information from sources such as interviews, open-ended questionnaire items, and focus groups that is represented in verbal or narrative form or anecdotes
Quality Data	Data that are complete, accurate, timely and relevant
Quantitative	Data that are expressed in numerical terms
Range	The difference between the maximum value and the minimum value
Relevant	Data that is connected or has a bearing on the specific issue at hand
Reliability	The trait of being dependable or reliable. Tools that provide dependable and consistent information
School readiness goals	The expectations of children's status and progress across domains of language and literacy development, cognition and general knowledge, approaches to learning, physical well-being and motor development, and social and emotional development that will improve their readiness for kindergarten
Security	The protection of information, such as a data base, from destructive forces and from the unwanted actions of unauthorized users
Sum	The whole amount
Themes	A unifying idea that is a recurrent element or a narrative leading to a set of patterns
Timely	Data captured quickly after the activity and made available as soon as possible
Trend	A general direction in which something is developing or changing
Usability	The extent to which data can be used with effectiveness, efficiency, and satisfaction
Validity	The quality of being logically and factually sound
Variable	A characteristic, number, or quantity that changes over time
Variance	The quality of being subject to difference

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