

Local Consortium Effectiveness Study: Initial Results

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Community Data Program



Region of Waterloo
COMMUNITY SERVICES

Agenda

1. Recap

- Rationale, effectiveness & method

2. Initial results

3. Discussion

- Key topics of interest

4. Next steps

Your Task

1. Reflect on what information from the study would be most useful to you
2. During the discussion, discuss ideas with your colleagues
3. Provide feedback on where we should focus the analysis

Study Rationale

- Time and resources are scarce. **How can we maximize the benefit of the energy we put into our consortiums?**
- Longstanding model, with lots of local variation. **What are some promising practices?**
- Consortiums are a promising strategy to support social development and data-driven planning & decision-making. **However, there's limited evidence & guidance on how best to run a consortium**
- **Note:** This study was **not** an evaluation. Instead, it "peels back the onion" to explore attributes & activities that may drive effectiveness

"Effectiveness"

Defined using the goals of CDP National.

To enhance local...

1. *Data **access**,*
2. *Data and analytics **capacity**, and*
3. ***Networking** regarding data and analytics,*

...all of which is done to facilitate local social development.

Method

- **Aug:** Initial concept was supported by CDP National
- **Oct:** Study was endorsed at a leads teleconference
- **Nov:** Group of leads, CDP staff & an academic developed the questionnaire
- **Mar:** Ethics approval
- **Apr:** Cross-sectional online survey administered & admin data gathered

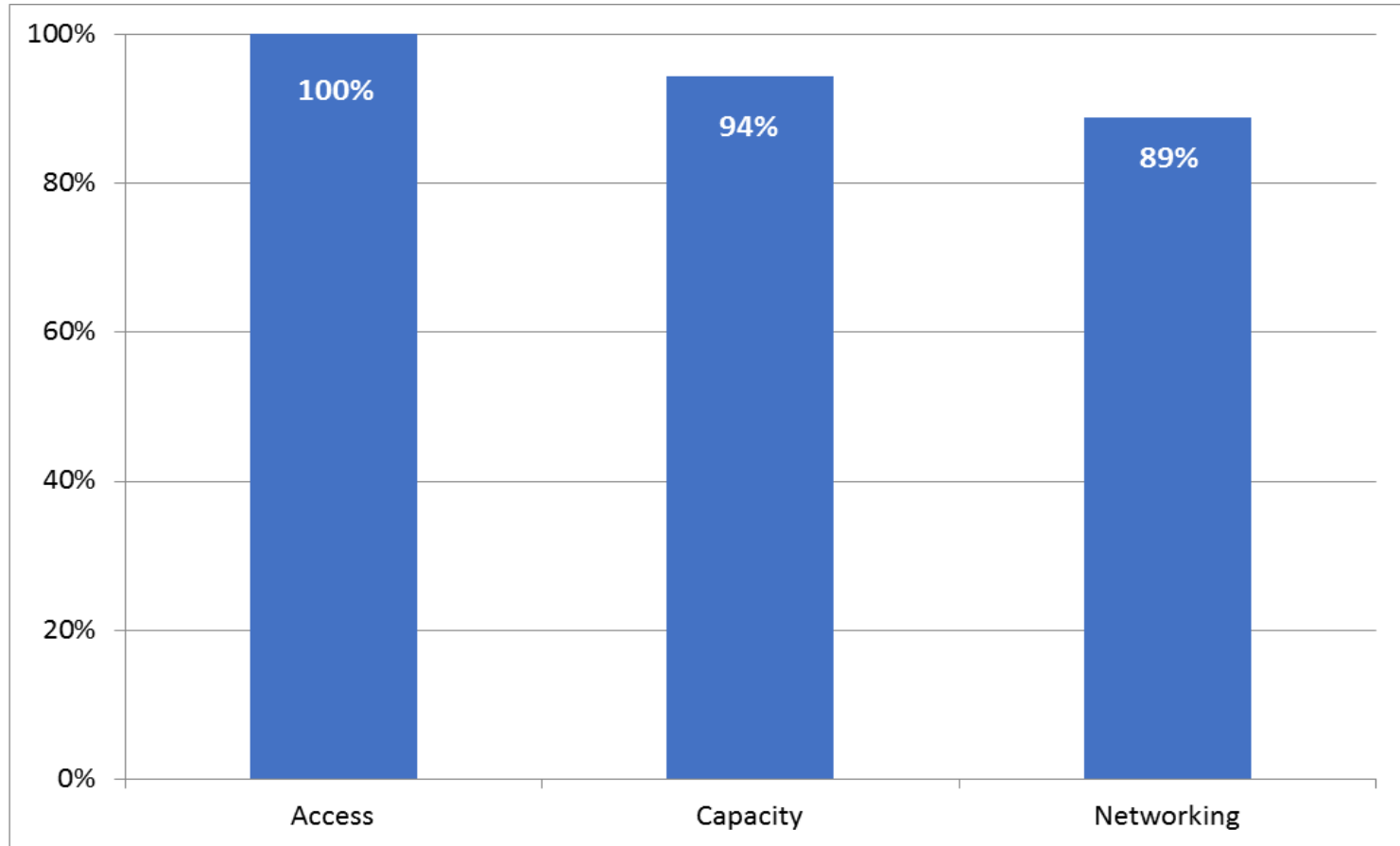
- **Now:** Collaborative analysis to guide the final paper
- **Goal:** Provide useful information to leads, CDP National and to advance the field (to help others)

