The Tower Foundation funds community organizations serving three geographic areas in the topic areas of substance use disorders, mental health, learning disabilities, and intellectual disabilities. This summary focuses on the data sources used to reflect community-level trends in Barnstable, Dukes, and Nantucket counties.

In order to be included in the study, each data source must meet the following criteria:

- Clearly measure the intended indicator in a way that is easy to communicate to a broad range of audiences
- Focus on the specific funded geography of Barnstable, Dukes, and Nantucket counties
- Address young people through age 26, if youth or young adults are identified in the indicator language
- Available on a recurring basis, such as every year or every three years

**Data source**

**National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH)**

**Specific geography included:** All Tracts in Barnstable County; All Tracts in Bristol County; All Tracts in Dukes County; All Tracts in Nantucket County; Tracts 421100, 421200, and 456101 – 457100 in Norfolk County; Tracts 502101 – 503102 and 506101 – 561200 in Plymouth County

**Frequency of data release:** In order to look at the regional data, results are in three-year estimates, with the most recent representing 2012-2014; results are available at the state level annually.

**Ages available:** This data is available for ages 12-17 and 18-25 at the regional level.
### Indicators and questions used for this study:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Area and Indicator</th>
<th>How was this information collected?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mental health</strong></td>
<td><strong>Compilation of questions</strong> asking about the following symptoms: (1) depressed mood most of the day; (2) markedly diminished interest or pleasure in all or almost all activities most of the day; (3) significant weight loss when not sick or dieting, or weight gain when not pregnant or growing, or decrease or increase in appetite; (4) insomnia or hypersomnia; (5) psychomotor agitation or retardation; (6) fatigue or loss of energy; (7) feelings of worthlessness; (8) diminished ability to think or concentrate or indecisiveness; and (9) recurrent thoughts of death or suicidal ideation. Respondents who have had at least 5 or more of these symptoms in their lifetime are asked if, during the past 12 months, they had a period experiencing these symptoms or two weeks or longer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Substance use disorders</strong></td>
<td><strong>Survey question:</strong> How much do people risk harming themselves physically and in other ways when they have five or more drinks of an alcoholic beverage once or twice a week? Response options for indicator: Moderate risk, Great risk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Substance use disorders</strong></td>
<td><strong>Survey question:</strong> How much do people risk harming themselves physically and in other ways when they smoke marijuana once or twice a week? Response options for indicator: Moderate risk, Great risk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Substance use disorders</strong></td>
<td><strong>Survey question:</strong> When you use marijuana, do you ever use it in any way a doctor did not direct you to use it? Response options for indicator: Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Substance use disorders</strong></td>
<td><strong>Survey question:</strong> If you are using alcohol, do you use it in any way a doctor did not direct you to use it? Response options for indicator: Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table of Questions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Response Options</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percent reporting at least one major depressive episode in the past year</td>
<td>How much do people risk harming themselves physically and in other ways when they have five or more drinks of an alcoholic beverage once or twice a week?</td>
<td>Moderate risk, Great risk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of young people perceiving harm from substance use</td>
<td>How much do people risk harming themselves physically and in other ways when they smoke marijuana once or twice a week?</td>
<td>Moderate risk, Great risk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of young people with recent substance use</td>
<td>During the past 30 days, on how many days did you have [4 for women or 5 for men] or more drinks on the same occasion? By 'occasion,' we mean at the same time or within a couple of hours of each other.</td>
<td>&gt;0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of people needing, but not receiving treatment</td>
<td>During the past 12 months, did you use [list of prescribed pain relievers] in any way a doctor did not direct you to use it?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>During the past 12 months, did you need treatment or counseling for your use of alcohol?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>During the past 12 months, have you received treatment or counseling for your use of alcohol?</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>During the past 12 months, did you need treatment or counseling for [list of drugs]?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>During the past 12 months, have you received treatment or counseling for your use of any drug?</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Data source
U.S. Census Bureau, Integrated Public Use Microdata Series of the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey

Specific geography included: Available for Barnstable, Dukes, and Nantucket counties since 2012. The data from 2011 is based on surrounding census tracts, rather than county boundaries, so they are approximate, but not exact.

Frequency of data release: To have a large enough sample to look at regional data, we used five-year estimates. The most recent estimate is from 2011-2015.

Ages available: This data is available for ages 18-25 at the regional level.

Indicators and questions used for this study:

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<tr>
<th>Funding Area and Indicator</th>
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</table>
| **Intellectual disabilities** | **Survey question:** Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition, does this person have serious difficulty concentrating, remembering, or making decisions?  
Response options for indicator: Yes  
COMBINED WITH  
**Survey question:** a) Last week, did this person work for pay at a job OR b) Last week, did this person do ANY work for pay, even for as little as one hour?  
Response options for indicator: Yes |

Data source
Tower Community Survey

Specific geography included: A random sample of Barnstable, Dukes, and Nantucket County residents.

