

Minnesota Guide to Data Indicators for County Health Assessments

May 2011

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 guide focuses on the collection and analysis of health related data. The guide is broken down into several sections:

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Each section includes questions to consider when collecting and analyzing data, a list of selected indicators, links to the indicator's website, and data sources for other indicators. **This is not a complete list of indicators nor are any of the indicators required.** There are many other indicators to consider 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 compare on this indicator to other communities (counties, the state, the nation)?
- Do the trends seem reflective of the age profile of the county? Of the racial/ethnic diversity of the county? Of the poverty rates in the county? Of other factors?

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'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 becoming more racially and ethnically diverse?

Selected Indicators	Website
Population: male/female by age	MN County Health Tables
Change in population over time	Interactive Queries Vital Stats
Population by race, total age dependency ratio, child age dependency ratio, elderly dependency ratio, and birth rate	MN Vital Stat State & County Trends (5 years of data) or MN County Health Tables (one year)
Languages spoken at home	MN Education Language Data

Other Data Sources

[US Census County Quick Facts](#)

Census facts by county, includes business

[MN County Health Tables](#)

Population per square mile, number of households, percent change in households

[MN State Demographer](#)

Population projections, immigration

Education

Questions to Consider

- Are schools providing more free and reduced lunches?
- Is the racial and ethnic diversity of public school enrollees increasing?
- Are more children receiving special educational services?

Selected Indicators

Website

Free and reduced lunches, school enrollment by race, and children receiving special educational services	MN Vital Stat State & County Trends (5 years of data) or MN County Health Tables (one year)
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Other Data Sources

[MN Education Data](#)

Enrollment by race, graduation completion rates, attendance and languages spoken at home

[MN Student Survey](#)

Demographics, skipping school, satisfaction with school, plans after school, academic performance

Economic Status

Questions to Consider

- How does the income per capita and the median household income in your county compare to other counties and the state?
- How does your county's population differ from the state in terms of socioeconomic characteristics? Where are the greatest variations?
- Are these trends in per capita income and all ages in poverty consistent with the percent of children in poverty or is there some other explanation?
- Are trends utilization in MA, MinnesotaCare, WIC, and food stamps consistent with poverty rates?

Selected Indicators	Website
Total income per capita, median household income, all ages in poverty, ages 0-17 in poverty, unemployed annual average, and food stamp utilization	MN Vital Stat State & County Trends (5 years of data) or MN County Health Tables (one year of data)
Ages 5-17 in families in poverty	Census Small Area Analysis
WIC - unduplicated counts	MN County Health Tables
Enrolled in Medical Assistance & MN Care	MN County Health Tables

Other Data Sources

[Kids Count by County](#)

Minimum cost of living, family of four, fair market rate housing cost, two bedroom apartment

[Bureau of Economic Analysis](#)

Regional profiles (CA30), employment summary, earnings by industry

[US Census County Quick Facts](#)

Census facts by county, includes business

Natality

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, births by race/ethnicity of mother, number of infant deaths, preterm births – singleton, low birth weight births – singleton, prenatal care received in 1st trimester teen births: 3 year rate (15-17)	MN Vital Stat State & County Trends (5 years of data) or MN County Health Tables (one year of data)

Other Data Sources

[Interactive Queries Vital Stats](#)

[IQ Login Page](#) *

Birth statistics by age, race and county for several variables including birth weight, ethnicity/race of mother, plurality, birthplace of mother, age of mother, prematurity, method of delivery

[MN County Health Tables](#)

Adequacy of prenatal care, smoking, cesarean sections, women with four or more births, maternal education, unmarried mothers

[MN Health Statistics Annual Summary](#)

Birth statistics, fetal death and infant death data by county

*Login and password required for access to birth data by county. Login and passwords are available to Minnesota local public health agency staff. Contact the Center for Health Statistics at healthstats@state.mn.us to request a login and password for the MN Vital Statistics IQ website.

Mortality

Questions to consider

- What are the leading causes of death in your county? 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. How does your county 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?

Selected Indicators	Website
Death rate overall crude and age adjusted, leading cause deaths, leading cause of death by age group, and years of potential life lost	Interactive Queries Vital Stats or MN County Health Tables

Other Data Sources

[Interactive Queries Vital Stats](#)

Death statistics by age, race and county for several variables including age, gender, race and cause of death

[MN County Health Tables](#)

Cancer deaths by site, unintentional injury deaths

[MIDAS MDH](#)

Injury hospitalizations by manner, intent, outcome

[MN Health Statistics Annual Summary](#)

Death statistics by county

Chronic Conditions

Questions to consider

- Compare the mortality rates for chronic conditions? Do you see any trends in chronic conditions? What's getting better? What's getting worse?
- Are there specific causes or sites of cancer in which the observed rate exceeds the expected?
- Compare the specific sites of cancer as a percentage of all cancer? Is this different from the state?
- For what major disease categories are your county's overall hospital discharges rates high? Do these elevated rates relate to your county's mortality problems?