Results

- 18 consortiums responded
 - Response rate: 51-54%

Number of	Mean (SD)	Min	Max
Member organizations	15(8)	2	33
Data users	79(60)	10	215
Mean annual downloads (2014-2019)	195(153)	11	549
Population (Census 2016)	786,053 (663,276)	39,594	2.7M
		Oldest	Youngest
Year started	N/A	Pre-2011	2018/19

% of consortiums trying to achieve the following goals



Two reports of another goal: Sharing local data / reports

Priority of the Goals for your Consortium

	Access	Capacity	Networking
High Priority	83%	67%	44%
Moderate Priority	17%	22%	44%
Low Priority	0%	6%	6%
N/A	0%	6%	6%

Your Consortium's Effectiveness at achieving the Goals

	Access	Capacity	Networking
Very Effective	17%	17%	22%
Somewhat Effective	61%	39%	44%
Not Effective	0%	11%	11%
Unsure	11%	17%	6%
N/A	11%	17%	17%

***Is consortium effectiveness
changing over time?***

39% - **More effective**

44% - No change in effectiveness

0% - **Less effective**

11% - Unsure

How has your consortium become more effective?

- Began hosting regular data workshops
- Structural changes
- Members updated through meetings & emails
- Meeting regularly, new staff position & more leadership support
- Consortium members are more involved
- Expanded membership, improved consortium format & new collaborations

Data or Policy as Primary Focus?

61% - **Data** is primary

28% - **Both** are of **equal focus**

5% - **Policy** is primary

5% - Unsure

Does your consortium have/use...

	Yes	No	Unsure
Terms of Reference	44%	44%	0%
Plan / Charter	22%	72%	0%
Stakeholder Analysis	11%	78%	6%
Proactive Engagement	56%	28%	11%
Advocacy	22%	61%	11%
Evaluation Experience	22%	67%	0%
In-person Meetings	56%	39%	0%
Regular Communication	11%	83%	0%
Help w/ Data <u>Access</u>	67%	22%	6%
Help w/ Data <u>Analysis</u>	50%	39%	6%

Results >60% highlighted to help read the table

Aside from low-cost access to data, what benefits do your members see from participating?

Membership benefit	% Agree
Capacity building opportunities (either locally or nationally)	83%
Networking with others working with data locally	67%
Support with <u>accessing</u> data	67%
Support with <u>understanding</u> data	67%
Networking with others working on similar policy issues locally	50%
Support with <u>analyzing</u> data	44%
Opportunity to interact with you, the brilliant consortium lead	33%

Other benefits: Exposure to different analysis & reporting, knowledge exchange, data sharing, deeper understanding of our area

Which, if any, would help your consortium achieve its goals / mandate?

Possible Opportunities to Improve Effectiveness	% Agree
Collective development of data analysis tools	72%
Collective development of data literacy programs or tools	72%
More partnerships with relevant data stakeholders (e.g., 211)	72%
Collective development of data standards	44%
More partnerships with academia	44%
Collective advocacy as a national network on data issues	39%
More collaborative work between neighbouring consortia	39%
Having >1 clear policy priorities (instead of “social development”)	33%
Collective advocacy as a national network on policy issues	22%
More influence on the program’s governance nationally	11%

Other needs: Opportunity for local consortiums to inform transition from CCSD to the new organization and with the communications to explain the change to consortium members

Open Q: Main supportive factors of achieving your goals / mandate?

- Face-to-Face meetings (x3)
- Sharing costs b/w members (x2)
- Having 1 "backbone" member pay the fees (x2)
- Support we provide to our members (x2)
- Common interest in data (x2)
- Connection to national to support development
- Support from national staff to help troubleshoot and access data
- Sharing reports b/w members
- High quality data
- Staff with dedicated time
- History of good collaboration between partners
- Having members who are data experts
- Diverse membership
- Corporate support for leadership

Open Q: Main barriers to achieving your goals / mandate

- Staff lead time to (x7)
 - Do more with the data (x2)
 - Build and sustain the consortium
 - Community awareness
- Lack of a dedicated staff (x3)
- Staff turnover (x3)
- Member time (x2)
- Demonstrating the value of CDP membership
- Low consortium member engagement
- Diversity of member organization mandates
- Data's time to market
- Data sharing between organizations

Other qualitative data collected...

Briefly describe your...

1. Consortium leadership & coordinating structure
2. Funding & finances
3. Consortium's “evolution” over the past 3-5 yrs
4. Major experiments, lessons learned, failures over the past 3-5 yrs

Questions?

*Before we discuss what further analysis
would be of more interest to you*

In Small Groups

1. Select a scribe and someone to report back
2. Discuss and identify ≥ 1 topic where further analysis would help you run your consortium
3. Record your ideas and report back

For example:

- Any association/relationship between # of members and perceptions of effectiveness?
- Do consortiums that prioritize networking do more face-face meetings?
- Do consortiums that have seen an \uparrow in downloads have anything in common?

Next Steps

1. Further analysis (based on your feedback)
2. Report back at a future leads teleconference
3. Paper in indexed journal

Thank you!

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