



The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) standards for data collection and analysis are intended to assist in identifying populations that may be at risk for health inequities. They provide a first step in disaggregating data; however, they are not an endpoint, and additional assessment to understand HOW and WHY inequities exist is necessary. These standards represent the minimum recommendations for data collection and analysis, as outlined in the IDPH Health Equity Policy. They are to be used when no other guidance is available (e.g., from funders, legislative directives, topic area best practices, etc.).

Data Collection Standards provide guidance on the source data that should be available. As a general rule, data should be collected at the most granular level possible, while protecting confidentiality, to allow for post hoc aggregation depending on the analysis needs. Appendix C provides examples of questions used to collect these data.

Data Analysis Standards provide guidance on how data should be analyzed to assess if disparities exist among populations. It is important that consistent and well-documented categories be used for comparative and trend analysis. While the analysis standards may result in very small groups, it is recommended to explore ([but not publish](#)) the data in more detail to identify possible disparities.

IDPH provides standards for age, education, income, employment, geography, race/ethnicity, and sex/gender. These factors are ubiquitous and broadly influential across public health issues. Other factors may be important to consider for specific populations and/or public health issues. Please assess the risk and burden of data collection and/or analysis against the added value.

Examples of other factors that may influence health:

Adverse Childhood Experiences	Immigration Status	Marital Status
Disability Status	Insurance	Place of Birth (US or foreign-born)
Military Service	Justice System Involvement	Sexual Orientation
Housing and Transportation Resources	Language Spoken	Specific Occupation

More resources related to data standards are located on the IDPH Intranet in the Employee Resources section under IDPH Data Standards. For further guidance on these standards, please contact Betsy Richey - betsy.richey@idph.iowa.gov.

APPENDICES:

- Appendix A: Federal Poverty Level
- Appendix B: FIPS Codes and Rural-Urban Designations for Counties
- Appendix C: Example Questions for Data Collection

Topic	Data Collection Standard	Data Analysis Standard
Age	<p>Single year of age</p> <p><i>NOTE: Unless required, birth date is considered confidential, and should not be collected.</i></p>	<p><u>General Age Categories:</u> 0: infancy 1-14: childhood 15-24: adolescence/young adulthood 25-44: early working age 45-64: older working age 65+: older adult</p> <p><u>Special topics</u> Child specific analyses: 0, 1-4, 5-9, 10-14, 15-17</p> <p>Adolescent/young adult analyses: 10-14, 15-17, 18-24</p> <p>Older adulthood analyses: 50-64, 65-84, 85+</p> <p><i>NOTE: Appropriate age breakdowns may depend on the specific topic. Issues to consider:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Working age ● Laws influencing legality and/or eligibility
Education	<p>High level of granularity in levels of education.</p> <p>Maximum suggested categories are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No schooling completed ● Nursery school ● Kindergarten ● 1-11 grade individually 	<p><u>General Education Categories:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Less than high school ● High school graduate or equivalent ● Some college or Associate's degree ● Bachelor's and beyond <p><i>NOTE: Education should be used with populations age 18 and older. Care must be taken in the interpretation of data regarding</i></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 12th grade - no diploma ● Regular HS diploma ● GED or alternative credential ● Some college, less than 1 year ● Some college, 1 or more years ● Associate's degree ● Bachelor's degree ● Master's degree ● Professional school degree ● Doctorate Degree <p><i>NOTE: Above categories may be collapsed as appropriate.</i></p>	<p><i>individuals aged 25 and younger.</i></p>
<p>Income</p>	<p>Assessed in two questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pre-tax household income in as much granularity as possible. 2. Number of people dependent on this income. 	<p>Income levels are always shifting and cost of living varies. It is more useful to use Federal Poverty Level (FPL) and an absolute dollar amount. Many IDPH programs base eligibility on FPL (see Appendix A).</p> <p>When assessing income using FPL, consider eligibility levels of related programs. In general, the goal is to assess low income populations vs moderate to high income populations.</p>
<p>Employment</p>	<p>Multi-select:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Employed full time* ● Employed part time ● Not employed - seeking work ● Not employed - unable to work ● Not employed - not seeking work ● Student <p><i>NOTE: Employment categories are highly dependent</i></p>	<p><u>General Analysis Categories:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Employed full time ● Employed part time ● Not employed - seeking work ● Not employed - unable to work ● Not employed - not seeking work ● Student <p><i>NOTE: Analysis hierarchy and categories are highly dependent</i></p>

