

Building on Strengths: Tools for Improving Positive Outcomes

Sources of Data on Substance Use and Misuse Among Boys and Young Men of Color



Using Prevention Research to Guide Prevention Practice

SAMHSA's Center for the Application of Prevention Technologies

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INTRODUCTION

Prevention practitioners working at the state, tribe, jurisdiction, and local levels are well-positioned to more effectively address the diverse substance use, misuse, and related behavioral health needs of the populations they serve, including traditionally underserved groups such as boys and young men of color.

Research suggests that boys and young men of color are at increased risk for poor educational, economic and health outcomes. Such disparities have been linked to a variety of risk factors, including social determinants such as historical trauma,¹ cultural subjugation and geographic marginalization or segregation,² as well as risk behaviors that may occur secondary to these social determinants—for example, reduced job prospects and underemployment, access to services, and exposure to violence.³ What we know less about and seldom dwell on are those factors that promote well-being from the start or protect against substance misuse, specifically.

Sources of Data on Substance Use and Misuse Among Boys and Young Men of Color is part of a suite of practice-support tools developed by SAMHSA’s Center for the Application of Prevention Technologies (CAPT) to re-focus attention on the constellation of factors that protect against substance misuse, including the unique strengths of this population. By providing a snapshot of important national, state, and local data sources, it is designed to help practitioners identify indicator data on substance use consumption and consequences, as well as on protective factors present in populations of color.

The table below is organized into two sections: data warehouses and data surveys. When using the table, please note that a single data source is likely to provide information related to multiple factors. Also note that data sources included in this tool are among those most commonly referenced. There may be other data sources and surveys not included among those described here.

¹ Evans-Campbell T. (2008). Historical trauma in American Indian/Native Alaska communities: A multilevel framework for exploring impacts on individuals, families, and communities. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 23*, 316–338.

² Acevedo-Garcia, D., Osypuk, T. L., McArdle, N., & Williams, D. R. (2008). Toward a policy-relevant analysis of geographic and racial/ethnic disparities in child health. *Health Affairs, 27*(2), 321–333.

³ Williams, D. R., & Collins, C. (2001). Racial residential segregation: A fundamental cause of racial disparities in health. *Public Health Reports, 116*(5), 404-416.

DATA WAREHOUSES

Source	Description	Indicators Related to Protective Factors	Level of Reporting	Link
American Community Survey (ACS)	A survey led by the U.S. Census Bureau to gather information on ancestry, educational attainment, income, language proficiency, migration, disability, employment, and housing characteristics. The ACS collects data from approximately 295,000 addresses monthly (or 3.5 million per year).	Education, school enrollment, employment, ethnic/racial identity, housing	National, state, and local	https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/
American Housing Survey	A survey led by the U.S. Housing and Urban Development and the U.S. Census to evaluate housing needs and basic demographics.	Race/ethnic identity, education, American citizenship, income	National	http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/ahs/about.html
Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS)	A telephone survey conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to collect information on health risk behaviors, preventive health practices, and health care access	Education, employment, racial identity, nutrition, health care access, health status,	National, state, and local	http://www.cdc.gov/brfss/

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Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS) (cont.)	primarily related to chronic disease and injury. Data are collected monthly in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Guam.	immunizations, oral health, physical activity, alcohol and tobacco use		
Common Core of Data (CCD)	Collects annual fiscal and non-fiscal data for all public schools, school districts, and state education agencies within in the U.S. Data collected includes descriptive information about student and demographics.	On time high school graduation, graduation rates, free school lunch eligibility	State and local	https://nces.ed.gov/ccd/
Community Commons-Community Health Needs Assessment	Conducted to identify needs and potential gaps in community health and well-being. The tool allows for spatial distribution of poverty rates and educational attainment.	Race/ethnicity, socio-economic status (SES), education	National, state, and local	http://www.communitycommons.org/chna/
Community Health Status Indicators (CHSI)	Produces health profiles that looks at key indicators of health outcomes, describes population health status, and identifies factors that may influence health outcomes.	Alcohol and tobacco use, physical activity, social support, SES, income, on time high school graduation,	State and local	http://wwwn.cdc.gov/CommunityHealth/homepage.aspx?j=1

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Source	Description	Indicators Related to Protective Factors	Level of Reporting	Link
Community Health Status Indicators (CHSI) (cont.)		community safety, access to parks, housing stress, living near highways, access to healthy food nutrition		
County Health Rankings	A database compiled by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute to present factors that influence health on a local level.	Tobacco use, healthy Body Mass Index (BMI), physical activity, access to exercise opportunities, alcohol use, high school graduation, college enrollment, employment, SES, family and social support	State and local	http://www.countyhalthrankings.org/
Current Population Survey	A monthly survey of households conducted by the Bureau of Census for the Bureau of Labor Statistics to provide data on the labor force, employment,	Enrollment in college immediately after high school, high school completion, income	National	http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps.html

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Current Population Survey (cont.)	unemployment, persons not in the labor force, hours of work, earnings, and other demographic and labor force characteristics.			
Diversity Data Kids	A database created to monitor the state of wellbeing, diversity and equality of U.S children.	Race/ethnicity (under 18), public high school graduation rate, SES	National and state	http://www.diversitydatakids.org/
Small Area Income and Poverty Estimate	A data resource developed by the U.S. Census Bureau to provide annual estimates of income and poverty statistics for all school districts, counties, and states.	SES	National, state and local	http://www.census.gov/did/www/saiper/data/statecounty/
State Tobacco Activities Tracking and Evaluation System (STATE)	An electronic data warehouse that contains up-to-date and historical state-level data on tobacco use prevention and control.	State- and federal-level tobacco legislation, tobacco use	State	http://www.cdc.gov/statesystem/
National Household Education Surveys Program	A survey to provide educational activities of the U.S. population. Surveys cover learning at all ages, from early childhood through adulthood.	Parental involvement in children's education	National, state and local	http://nces.ed.gov/nhes/dataproducts.asp#2003dp

