

DEFINITIONS OF TERMS INTERPRETING DATA

Decoding Data for Equitable Outcomes

Democratize: making data tools, materials, and resources widely available

Demonstrate: showing colleagues and stakeholders how to understand, collect, organize, analyze, and interpret data through using the widely-available data tools, materials, and resources

Demystify: explaining and addressing data concepts in accessible, plainspoken terms

Decoding Data: Terms to Know

Anonymized: taking data that has been collected from individuals and making it so that the data or responses cannot be attributed to specific individuals

- Data can be anonymized either by making the information permanently unrelated to specific individuals or making it identifiable with a secret code.
- Identifiers:
 - Direct: Name, address, DOB, etc....
 - Indirect: Location, school, district, etc....

Bias: systematic error introduced into sampling or assessment data by selecting, encouraging, or prioritizing one outcome or answer over others

- Knowingly? Unknowingly? Intentional? Accidental?
- Often a combination.

Reducing Bias in the Data Process

Understanding data

- What perspective are you using to understand data?
- Are you including multiple sources to tell a complete story?

Collecting and organizing data

- Where are you getting your data?
- How do you know your data is of high quality?

Analyzing data

- How will you process your data once you have it?
- Are you looking out for assumptions, interpretations, and conceptual biases?

Interpreting data

- How is the way you interpret data shaped by your experiences, worldview, and opinions?
- Are you including multiple perspectives (e.g. social, historical, mathematical) to avoid making one-sided interpretations?