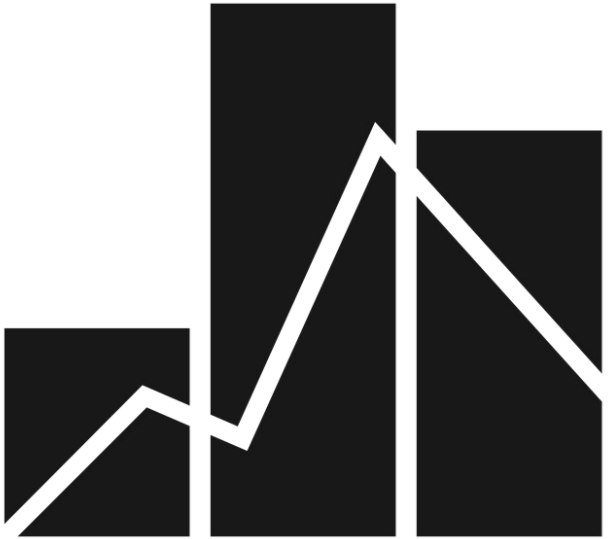
Data Use and Data Culture in Prosecutors' Offices:

Examining Prosecution Workshop



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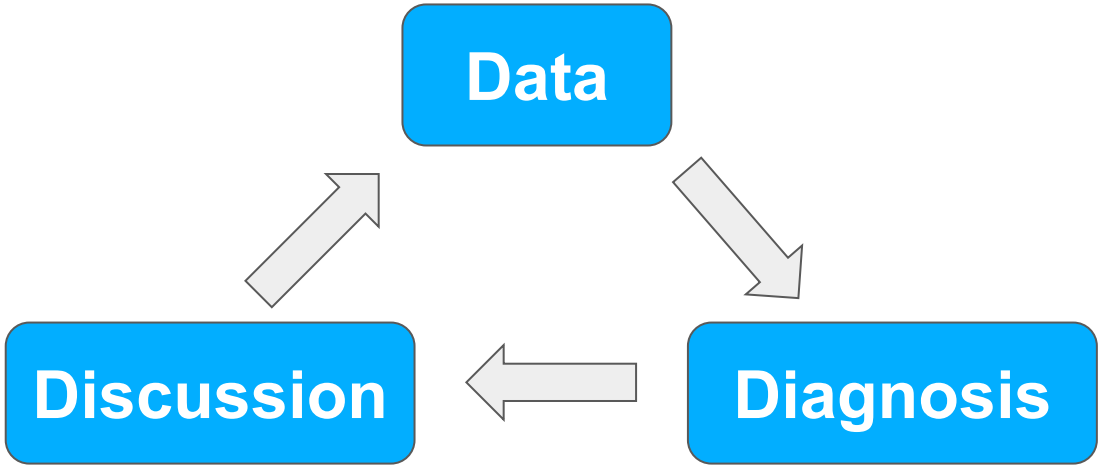
Data is just the beginning of a process of data-driven decision making



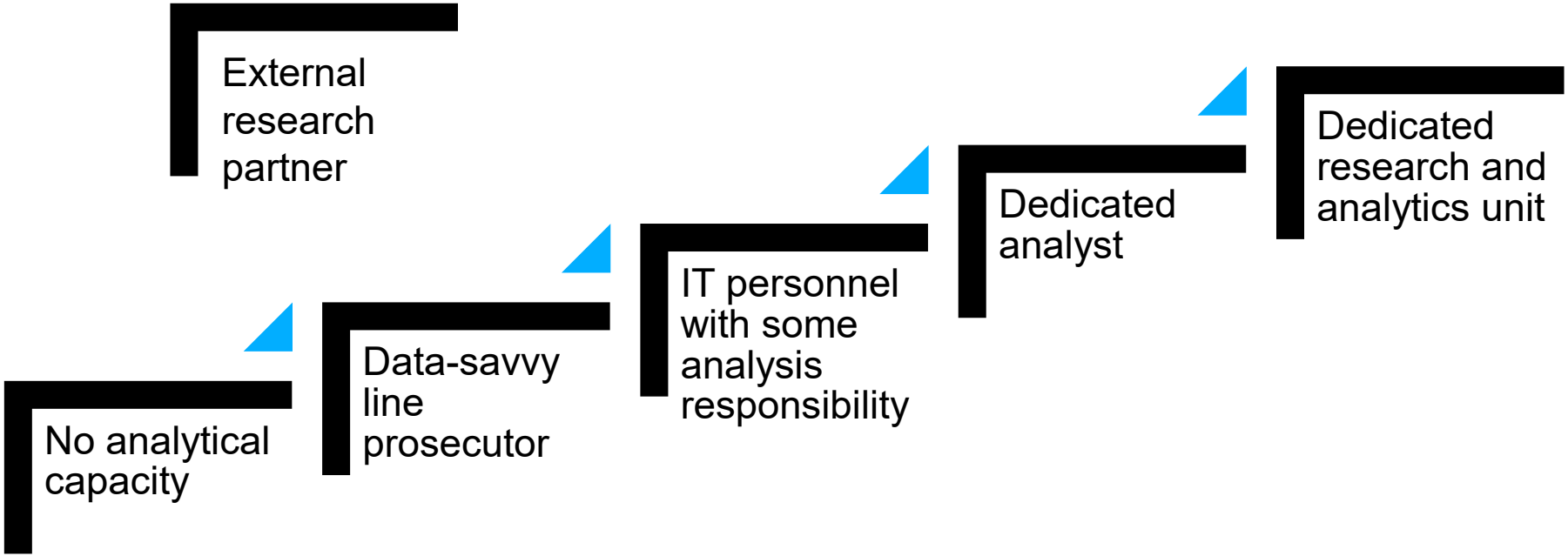
Becoming a data-driven organization rests on building infrastructure around data, analysis, and use.