	<p><i>on issue. Specific occupation may be more relevant. * Full time should be clearly defined based on the program needs and requirements.</i></p>	<p><i>on issue. For example, how adolescents and young adults engage in employment is different than older adults.</i></p>
<p>Geography</p>	<p>County FIPS code</p> <p><i>NOTE: County borders are more consistent over time than zip code, and more aligned with IDPH contracting and services.</i></p> <p><i>Unless required, sub-county level data should not be collected due to confidentiality.</i></p>	<p>Due to the large number of counties in Iowa, county-level analysis may not be useful if not presented as a map.</p> <p>Other breakdowns to consider are: Urban/rural (see Appendix B) Public Health Regions Contract service areas</p> <p><i>NOTE: Be explicit if analysis is being conducted by county of residence (where the person lives), or county of service (where the service was provided).</i></p> <p><i>Depending on analysis needs, out-of-state residents or services may be removed.</i></p>
<p>Race/ Ethnicity</p>	<p>Assess in two single-select questions based on US Census strata:</p> <p>1. Race:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● White ● Black or African American ● American Indian or Alaskan Native ● Asian ● Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander ● Another single race (please specify) ● Mixed or multiple races (more than one race) (please specify) <p>2. Ethnicity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hispanic or Latino 	<p>Analysis of these variables can be combined to the follow categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Non-Hispanic White ● Non-Hispanic Black or African American ● Non-Hispanic American Indian or Alaskan Native ● Non-Hispanic Asian ● Non-Hispanic Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander ● Non-Hispanic Another Single Race ● Non-Hispanic Mixed or Multiple Races (more than one race) ● Hispanic or Latino <p><i>NOTE: Small groups may be combined for reporting due to small count sizes in the data. Initially, non-Hispanic Asian and non-Hispanic Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander should</i></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Not Hispanic or Latino <p><i>NOTE: ‘Hispanic’ is anyone that derives from a country where Spanish is spoken. This leaves out several countries in Latin America, such as Brazil. ‘Latino’ is anyone who derives from a Latin American country or territory, but leaves out other Spanish speaking countries, such as Spain. The term ‘Latina’ is specifically referring to females. ‘Latino’ is masculine, but is often used as a gender neutral term. An emerging gender-neutral term is “Latinx”.</i></p>	<p><i>be collapsed. If more aggregation is needed, collapse these groups into an “Other” category. The minimum reportable racial groups are White/Black/Other (ethnicity question not used). The minimum reportable racial and ethnicity combined groups are non-Hispanic White/non-Hispanic Black/Non-Hispanic Other/Hispanic Any Race.</i></p> <p><i>The handling of write-in responses should be addressed in analysis plan.</i></p>
<p>Sex/Gender</p>	<p>Be explicit about what is being asked.</p> <p>Gender: cultural identification as man or woman Sex: biological status as male or female</p> <p>Best practice is to use 2 questions in the following order:</p> <p>How would you describe your current gender identity (select all that apply)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Genderqueer ● Man ● Woman ● Transgender man (female-to-male) ● Transgender woman (male-to-female) ● Another gender identity (please specify) <p>What sex were you assigned on your birth certificate?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Male ● Female ● Not determined 	<p>Clearly identify if analyzing sex and/or gender, and how gender identity minority or ‘other’ responses are treated.</p>

	<p><i>NOTE: Assessing gender identity and sex assigned at birth permits identification of non-cisgender people (individuals whose gender identity does not correspond with their sex assigned at birth). Some topics may benefit from additional analysis according to sexual and gender minority status.</i></p>	
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Appendix A: Federal Poverty Level

POVERTY GUIDELINES* FOR THE 48 CONTIGUOUS STATES AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Persons in family/household	2016	2017	2018
1	\$11,880	\$12,060	\$12,140
2	\$16,020	\$16,240	\$16,460
3	\$20,160	\$20,420	\$20,780
4	\$24,300	\$24,600	\$25,100
5	\$28,440	\$28,780	\$29,420
6	\$32,580	\$32,960	\$33,740
7	\$36,730	\$37,140	\$38,060
8**	\$40,890	\$41,320	\$42,380

*Poverty guidelines should correspond to the year data were collected. Dollar amounts represent 100% of the federal poverty level.

**For more than 8 persons, follow the first link to determine the additional amount added in the year being examined.

Poverty Resources:

1. [HHS Poverty Guidelines for 2017](#)
2. [US Census - Poverty](#)
3. Bureau of Labor Statistics [Current Population Survey](#)
 - a. *BLS uses the term 'earnings' rather than 'income'.*
4. [IDPH Program Eligibility](#)

Appendix B: FIPS Codes and Urban-Rural Designations for Counties

The FIPS code and the urban-rural designation with 2016 population estimates for all Iowa counties can be found on the **IDPH Intranet, under Employee Resources in the Data Standards Category.**

The FIPS county code is a five-digit Federal Information Processing Standards code which uniquely identifies counties and county equivalents in the United States, certain U.S. possessions, and certain freely associated states. It is used in data collection to differentiate between identically named counties in different states and to avoid data processing issues caused by spelling errors and special characters (e.g., the apostrophe in O'Brien County).

