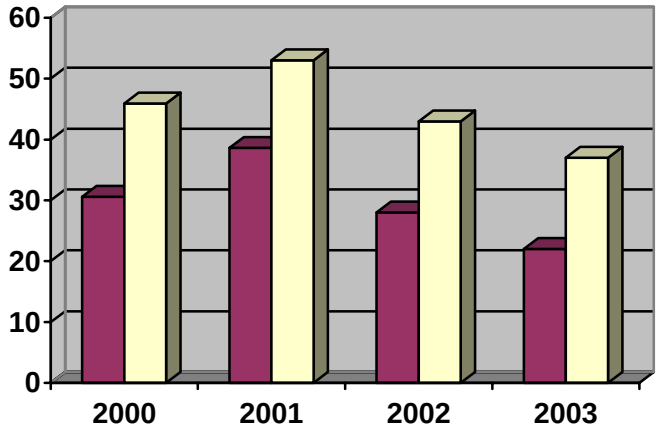
NYS Prevention Partnerships
Archival Risk Indicators Guidebook



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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT ARCHIVAL INDICATORS

What are *archival indicators* and why are prevention service planners using them?

Archival indicators are simply data collected routinely, often for several years, by human service organizations for planning, accountability and monitoring purposes. Most of this data is produced by public agencies and non-profit human service providers. Self-report survey data, collected directly from community members using questionnaires, is generally not considered to be archival indicator data.

How can this information assist partnerships in planning for alcohol, tobacco and other drug (ATOD) prevention services?

Researchers at OASAS and in several other states have tested archival indicator data for its ability to predict levels of ATOD related problems in communities. These studies have found that certain indicators may be used to help monitor levels of risk and protective factors that are predictive of greater ATOD abuse. They can also provide information on the consequences and costs to communities due to substance abuse. Together with student survey data, focus group data, other survey data and prevention resource assessments, these risk indicators are part of the foundation of a comprehensive community needs assessment. The completed needs assessments will guide prevention partnerships in preparing strategic plans for their communities' prevention services.

Why can't prevention partnerships use the OASAS PRISMS county level risk indicator data?

Many communities are smaller than counties and must use sub-county data to assess their needs. Partnerships also need to know where within their counties risks are greatest. Fortunately, OASAS has recently produced a zip code level risk profile for New York City that can provide much of the required data for the NYS SICA sites. The PRISMS County Risk Profiles will be produced again in Spring 2001 (with 1997-98 data) and should be used to compare communities with their county, regional and NYS rates. Many prevention partnerships may be able to collect important data that is not available at the state level, such as hospital Emergency Room usage rates or substance abuse related-child abuse cases. Some indicators, such as adolescent suicide rates, will be too infrequent to use at a zip code level and others may occur frequently but only in a small number of zip codes.

Isn't this work very complex and best left to researchers like demographers or epidemiologists?

Yes, collecting and interpreting this data can get very complex, but luckily many prevention partnerships have access to Universities or research consultants that have experience with using this type of data. Others have found help through their partnership members. There is also an excellent guide to collecting and using this data: "A Community Substance Abuse Indicators Handbook" produced by the Institute for Health Policy at Brandeis University and Join Together.

This guide is written for prevention partnership members and gives several examples of how this data has been collected and used successfully by partnership members across the country.

Some of the disadvantages of archival indicator data for risk assessment:

- Reflect activities of social institutions - not population norms or behavior
  - tend to reflect dysfunction (good for risk but not protective factors)
  - reflect policies and budgets: traffic patrols up - DWI rates up
- Not easily tied to many prevention strategy outcomes
  - no peer data, no attitudes data, no bonding data
- Government administrative data can be of poor quality
- Data sources vary by geography: census, zip, city, and county, police precincts, health districts, community boards...

Some of the advantages of archival indicator data for risk assessment:

- Easy to understand-intuitive
- Objective - no sampling or self-report biases
- Available from Family/Youth serving institutions
- Lower costs to collect than new data
- Long time frame is good for prevention – can monitor long term trends
- Can be readily tied to social costs: arrest, incarceration, health care, addiction treatment

How do we start this effort?

The Communities that Care® planning system has organized these indicators by scientifically validated risk factors. OASAS research staff have added additional indicators tested in New York State and removed some indicators that can only be used at a county or higher level of aggregation. Combining these two sources, this guidebook for indicator data collection is organized by risk factors into a "wish list" of indicator data for prevention partnerships to pursue.

RISK INDICATOR WISH LIST

1. Availability of Drugs

Indicator	Sources of Local Data	Geographic Boundary
Alcohol Retail Outlets	NYS Liquor Authority	zip code
Tobacco Sales Establishments	NYS Liquor Authority	zip code

2. Community Laws and Norms Favorable Towards Drug Use and Crime

Indicator	Sources of Local Data	Geographic Boundary
Average Length of Jail Sentences	District Attorney's Office	Community
Disposition of Juveniles Arrested	Juvenile Court System Police & Sheriff's Departments District Attorney's Office	Community
Sentencing Below Federal Guidelines	State Courts District Attorney's Office	Community
School Policies Regarding Alcohol, Tobacco and Drugs	School Districts	School District

3. Transitions and Mobility

Indicator	Sources of Local Data	Geographic Boundary
Net Migration Rate	U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service U.S. Census Bureau Service	Community

4. Low Neighborhood Attachment and Community Disorganization

Indicator	Sources of Local Data	Geographic Boundary

Population Voting in Congressional Election Years	County Elections Office	Congressional districts
Population Voting in Presidential Election Years	County Elections Office Secretary of State's Office	Voting districts
Prisoners in State and Federal Correctional Facilities	NYS Department of Corrections	zip code
Number of Churches/Synagogues	Department of State	zip code

