



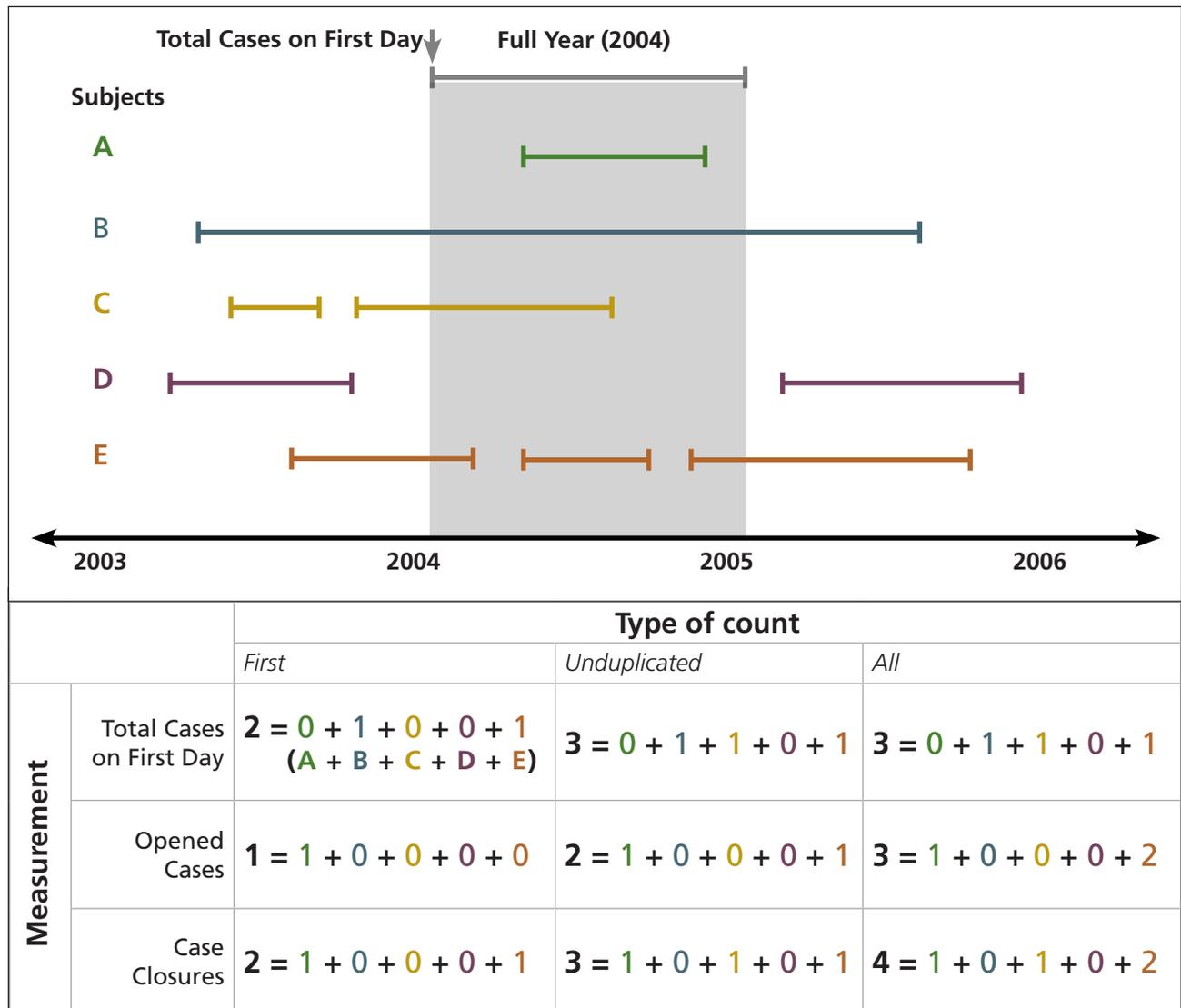
Interpreting the Type of Count Filter

Introduction

The Child Well-Being Data Portal count and rate measurements for Investigations & Assessment, In-Home Services, and Out-of-Home Care allow the user to filter by *type of count*. The diagram, table, and text below illustrate the differences between *first*, *unduplicated*, and *all* counts.

