

Analyzing Data

Virginia and United States Government

What is data? Data is information collected to help understand the details of a particular topic. It can be used as supporting information, to help make a decision, to show a connection between two subsets, or to provide a better understanding. When you analyze data, you should consider the following questions. They will help you in determining the quality of the information that the data provides.

- How current is the data?
- Is the source reliable?
- Is there missing information?
- What is the connection between variables being presented in the data?
- If it is a graph, what does it tell you about how the variables relate to one another?
- What can you predict from the information or what conclusion does the data provide?