5. Extreme Economic Deprivation

Indicator	Sources of Local Data	Geographic Boundary
Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) Cases	County Dept. Social Services	zip code
Children Living below Poverty Level	U.S. Bureau of the Census	zip code
Families Living Below Poverty Level	U.S. Bureau of the Census	zip code
Female Family Householder with No Spouse Present	U.S. Bureau of the Census	zip code
Food Stamp Recipients	County Dept. Social Services	zip code
Free and Reduced Lunch Program	NYS Education Department	school district
Persons Living Below Poverty Level	U.S. Bureau of the Census	zip code
Unemployment	County Employment Office	zip code

6. Family History and Involvement in the Problem Behavior

Indicator	Sources of Local Data	Geographic Boundary
Adults in Alcohol or Other Drug Treatment Programs	NYS OASAS Local Treatment Providers	zip code
Adults/Parents Incarcerated with AOD Addictions	Prisons, Jails	zip code
Chronic Liver Disease and Cirrhosis Deaths	County Department of Health	zip code
Adult Hospital Admissions for Alcohol Related Illness	County Department of Health	zip code
Adult Hospital Admissions for Other Substance Abuse Related Illness	County Department of Health	zip code
Adult Alcohol-Related Accidents	Police, Sheriff's Departments	zip code
Adult Property Crime Arrests	NYS DCJS Police, Sheriff's Departments	" "
Adult Violent Crime Arrests	NYS DCJS Police, Sheriff's Departments	" "
Alcohol and Tobacco Use During Pregnancy	County Health Department Hospitals	city/town
Babies Born Affected by Alcohol or Other Drugs	County Health Department Hospitals	city/town
AOD Related Child Abuse/Neglect Cases	County Dept. Social Services	zip code city/town
Educational Attainment (Less than 12 Years of School)	U.S. Bureau of the Census	zip code

7. Family Management Problems

Indicator	Sources of Local Data	Geographic Boundary
Children Living Outside the Family	U.S. Bureau of the Census	zip code
Reported Child Abuse and Neglect Cases	County Child Protective Services	zip code
Runaway Reports	County Dept. Social Services	zip code
PINS Petitions	County Dept. Social Services	zip code
Children Living in Foster Care	County Dept. Social Services	zip code
Single Parent Family Households	U.S. Bureau of the Census	zip code

8. Family Conflict

Indicator	Sources of Local Data	Geographic Boundary
Divorce	County Clerk or Recorder Census Reports	city/town
Domestic Violence Arrests	Police, Sheriff's Departments Women's Shelters Crisis Centers	police jurisdictions
Indicated Child Abuse and Neglect Cases	County Child Protective Services	zip code

9. Early and Persistent Anti-Social Behavior

Indicator	Sources of Local Data	Geographic Boundary
Elementary School Special Education Classes–Emotional Disturbance	Local School Districts NYS SED	school district
Elementary School Students with Behavioral Disorders	Local School Districts	"
Elementary School Disciplinary Problems	Local School Districts	"

10. Academic Failure Beginning in Late Elementary School

Indicator	Sources of Local Data	Geographic Boundary
PEP/PET Scores	School District NYS SED	school district
G.E.D. Diplomas Issued	School District NYS SED	"
Math Proficiency	School District NYS SED	"
Reading/Writing Proficiency	School District NYS SED	"
SAT Test Scores	School District NYS SED	"
Science Proficiency	School District NYS SED	"

11. Lack of Commitment to School

Indicator	Sources of Local Data	Geographic Boundary
Completion of Four Years of High School, Persons Age 25 and Older	School District NYS SED	school district
Absenteeism/Truancy	School District NYS SED	"
Suspensions	School District NYS SED	"
High School Seniors Intention to Attend College	School District NYS SED	"

12. Alienation and Rebelliousness

Indicator	Sources of Local Data	Geographic Boundary
Suicide Deaths Rates by Ages	County Health Departments	city/town
Suicide Thoughts, Planning, and Attempts, by Gender and Grade	County Health Departments	city/town
Vandalism and Graffiti Damage	Police/Sheriff's Department	zip code

13. Early Initiation of Problem Behavior

Indicator	Sources of Local Data	Geographic Boundary
AOD-Related Arrests, 0-14	Police, Sheriff's Department	police jurisdiction
Juvenile Violence Arrests	Sheriff/Police Department	"
Adolescents Diagnosed with Sexually Transmitted Diseases - Gonorrhea	Public Health Department	zip code
Adolescents Diagnosed with Sexually Transmitted Diseases – Syphilis	Public Health Department	zip code

14. Problem Behavior Indicators

Indicator	Sources of Local Data	Geographic Boundary
Adolescent Pregnancies	County and Health Departments	zip code
Alcohol-Related Traffic Fatalities	Police, Sheriff's Departments Coroner's Office	zip code
AOD-Related Deaths	Hospitals, Coroner's Office	zip code
AOD-Related Emergency Room Admissions	Hospitals	zip code
Arrests for Driving Under the Influence	Police, Sheriff's Departments State Law Enforcement Agencies	zip code

Birth Rate by Age of Mother	Hospitals Health Departments	zip code
Juvenile Arrests for Drug Abuse	Police, Sheriff's Departments NYS DCJS	zip code
Juvenile Arrests for Violent Crimes	Police, Sheriff's Departments NYS DCJS	zip code
Juvenile Vandalism Arrests	Police, Sheriff's Departments	zip code