

Guide for Data Analysis and Use

Along with your PDSA and data, also consider the questions below while analyzing your data and planning for your next PDSA/ Small Test of Change. Remember that the Study and Act phases of the PDSA cycle help in evaluating whether the change was an improvement or not. And whether the change practice should be implemented further.

Critical questions before moving forward include:

Adopt: Should the change practice be tested on a larger scale? If actual improvement and positive movement toward the outcome is seen, it may be time to implement the change practice on a larger scale, in more classrooms or schools. Several PDSA cycles are recommended before this option is selected.

Adapt: Does the change practice need to be adjusted? If adjustments are needed to the change practice, to a process related to implementing the change practice, or to data collection, make the changes and go through another PDSA cycle. This is the most common scenario. Repeating the cycle without making any changes to collect more data is also an option.

Abandon: Should the change practice be abandoned? If you conclude that the change practice that was tested was implemented well but did not achieve the desired outcomes or that process or balance measures indicate that the approach is not likely to achieve the desired outcomes, it may be appropriate to abandon a change practice. In that case, return to the driver diagram and consider whether a new change practice should be introduced and tested.