

KANSAS MULTI STATE LEARNING COLLABORATIVE PROJECT (MLC-3)

Guide to Health Indicators and Data Sources

A guide to data elements for conducting a community health assessment

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INTRODUCTION

Community assessment is the regular and systematic collection, analysis and dissemination of information on the health of the community, including statistics on health status, awareness of community health needs and strengths, and the utilization of available expertise to understand this information.

This section focuses on the collection and analysis of health related data. The data are broken down into several sections:

Demographics
Education
Socio-Economic
Maternal and Child Health (MCH)
Mortality
Health Behaviors
Disease and poor health
Violence and Injuries
Access
Environmental

Each section includes questions to consider when collecting and analyzing data, a list of selected indicators, links to the indicator website, and data sources for other indicators. This is a list of indicators that are recommended for all jurisdictions in Kansas to include in their community or state health assessments. Other indicators should be considered, depending on local circumstances, from local data sources, special studies, state agencies and federal agencies.

Questions to consider for all indicators:

- How has this indicator been changing? It is getting better or worse?
- How does your county/region compare on this indicator to other communities (counties, the state, the nation)?
- Do the trends seem reflective of the age profile of the county/region? Of the racial/ethnic diversity of the county/region? Of the poverty rates in the county/region? Of other factors?

OVERVIEW OF SOURCES OF INFORMATION

KANSAS COUNTY HEALTH RANKINGS

Web site: <http://www.khi.org/news/2009/may/07/kansas-county-health-rankings-2009/> (project page); <http://atlas.khi.org/carto.php> (interactive application).

This site contains county-level information for 31 indicators of health status as well as health determinants. Values for one or multiple counties can be retrieved and downloaded. The site also allows to group data by preparedness region.

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

Kansas Information for Communities (KIC)

Web site: <http://kic.kdhe.state.ks.us/kic/>

KIC is a health information portal maintained by KDHE with health data that one can query and links to many other data reports and information. KIC enables to query vital event and other health care data. Datasets that can be queried are: Births, Cancer Incidence, Deaths, Hospital Discharges by Diagnosis, Hospital Discharges by Procedure, Kansas Population Estimates, and Pregnancies. KIC also allows to group data by preparedness region.

Kansas Annual Summary of Vital Statistics, 2008

Web site: <http://kic.kdhe.state.ks.us/kic/>

The 2008 Kansas Annual Summary of Vital Statistics is KDHE's report on births, deaths, marriages, marriage dissolutions and abortions during calendar year 2008.

KANSAS STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION – COMPARATIVE REPORTS

Web site: <http://cpfs.ksde.org/cpfs/> ; reports available at <http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=223>.

This site has detailed information on schools and education by county and school district.

U.S. BUREAU OF CENSUS

State and County Quick Facts

Web site: <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/>

Quick Facts provides frequently requested Census Bureau information at the national, state, county, and city level.

Small Area Income & Poverty Estimates (SAIPE)

Web site: <http://www.census.gov/did/www/saibe/index.html>

The U.S. Census Bureau, with support from other Federal agencies, created the Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE) program to provide more current estimates of selected income and poverty statistics than those from the most recent decennial census.

Estimates are created for school districts, counties, and states. Estimates for 2008 were released in November 2009. These estimates combine data from administrative records, intercensal population estimates, and the decennial census with direct estimates from the *American Community Survey* to provide consistent and reliable single-year estimates. These model-based single-year estimates are more reflective of current conditions than multi-year survey estimates.

American Community Survey

Web site: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>

The American Community Survey is an on-going survey conducted by the Census Bureau on a sample of the population. It collects information on what the population looks like and how it lives. Some of this information was previously collected through decennial census survey. The data are available for download in CSV format, accompanied by documentation.¹

U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR

Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Web site: <http://www.bls.gov/lau/tables.htm>

This site contains state, urban and county data on employment.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Community Health Status Indicators

Web site: <http://communityhealth.hhs.gov/homepage.aspx?j=1>

The goal of Community Health Status Indicators (CHSI) is to provide an overview of key health indicators for local communities. The CHSI report contains over 200 measures for each of the 3,141 United States counties. Community profiles can be displayed on maps or downloaded in a brochure format.

The CHSI mapping capability allows users to visually compare similar counties (termed *peer counties*) as well as adjacent counties with their county.

¹ Although no specific information from this source is used during the MLC-e collaborative, this is becoming a major source of information on population characteristics.