Criminal justice data comes with challenges

- Agency diversity
- Data system diversity
- Data encoding diversity
- Insufficient data definition and poor documentation
- Proprietary system inconsistencies
- *Case management systems are not built for data analyses*

Data availability and data quality are issues, but lack of analytic capacity prevents data use in many offices.

Analytic capacity comes with challenges

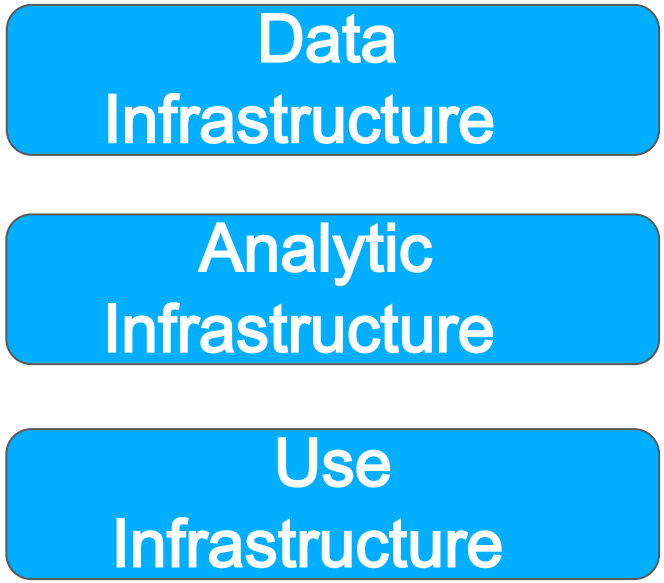


Data-driven decision making will not sustain itself. There must be a plan for how data will be used.

Data use comes with challenges

- Often occurs only within executive team
- Often lacks clear connection to office goals
- Rarely integrated into work routines
- Often presented in tables/inaccessible formats
- Often seen as “oversight” rather than decision-making tool
- *Prosecutors don’t like or don’t trust statistics*

Becoming a data -driven organization rests on building infrastructure



- Capitalize on shared resources
- Create workgroups to interrogate data & identify data gaps
- Task workgroups with revising existing codes & data collection routines

- Find an internal dedicated analyst or external partner
- Create workgroups tasked with understanding specific issues
- Task staff with developing data inquiries around existing work routines

- Center data in office/unit functioning & management
- Task staff with translating analyses into policy/practice
- Create easy to access/use data visualizations

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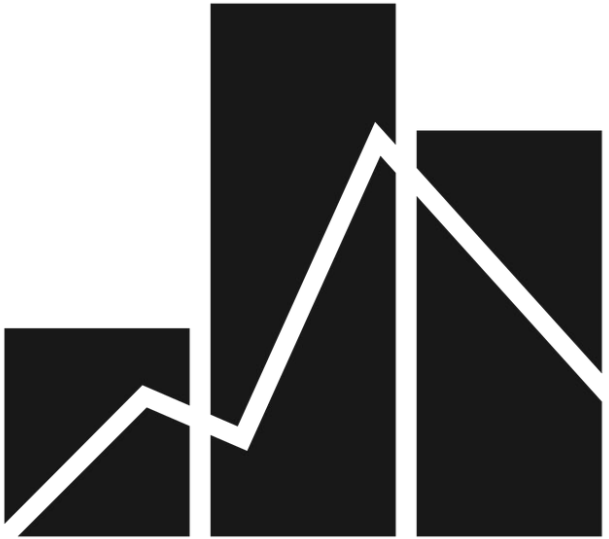

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