



Services Overview

The Youth Data Collaborative (“the Collaborative”) is a research-practice partnership that provides youth-serving non-profit and public organizations access to the data, analysis, and expertise needed to inform decision-making and improve outcomes. The Collaborative is embedded in Chapin Hall’s Integrated Data Systems team, a national leader in administrative record linkage, database development, and analysis. Developing customized data reports is the cornerstone of the Collaborative’s work, allowing partners to better understand how youth are engaging with their programs and other systems. The Collaborative provides not only the technical expertise to apply rigorous statistical methods, but also the practical experience to translate analysis into actionable strategy and communications.

SERVICE COMPONENTS

The Collaborative delivers on these goals through four primary activities:

- 1) Data planning and strategy: Partner onboarding begins by developing a logic model to ensure alignment between programs goals and data analysis. At the same time, Collaborative staff work with partners to understand their current status of data tracking, format, and documentation, and identify future data collection or linkage needs to achieve their goals.
- 2) Data intake and linkage: The Collaborative offers technical support for ensuring that legal safeguards are in place to protect highly sensitive data. Once a data sharing agreement is secured, Collaborative staff conduct partner data intake and linkage to administrative data sets, such as Chicago Public Schools and the National Student Clearinghouse.
- 3) Report development, production, and refinement: Data reports are rooted in the development of use cases, a user-centered design technique, to ensure that they are aligned with organizational priorities. This process is informed by Collaborative experience demonstrating that requests for “all the data” seldom lead to actionable information. Like a logic model, the use case provides discipline, intentionality, and accountability for partners, as well as those stakeholders that provide administrative data. The current library of data reports is listed below.
- 4) Strategic planning and data use: The Collaborative engages with partners through regular full working group meetings and one-on-one support and strategy meetings with each partner. Full working group meetings serve as touchpoints for partners to connect with each other and

jointly participate in topical learning workshops led by Collaborative staff, identify shared questions and needs, and share best practices and challenges, while one-on-one provide space to conduct partner-specific work. The Collaborative also provides tools and materials that partners may use asynchronously, including briefs to de-mystify methodologies, from linkage to outcomes analysis.

REPORT LIBRARY

The existing library of Collaborative data reports is available to all Participants once data intake linkage has been completed. Although Chapin Hall convenes the Collaborative, its partners jointly set priorities for evolving work to ensure that efforts meet the needs of practitioners, who have on-the-ground perspective of the service ecosystem and vision for how data can inform their work. Partners may request new reports and features upon agreement among the full Collaborative.

Report	Answers the question	Description and indicators	Use
Program Snapshot	Who are we serving?	Description of program participants by various domains including demographic, student attainment, attendance, and on-track status.	Designed for internal program reference and planning, and as a starting point for developing additional questions and analysis. Can also be used for external communications to the public, funders, parents, schools, or other partner agencies.
Population Comparison	How does our participant population compare to the (school / community) population?	Descriptive comparison of program participants and non-participants disaggregated by indicator domains of partner interest.	Designed to identify differences between the composition of program participants and non-participants for internal strategic outreach and recruitment planning and partnerships.
Population Engagement	Where are the young people we seek to serve, but have not yet engaged?"	Descriptive accounting of those youth engaged in partner programming and those not engaged disaggregated by partner focal population.	Designed to identify gaps in focal population recruitment by geography of interest, such as school or community area. Can be used for internal strategic outreach and recruitment planning and partnerships.
Outcomes Analysis	What is the effect of our programming on participants?	Quasi-experimental analysis of participant outcomes as defined by partner using rigorous statistical methods.	Can be used to identify promising programs and opportunities for more resource-intensive evaluation.