COMPARISON JURISDICTIONS

Measures from one jurisdiction usually gain more meaning when they are compared to those in neighboring or similar jurisdictions. The Community Health Status Indicators (CHSI) project allows users to compare health measures in one county to those of *peer counties* in the United States, those counties similar in population composition and selected demographics. Strata, or peer group size averages 36 and ranges from 15 to 62 counties. There are a total of 88 strata. Due to the population size of counties in some strata, data on vital statistics (e.g. births and deaths) and nationally notifiable diseases may be aggregated across the most recent 5 year time period (1999-2003) in order to ensure stable estimates.

To compare your county to peer counties:

1. Navigate to <http://communityhealth.hhs.gov/homepage.aspx?j=1>.
2. On the left, select your state and county
3. Click on the button labeled Display Data

You will be transferred to a report. A list on the left side shows the different sections of the report. By default, you will be transferred to the first section, called Demographics. In this page you will find information on your peer counties, including a list of the counties included in your group and the rationale for grouping them together. Selecting another topic area from the list on the left will display measures for that area and compare the values in your county to those in the peer counties.

INFORMATION ABOUT SPECIFIC INDICATORS AND THEIR SOURCES

DEMOGRAPHICS

Questions to Consider

- How does your population differ from the state by age, race, and sex? Where are the greatest variations?
- Is your population increasing or decreasing?
- What are your county/region's largest age groups? Are there large variations that are likely to impact health or the need for certain types of health promotion and disease prevention activities?
- Do the data suggest special health needs in certain areas, such as family planning, obstetrics or geriatrics?
- Is your population aging (an increasing proportion of older people over time)?
- Is your county/region becoming more racially and ethnically diverse?

Selected Indicators	Website
Population by age	http://kic.kdhe.state.ks.us/kic/
Population by race	http://kic.kdhe.state.ks.us/kic/
Population by ethnicity	http://kic.kdhe.state.ks.us/kic/
Total age dependency ratio	http://kic.kdhe.state.ks.us/kic/
Child age dependency ratio	http://kic.kdhe.state.ks.us/kic/
Elderly age dependency ratio	http://kic.kdhe.state.ks.us/kic/
Languages spoken at home	http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/20000.html
Single parent households	http://atlas.khi.org/carto.php

Other Data Sources

- US Census County Quick Facts
- Wikipedia (definitions of age dependency)

EDUCATION

Questions to Consider

- What is the overall educational level of the population in your area?
- Has the drop out rate been increasing or decreasing?
- Are schools providing more free and reduced lunches?
- Is the racial and ethnic diversity of public school enrollees increasing?

Selected Indicators	Website
Drop out rate	http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=223
Free and reduced lunches	http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=223
School enrollment by race and ethnicity	http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=223
No high school diploma	http://atlas.khi.org/carto.php

ECONOMIC STATUS

Questions to Consider

- How does the income in your county/region compare to that in other counties and the state?
- How does your county/region's population differ from the state in terms of socioeconomic characteristics? Where are the greatest variations?
- How does the size of your WIC population compare to that of similar counties or the state?

Selected Indicators	Website
Median household income	http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/20000.html
All ages in poverty	http://www.census.gov/did/www/saipe/index.html
Under age 18 in poverty	http://www.census.gov/did/www/saipe/index.html
Unemployment rate	http://atlas.khi.org/carto.php
Number of individuals in WIC	KHI file

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

Questions to consider

- For planning purposes, has the birth rate increased over the past years? Has the poverty rate also increased?
- What are the demographic characteristics of mothers? Has the percent of mothers over 35 increased over the years? Has the percent under 20 increased? What is the racial composition of mothers? Has this changed over time?
- What percent of mothers have received prenatal care in the first trimester? Has this increased over time? Do younger mothers receive prenatal care later or earlier?
- Are infants born healthy (look at birth outcomes of infants including low birth weight, infant mortality, prematurity)? Note that you may have to aggregate years for these indicators.

Selected Indicators	Website
Birth rate	http://www.kdheks.gov/hci/as/2008/AS_2008.pdf
Low birth weight	http://kic.kdhe.state.ks.us/kic/
Teen pregnancy rate	http://kic.kdhe.state.ks.us/kic/
Births to unmarried women	http://kic.kdhe.state.ks.us/kic/
Early prenatal care	http://kic.kdhe.state.ks.us/kic/
Infant mortality rate (IMR)	http://communityhealth.hhs.gov/HomePage.aspx
White, non-Hispanic IMR	http://communityhealth.hhs.gov/HomePage.aspx
Black, non-Hispanic IMR	http://communityhealth.hhs.gov/HomePage.aspx
Hispanic IMR	http://communityhealth.hhs.gov/HomePage.aspx
Infant mortality disparity ratio	NA- Needs to be calculated

Other Data Sources

- US Census County Quick Facts
- County Health Rankings (<http://atlas.khi.org/cartto.php>)
- Wikipedia (definitions)

MORTALITY

Questions to consider

- What are the leading causes of death in your county/region? Have these remained consistent or have they been changing? What age/race/sex groups are involved?
- Examine the leading causes of death by age group. Where does your county/region vary considerably from the state?
- Are there large variations in the age-adjusted rates in specific race or sex groups?
- Looking at data from prior time periods, what trends can be identified in the mortality data?
- Compare the mortality rates for chronic conditions? Do you see any trends in chronic conditions? What's getting better? What's getting worse?