In the diagram, each color represents a single *subject*. In the Data Portal, what the subject is depends on the measure. A household is the subject for Investigations & Assessments and In-Home Services measurements;

a single child is the subject for Out-of-Home Care measurements. Each horizontal line represents a single *case* for a subject. Exactly what a case is also depends on the Data Portal measure. For Investigations & Assessments, a case is an investigation and assessment process, for In-Home Services, a case is a delivery of a service, and for Out-of-Home Care, a case is an out-of-home placement. In the illustration below, there are 5 subjects (A-E), 9 cases, and 18 *events* (one opening and one case closure for each case).



Total Cases on First Day

The number of open cases on the first day of a given time period is known as the point-in-time (PIT) count of cases. Point-in-time cases can be counted in three ways: *first*, *unduplicated*, and *all*.

1. *First* PIT counts include the number of open first-ever cases on the first day of a given time period. In the illustration, Subjects B and E each had an open first-ever case on January 1, 2004. It does not matter that these cases were opened before January 1, 2004. While Subject C also had an open case on the first day of 2004, it is the Subject's second, not first, case.
2. *Unduplicated* PIT counts include the number of subjects who have at least one open case on the first day of a given time period. In the illustration, Subjects B, C, and E all had at least one case open on the first day. The prior cases for subjects C and D are not counted.

In this example, each subject has only one case at a time, which would be the norm for out-of-home care cases. However, for investigations and assessments or in-home services a family may be undergoing more than one investigation or receiving several services simultaneously, therefore the *unduplicated* counts will tally the households with *at least one* open case at the point-in-time, but not all the family's open investigation or in-home services.

3. *All* PIT counts include the number of all open cases on the first day of a given time period, whether or not the cases are the subject's first-ever cases. In this example, the *all* PIT case count is the same as unduplicated PIT case count. If however, as an example, in-home services were being counted at a point-in-time and each of the three cases each had three services open on January 1, 2004, then the *all* count for in-home service cases on the first day would be nine.

Opened Cases

The number of cases opened within, but not before or after, a given time period is the opened case count. These cases can be counted in three ways: *first*, *unduplicated*, and *all*.

1. *First* opened case counts include the number of first-ever cases opened within a given time period. A is the only Subject whose first-ever case was opened in 2004. Subject C had a first-ever case opened prior to 2004, so it is not included in the count.
2. *Unduplicated* opened case counts include the number of subjects (as opposed to the subject's count of cases) who have had at least one case opened within a given time period. In this illustration, Subjects A and E both had at least one case opened in 2004.

3. *All* opened case counts simply include the total number of cases opened within a given time period. If a subject has multiple cases in a given time period, then every case is counted. In the diagram, Subject A had one opened case, and Subject E had two opened cases, for a total *all* count of three.

Case Closures

The number of cases closed within, but not before or after, a given time period is the case closures count. Case closures can be counted in three ways: *first*, *unduplicated*, and *all*.

1. *First* case closures reference the number of first-ever cases closed in a given time period. Subjects A and E both had first-ever case closures in 2004. Subject C had a case closure in 2004 that is not included in the *first* count because this Subject had a case closure prior to 2004.
2. *Unduplicated* case closures refer to the number of subjects who have had at least one case closure. In the diagram, Subjects A, C, and E all had a case closure in 2004, thus the count is three. Even though Subject E had more than one case closure, *unduplicated* counts are counts of subjects, not cases.
3. *All* case closures is the total number of case closures in a given time period. Subjects A and C each had one case closure in 2004; Subject E had two case closures in 2004, for a total of four case closures.

Which to Use?

First count types measure the number of new subjects interacting with Children's Administration. If one asked "how many *new* households received in-home services in July?" the *first* count of in-home services is the answer. New subjects are often targeted by intervention strategies.

Unduplicated counts are counts of subjects. If one asked "how many households received in-home services in July?" the *unduplicated* count of in-home services would be the answer. *Unduplicated* counts are useful for answering child-level questions.

All counts are counts of events. They are more relevant when answering system-level questions about child welfare than when answering questions about the population the child welfare system serves. If one asked "how many in-home services were delivered in July?" the *all* count is the answer.

Information

For more information, please send questions to:
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