METHODOLOGY

Community Data Sessions

In 2021, FLOURISH engaged community members in a series of virtual data sessions. In these sessions, data were displayed and community members were asked to define the "why" behind the data. Community members prioritized metrics to highlight to tell the story of infant and maternal health in St. Louis. Their qualitative input has been incorporated throughout the dashboards, infographics and story map.

Data Sources & Disaggregation

Data for the project came from primary and secondary sources. When available, all data have been disaggregated by race (Black and white) and geography (St. Louis, Missouri, United States). Many of the social determinants of health metrics, coordinated quality care metrics and advocacy/policy metrics are not available disaggregated by race and geography. In this case, many metrics are shown as "All Races" but disaggregated by geography. This inability to disaggregate data by race may be masking racial disparities that most likely exist. We strongly urge those who collect data to routinely disaggregate data by race to more clearly identify when disparities may be present.

Missing Data

Our team made every attempt to display data disaggregated by geography to give a clear picture of outcomes for the St. Louis region. In some instances, this required synthesizing data from multiple sources. There are a few instances in which certain data were not available, demonstrating a gap in data collection. For example, some data that were available at the Missouri-level or the United States-level are not collected locally. These gaps are displayed as a "XX". FLOURISH plans to continue to search for valid data sources and we welcome conversation with those in the region about how to capture more complete sources of data.

St. Louis Definition

We chose to define St. Louis as St. Louis City and County combined. Maternal and infant health issues are a regional challenge that we all must work on together to solve. There are zip codes in both areas that reflect high rates of infant mortality.

Years of Data

We did our best to find the most current data available; however, some data has not been updated since 2016 and may not reflect a true representation of what is currently happening in our community. Some data were available as a single year, whereas other data were available representing multiple years. Generally, our team prefers multi-year data because it is more stable and helps us better understand trends rather than data for a single year. You can find out the year(s) of each of the metrics by clicking on the corresponding source data.

Do you have questions about our data? Please reach out to us at info@flourishstlouis.org. We love data and would love to talk with you about it!