

# DATA SOURCE SUMMARY

## ERIE AND NIAGARA COUNTIES, NY

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 Erie and Niagara 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 Erie and Niagara 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 Erie County and Niagara 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:

Funding Area and Indicator	How was this information collected?
<p><b>Mental health</b></p> <p><b>Indicator:</b> Percent reporting at least one major depressive episode in the past year</p>	<p><b>Compilation of questions</b> 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.</p>
<p><b>Substance use disorders</b></p> <p><b>Indicator:</b> Percent of young people perceiving harm from substance use</p>	<p><b>Survey question:</b> 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?</p> <p>Response options for indicator: Moderate risk, Great risk</p> <hr/> <p><b>Survey question:</b> How much do people risk harming themselves physically and in other ways when they smoke marijuana once or twice a week?</p> <p>Response options for indicator: Moderate risk, Great risk</p>
<p><b>Substance use disorders</b></p> <p><b>Indicator:</b> Percent of young people with recent substance use</p>	<p><b>Survey question:</b> 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.</p> <p>Response options for indicator: &gt;0</p> <hr/> <p><b>Survey question:</b> During the past 30 days, on how many days did you use marijuana or hashish?</p> <p>Response options for indicator: &gt;0</p> <hr/> <p><b>Survey question:</b> In the past 12 months, did you use [list of prescribed pain relievers] in any way a doctor did not direct you to use it?</p> <p>Response options for indicator: Yes</p>
<p><b>Substance use disorders</b></p> <p><b>Indicator:</b> Percent of people needing, but not receiving treatment</p>	<p><b>Survey question:</b> During the past 12 months, did you need treatment or counseling for your use of alcohol?</p> <p>Response options for indicator: Yes</p> <p>COMBINED WITH</p> <p><b>Survey question:</b> During the past 12 months, have you received treatment or counseling for your use of alcohol?</p> <p>Response options for indicator: No</p> <hr/> <p><b>Survey question:</b> During the past 12 months, did you need treatment or counseling for [list of drugs]?</p> <p>Response options for indicator: Yes</p> <p>COMBINED WITH</p> <p><b>Survey question:</b> During the past 12 months, have you received treatment or counseling for your use of any drug?</p> <p>Response options for indicator: No</p>

**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 Erie and Niagara 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:**

Funding Area and Indicator	How was this information collected?
<p><b>Intellectual disabilities</b></p> <p><b>Indicator:</b> The proportion of young adults with cognitive disabilities who report being employed/ unemployed.</p>	<p><b>Survey question:</b> Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition, does this person have serious difficulty concentrating, remembering, or making decisions?</p> <p>Response options for indicator: Yes</p> <p>COMBINED WITH</p> <p><b>Survey question:</b> 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?</p> <p>Response options for indicator: Yes</p>

## Data source

# Tower Community Survey

**Specific geography included:** A random sample of Erie County and Niagara 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:

Funding Area and Indicator	How was this information collected?
<b>Mental health</b> <b>Indicator:</b> Percent of people identifying that mental illness is treatable and acceptable in the community	<b>Survey question:</b> Treatment can help people with mental illness lead normal lives. Response options for indicator: Strongly agree, agree <hr/> <b>Survey question:</b> People are generally caring and sympathetic to people with mental illness. Response options for indicator: Strongly agree, agree
<b>Intellectual disabilities</b> <b>Indicator:</b> Percent of people identifying that communities treat those with intellectual disabilities fairly	<b>Survey question:</b> People with intellectual disabilities are treated fairly in our community. Response options for indicator: Strongly agree, agree <hr/> <b>Survey question:</b> In general, people with intellectual disabilities should receive equal education opportunities. Response options for indicator: Strongly agree, agree <hr/> <b>Survey question:</b> In general, people with intellectual disabilities should receive equal employment opportunities. Response options for indicator: Strongly agree, agree
<b>Learning disabilities</b> <b>Indicator:</b> Percent of people identifying that communities support students and employees with learning disabilities	<b>Survey question:</b> Our community devotes enough resources to students with learning disabilities. Response options for indicator: Strongly agree, agree <hr/> <b>Survey question:</b> Employers provide enough support or accommodation for employees with learning disabilities. Response options for indicator: Strongly agree, agree

**Data source**

## **NY State Department of Health**

**Specific geography included:** This data covers both Erie and Niagara counties.

**Frequency of data release:** Data is compiled every state fiscal year (July through June) with the most recent data available for 2016-2017.

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

<b>Funding Area and Indicator</b>	<b>How was this information collected?</b>
<b>Intellectual and Learning Disabilities</b> <b>Indicator:</b> Percent of the infant and toddler population from birth to three years old with an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP)	The Early Childhood Bureau tracks the number of children age birth through three who were referred for screening, found eligible, and received an IFSP.

**Data source**

## **Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS), maintained by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration**

**Specific geography included:** Treatment data is available for the Buffalo-Cheektowaga-Niagara Falls, NY Metropolitan Statistical Area, which includes Erie and Niagara counties, as well as Olean in Cattaraugus County.

**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 ages 12-14, 15-17, 18-20, and 21-24, which can be combined.

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

<b>Funding Area and Indicator</b>	<b>How was this information collected?</b>
<b>Substance use disorders</b> <b>Indicator:</b> Treatment admission rates	TEDS comprises data that are routinely collected by states in monitoring their individual substance abuse treatment systems, with a focus on facilities that receive State alcohol and/or drug agency funds for the provision of substance abuse treatment.

## Data source

# Tower Learning Disability Survey

**Specific geography included:** A convenience sample of Erie County and Niagara 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.

Funding Area and Indicator	How was this information collected?
<p><b>Learning disabilities</b></p> <p><b>Indicator:</b> Percent of family members reporting that they have enough information about and supports for their child's learning disability</p>	<p><b>Survey question:</b> I have enough information to understand [my child]'s learning disability.</p> <p>Response options for indicator: Strongly agree, agree</p> <hr/> <p><b>Survey question:</b> I am receiving all of the services and supports needed for [my child].</p> <p>Response options for indicator: Strongly agree, agree</p>
<p><b>Learning disabilities</b></p> <p><b>Indicator:</b> Percent of youth with learning disabilities reporting they understand how they best learn and have developed specific ways to help them succeed</p>	<p><b>Survey question:</b> I understand how I best learn information and ideas.</p> <p>Response options for indicator: Strongly agree, agree</p> <hr/> <p><b>Survey question:</b> I have developed specific ways to help me succeed with my learning disabilities.</p> <p>Response options for indicator: Strongly agree, agree</p>

**Data source**

# Tower Intellectual Disability Survey

**Specific geography included:** A convenience sample from Erie County and Niagara 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.

Funding Area and Indicator	How was this information collected?
<p><b>Intellectual disabilities</b></p> <p><b>Indicator:</b> Percent of family members reporting that they have enough information about and supports for their child's intellectual disability</p>	<p><b>Survey question:</b> I have enough information to understand [my child]'s intellectual disability.</p> <p>Response options for indicator: Strongly agree, agree</p> <hr/> <p><b>Survey question:</b> I have received needed services and supports for [my child].</p> <p>Response options for indicator: Strongly agree, agree</p>

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