



**The Hilltop Institute**

*analysis to advance the health of vulnerable populations*

# Data Integration in HCBS Program Development

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NASUA Winter Membership Meeting

# Perfect Information: The Holy Grail

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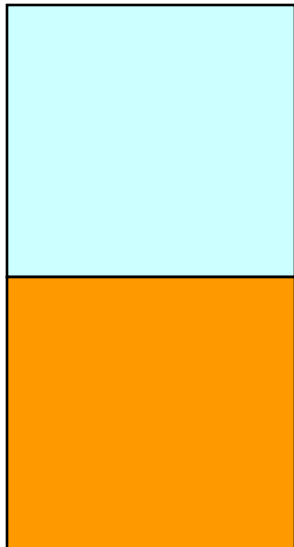
- With the vast amounts of data available to state policymakers, there is amazing potential to pull individual-level information together to form a complete picture of a program population.

# Data Integration

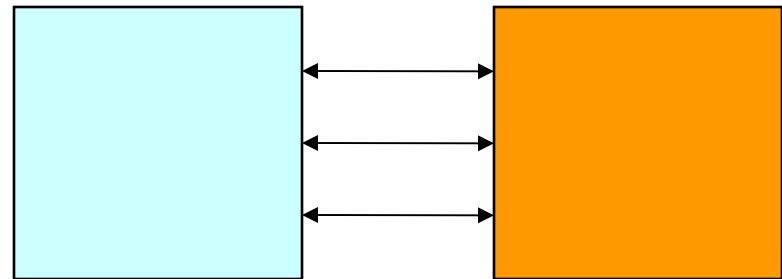
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- “Data Integration” refers to the combining of disparate data sources.

Appending



Merging



# The “Key” to Data Integration

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- The presence of “keys” allows individual records to be combined.
- If a unique individual identifier (such as SSN) does not exist across each data source, sophisticated matching algorithms may be able to create one.

# Current Sources

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- Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS)
  - Medicaid claims, encounters, and eligibility
- Minimum Data Set (MDS)
  - Nursing home assessments, regardless of payer
  - Data elements are different for full (admission, annual) and partial (quarterly, discharge) assessments
- Medicare
  - Available through ResDAC (University of Minnesota)

# Current Sources continued

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- Public Assistance Reporting Information System (PARIS)
  - VA benefits, interstate public assistance
- Other State Programs
  - ADRC, Transportation, Housing, Education, Substance Abuse, Corrections, etc.
  - The sky's the limit!

# Current Sources: Know Your Data

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- Organizations should take inventory ... know what they have “in house” and what is feasible to acquire (or at least link to).
- The small connections could be the most crucial for unique populations.

# New Applications

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- The federal match for most new health information technology (HIT) is 90%.
- Systems in process to inform providers (such as electronic health records) can be expanded to include policy and research capabilities.
- Must involve researchers and policymakers in the beginning stages.



# Case Study: Online Waiver Tracking Systems

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- Designed to streamline enrollment into HCBS waivers by facilitating cross-agency collaboration.
- Four systems are operational, the oldest of which has been in use since May 2004.
- These systems have led to a significant decrease in time-to-enrollment.

