TIMEFRAME FOR COLLECTING DATA

Time frame for Collecting Data
Determine whether the data that you need requires:

- A baseline - typically occurs prior to initiative roll-out, and can be used to compare changes from the beginning of a project as compared to specified time frame typically after an intervention has been implemented.

  Example: A county might want to examine father/child visits over time. They determine the average number of visits between fathers/children before the start of the program (i.e. the baseline) and after the intervention has been implemented. This way, counties are able to see changes over time and may be able to conclude that changes over time were attributable to a specific intervention.

- A point in time data - data collected on a specific date

  Example: A county might want to know, after recruitment, how many fathers actually participated in services. They may want to collect data at 3 month intervals, like:
  - 1/1/12,
  - 4/1/12,
  - 7/1/12 and
  - 10/1/12

- A specific time period - data collected for a specific duration of time

  Example: A county might want to know the number of all children who have been removed from home during a 12-month period.

- Cohort data - collecting data about children who share similar characteristics, i.e. who enter (entry cohort) or exit (exit cohort) the child welfare system together.

  Example: A county might want to know the number the children who were adopted who entered the system at the same time OR a county might want to know the number of children who exited into permanency in a given year.