

**William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund
Discovery Data Collection Methods Workshop**

July 13, 2005

Breakout Session Assignment: Data Analysis

Sheffield, Connecticut: Sheffield, Connecticut is a diverse community of 40,000 people. According to the 2000 Census there were 2500 children ages 0 to 5. It is estimated that the population size and age demographics have not changed much in the past 5 years. Three languages are spoken in Sheffield in addition to English, including Spanish, Chinese and Polish.

The Sheffield Discovery Collaborative is focused on expanding the supply and improving the quality of early education opportunities in the community. Sheffield is a severe needs district, with a low rate of students attending preschool. Anecdotal information suggests that early care and education opportunities in Sheffield vary greatly in terms of quality, with most of the higher quality programs being too expensive for many parents to access.

The Sheffield Discovery Collaborative wants to provide more concrete evidence that the quality of care varies and that the higher quality programs may be harder for parents to access because of cost, the hours of operation and the number of available slots, esp. for infants. The Collaborative has collected the following data:

- They conducted four focus groups with parents of young children (a total 27 parents attended in total). The focus groups discussed what the parents knew about child care options in town, their perceptions of the quality of the care available, and any barriers that they faced in accessing care.
- They sent a survey to parents of kindergarteners (400 were sent, 180 were returned). The survey included these two questions:
 - Parents were asked to rate the quality of care available for each of these age groups - infants, toddlers and preschoolers on a scale of 1 to 5 with one being very high quality and 5 being very poor quality.
 - Parents were asked to rate the degree to which any of the following were barriers to their ability to access quality early care (cost, location, hours, and slot availability). Their choices were: not a barrier; a slight barrier; a significant barrier; not applicable/not sure.

You are going to analyze this data for them. Determine how you are going to use this data from the point of data collection (you have the data in hand but nothing more – surveys have not been entered into any database, etc.)

1. Determine how you are going to prepare the data for analysis? How are you going to manage and process the data? How are you going to clean the data?
 - a. What will be your first steps with the notes from the focus groups?
 - b. What will be your first steps with the 180 paper surveys?
2. Once you have prepared the data for analysis, how will you seek to answer the Collaborative's questions regarding the quality of care available and barriers to getting quality care?
 - a. How will you analyze the focus group responses?
 - b. How will you analyze survey results from the two questions list above?