



## DATA COLLECTION TIPS

Data collecting does not have to be complicated or elaborate.  
KEEP IT SIMPLE!

### 1. Use existing data:

- Data can come from record keeping

### 2. Make sure your measures match your desired outcomes.

- For example, if you aim to improve the food safety in food transportation, you would need to make sure you measure the cleanliness of the transportation vehicle or containers used.
- Another example, if you aim to increase the quantity of nutrition education at your pantry, you can measure the number of times nutrition education demonstrations or classes were held for a period of time.

### 3. Be prepared to learn what works AND what doesn't work.

- Not all pantries are the same. Not all pantry guests are the same. Many times what works in one situation may not work in another situation. Be prepared to accept that.

### 4. Use multiple methods of gathering data.

- Fill out the scored assessments before and after your changes (quantitative) and ask or interview some key informants such as volunteers and pantry guests (qualitative).

### 5. Share what works with others.

- Your experience is valuable. Please share what you have learned with others at meetings or using our email community at [shfpp@mcn.ces.uwex.edu](mailto:shfpp@mcn.ces.uwex.edu).

You can sign up for this community at <https://fyi.uwex.edu/safehealthypantries>