Frequency of data release: Data is collected every other year beginning in 2017.

Ages available: This data is intended to represent views of all adults (age 18 and over) in the community.

Indicators and questions used for this study:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Funding Area and Indicator</th>
<th>How was this information collected?</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| **Mental health** | **Survey question:** Treatment can help people with mental illness lead normal lives.  
Response options for indicator: Strongly agree, agree  
**Survey question:** People are generally caring and sympathetic to people with mental illness.  
Response options for indicator: Strongly agree, agree |
### Intellectual disabilities

**Indicator:** Percent of people identifying that communities treat those with intellectual disabilities fairly

- **Survey question:** People with intellectual disabilities are treated fairly in our community.
- Response options for indicator: Strongly agree, agree

- **Survey question:** In general, people with intellectual disabilities should receive equal educational opportunities.
- Response options for indicator: Strongly agree, agree

- **Survey question:** In general, people with intellectual disabilities should receive equal employment opportunities.
- Response options for indicator: Strongly agree, agree

### Learning disabilities

**Indicator:** Percent of people identifying that communities support students and employees with learning disabilities

- **Survey question:** Our community devotes enough resources to students with learning disabilities.
- Response options for indicator: Strongly agree, agree

- **Survey question:** Employers provide enough support or accommodation for employees with learning disabilities.
- Response options for indicator: Strongly agree, agree

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### Data source

**MA Department of Public Health**

**Specific geography included:** This data is from the Cape Cod Early Intervention Program.

**Frequency of data release:** Data is collected every school year with the most recent data available for 2014-2015.

**Ages available:** This data covers children under age three and their families.

### Intellectual and Learning Disabilities

**Indicator:** Percent of the infant and toddler population from birth to three years old with an Early Intervention (EI) Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP)

- Infants and toddlers with an IFSP service plan who were active on October 1, 2014 based on data from the Early Intervention Information System (EIIS)

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### Data source

**Massachusetts Bureau of Substance Abuse Services’ Treatment Admission Rates**

**Specific geography included:** In Massachusetts, treatment data is available for the state and specific cities and towns. Data for the following cities and towns are available for Barnstable, Dukes, and Nantucket counties: Barnstable, Bourne, Brewster, Brookline, Chatham, Chilmark, Dennis, Eastham,
Edgartown, Falmouth, Gay Head, Harwich, Mashpee, Nantucket, Oak Bluffs, Orleans, Provincetown, Sandwich, Tisbury, Truro, Wellfleet, West Tisbury, and Yarmouth. Data for some cities and towns are suppressed due to low numbers.

**Frequency of data release:** This data is released one year at a time, with the most recent data available for 2014.

**Ages available:** This data is available for individuals under 18 and 18 through 25, which can be combined. Some age groups in some cities are suppressed due to low numbers.

**Indicators and questions used for this study:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Area and Indicator</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Substance use disorders</td>
<td>Count of those who were enrolled/admitted in treatment at Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Contracted/Licensed programs within the Massachusetts state fiscal year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Indicator:** Treatment admission rates
Data source

Tower Learning Disability Survey

Specific geography included: A convenience sample of Barnstable, Dukes, and Nantucket County residents.

Frequency of data release: Data is collected every other year beginning in 2018.

Ages available: This data is intended to represent views of all adults (age 18 and over) in the community with a child (through age 26) with a learning disability or youth (through age 26) with a learning disability.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Area and Indicator</th>
<th>How was this information collected?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Learning disabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Indicator: Percent of family members reporting that they have enough information about and supports for their child’s learning disability | **Survey question**: I have enough information to understand [my child]'s learning disability.  
Response options for indicator: Strongly agree, agree  
**Survey question**: I am receiving all of the services and supports needed for [my child].  
Response options for indicator: Strongly agree, agree |
| **Learning disabilities**   |                                     |
| Indicator: Percent of youth with learning disabilities reporting they understand how they best learn and have developed specific ways to help them succeed | **Survey question**: I understand how I best learn information and ideas.  
Response options for indicator: Strongly agree, agree  
**Survey question**: I have developed specific ways to help me succeed with my learning disabilities.  
Response options for indicator: Strongly agree, agree |
Data source
Tower Intellectual Disability Survey

Specific geography included: A convenience sample from Barnstable, Dukes, and Nantucket County residents.

Frequency of data release: Data is collected every other year beginning in 2018.

Ages available: This data is intended to represent views of all adults (age 18 and over) in the community with a child (through age 26) with an intellectual disability.

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Intellectual disabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Indicator: Percent of family members reporting that they have enough information about and supports for their child’s intellectual disability | **Survey question:** I have enough information to understand [my child]'s intellectual disability.  
Response options for indicator: Strongly agree, agree  
**Survey question:** I have received needed services and supports for [my child].  
Response options for indicator: Strongly agree, agree |

For more information contact info@towerfoundation.org

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