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evidence2success

# Worksheet: Collecting Public Data

As you work to set priorities for action, you want the fullest picture possible of your community’s youth. Most of the data you need on outcomes, risk factors and protective factors for your community’s youth can be found in data reports from the Youth Experience Survey. Surveys do not capture some information, however. Community board members may want other data as well. The indicators in this worksheet can be obtained from local public systems or publicly available data. Which indicators will best help you understand the environment your community’s youth are growing up in? Consider this question after you read the survey report and before you start gathering data. Only look for data that will help you answer specific questions; otherwise, it’s easy to become overwhelmed by the amount of information you can find.

This worksheet will help your workgroup decide which public data to collect and how to divide up the data collection responsibilities among your members. For setting priorities, we recommend choosing a maximum of two to five indicators that you don’t already have. It may be useful to collect data on the other indicators as you track your site’s progress through time — but choose additional indicators sparingly.

In addition to your local data sources, the Annie E. Casey Foundation’s KIDS COUNT Data Center is a useful resource. Some of these data, such as youth employment and free and reduced-price lunch eligibility, may be available at a state or local level from KIDS COUNT (<http://datacenter.kidscount.org/>).

| **Data that might be needed for priority setting** | **Indicator** | **Source** | **Who collects** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Availability of Drugs and Alcohol** | Alcohol sales outlets | State Liquor Control Agency |  |
| Tobacco sales outlets | State Department of Revenue or Taxing Authority, or State Department of Health |  |
| Marijuana sales outlets | one of the above |  |
| **Economic Deprivation** | Unemployment | State Employment and Labor Agency |  |
| Free and reduced-price school lunch eligibility | School District or State Education Agency |  |
| AFDC/TANF recipients | State Department of Human Services |  |
| Food stamp recipients | State Department of Human Services |  |
| **School Dropout or Truancy** | Percentage of students (grades 9–12) who drop out in a single year without completing high school | School District or State Education Agency |  |
|  | Absenteeism or attendance (grades 6–12) | School District or State Education Agency |  |
|  | Truancy rates (grades 6–12) | School District or State Education Agency |  |
|  | Suspension and expulsion rates and reasons for suspension/expulsion | School District or State Education Agency |  |
|  | High school graduation rates | School District or State Education Agency |  |
|  | Grade retention rates | School District or State Education Agency |  |
|  | Test scores or GPA | School District or State Education Agency |  |
|  | Special education placement rates | School District or State Education Agency |  |
| **Infant and Child Health and Teen Pregnancy** | Teen pregnancy rate per 1,000 women ages 15–19 | County or State Department of Health or Public Health |  |
|  | Low birthweight rates | County or State Department of Health or Public Health |  |
|  | Infant mortality rates | County or State Department of Health or Public Health |  |

*Other data that public systems might find useful for setting priorities or tracking progress*

| **Data to locate** | **Indicator** | **Source** | **Who collects** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Involvement with Child Welfare System** | Congregate care and foster care use by community:   * Number of placements * Average age * Average length of time in care | State or County Child Welfare Department |  |
| Referrals to Child Protective Services | State or County Child Welfare Department |  |
| Reported and substantiated rates of abuse and neglect | State or County Child Welfare Department |  |
| **Involvement with Juvenile Justice System** | Youth on probation  Number of youth in residential placements | State or County Juvenile Justice Department or Juvenile Courts |  |
| **Involvement with Juvenile Justice System** | Teen violence arrest rates | State or County Juvenile Justice Department or Juvenile Courts |  |
| **Involvement with Juvenile Justice System** | Juvenile alcohol and drug-related arrest rates | State or County Juvenile Justice Deptartment or Juvenile Courts |  |
| **Housing** | Family income vs. median rental rates  Housing availability; public housing availability  Ratio of families who rent their home to those who own their home | Local Housing Authority or Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development |  |

Data Manager: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_