Demonstrating the Need for School-Based Health Programs

Data is a powerful tool for demonstrating the need for school-based health (SBH) programs. Collecting and reporting powerful data indicators from a variety of sources is important when conducting needs assessments, applying for grant applications, and informing and justifying staffing, hours, and services needed by SBH programs. Another important use of data is to measure success of SBH programs overtime. Data can be collected from a variety of sources, including publicly available data from local, state, and federal entities. Below are some of the health, socio-economic, and education indicators that have been used previously for describing the need for SBH programs as well as a list of sources where these and other indicators can be found.

Health Indicators
- *Emergency Department (ED) Utilization* – the rate at which people in your community visit the emergency department helps to demonstrate that families in your community may not have access to preventative care, such as primary care providers or pediatricians, mental health providers, or other types of health services such as urgent care. SBH programs have been shown to decrease ED utilization because they increase access to care.
- *Hospital Utilization* – the rate at which people in your community visit the hospital helps to demonstrate that families in your community may not have access to primary and preventative care or inadequate health insurance, resulting in hospital stays for sickness, surgeries, and other health needs.
- *Childhood Asthma* – the rate of children with asthma in your community, which can indicate poor housing quality and a lack of access to preventative health services.
- *Medicaid/CHIP Insurance Coverage* – the percent of children covered under Medicaid/CHIP insurance highlights the number of families in your community with limited or low resources to address their children's healthcare needs.

Socio-Economic Indicators
- *Poverty* – the percent of children in poverty highlights the number of children and families in your community at risk for both physical exposures (e.g., poor housing quality, environmental toxins) and psychosocial exposures (e.g., neighborhood crime, poor quality of education) that impact psychological and physiological development as well as health behaviors.
- *Free or reduced priced meals* – the number of students in a school community living in poverty or at risk for falling below the poverty level who qualify for free or reduced meals.

Education Indicators
- *High School Graduation Rate* – the rate at which students receive their high school diploma within four years is a key indicator of how students are thriving in school as well as a strong predictor of other health indicators.
- *High School Dropout* – the percent of students who leave without completing school, which can impact health behaviors, access to employment opportunities, and employment-related health benefits.
- *Attendance* – frequently reported as the proportion of students who attend school at least 90% of the time. Attendance is an important indicator of community wellbeing and health, as students who are well-supported in their school and community are more likely to attend school. School-based health programs have been shown to increase attendance.

- *English Language Arts performance in 3rd grade* – the proportion of all students who are proficient or advanced in English, which is linked to high school completion and college readiness. The proportion of students below basic levels in 3rd grade is a key indicator for long-term academic success.
- *Performance in 8th grade Math and Algebra I* – the proportion of all students who are proficient or advanced in Math. Another key indicator for long-term academic success is the proportion of students below basic levels in 8th grade.

Data Sources

Children's Health and Education Indicators Map	
Link	http://www.sbh4all.org/resources/mapping-tool/
Description	This mapping resource from the National School-Based Health Alliance allows users to overlap child and adolescent health outcomes with social determinants of health data to identify areas of highest need. It is helpful for showing health and education data in your county compared with other areas in the state and county. This tool also includes the ability to map public school locations, health care facilities, legislative districts, and school-based health programs over other data. Note that only school-based health programs that participated in the most recent National SBHA Census will appear on the map. Maps you create can be downloaded to include as visuals in your needs assessment or other visuals.
Data Indicators	County-level information on child health, education, and socioeconomic status; location of public schools, health care facilities, and school-based health programs

The Opportunity Atlas	
Link	https://opportunityatlas.org/
Description	This mapping resource allows you to easily map U.S. Census data and compare your community's outcomes to others in your region. You can download and use maps from this website to visually portray data.
Data Indicators	Variety of socio-economic/education/health indicators, including teenage birth rate, household income, and college graduation rate

Missouri Kids Count	
Link	http://www.missourikidscountdata.org/browser.php
Description	The Missouri KIDS COUNT Data Book is a compilation of data sources specifically on the health and wellbeing of children. County-level profiles are available for understanding the wellbeing of children in your community as well as additional data on a variety of indicators.
Data Indicators	Variety of economic well-being, health, family and community, and education indicators

Missouri Health and Education
Data Resources

Explore MO Health—Missouri Health Atlas	
Link	https://exploremohealth.org/reports/missouri-health-atlas/
Description	This resource provides county-level and ZIP-code level health profiles with a wide array of health, demographic, and social & economic indicators.
Data Indicators	Variety of health, demographic, and social & economic indicators, including emergency department and hospital utilization rates

