



# Data and Surveillance

## Grant Writing Tip Sheet

Data can strengthen descriptions of need, burden, or impact and be a powerful tool when used skillfully in grant applications. Grant reviewers are able to see a clearer picture of the public health efforts, needs, and opportunities in your community when you incorporate relevant data in your application.

- **Use the most current data you can find.** If you are using old data, make it clear why this data are still relevant.
- **Use data that clearly links to the issue you are trying to change** to get the most out of the data you share.
- **Cite the data** to make it clear where your numbers and story are coming from. Be sure your data comes from reputable sources.
- **Be clear on the limitations of your data.** If it is not local data, do not make assumptions about the local community. Stick to what you can say with confidence. When speculating on the wider implications of your data, make it clear that you are doing so.
- **Give context to your data** to help a grant review understand the significance of your data.
  - » For example, if you have a very small community (<10) and there were 2 suicides over the last year, your data says that 20% of your community attempted suicide. This tells a more compelling story than simply saying there were two suicide attempts in your community over the last year, especially if you do not share how many people are in your community.
  - » Compare data within your community's various members (e.g., ages, ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic status, etc) to give context to the data you are highlighting.
- **Describe barriers or challenges to surveillance or data collection** if you do not have any data on a particular topic.