Selected Indicators	Website
Chronic conditions mortality rates	MN County Health Tables
Cancer deaths and diagnoses by site- % of total cancers	MN County Health Tables
Discharges for selected diseases per 1,000	MN Hosp Assoc - Cmty Reports
Cancer diagnoses and deaths	Cancer in Minnesota MDH

Other Data Sources

[Interactive Queries Vital Stats](#)

Death statistics for selected chronic conditions by age, race and county for several variables including age, gender, race and cause of death

[MN Hosp Assoc - Cmty Reports](#)

Discharges per 1,000 by age, leading causes of hospitalization by age, hospitalization rates by age group by selected categories

[MN County Health Tables](#)

Children with special health care needs section includes types of services needed, percent served by early intervention, percent served by follow along program

Local Surveys

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 risk behaviors in students to the state. Where are the greatest variations? Has there been an increase in 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

Risk behaviors among adults*:

acute drinking (5 or more drinks),
chronic drinking,
current smokers,
overweight, and
no exercise,

[MN County Health Tables](#)

Risk /protective behaviors among 6th, 9th, and 12th graders:

alcohol use
marijuana use
cigarette use
physical activity, and
eating fruits and vegetables

[MN Student Survey](#)

Other Data Sources

***Local surveys** should be used over BRFSS data

[MN Student Survey](#)

Minnesota Student Survey data includes questions on risk behaviors and protective behaviors

[MN Crash Facts](#)

Includes data on alcohol use

[MN County Health Tables](#)

Chemical health section includes percent of crashes in which alcohol was involved and driving under the influence violations

Infectious Diseases/Reportable Diseases

Questions to consider

- How do your infectious 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?

Selected Indicators	Website
Chlamydia rate per 100,000	STD Stats MDH
HIV/AIDS rate per 100,000	HIV/AIDS Stats MDH
Gonorrhea rate per 100,000	STD Stats MDH
Tuberculosis incidence per 100,000	TB Stats MDH

Other Data Sources

[MN County Health Tables](#)

Other reportable diseases

[Reportable Diseases A-Z MDH](#)

Other reportable diseases

Local data on disease outbreaks

[STD Stats MDH](#)

Other sexually transmitted diseases

Violence

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?

Selected Indicators

Website

% of 12th grade females who respond yes to being date raped	MN Student Survey
Suicide attempts 9th & 12th graders	MN Student Survey
Rate of hospital treated self-inflicted injuries (non fatal) ER & hospitalizations per 100,000	MIDAS MDH
Suicide rate age adjusted per 100,000	Interactive Queries Vital Stats
Homicide mortality rate per 100,000	Interactive Queries Vital Stats

Other Data Sources

[Minnesota's Child Welfare Reports \(DHS, under publications\)](#)

Child maltreatment, neglect, and out of home placement

[Child Welfare Data Dashboard](#)

10 key measures used to monitor the status of children served by MN child welfare system

[MN Student Survey](#)

Violence at school, violence at home, feeling safe

[MIDAS MDH](#)

Injury hospitalizations by manner, intent, outcome

[MN Bureau of Criminal Apprehension](#)

Crime statistics

Unintentional Injury

Questions to consider

- Are unintentional injury mortality rates in your county increasing or decreasing?
- Compare the mortality rates to the state? Where are the greatest variations?
- Are any of these trends reflective of population trends in your county (e.g., increased traffic, increased elderly population)?
- What age/race/sex groups are impacted most by unintentional causes of death?
- What are the discharge and utilization rates for falls by age?
- Any there any age groups in which injury and poisoning are the leading causes of hospitalization?

