

# Engaging with Data

*45 minutes*

## SEL FOCUS: RESPONSIBLE DECISION-MAKING, RELATIONSHIP SKILLS, SOCIAL AWARENESS

This activity emphasizes developing skills of **Responsible Decision-Making** (ProblemSolving), **Relationship Skills** (Resolving Conflicts) and **Social Awareness** (Respect for Others).

## OVERVIEW & PURPOSE

This protocol offers a structured way to engage with data, with a focus on reflecting on implications and developing next steps. When and Why: The purpose of this activity is to help participants make meaning out of data. It is useful when you want to use a data set to drive change.

## MATERIALS NEEDED

1. Data set

## ACTIVITY

1. Predictions: Explain which data you have in hand and ask participants to predict what they think the data will say. Chart the responses.
2. Descriptions: Distribute the data and ask participants to work in pairs to describe what they see while avoiding judgments or jumping to interpretations. What trends do they notice? Chart the trends.
3. Interpretations: Ask pairs to discuss what the data suggests. Encourage participants to come up with as many interpretations as possible, ask each other questions, and base their responses on evidence from the data set. Chart the interpretations.
4. Implications: In pairs, invite participants to recommend next steps, develop

strategies that may be effective in addressing the evidence found in the data, and suggest additional data that might be helpful to look at. Chart the discussion.

## DEBRIEF

Ask participants to write or discuss with a partner any or all of the following questions. Invite share-outs.

- “What did you learn from listening to others that was interesting or surprising?”
- “What new perspectives did others provide?”
- “How well did the process work?”
- “What could be improved?”

## MODIFICATIONS AND VARIATIONS

This can be done in small groups instead of in pairs, and groups can be responsible for charting and sharing out their responses between steps.