

Data Sources for Health Assessments and Health Improvement Plans

Health assessments and improvement plans use a variety of data to describe the health of the community, identify priority concerns and monitor changes over time. Common data utilized in assessment and planning comes from a variety of national, state and local sources and is collected via quantitative (e.g. surveys and service data) and qualitative (e.g. interviews and focus groups) methods. Health assessments use these data sources for a more comprehensive understanding of health strengths and needs for a given community. A health improvement plan uses data sources to measure whether intended improvements are happening, or not.

The following table lists potential data sources for Oregon health assessment and improvement planning. This table is organized into two main categories: data and tools published by the Oregon Health Authority, and data and tools published by other organizations. Each resource includes a brief description of the information it provides, availability of sub-analysis, and a link to the resource.

When reviewing potential data sources, it is important to be mindful of limitations. Limitations of data include considerations for validity and reliability, especially for specific communities. In the absence of data for communities that aren't captured with traditional instruments or academic research, explore other types of data that may be more qualitative and community based. Finally, seek opportunities to learn about and practice the decolonization of data, from collection to analysis to reporting.

To monitor the impact of health improvement plans, you will need to select “indicators” from data sources to establish a baseline and measure progress on outcomes of interest. An example of an indicator is the “Percentage of tobacco users among Oregon adults” from the Oregon’s [State Health Indicators](#). In selecting indicators, there are certain characteristics to keep in mind:

- Effective indicators are relevant; they show you something about the system that you need to know.
- Effective indicators are analyzed by subgroup (e.g. race/ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, disability, geography, income, etc.) to illustrate disparities
- Effective indicators are easy to understand, even by people who are not experts.
- Effective indicators are reliable; you can trust the information that the indicator is providing.
- Lastly, effective indicators are based on accessible data; the information is available or can be gathered while there is still time to act.

Oregon Health Authority Resources

Public health reports and databases			
Data source	Description	Available sub-analyses	Link
State Health Assessment and Indicators	Comprehensive description of health and complementary population health indicators from common data sets including vital statistics, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS), Student Health Survey data, and others.	Varies by measure, county, race/ethnicity, income, age, gender, disability, sexual orientation.	oregon.gov/oha/PH/ABOUT/Pages/HealthStatusIndicators.aspx
Oregon Health Authority – Public Health Division Data and Statistics	Comprehensive listing of Oregon public health data and reports.	Varies by report, many include county and race/ethnicity	public.health.oregon.gov/DataStatistics/Pages/index.aspx
Oregon Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)	The BRFSS is the largest, continuously conducted, health survey. Collects data on varied and broad health behaviors and outcomes.	County, age and gender. Additional analysis available upon request.	https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/BirthDeathCertificates/Surveys/AdultBehaviorRisk/Pages/index.aspx
Vital Statistics Data Dashboards	Dashboards for birth, pregnancy, mortality and injury	Varies by measure, age, gender, race/ethnicity and county	https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/BIRTHDEATHCERTIFICATES/VITALSTATISTICS/ANNUALREPORTS/Pages/index.aspx
Social Resilience Indicators	Led by the Program Design and Evaluation Services in partnership with the Environmental Public Health Tracking program, helped us take a closer look at how we might measure social resilience. The project included a literature review across several fields of study including sociology, community psychology and disaster preparedness and the development of an annotated bibliography and a “menu” of indicator categories, measures, and potential data sources.	Varies by measure, some available by county	https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/HEALTHYENVIRONMENTS/CLIMATECHANGE/Pages/social-resilience.aspx
Oregon Public Health Assessment Tool (OPHAT)	Offers registered users access to a queriable database of population health information. Includes data from/related to BRFSS, vital	County; race/ethnicity	Contact OPHAT.Administration@state.or.us to access an account

