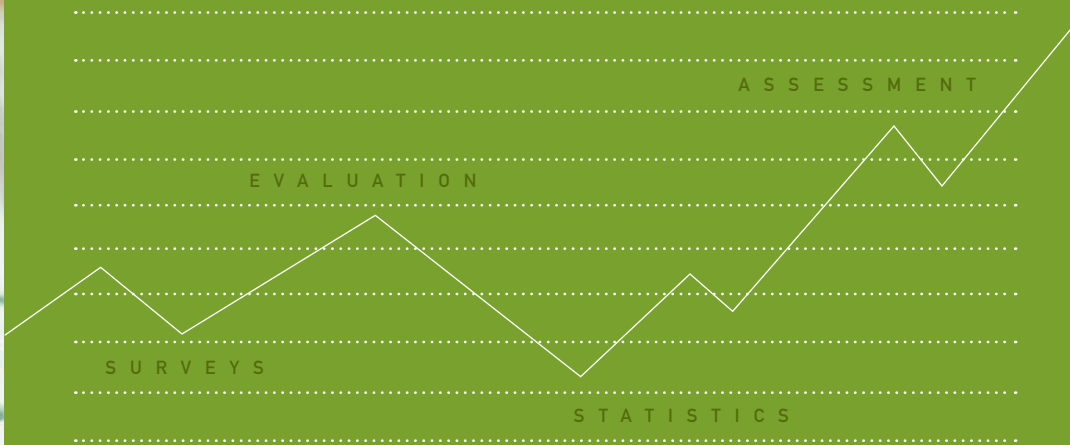




COBRO

CONSULTING



PROGRAM EVALUATION SYSTEMS & SERVICES

S E R V I C E S

RESEARCH

Effective program evaluation requires knowledge and expertise in areas of experimental design and research methodology. CoBro consultants have over 25 years of experience conducting broad-scale research projects.

EVALUATION SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT

CoBro Consulting uses the latest technology to strengthen the evaluation capacity of social service programs. The Comprehensive Program Assessment System (*Compass*) was created by CoBro Consulting to address current program evaluation needs. *Compass* facilitates data collection, reporting, and analysis, allowing the user to demonstrate program impact and foster continuous program improvement.

DATA ANALYSIS

CoBro consultants have extensive statistical knowledge and expertise. They work with clients to clarify research needs and determine the appropriate statistical analyses to examine program processes and outcomes. In addition, CoBro consultants present statistical findings in an easy-to-understand manner for clients. For ongoing program evaluation, the *Compass* system contains a statistics component that allows program staff to run their own impact analyses.



A recent pilot study found that the Compass screens reduce data entry time by 80% (e.g., from five days to one day).

SURVEY DESIGN & ANALYSIS

Surveys can be valuable in providing information on participant opinions, attitudes, and knowledge. CoBro Consulting staff have designed, administered, and analyzed hundreds of unique surveys. They produce both online and paper-based, scannable surveys and guarantee a quick turnaround time for results.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

CoBro Consulting conducts assessments of organization and community needs to provide information necessary for strategic planning. Methods employed include surveying, conducting focus groups, comparing historical and geographical data, and researching current industry standards and practices to ensure planning is based on informed decisions.

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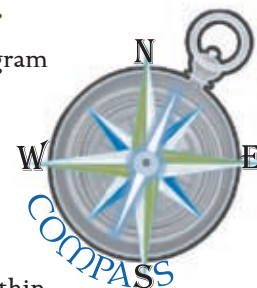
COMPASS

THE COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

Compass is a secure database management and evaluation tool that expedites data entry, organizes program participant data, generates reports, and conducts statistical analyses to evaluate program success.

It is not a generic, one-size-fits-all system. In addition to a set of core modules to address elements common across educational programs, *Compass* is tailored to specific program needs in terms of data entry, reports, and analyses.

Compass complies with Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) guidelines. Data remain within the secure *Compass* system at the program location, while still allowing for data entry across multiple sites.



