Data Storytelling: Best Practices for Communicating Impact

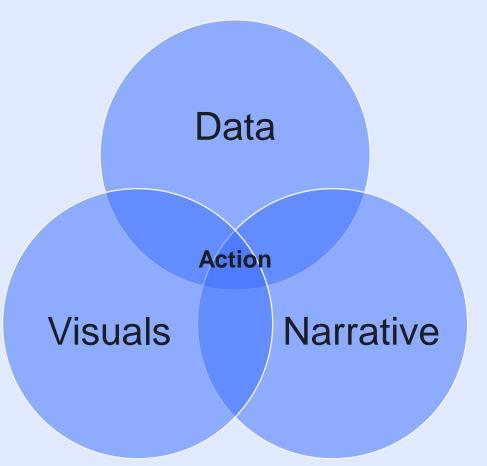
Corbin J. Standley, PhD

Senior Director, Impact Communication and Continuous Improvement





Storytelling
helps data
come alive and
inspire action





Steps for Effective Storytelling

Step 1

Knowing Your Audience

Audience-specific data communication ensures your message is clear, relevant, and impactful.

Step 2

Finding the Story

Knowing what the data is saying will help develop a **meaningful narrative** that is **insightful** for your audience.

Step 3

Visualizing Impact

Displaying data with the right visuals ensures your story is communicated clearly and interpreted correctly.



Knowing Your Audience



Importance of Knowing Your Audience



Researchers/ Academia

Funders/ Donors

Policymakers/ Staffers

Community Members



Build credibility and contribute to the discourse

Inspire continued or increased support

Motivate legislative or policy action

Build trust, relevance, and engagement



Is your data valid, reliable, and adding to the body of knowledge?

How did/will my investment make a difference?

How did/will this affect my constituents?

How does this affect me, my family, and my community?



Finding the Story



Storytelling Structure

Climb

What did your program do?

Characters

Who is impacted by the data?

Context Why does

Why does this data matter?

Consequence

What did you find?

Conclusion
What does it mean?

Crafting a Narrative

Climb

Co-developed program with advisory committee.

Characters

Keon's friends lost loved ones, and he was inspired to do something more.

Context

Suicide rates increasing among Black and African American communities.



Consequence

2,000 people reached
95% feel comfortable supporting a loved one
20% increase in likelihood to reach out for support

Conclusion

Conversations are happening that weren't before. Scaling reach with Omega Psi Phi.

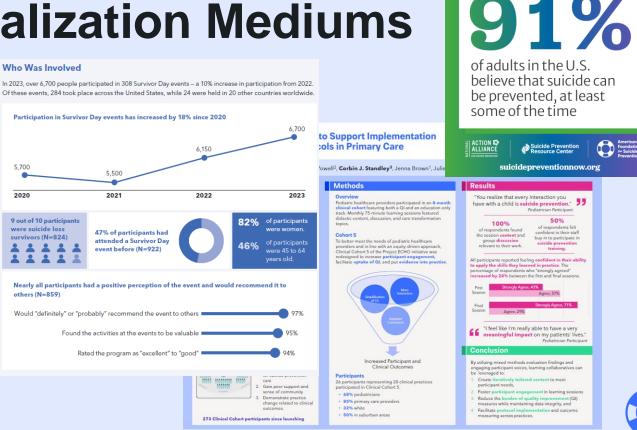


Visualizing Impact



Data Visualization Mediums

- Reports
- Slideshows
- Handouts
- **Posters**
- Data displays
- **Dashboards**





Types of Visualization

Quantitative









Qualitative

















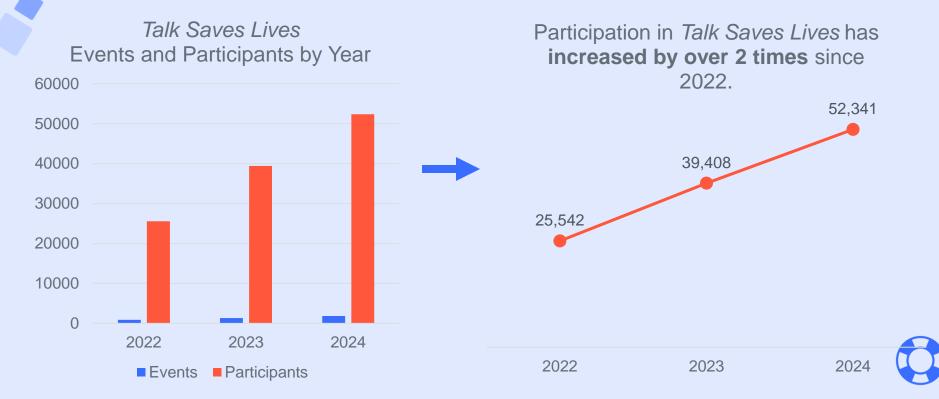




Examples



Quant: Before and After



Other Quantitative Examples



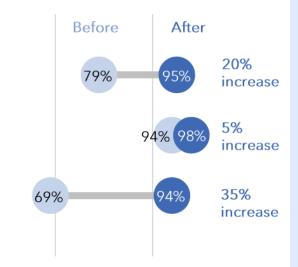
Most participants reported increases in their likelihood to engage in suicide preventative behaviors, including reaching out and having a conversation.

Reach out for help for myself (N=444)

Talk with someone I'm concerned about (N=443)

Reach out to crisis services for myself or others

(N=438)





Qual: Before and After





Shared Understanding

Being among other loss survivors who "get it" and understand the grief was incredibly powerful for participants.



"I know I am not alone."

"It's a wonderful opportunity to find comfort as we head into the holidays alongside other survivors who 'get it'."

"We are all members of this club we don't want to be in. At least we can be there together and find comfort in each other."

Healing and Hope

Survivor Day is an opportunity for people to find hope, chart a path forward, and learn to cope with their grief.



"It means finding hope for me, that I will grow with my pain, instead of letting it take over me."

"My life changed forever the day my brother died, but I now know the value of sharing our grief in order to begin the journey of healing."



Other Qualitative Examples

Respondents shared that

- The nature of trainings supported interactive discussions, role-play, breakout sessions, and Q&A.
- Openness and exchanging different perspectives were encouraged.
- Support was integral to group dynamics.

Engagement and interaction

Respondents shared that

- Trainings positively impacted knowledge acquisition.
- Professional development can be utilized in their own work.
- Elements such as case studies, videos, and trauma reduction techniques were particularly appreciated.

Respondents shared that

- Trainings were relevant and applicable by relating with stories and navigating situations.
- Concepts such as Masterson's Capacities of Self, "taking off shoes," and Warden's Tasks of Mourning were insightful.

Content and curriculum

- Handouts, books, and references were useful.
- Topics brought depth and variety.
- Trainings balanced theory with practical application.



Respondents shared that

- Presenters were authentic, passionate, and skilled.
- Teaching style was helpful.
- Organization and structure had good sequencing, clear visuals, and good pacing.

"The best part of this program is how it provides practical guidance for how to be mindful of warning signs of suicide and how to approach someone to discuss their struggles with mental health. The program provided enough information to be immediately impactful without being overwhelming."

- Talk Saves Lives participant





Impact

and value

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Thank you

Corbin J. Standley, PhD

Senior Director, Impact Communication and Continuous Improvement
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

cstandley@afsp.org afsp.org/Impact



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