



KANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY

Documenting Community Need by Using Data

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The Importance of Data in your Application

- Description of target area
tell your story, purpose of grant - document current conditions → DATA
- Community Need (Threats to Sensitive Populations, Community's Need for Funding; Health or Welfare of Sensitive Populations; Greater Than Normal Incidence of Disease and Adverse Health Conditions; Promoting Environmental Justice)
 - Where is the community need? Identify issues/problems → DATA
- What difference will the grant make? Changes/improvements where? → DATA

No Data - No Credibility - No Grant

Purpose of Grant

- Environmental Improvement – Environmental and/or Public Health
- Economic Development / Job Creation
- Affordable Housing
- Transportation Infrastructure
- Community Sustainability



What/Where are the Community Needs?

- Environmental & Public Health Improvement – air, soil & water quality / health stats
- Housing – ownership / rental / income to housing cost ratio/age of housing stock
- Transportation Infrastructure – pedestrian / bicycle / alternatives
- Economic Development / Job Creation – unemployment / wages / technology
- General Quality of Life – safe and healthy environment, financial security, educational and recreational opportunities,...

USE THE DATA THAT WORK FOR YOU!



Examples

- The MHI is \$44,3993 (26.4% and 25.5% less than the MHI in the U.S. and Texas, respectively³) and EPAs EJSCREEN shows the neighborhood directly surrounding the site as being in the 70-90 national percentile in terms of low income. 16.5% residents live below the 100% poverty level³. Poverty in adulthood is linked to depressive disorders, anxiety disorders, psychological distress, and suicide and is “one of the most significant social determinants of health and mental health”⁶.
- The 2016 County Health Rankings (<http://www.countyhealthrankings.org>) identify air pollution as measured by PM2.5 concentrations (24 hr average) in six of the 11 Panhandle counties to be the highest in the state with concentrations of 13.5 to 13.6 ug/m³. The averages for the state and the U.S. were 12.1 ug/m³ and 11.4 ug/m³, respectively.
- According to the GISD, 1,026 students (36.9% of the entire student population) currently live within a 2-mile radius of the campuses, which means they also live close to the site, and 342 (12.29%) of all students enrolled present with asthma. In the U.S., 7.7% of adults and 8.4% of children have asthma (most recent CDC data, 2018). This means Ville’s student population has a 3.89% higher incident rate than the national average.

Another Example

According to the American Lung Association, inhaling asbestos fibers increases the risk of developing lung cancer and mesothelioma. Cancer data for Ville are not available. But in 2015 (most recent data as reported by Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) in 2019), the death rate from lung cancer in Coryell County was 42.7 as opposed to Texas with a rate of 34.9 (death/100,000 population); the overall cancer death rate (death/100,000 population) was 204.6 in Coryell County and 150.6 in Texas (DSHS, 2019)¹⁰. While it cannot be said for certain that exposure to ACMs from the site contributed to these statistics, it can also not be excluded.

According to ATSDRs ToxFAQs¹¹, it is unknown if exposure to asbestos can cause birth defects in children or other developmental effects in people. DSHS reports a prevalence of 455.04 /10,000 live birth for Coryell County and 455.6/10,000 live birth for Texas from 1999-2014 (latest data available)¹². No data are available for Ville per se.

This cleanup grant will eliminate the threat from ACMs associated with the site potentially affecting children, youths, and adults.



How Do I Compare? - Where to find the Data?

- Housing – *City & Regional Planning Departments, State Housing Authorities*
- Transportation Infrastructure – *City & Regional Planning Departments, State Authorities*
- Economic Development / Job Creation – *City & Regional Planning Depts., State Authorities*
- Community Sustainability – All of the Above!
- Federal Databases (HUD – EPA – DOT - EDA)
- US Census Bureau – www.census.gov
- Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) - <https://www.bls.gov/>



City Data vs Site Census Block Group Data

Selected Variables	Value (%)	State Average (%)	%ile in State
Demographics Index	29	26	69
People of Color	17	21	72
Low Income	49	31	79
Unemployment	9	5	81
Linguistically Isolated	0	1	69
>High School Education	15	10	79
Under age 5	6	6	54
Over age 64	15	17	43

Selected Variables	Value (%)	State Average (%)	%ile in State
Demographics Index	42	26	81
People of Color	15	21	58
Low Income	69	31	93
Unemployment	12	5	89
Linguistically Isolated	0	1	69
>High School Education	13	10	73
Under age 5	14	6	96
Over age 64	8	17	12

General Tips

- Use the latest available stats
- If no current stats available, use the most recent you can find and explain
- Go beyond the usual sources and do your research
- BUT – use also what you may already have: blight studies, market analyses, housing studies,...



Identify All Information Sources Used!!! – Reference!!!

Health Impact Data

- Infant Morbidity/Mortality - <https://wonder.cdc.gov/lbd-current.html>
- Low Birthweight - https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/sosmap/lbw_births/lbw.htm
- Cancer Mortality, by state - https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/sosmap/cancer_mortality/cancer.htm
- Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease mortality by state - https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/sosmap/lung_disease_mortality/lung_disease.htm
- Elevated Blood Lead Levels - <https://www.cdc.gov/lead-prevention/php/data/state-surveillance-data.html>
- Cardiovascular (Heart) Disease - <https://www.advisory.com/daily-briefing/2023/07/26/heart-disease>
- CDC Fast Stats, statistics on a variety of topics - <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/default.htm>

Note: If health data are not available for your community, use county data instead as representative data for your community

Public Health Data

- **County Health Rankings** - <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/>
- **PLACES, CDC/RWJF**, maps health outcomes - <https://www.cdc.gov/places/index.html>
- **CDC National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network** - <https://ephtracking.cdc.gov/>
 - Provides national, state, and local health and environmental data; Data Explorer to view interactive maps, tables, and charts
 - View Info by Location for county level data snapshots
 - Links to multiple tracking websites (state and local)
- **Local Health Departments**: health needs assessments, health impact assessments, health indicator reports
- **City Health Dashboard** - <https://www.cityhealthdashboard.com/?gclid=CjwKCAjwxuuCBhATEiwAIIz0c0HY>

Environmental Data

- **EJScreen** - demographic and environmental data by area
<https://pedp-ejscreen.azurewebsites.net/> (unofficial copy of EJScreen)
- **NDEE, EPA, eco devo agencies** (blight studies)
- **Climate & Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST)** - identifies communities that are marginalized, underserved, and overburdened by pollution.

Unofficial copy of CEJEST:

<https://edgi-govdata-archiving.github.io/j40-cejst-2/en/#10.94/38.7779/-95.8221>

- **Cleanups in my Community** - <https://www.epa.gov/cleanups/cleanups-my-community>
- **EnviroAtlas** - <https://www.epa.gov/enviroatlas>
- **Platform for Exploring Environmental Records (PEER)** - <https://www.communitylattice.com/peer-tool>



Start gathering Data Early – Start now!



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