Urban-Rural designations are based on the National Center for Health Statistics designations. These designations focus on access to services for the county population, as opposed to only the number of people residing in the county. More information can be found at: https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr_02/sr02_166.pdf. More information about geographic statistical areas can be found at www.iowadatacenter.org/aboutdata/statisticalareas

Population estimates are based on the American Communities Survey.

Appendix C: Example Questions for Data Collection

These questions are provided as examples, and do not necessarily align with all data standards listed above.

Age			
BRFSS ¹	Birth Certificate ²	YRBS ³	ACS ⁴
What is your age? <i>(can enter any 2 digit number)</i>	Full date of birth collected for baby and parent(s).	How old are you? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 years old or younger • 13 years old • 14 years old • • 18 years old or older 	What is [this person's] age and what is this person's date of birth? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age entered as whole number • Date of birth entered as month, day, year.
Education			
BRFSS	Birth Certificate	YRBS	ACS
What is the highest grade or year of school you completed? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Never attended school or only attended kindergarten • Grades 1 through 8 • Grades 9 through 11 • Grade 12 or GED • College 1 year to 3 years • College 4 years or more 	Level of schooling that best describes the birth mother's (<i>spouse's</i>) education at this time (check one) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8th grade or less • 9th-12th grade, no diploma • High school graduate or GED completed • College credit or no degree • Associate degree (e.g., AA, AS) • Bachelor's degree 	In what grade are you? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9th grade • 10th grade • 11th grade • 12th grade • Ungraded or other grade 	What is the highest degree or level of school that [this person] has completed? (If currently enrolled, mark the previous grade or highest degree received.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No schooling completed • Nursery school • Kindergarten • Grade 1 through 11 (specify) • 12th grade, no diploma • Regular high school

	<p>(e.g., BA, AB, BS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master's degree (e.g., MA, MS, MEng, MEd, MSW, MBA) • Doctorate degree (e.g., PhD, EdD) or professional degree (e.g., MD, DO, DDS, DVM, LLB, JD) • Technical/Instructional School 		<p>diploma</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GED or alternative credential • Some college credit, but less than 1 year of college credit • 1 or more years of college credit, no degree • Associate's degree (for example: AA, AS) • Bachelor's degree (for example: BA, BS) • Master's degree (for example: MA, MS, MEng, MEd, MSW, MBA) • Professional degree beyond a bachelor's degree (for example: MD, DDS, DMV, LLB, JD) • Doctorate degree (for example: PhD, EdD)
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Income

BRFSS	Birth Certificate	YRBS	ACS
<p>Is your annual household income from all sources....?</p> <p><i>Person is encouraged to provide an amount, interviewer</i></p>	<p>Not Collected</p> <hr/> <p>PRAMS⁵ During the last 12 months before your new baby was</p>	<p>Not Collected</p>	<p>What was [this person's] total income during the past 12 months?</p> <p><i>(This question is asked of</i></p>

<p><i>categorizes response into:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less than \$10,000 • \$10,00 to less than \$15,000 • \$15,000 to less than \$20,000 • \$20,000 to less than \$25,000 • \$25,000 to less than \$35,000 • \$35,000 to less than \$50,000 • \$50,000 to less than \$75,000 • \$75,000 or more <p>How many members of your household, including yourself, are 18 years of age or older?</p> <p>How many children less than 18 years of age live in your household?</p>	<p>born, what was your yearly total household income before taxes?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$0 to \$16,000 • \$16,001 to \$20,000 • \$20,001 to \$24,000 • \$24,001 to \$28,000 • \$28,001 to \$32,000 • \$32,001 to \$40,000 • \$40,001 to \$48,000 • \$48,001 to \$57,000 • \$57,001 to \$60,000 • \$60,000 to 73,000 • \$73,001 to \$85, 000 • \$85,001 or more <p>Counting yourself, how many people live in your house, apartment, or trailer?</p> <p>_____ Adults (people aged 18 years or older)</p> <p>_____ Babies, children, or teenagers (people aged 17 years or younger)</p>		<p><i>every person living in the household.)</i></p>
<p>How many children less than 18 years of age live in your household?</p> <p>How many members of your household, including yourself, are 18 years of age or older?</p>	<p>Birth Certificate: Not Collected</p> <hr/> <p>PRAMS: During the 12 months before your new baby was born, how many people, including you, depended on this income?</p>	<p>Not Collected</p>	<p>How many people are living or staying at this address? (Include everyone who is living or staying here for more than 2 months. Include yourself if you are living here for more than 2 months. Include anyone else who is staying here who does</p>

