



Fact Sheet
March 2023

OCID and Administrative Data

Joining recent [state](#) and [federal](#) data efforts, OCID recognizes that appropriate use of administrative data is an essential step towards improving equity and well-being for all children in Oregon.

What is administrative data?

OCID's administrative data is information defined and collected by publicly funded programs for official record-keeping and reporting. Information typically includes program enrollment, demographic characteristics, and certain measurable outcomes like school assessments, birth weight, or prenatal tobacco exposure. Administrative data is the most comprehensive, available data and is a critical tool for improving services and outcomes. Because it can also reflect real-world biases, awareness and careful consideration of limitations is key.

Explore Further

OCID integrates administrative data from 5 state agencies. More information on the data, its sources, and other technical details can be found on the [OCID website](#).

Considerations for using administrative data

- Personal characteristics such as race and ethnicity, sex/gender, disability, and geography are intended to act as proxies for experiences that cannot be measured accurately and completely with available data, such as systemic racism, toxic stress, or family or housing instability.
- Some categories of race and ethnicity may aggregate many individuals and groups from a wide range of experiences, backgrounds, and cultures.
- An individual's broader environment, such as whether schools or services were culturally attuned, is critical contextual information that is often lacking in administrative data.
- Any disproportionality between personal characteristics and outcomes does not imply a direct relationship between the two, but rather could suggest that structural bias and subjectivity underlying the program, process, or its criteria contribute to differences.
- Additional publicly funded or community-based programs not included in OCID may have also affected the lives of children and families.

Considerations for Integrated Datasets

OCID combines data from multiple data partners which may have different definitions or methodologies for reporting individual or family characteristics, and are not easily reconciled. With input from state partners and subject matter experts, OCID developed a [methodology](#) to select race and ethnicity information when data sources contain multiple options within and across points in time. As the project grows, OCID will develop methodologies for other characteristics like disability, sex/gender, and behavioral health.