	statistics (birth and death data), communicable disease (HIV, STIs and TB), fertility, infant mortality, pregnancy and abortion.		
Oregon Environmental Public Health Tracking	Includes a queriable database of environmental health information in four categories: environmental quality, health outcomes, people, and community design	County where available	epht.oregon.gov/Index.aspx
Oregon Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS)	PRAMS collects data on maternal attitudes and experiences prior to, during, and immediately after pregnancy for a sample of Oregon women. The sample data are analyzed in a way that allows findings to be applied to all Oregon women who have recently had a baby.	State	www.oregon.gov/oha/ph/HEALTHYPEOPLEFAMILIES/DATAREPORTS/PRA MS/Pages/index.aspx
Student Health Survey (Previously Oregon Healthy Teens and Student Wellness Survey)	Health-focused survey of Oregon sixth, eighth and eleventh grade students.	County; school district	www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/BIRTHDEATHCERTIFICATES/SURVEYS/Pages/student-health-survey.aspx
Oregon Early Childhood Health in Oregon (ECHO) Survey	ECHO collects data on the attitudes and experiences of mothers and three-year-olds. We follow up with mothers who answered the PRAMS survey to learn more about the health and well-being of preschoolers and their families.	Varies by measure	www.oregon.gov/oha/ph/HEALTHYPEOPLEFAMILIES/DATAREPORTS/PRA MS/Pages/index.aspx
Opioid Data Dashboard	Interactive tool containing state and county level data on controlled substance prescribing and drug overdose health outcomes (hospitalizations and deaths).	State; county	www.oregon.gov/oha/ph/PreventionWellness/SubstanceUse/Opioids/Pages/data.aspx
Oregon Violent Death Reporting System Data Dashboard	Provides data on firearm, suicide and homicide deaths	County, age, gender, race/ethnicity	www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/DISEASESCONDITIONS/INJURYFATALITYDATA/Pages/nvdrs.aspx#dashboard
Office of Equity and Inclusion	Links to reports and data provided by OHA's Office of Equity and Inclusion	Race/ethnicity	oregon.gov/oha/OEI/Pages/Reports.aspx

Health System Transformation Reports	Reports include progress among Oregon's coordinated care organizations (CCO) on health care quality measures.	CCO; race/ethnicity	oregon.gov/oha/hpa/analytics-mtx/pages/index.aspx
Office of Health Analytics	The Office of Health Analytics is a single point of accountability for continual improvement of health analytics coordination and data integration across the Oregon Health Authority and Department of Human Services programs. Includes data from the Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS) Survey, healthcare workforce reporting, oregon health insurance survey, and the mental health statistics improvement program.	County; CCO; race/ethnicity; gender; age; primary language	oregon.gov/oha/hpa/analytics/pages/index.aspx

External Resources			
Demographic data			
Data source	Description	Available sub-analyses	Link
United States Census Bureau: American Fact Finder	Provides reports of demographic data including total population, race/ethnicity, age, gender, disability, education, employment, income/earnings, insurance coverage, language, marital/fertility status, origins, population change, poverty, relationship, veterans, and housing.	County; zip code	factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml
500 Cities Project	The purpose of the 500 Cities Project is to provide city- and census tract-level small area estimates for chronic disease risk factors, health outcomes, and clinical preventive service use for the largest 500 cities in the United States	Data for Beaverton, Bend, Eugene, Gresham, Hillsboro, Portland, Medford and Salem	cdc.gov/500Cities
Health care data			
Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) data and reports	Provides national data from HRSA, the primary Federal agency for improving access to health care by strengthening the health care workforce, building healthy communities and achieving health equity. Topics include: health workforce, shortage areas, organ donation and transplantation, national practitioner data bank, and maternal and child health data.	County	hrsa.gov/data-statistics/index.html
The Kaiser Family Foundation	This non-profit organization's website offers data on policy research, basic facts and numbers on various topics, including: disparities, global health, health costs, health reform, HIV/AIDS, Medicaid, Medicare, private insurance, uninsured, and women's health.	State	kff.org
Agency for Health Care Research and Quality (AHRQ): HCUPnet	HCUPnet is a free, on-line query system based on data from the Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP). It provides access to health	County; Congressional district	hcupnet.ahrq.gov/

	statistics and information on hospital inpatient and emergency department utilization.		www.oahhs.org/news-and-publications/publications/oregon-community-hospital-report
National Survey on Drug Use and Health	The National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) provides up-to-date information on tobacco, alcohol, and drug use, mental health and other health-related issues in the United States.	State	nsduhweb.rti.org/respweb/homepage.cfm
Social determinants of health and health equity			
Coalition of Communities of Color	Provides reports on communities of color in Portland metro area and other reports about health equity policy.	County; race/ethnicity	www.coalitioncommunitiescolor.org/research-and-publications
County Health Rankings and Roadmaps	The annual <i>County Health Rankings</i> measures vital health factors, including high school graduation rates, obesity, smoking, unemployment, access to healthy foods, the quality of air and water, income, and teen births in nearly every county in America.	County	www.countyhealthrankings.org
Kids Count Data Center	KIDS COUNT is a project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation and a premier source of data on children and families. Data related to economic well being, education, family and community, health, and safety.	County	datacenter.kidscount.org
Opportunity Index	Composite measures of opportunity across 20 key economic, educational and civic factors. Individual dimension scores for economy, education, community and health. Allows for state and national comparisons.	Some, but not all counties	opportunityindex.org
Park and recreation access	Percentage of population within a 10 minute walk to a park	Data for all Oregon cities with population greater than 5,000 people. By race/ethnicity, age, income	www.tpl.org/10minutewalk