Selected Indicators	Website
Unintentional injury deaths (total, falls, motor vehicles, pedestrian)	MN County Health Tables
Traumatic brain injury rate	MN County Health Tables
Spinal cord injury rate	MN County Health Tables
Hospitalization rate for falls over 65	MIDAS MDH
Discharge and utilization rates for injury and accidents	MN Hosp Assoc

Other Data Sources

[MN Crash Facts](#)

Motor vehicle, bicycle, pedestrian injuries

[MIDAS MDH](#)

Injury hospitalizations by manner, intent, outcome

[MN Hosp Assoc - Cmty Reports](#)

Discharges per 1,000 by age, leading causes of hospitalization by age, hospitalization rates by age group by selected categories

[State Fire Marshal - Fire in Minnesota](#)

Incendiary fire incidents, civilian burn injuries, civilian deaths

[Interactive Queries Vital Stats](#)

Rates and YPLL for unintentional injury, unintentional injury deaths by age, race and sex

Mental Health

Questions to consider

- Are suicide mortality rates in your county increasing or decreasing?
- What is the rate of hospital treated self-inflicted injuries in your county? How does this compare to the state? Which age group has the highest rate?
- Compare the percent of suicide attempts among 9th and 12th graders in your county to the state. Are the percentages higher or lower than the state?
- What mental health services are available to the county?
- Is there a shortage of mental health professionals in your area?

Selected Indicators	Website
Suicide rate age adjusted per 100,000	Interactive Queries Vital Stats
Rate of hospital treated self-inflicted injuries (non fatal) ER & hospitalizations per 100,000	MIDAS MDH
Emotional health - 6th, 9th, 12th grade students	MN Student Survey
Suicide attempts 9th & 12th graders	MN Student Survey
Mental health professional shortage areas	Office of Rural Health and Primary Care, MDH

Other Data Sources

Local surveys

Mental health status, emotional well-being

[MN Student Survey](#)

Emotional well-being, plans for the future, people care about student

[MN Hosp Assoc - Cmty Reports](#)

Discharges per 1,000 by age, leading causes of hospitalization by age, hospitalization rates by age group by selected categories

Local utilization data

Access

Questions to consider

- What percent of residents in your county have insurance coverage? Has this been increasing or decreasing?
- Are residents in your county able to get the health services they need?
- How far do residents have to travel to get to a hospital?

Selected Indicators

Website

Physicians per 10,000 population

[MN County Health Tables](#)

Health care coverage (region only)

[Health Care Access Survey, MDH](#)

Medically underserved areas¹

[Health Resources and Services Administration](#)

Health professional shortage areas²

[Office of Rural Health and Primary Care, MDH](#)

¹Medically Underserved Areas/Populations are areas or populations designated by HRSA as having: too few primary care providers, high infant mortality, high poverty and/or high elderly population.

²Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) are designated by HRSA as having shortages of primary medical care, dental or mental health providers and may be geographic (a county or service area), demographic (low income population) or institutional (comprehensive health center, federally qualified health center or other public facility).

Other Data Sources

Local surveys

Usage of health care system

Health insurance

[MN Student Survey](#)

Percent having a physical exam

[Health Workforce Data MDH](#)

Profession specific data and reports

Local utilization data

Environmental Health

Questions to consider

- What is the role of the environment in disease?
- What is the air quality?
- What is the incidence of food- and water-borne outbreaks in your county?
- What is the quality of water?
 - Does the water support healthy aquatic life? Are fish safe to eat?
 - Is the water safe for swimming and other water recreation?
 - For recreational/public pools and beaches: are they licensed and inspected? If yes, what are the results? (This does not include hotels with pools.)
- 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?

Selected Indicators	Website
Air quality	
Asthma (County data)	Public Health Tracking Network, MDH
Carbon Monoxide Poisoning (County data)	Not all indicators have county data available at this time. The tracking network plans to add county data incrementally. All should be in place by October 2011.
Child Lead Poisoning	
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease	
Drinking Water Quality	
Heart Attacks	
Percent of developed land	MN LMIC Land Use
Number and location of landfills in county	MN PCA Landfills
Water quality of lakes and streams	MN DNR Lakes and Streams (Not all lakes and streams tested)
Number of hazardous materials releases	MN County Health Tables
Number of food and waterborne disease outbreaks	MN County Health Tables

Other Data Sources

PPMRS

Local data collection system – number of calls, complaints for environmental health issues; monitoring and quality assurance activities for food, beverage and lodging.

[MN PCA SCORE Report](#)

The SCORE Report is an annual evaluation of Minnesota's recycling and waste management programs.

Local Inspection Reports

Number of facility inspections, associated risk, types of corrective orders

County/local zoning and planning

Number of new septic systems, number of complaints; number of wells, those sealed or unsealed, new construction; number of feedlot constructions, maintenance issues

Minnesota Center for Health Statistics

Division of Health Policy
Minnesota Department of Health
85 East Seventh Place
PO Box 64882
Saint Paul, MN 55164-0882

Stats Request Line: 651/201-3504

Fax: 651/201-5179

Stats Request Line: healthstats@state.mn.us

Website: www.health.state.mn.us/divs/chs/