Compass System Features

DATA ENTRY SCREENS

These are user-friendly, customized screens designed to facilitate data entry of program service and activity information collected for all program participants (e.g., students, parents, and faculty). The screens include drop-down menu options, batch entry features, and accuracy prompts.

DATABASE INTEGRATION

CoBro computer specialists coordinate electronic transmission of student demographic and academic outcomes data directly into the *Compass* system. The system integrates the program participation data with academic outcomes information such as course grades, GPA, and standardized test scores. Databases are developed for both participant and control groups.

AUTOMATED REPORTS

Compass provides user-defined, pre-formatted reports. Participation reports show program service usage and needs. Cohort profile reports present academic outcomes the user can disaggregate by student demographics. Mandatory data reports automatically generate the specified data required by state or federal agencies.

STATISTICAL ANALYSES

Compass provides a series of statistics options in a user-friendly drop-down menu format. Both descriptive statistics (e.g., means and frequencies) and inferential statistics (e.g., correlations, chi-squares, t-tests) are available. This enables the user to examine the effects of individual program elements as well as determine overall program impact.

ANALYSIS RESULTS

Analysis results are displayed in simple tables. Depending on the particular analysis, graphs are also presented. A simple text statement under the results table reports whether or not the analysis reached statistical significance.

BENEFITS OF COMPASS

Compass addresses the following challenges voiced by program practitioners.

CHALLENGE - Obtaining and entering student academic data.

SOLUTION - CoBro consultants work with school information technicians to electronically transfer data directly into the system.

CHALLENGE - Time-consuming hand entry of program service/activity data.

SOLUTION - The data-entry screens are tailored to program needs and designed for speed and accuracy.

CHALLENGE - Determination of service use and coverage.

SOLUTION - User-defined reports present attendance data by service or participant.

CHALLENGE - Difficulty collecting and organizing data for state or federally mandated reports.

SOLUTION - *Compass* generates such data automatically, at the click of a mouse.

CHALLENGE - Lack of statistical expertise and/or resources.

SOLUTION - *Compass* runs analyses that statistically demonstrate program impact and provide clear results and graphics.

Online and stand-alone versions available

CoBro Consulting Principals

DARLENE COLE, M.S.
CEO / Director of Research

Darlene Cole has over 15 years of experience coordinating and supervising broad-scale research projects. She has an M.S. degree in industrial-organizational psychology, and has worked extensively supervising research and the development of computer software products for education, health care, and government organizations. Darlene created the *Compass* system to facilitate program evaluation.

URBAN PELICON
Chief Information Officer

Urban Pelicon has extensive experience tailoring database systems to allow for maximum utility. Over the past five years, he has specialized in developing database systems for a variety of federal and state grant programs. Currently, Urban is the principal designer and programmer of the *Compass* evaluation system.

KEREN BROOKS, M.S.
Chief Research Analyst

Over the past ten years, Keren Brooks has conducted research and program evaluation in the fields of education and health care. She has an M.S. degree in industrial-organizational psychology, and extensive experience conducting quasi-experimental statistical analyses to examine program/project impact. Keren has also conducted numerous survey projects requiring survey design and analysis.



"We were very impressed with CoBro Consulting when they conducted our broad-scale needs assessment. I recommend their services and expertise to others without hesitation."

DAWN SAMPSON, M.S.W.
*Director, Social Services
Catalina Island Medical Center*

"The staff at CoBro Consulting are not just program evaluation consultants. They are true partners with New Mexico GEAR UP. They participate with staff and school districts to develop appropriate levels of data collection and training for each site. They are responsive to our project challenges and assist in problem-solving. Their experience and support were invaluable in preparation of our first annual report to the U.S. Department of Education."

ELIZABETH R. GUTIERREZ, PH.D.
*Director of P20 Policy Development & Programs
State of New Mexico
Higher Education Department*

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Compass Patent Pending

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