Food insecurity	Food insecurity and food costs at the local level	County, congressional district	map.feedingamerica.org
Early Learning	The Early Learning Map of Oregon map describes Oregon's geographic regions in terms of community and family strengths and needs, the availability of childcare, and key indicators of school readiness and early school success for children.	Varies by measure; by counties, regions, districts, and tracts. Race/ethnicity, household composition, primary language	davidmc.shinyapps.io/oregon-ece-app
K-12 education	Oregon Department of Education data related to graduation rates, drop out rates, attendance and absenctism.	Varies by measure, by school district, school, race/ethnicity, grade	www.oregon.gov/ode/reports-and-data/Pages/default.aspx
Post-secondary education	The Higher Education Coordinating Commission is responsible for conducting data collection, analysis, reporting, and research on all sectors of postsecondary education in Oregon. Compiles data related to enrollment, affordability, and outcomes	By community college, and student demographics	www.oregon.gov/highered/research/Pages/research.aspx
Housing	Oregon Housing and Community Services housing related data for Oregon, including rental affordability, homeownership, homelessness and foreclosure.	Varies by measure, by county, race/ethnicity, age, gender	public.tableau.com/profile/oregon.housing.and.community.services#!/#!%2Fvizhome%2FAffRentHou_prototype%2FARHDASH
Air quality	Real-time air quality index visual map from Oregon Department of Environmental Quality		aqicn.org/map/oregon
Healthy People 2030	Healthy People 2030 sets data driven national objectives to improve health and well-being.	National	health.gov/healthypeople
Opportunity 360	Opportunity360 Community Dashboards allow data comparison for up to three census tracts, for over 150 indicators from 27 sources. Indicators are grouped into 6 sections: Housing Stability, Education, Health & Well-being, Economic Security, Mobility and a Community Profile with demographic and descriptive	Census tract	www.enterprisecommunity.org/opportunity360

	information. Dashboards are interactive, mobile friendly and ADA compliant		
Crime and domestic violence	Data on crime, victims and arrests, provided by the Oregon State Police.	County, age, sex, race/ethnicity	www.oregon.gov/osp/Pages/Uniform-Crime-Reporting-Data.aspx
Abuse and neglect	Oregon Department of Human Services data on abuse and neglect, service data,	County	www.oregon.gov/dhs/ABOUTDHS/Pages/Data.aspx?View={8eed5754-d181-4d15-9dfc-c5e19d601261}&SortField=Programs&SortDir=Desc
Oregon by the Numbers	The annual <i>Oregon by the Numbers</i> report assembles a suite of community measures and displays them in an easy-to-digest format including charts and infographics. It features compact county portraits for all 36 Oregon counties as well as corresponding measure profiles, with rankings whenever possible. Measures include demographics, social issues, education, the economy, health and infrastructure.	County	www.tfff.org/OBTN
Urban Indian Health Institute	Health data about the urban AI/AN community in Portland.	Portland metro	www.uihi.org/urban-indian-health/data-dashboard
Opportunity Atlas	Visualizes how economic opportunity and upward mobility varies across neighborhoods through longitudinal information.	Census tract	www.opportunityatlas.org
National Equity Atlas	Detailed report card on racial and economic equity.	By region (metropolitan areas) and some cities.	nationalequityatlas.org
Rural health			
OHSU Office of Rural Health	The Oregon Office of Rural Health operates an information clearinghouse, which provides rural health information to health care providers, elected officials and government agencies, educators and members of the public.	Varies by report; breakouts include Health Districts, Rural Service Areas, Health Professional Shortage Areas	www.ohsu.edu/xd/outreach/oregon-rural-health/data/index.cfm