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Uniform Crime Reporting Tool	An annual publication compiled by the Federal Bureau of Investigation to evaluate the volume and rate of crime offenses.	Community safety	National and state	http://www.ucrdata.tool.gov/
United States Census Community Facts- American FactFinder	A system created to provide access to U.S Census data from all U.S states, Puerto Rico and the U.S island territories.	Children’s and teenagers demographic characteristics, income, education, school enrollment, socio-economic status (SES), employment, American citizenship, parental involvement	National, state and local	http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community_facts.xhtml
Youth Risk Behavior and Surveillance System (YRBSS)	A school-based survey conducted every two years by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. As of 2011, YRBSS data is available for 47 states, 22 districts (including the District of Columbia), six territories, and two tribes.	Nutrition, sufficient sleep, physical education, physical activity, healthy BMI, smoking cessation, racial/ethnic identity	National and state	http://www.cdc.gov/healthyouth/

DATA SURVEYS

Source	Description	Indicators Related to Protective Indicators	Level of Reporting	Link
American College Health Assessment	A survey led by the National College Health Association to evaluate the unique health risks and needs of college students and provide data on students' health habits, behaviors, and perceptions.	Overall health, safety, nutrition exercise, athletics, race/ethnic identity, religious affiliation	National	http://www.acha-ncha.org/
Area Health Resources Files	A survey led by the Health Research and Services Administration to examine health resources and socioeconomic indicators that affect health care.	Race/ethnic identity; foreign born; income; education; employment; language spoken	National, state and local	http://ahrf.hrsa.gov/index.htm
Monitoring the Future Survey	A survey led by the National Institute on Drug Abuse to measure ongoing behaviors, attitudes, and values of American secondary school students, college students, and young adults.	Alcohol initiation; disapproval of heavy drinking; disapproval of trying marijuana; illicit drug initiation	National	http://www.monitoringthefuture.org/

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National Assessment of Educational Progress	A survey led by the National Center for Education Statistics to provide information on education achievement in 10 subject areas, including mathematics, reading, writing, and science.	Alcohol initiation; disapproval of heavy drinking; disapproval of trying marijuana; illicit drug initiation	National	https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/
National Profile of Local Health Departments	A survey led by the National Association of City and County Health Officials to assess the infrastructure and programs of local health departments in the U.S. All local health departments in the U.S. are included.	Community based efforts in substance abuse, tobacco, and physical activity	National, state and local	http://nacchoprofiles.tudy.org/
The Condition of Education 2015	A survey led by the National Center for Education Statistics to provide information on the academic performance of the nation's students.	Home literacy activities with young children, immediate college enrollment rate, free lunch eligibility	National	http://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/indicator_sfa.asp
National Crime Victimization Survey	An annual survey of households to provide information on the	Community safety	National	http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=dcdetail

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National Crime Victimization Survey (cont.)	frequency, characteristics, and consequences of criminal victimization in the U.S. The sample includes about 90,000 households each year.			&iid=245
National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey	A survey designed to assess the health and nutritional status of adults and children in the U.S. In addition to surveys, interviews and physical examinations are included.	Nutrition; general health; income; physical activity, receiving wellness check-up; school attendance	National	http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhanes.htm
National Health Interview Survey	A collection of household survey data on a broad range of health topics.	General health, tobacco use	National	http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis.htm
National Survey of Children's Health	A survey led by the Bureau of Justice Statistics to evaluate child health status in the U.S.	Parental involvement (with reading); parental involvement (positive communication); perception of safety at school by teens' parents	National	http://childhealthdata.org/learn/NSCH

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National Survey of Family Growth	A survey led by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to gathers information on family life in the U.S.	Use of reproductive health services (e.g., contraception products) by sexually active males	National	http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nsfg.htm
National Survey of Substance Abuse Treatment Services	A survey led by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA) to collect annual data on all substance abuse treatment facilities in the U.S. and its territories. The sample includes data on about 17,000 facilities.	Tobacco screening	National, state and local	http://www.samhsa.gov/data/substance-abuse-facilities-data-nssats
National Youth Tobacco Survey	A survey led by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to provide national data on long-term, intermediate, and short-term indicators key to the design, implementation, and evaluation of comprehensive tobacco prevention	Youth exposure to tobacco marketing	National	http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/surveys/nyts/

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National Youth Tobacco Survey (cont.)	and control programs.			
Pew Research Center Religion and Public Life Study	A survey led by the Pew Research Center to collect data on religious beliefs and political attitudes in the U.S.	Religious affiliation, religiosity, religious participation, spirituality	National and state	http://www.pewforum.org/religious-landscape-study/racial-and-ethnic-composition/
School Health Policies and Practices Study	A survey led by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to assess school health policies and practices.	School-level policies and activities related to faculty staff health promotion, health education, health services, healthy and safe school environment, mental health and social services, nutrition services, physical education and activity	State	http://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/data/spps/index.htm