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UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA  
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# A Data and Research Series for Community Impact

August 24, 2023 | #NebraskaByTheNumbers



# Why so many dashboards?

Unlocking the Power of Data Dashboards

**Jeff Armitage**

Epidemiology Surveillance Coordinator

Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services



# Atlas

## Nebraska DHHS Public Health

*Your Trusted Source for Nebraska Public Health Data*

UNO CPAR – Data and Research Series for Community Impact  
August 24, 2023

*Helping People Live Better Lives.*

- ▶ What is Nebraska Public Health Atlas
- ▶ Our Journey
  - Why data dashboards
  - Determining what to report in dashboards
  - Our lessons learned



# Atlas Overview

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## What is Atlas

- ▶ Nebraska Public Health Atlas is the data visualization platform for the Division of Public Health.

## Goal of Atlas

- ▶ To bring you greater access to public health data you need, in an easy-to-use, interactive, web-based platform.

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# Current Dashboard Status

<https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Nebraska-Public-Health-Atlas.aspx>

## Live

- Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)
- Respiratory Illness

## In Review

- Vital Statistics: Leading Causes of Death
- Drug Overdose
- BRFSS 2021 Data *(Additional Release)*

## In Development

- Health Equity
- Vital Statistics: Birth
- Vital Statistics: Death *(Additional Release)*
- Respiratory Illness *(Additional Release)*

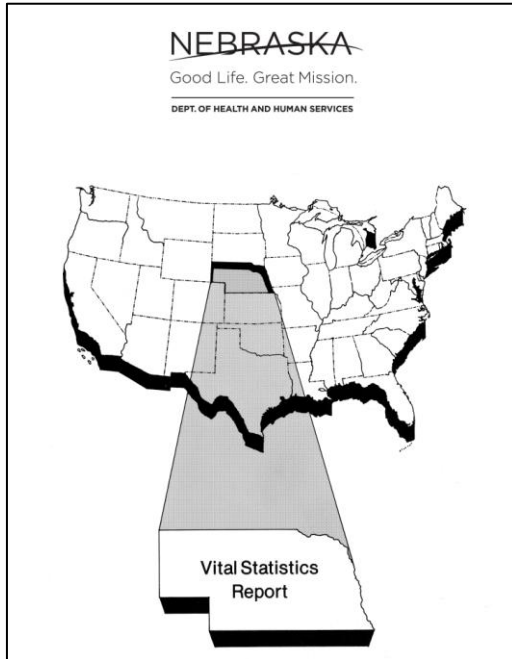
### Future Development:

- Environmental Public Health Tracking

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# Why Data Dashboards

## Status Quo for Decades



## What Data Users Want



# Why Data Dashboards

- ▶ Meeting partner needs
- ▶ Increased efficiency / better use of technology
- ▶ Reduced demand on staffing for ongoing analysis and reporting (e.g., fewer data requests)
- ▶ Quick/easy access to data for planning and decision making
- ▶ Bottom line... Better Public Health Practice





# Determining What to Report

- ▶ Collected feedback on what would be most useful
- ▶ Many factors in play when determining what to report:
  - Importance/value to public health practice
  - Availability and structure of the data
  - Committed data owner available to help define data content and oversee analysis



# Determining What to Report

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- ▶ Many factors in play (continued):
  - Scope of needed data (single source vs. multi-source)
  - Needed granularity: For us demographic and geographic differences and trends over time were important
  
- ▶ We chose to start with single data sources BRFSS and Vital Records Birth and Death... Then COVID came along

# Our Lessons Learned

- ▶ Establish data governance up front
- ▶ Ensure backend data structure prior to development (minimize manual processes)
- ▶ Executive level commitment is critical (need full commitment for success)
- ▶ Understand the needs and potential solutions early (changing course midway is painful)
- ▶ Blend product/business owner with IT staff on a team (not just an occasional meeting)
- ▶ The overall process takes longer than you expect
- ▶ We have seen early success... a decrease in data requests for BRFSS, positive feedback and excitement for future releases, and a system that is more modern and sustainable over time

# Contact Us !

Check out the Atlas Website at:

<https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Nebraska-Public-Health-Atlas.aspx>

Feel free to contact the Atlas team at:

[DHHS.Atlas@Nebraska.gov](mailto:DHHS.Atlas@Nebraska.gov)

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