			not have another place to stay, even if they are here for 2 months or less. Do not include anyone who is living somewhere else for more than 2 months, such as a college student living away or someone in the Armed Forces on deployment.)
Employment			
BRFSS	Birth Certificate	YRBS	ACS
Are you currently...? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employed for wages • Self-employed • Out of work for 1 year or more • Out of work for less than 1 year • A Homemaker • A Student • Retired • Unable to work 	Not Collected	Not Collected	In the past week, did [this person] work for pay at a job? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes • No <i>(This question is followed by many additional questions to determine how much work, industry, kind of work, etc.)</i>
Geography			
BRFSS	Birth Certificate	YRBS	ACS
In what county do you currently live? What is the ZIP Code where	Physical street address and mailing address collected for birth mother.	State and school collected through survey methodology.	Physical street address collected through survey methodology.

you currently live?			
Race/Ethnicity			
BRFSS	Birth Certificate	YRBS	ACS
<p>Which one or more of the following would you say is your race?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White • Black or African American • American Indian or Alaska Native • Asian • Pacific Islander <p>Which one of these groups would you say best represents your race?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White • Black or African American • American Indian or Alaska Native • Asian • Pacific Islander 	<p>Race that birth mother (<i>spouse</i>) considers herself to be</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White • Black or African American • American Indian or Alaska Native (specify) • Asian Indian • Chinese • Filipino • Japanese • Korean • Vietnamese • Other Asian (specify) • Native Hawaiian • Guamanian or Chamorro • Samoan • Other Pacific Islander (specify) • Other (specify) 	<p>What is your race? (select one or more responses)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • American Indian or Alaska Native • Asian • Black or African American • Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander • White 	<p>What is [this person's] race? (Mark (X) one or more boxes.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White, • Black or African Am. • American Indian or Alaska Native (specify) • Asian Indian • Chinese • Filipino • Japanese • Korean • Vietnamese • Native Hawaiian • Guamanian or Chamorro • Samoan • Other Pacific Islander (specify) • Other Asian (specify) • Some other race (specify)
<p>Are you Hispanic, Latino/a, or Spanish origin?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes • No <p>If Yes, Are you....</p>	<p>Is birth mother (<i>spouse</i>) of Spanish/Hispanic/Latina origin?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No, not Spanish/Hispanic/Latin 	<p>Are you Hispanic or Latino?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes • No 	<p>Is (this person) of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No, not of Hispanic, Latino or Spanish Origin

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mexican, Mexican American, Chicano/a • Puerto Rican • Cuban • Another Hispanic, Latino/a, or Spanish origin 	<p>a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mexican, Mexican American, Chicana ○ Puerto Rican ○ Cuban ○ Other (specify) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, Mexican, Mexican Am., Chicano • Yes, Puerto Rican • Yes, Cuban • Yes, another Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin (specify)
Sex/Gender			
BRFSS	Birth Certificate	YRBS	ACS
<p>What was your sex at birth?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Male • Female 	<p>Sex/gender not collected for parents.</p> <p>For baby (reported by hospital):</p> <p>Gender</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Female • Male • Not yet determined 	<p>What is your sex?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Female • Male 	<p>What is [this person's] sex?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Male • Female

¹The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) is a health-related telephone survey collected in all 50 states in partnership between the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and state public health departments. Interviews are conducted with adults (age 18+) who are selected by random digit dialing. The questions listed here are nationally consistent demographic questions, as asked in the 2018 Iowa BRFSS. More information about the Iowa BRFSS can be found here: <https://idph.iowa.gov/brfss>.

²IDPH registers all births that occur in the state to legally prove every baby's identity, age, parentage, and U.S. citizenship. The questions listed here are self-reported through a written worksheet by the parent (except baby sex), and are current as of 2018. More information about Iowa vital records can be found here: <https://idph.iowa.gov/health-statistics/vital-records>.

³The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) monitors health risk behaviors among youth and young adults in the United States. It is conducted in partnership between the CDC and state departments of education and health. In Iowa, the Iowa Department of Education conducted this survey until 2018. It is administered through a paper questionnaire completed by the youth respondent. The questions listed here are nationally consistent demographic questions, as asked in the 2017 YRBS. More information about the YRBS can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/data/yrbs/index.htm>.

⁴The American Community Survey (ACS) is an ongoing survey conducted by the United States Census that is used to determine federal funding distribution. It is administered to adult respondents through a variety of methods. The questions listed here are current as of 2018. More information about the ACS can be found here: <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/>.

⁵The Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) is a surveillance project conducted by the CDC in partnership with state health departments to assess pre- and post-natal behaviors of new mothers. It is administered as a written questionnaire to be completed by the newly-delivered mother. Questions regarding income are provided as another example of how questions on this issue are asked in a self-administered questionnaire. The questions listed here are current as of 2018. More information about PRAMS can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/prams/index.htm>.