Selected Indicators	Website
Overall death rate	http://kic.kdhe.state.ks.us/kic/
Leading causes of death	http://kic.kdhe.state.ks.us/kic/
Breast cancer death rate	http://atlas.khi.org/cartto.php
Years of potential life lost	http://atlas.khi.org/cartto.php
Deaths from motor vehicle accidents	http://kic.kdhe.state.ks.us/kic/

HEALTH BEHAVIORS

Questions to consider

- Compare the various risk behaviors in adults to the state. Where are the greatest variations? Has there been an increase in risk behaviors?
- Compare the various protective behaviors in adults to the state. Where are the greatest variations? Has there been an increase in behaviors?
- Compare the various protective behaviors in students to the state. Where are the greatest variations? Has there been an increase in behaviors?

Selected Indicators	Website
Percentage of adult smokers	http://atlas.khi.org/cartto.php
Smoking in pregnancy	http://atlas.khi.org/cartto.php
Physical inactivity	http://atlas.khi.org/cartto.php
Obesity rate	http://atlas.khi.org/cartto.php
Binge drinking	http://atlas.khi.org/cartto.php

DISEASE AND POOR HEALTH

Questions to consider

- How do your sexually transmitted disease rates compare to other counties and the state?
- Are these rates increasing or decreasing?
- Are there disparities in these rates among different subpopulations in your county/region?

Selected Indicators	Website
General health status	http://atlas.khi.org/carto.php
Sexually transmitted disease	http://atlas.khi.org/carto.php

VIOLENCE AND INJURIES

Questions to consider

- Are trends in violence among adolescents increasing or decreasing?
- Are trends in violence among adults increasing or decreasing?
- What age/race/sex groups are impacted most by violent causes of death?
- Compare the mortality rates to the state? Where are the greatest variations?
- Are any of these trends reflective of population trends in your county/region (e.g., increased traffic, increased elderly population)?
- What age/race/sex groups are impacted most by unintentional causes of death?
- Are suicide mortality rates in your county/region increasing or decreasing?
- What mental health services are available to the county/region?
- Is there a shortage of mental health professionals in your area?

Selected Indicators	Website
Violent crime	http://atlas.khi.org/cartto.php
Seat belt use	http://atlas.khi.org/cartto.php
Suicide – all ages	http://kic.kdhe.state.ks.us/kic/
Suicide - adolescents	http://kic.kdhe.state.ks.us/kic/

ACCESS

Questions to consider

- What percentage of residents in your county/region have insurance coverage? Has it been increasing or decreasing?
- Has the rate of physician to population in your county/region been increasing or decreasing? Is it lower or higher than the state average?
- Are residents in your county/region being able to get the health care that they need?

Selected Indicators	Website
Percentage of uninsured	http://www.census.gov/did/www/saipe/index.html
Primary care physicians ratio	http://www.dhe.state.ks.us/kic/County_Profile/County_Profile.aspx
No dentist visit in past year	http://atlas.khi.org/carto.php
No influenza vaccine in past year	http://atlas.khi.org/carto.php

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Questions to consider²

- What is the role of the environment in disease?
- What is the air quality?
- What is the quality of water? Is water safe for drinking and for recreational use?
- What is the extent of developed land?
- How much and what types of waste are generated and managed?
- What type of public health nuisance complaints have you received (e.g. garbage houses, meth labs)? Have they increased or decreased over the years? Are there certain types that have increased?
- What types of calls/complaints/referrals are logged that relate to environmental health issues (e.g. sewage draining into an open ditch, odor from a feedlot, second hand smoke/clean indoor air act, others)? Have any type increased or decreased? What are the effects on the community?
- What is the maintenance status of houses in your county/region? Do they represent a health hazard?

Selected Indicators	Website
Housing with increased lead risk	http://atlas.khi.org/cartto.php
Nitrates and coliform levels in water	http://atlas.khi.org/cartto.php
Secondhand smoking	http://atlas.khi.org/cartto.php

² Some questions are general in nature and do not reflect the indicators selected for the assessment.