Explore MO Health—Spotlight on ZIP Health	
Link	https://exploremohealth.org/reports/zip-health-report/
Description	This resource allows you to compare your county leading health indicators with the state average and with other counties.
Data Indicators	Depression, diabetes, COPD, cancer, asthma, and coronary heart disease prevalence rates

County Health Rankings & Roadmaps	
Link	https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/
Description	The County Health Rankings & Roadmaps program is a collaboration between the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. The annual Rankings provide a revealing snapshot of how health is influenced by where we live, learn, work, and play. Data is available at the county level.
Data Indicators	High school graduation rates, obesity, smoking, unemployment, access to healthy foods, the quality of air and water, income inequality, and teen births

American Fact Finder	
Link	https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml
Description	American Fact Finder is a user-friendly portal for accessing the U.S Census, a national survey conducted every 10 years, and the American Community Survey (ACS), a national survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau annually. It is helpful for describing your community in terms of the population size, race and ethnicity, poverty rates, and various other socio-economic indicators. Data is available at various geographic levels, including county, town, or ZIP code level for many communities.
Data Indicators	Variety of social & economic indicators

Missouri Health and Education Data Resources

UDS Mapper	
Link	https://www.udsmapper.org/
Description	The UDS Mapper was developed by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), John Snow, Inc., and the American Academy of Family Physicians to provide information about the geographic extent of the federal Health Center Program awardees and look-alikes. The tool can be used to identify providers in your area.
Data Indicators	Locations and service areas of Health Center Programs and other federally-linked providers, Health Professional Shortage Areas, and Medically Underserved Areas/Populations

Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)	
Link	https://dese.mo.gov/school-data
Description	The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) provides education-related data for each school district and building through the Missouri Comprehensive Data System. Data is collected and published on an on-going basis with variable availability for individual indicators.
Data Indicators	3rd grade English Language Arts proficiency, 7th grade Math proficiency, graduation rate, enrollment, attendance, free or reduced-price lunch, dropout rate

Missouri Public Health Information Management System (MOPHIMS)	
Link	https://healthapps.dhss.mo.gov/MoPhims/MOPHIMSHome
Description	The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services provides health outcome data through the Missouri Public Health Information Management System (MOPHIMS) database. This data is available for communities at various geographic levels, including county, city, ZIP code, and census tract, depending on the indicator of interest.
Data Indicators	Maternal, infant, and child health, chronic disease, injury, death, hospital and emergency room use

School Nurse Data	
Link	https://health.mo.gov/living/families/schoolhealth/resources.php
Description	Every school district in MO is required to collect specific healthcare data on their students and provide that in a monthly report to DHSS. Individual nurses document their interventions and collect the required data. Typically, the district lead nurse or an identified school district administrator compiles the data and sends it to the DHSS contact. This is valuable information for school administrators, board members, and SBH providers and SBH leadership. It can inform and justify staffing, hours, and services needed for SBH programs.
Data Indicators	Following is the data that all districts are required to share with DHSS: ○ Immunization numbers, by type and grade (submitted annually) ○ Number of office visits and often the reason for the visit (monthly) ○ Students with chronic conditions or health issues (i.e. asthma, diabetes)

	o 911 calls and reasons
	o Number of students sent home due to illness
	o The result of the office visit (home, back to class, etc)
	o Who performed the intervention (RN or LPN)

Other Sources for Health Data in Your Community

- **Hospitals and Community Health Systems—Community Health Needs Assessment**
  Hospitals and community health systems are required to complete and make available a community health needs assessment every three years. The purpose of the assessment is to understand what healthcare issues the community faces by meeting with community members and conducting a study of healthcare issues in the area. Using the data collected, hospitals and community health systems are also required to formulate a 3-year plan on how to address the identified health issues through their services and programming. Hospitals and community health systems are often motivated to sponsor SBH programs as part of satisfying their federal non-profit requirements, which are frequently incorporated into the CHNA. Under this requirement, often referred to as community benefit, non-profit hospitals must invest a portion of their profits back into the community they serve. The needs assessment and plan should be accessible via your local hospital's or community health system's website. Here is an example from Children's Mercy Kansas City.

- **County and City Health Departments—Community Health Needs Assessment**
  Like hospitals and community health systems, local public health departments are also required to conduct periodic community health needs assessments to identify key health needs and issues. They should be available via your local health department's website. Here is an example from Columbia/Boone County.

- **Individual District Websites or School Boards**
  Individual District Websites or School Boards have a variety of data available on their websites. All public-school data is open to the public at an aggregate level. Additionally, all School Boards must post all their meeting minutes and documents online per Sunshine Law.