



Thinking About Data

STEP ONE - Identify the questions the local health department wants answered:

When thinking about the (insert population: pregnant women, infants, young children, children with special health care needs), what are the leading health issues for our target population?

STEP TWO - Create a strategy for gathering information and a list of data sources:

What information or data do we need to answer this question? How do we obtain this information or data? What/who are our sources?

STEP THREE - Analyze and Interpret the Data:

How will you review the available data? Are you comparing the data to similar counties in your geographical area? Are you comparing the data for different racial and ethnic groups? Are you comparing the data for different time periods?

STEP FOUR - Use data to shape future activities or interventions to address the needs identified:

What can the health department do to address these issues? Will we be able to address the needs of our community?