

## Re-defining Evidence: Lessons from the Policy Process


AcademyHealth  
State Health Research and  
Policy Interest Group

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## Methodological Approach

- ▶ Observations
  - House of Representatives, Committee on Health
  - March 2, 9 and 16, 2005
- ▶ Interviews
  - Legislators
  - Lobbyists
  - Policy Analyst/Advisors
- ▶ Documents
  - Legislative summaries
  - Articles (one journal, two newspapers)
  - Newsletters



## Data Analysis

- ▶ Keyword coding of data
  - Content
    - ▶ What counts as 'evidence?'
  - Roles
    - ▶ Insider/Outsider
    - ▶ Identity
    - ▶ Authority
  - Issues
- ▶ NUD-IST  software



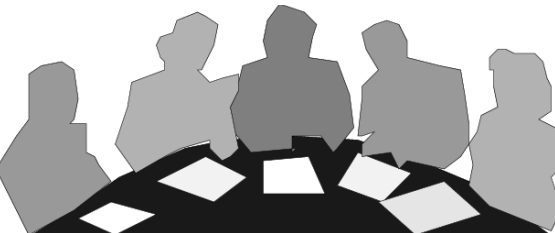
## Finding #1

It's not about the data

and sometimes it's not even about the issue...

## Finding #2

▶ On the surface, it's sometimes hard to know what's going on.




## Finding #3

▶ It's always about relationships

### Finding #4



▶ Tacit knowledge is requisite.

### Finding #5



▶ Time and place define the process.

### Conclusions



- ▶ The role of the researcher matters.
  - Entrée
  - Bias
  - Tacit knowledge
- ▶ Boundaries are arbitrary.
  - Space
  - Time
  - Focus