# Tracking Systems Data Sources

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Administrative  
Agencies

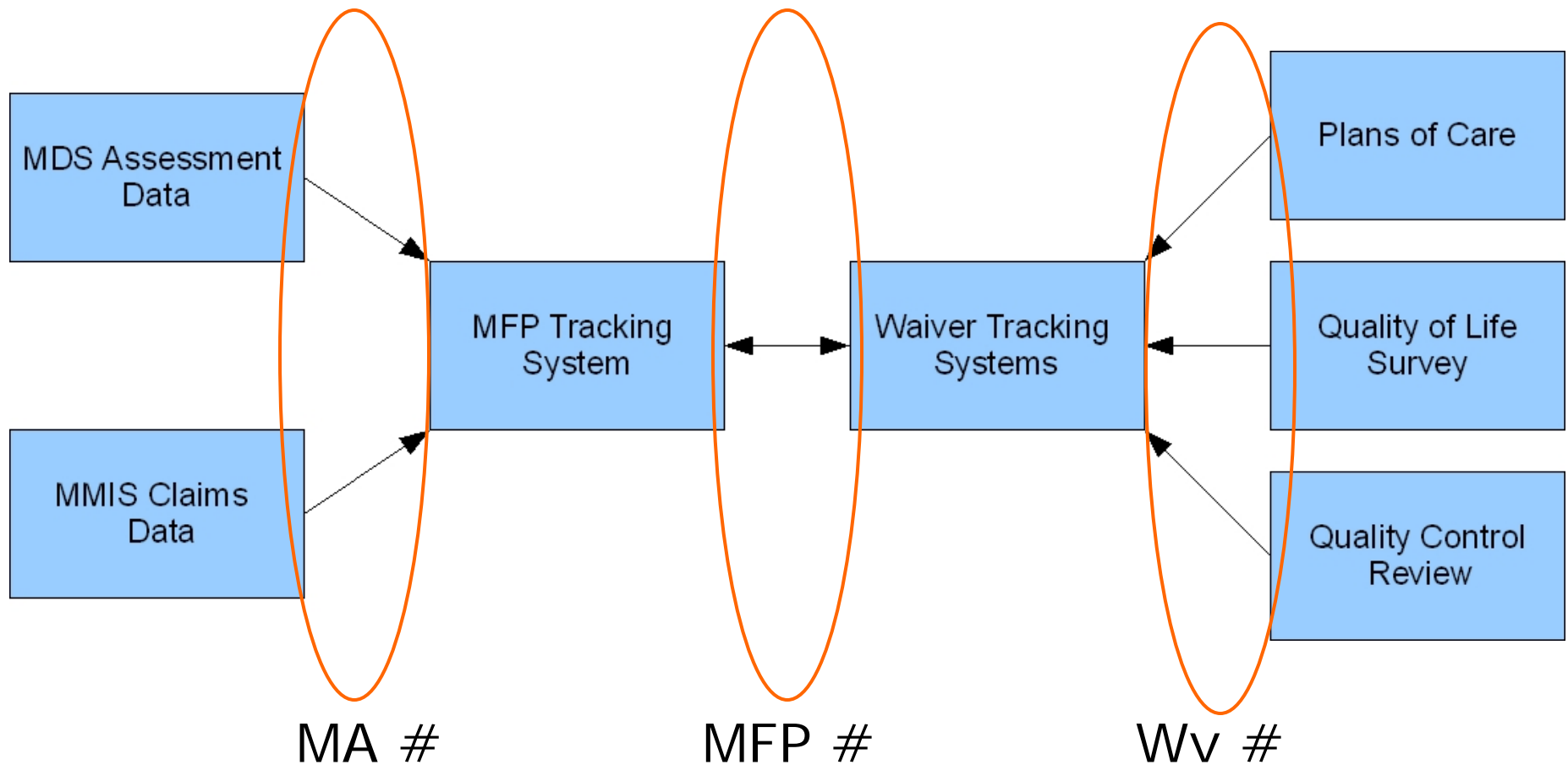
Financial  
Eligibility



Medical  
Evaluators

AAAs / Case  
Managers

# "Keys" are the key ...



# Metrics

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- Once integrated datasets are available, standard metrics can be used to compare subgroups.
  - TTR (POC) vs. TTR (non-POC)
  - Program Recruitment
- HEDIS metrics are useful, but integrated data allows flexibility and creativity in developing program- and population-specific measures.

# Final Thoughts ...

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- Combining disparate data sources using keys will allow for a more complete picture of the program population.
- There is are amazing amounts of data already available, and it can all tell a story.
- Aim for cross-agency buy in.
- Be creative!

# About The Hilltop Institute

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The Hilltop Institute at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) is a nationally recognized research center dedicated to improving the health and social outcomes of vulnerable populations. Hilltop conducts research, analysis, and evaluation on behalf of government agencies, foundations, and other non-profit organizations at the national, state, and local levels.

[www.hilltopinstitute.org](http://www.hilltopinstitute.org)

# Contact Information

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