

Advanced Analytics for Child Welfare Administration

*Advanced Analytics for Child Welfare Administration is a three- to five-day course that teaches child welfare analysts and administrators how to convert data into evidence that can be used to inform policy and practice decisions in a Continuous Quality Improvement context. Course participants learn fundamental skills and techniques for creating value from administrative data and how analytic results can be used to evaluate the outcomes, process, quality, and capacity of child welfare agencies. **This course is targeted to analysts and managers responsible for shaping the way performance reports are generated and used throughout the agency.***

Purpose of the Course

The process of improving outcomes for children and families involves asking mission-critical questions about system performance and using the answers to drive decisions. *Advanced Analytics* builds participants' capacity to ask and answer questions by strengthening skills in longitudinal analysis and performance measurement. Students learn how to define and conduct analyses that lead to representative and unbiased evidence about system performance, as well as how to recognize and avoid typical pitfalls that lead to the incorrect use of administrative data.

Who Should Attend?

Advanced Analytics is designed for analysts and those who are empowered to apply best practices in measurement and to generate evidence for their public or private child welfare agency. Individuals working in policy, continuous quality improvement, program management/design, research, and computing are encouraged to apply.

“Advanced Analytics creates a completely different mindset for both data professionals and child welfare leadership—it gave our agency a completely different perspective on how our data could be used. As a result, we have been able to turn data collected in our system into usable information that actually has the capacity to impact practice and directly change people’s lives.”

– Marvin L. Smith, Programs Administrator, Technology & Governance Unit – KIDS (SACWIS),
Child Welfare Services, Oklahoma Department of Human Services

Course Structure

- One 3- to 5-day, in-person course (can be expanded or condensed to meet an agency’s needs).
- Incorporates classroom learning, small group activities, homework assignments, and self-tests.
- Wherever possible, course content makes use of your child welfare system’s own administrative data in order to maximize relevance and ready application to your agency’s real world problem solving efforts.

Content Overview

To maximize relevance and transfer of learning, each lesson draws explicit links between analytic concepts and techniques and their real world implications for performance monitoring and CQI decision-making. Students will develop skills in transforming data to evidence in the following areas:

- Representative, bias-free measurement of system performance
- Best practices for measuring and reporting outcomes for children and families (e.g., admission to foster care, permanent exit, length of stay, placement stability, placement type/level of care, and reentry)
- Measuring change in performance over time, including models for developing baseline and target expectations to test the effect of investments and changes in policy
- Techniques for observing variation and identifying opportunities for improvement, including racial disparities
- Techniques for evaluating contract agency performance
- Introduction to the application of machine-learning to child welfare decision-making

For more information, contact analytics@chapinhall.org.