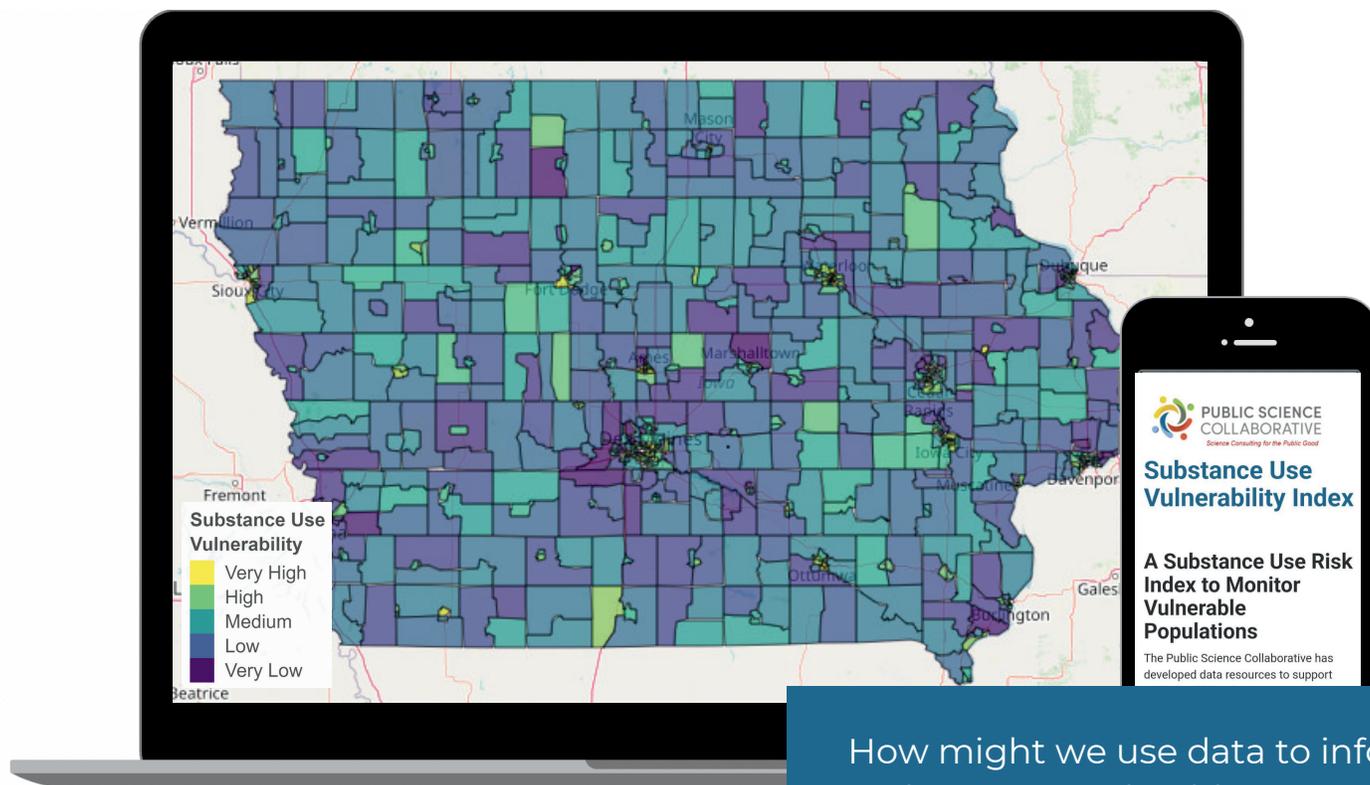


THE SUBSTANCE USE VULNERABILITY INDEX

Population Health Series
Public Science Collaborative
Ames, Iowa | publicassist@iastate.edu



Data to Improve Health

Existing data can be used to craft health programs that better meet the needs of vulnerable health populations in Iowa. The Public Science Collaborative develops data tools to support local decision-makers in planning and executing effective prevention strategies. One of our tools is the Substance Use Vulnerability (SUV) Index and dashboard, which identify places at risk of health and safety problems associated with harmful substance use.

How it Works

The first step is to use our SUV dashboard to locate your community or region. Then, assess the SUV landscape by exploring the area to learn where substance use risk is especially high and low. Now, you are ready to drill into specific neighborhoods. Clicking on a neighborhood in the map will generate a tooltip that details the risk characteristics of people living there. Now, you are ready to start creating culturally tailored strategies like promoting early intervention, localized messaging, and resource allocation to neighborhoods with the greatest need. The data can also help to better prepare for public health emergencies like an emerging opioid overdose epidemic.

A Neighborhood-Based Approach

Because neighborhoods substantially differ in their risk for substance use-related harms, community resources should be delivered to places with the greatest needs. Using data to inform community decision-making is one way cities and towns can make high-value investments of scarce resources to improve health and safety.

The demographic risk profile for individuals with a cannabis use disorder looks quite different than someone with a heroin use disorder. For this reason, it is more actionable to have drug-specific vulnerability indexes. The dashboard allows communities to explore the risk profiles for the following substances:

- Alcohol
- Benzodiazepines
- Methamphetamine
- Cannabis
- Cocaine
- Heroin
- Opioids

Scan the QR code to access the dashboard!

