Racially Equitable Decision-Making Data Tools for COVID-19 Responses

The COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent economic impacts will exacerbate deep historical inequities in Seattle and across the country. Addressing the needs of those most vulnerable, Black and Native American peoples across social identities, in the City's immediate and long-term responses is imperative. The following resource list is intended to support City staff in centering racial equity in quick decision-making where deep community engagement may not be possible.

Best Practices on Data Collection and Analysis that Center Racial Equity

- Where possible, connect with mobilizing efforts led by communities of color in response to COVID-19.
- Use racially disaggregated data in combination with an understanding of how systemic racism has impacted communities of color, especially Black and Native American peoples, in Seattle and King County.
- Invite subject-matter experts with an understanding of racial disparities to support data analysis and quick decision-making teams. Citywide Equity Leads, Change Teams, Core Teams, and the RSJI Strategy Team are great resources.
- Keep track of how residents, communities, organizations, and small businesses are impacted by governmental responses to COVID-19. For example, due to the closure of community centers and public libraries, many people have lost their access to public restrooms, handwashing station, internet access, safe spaces, and other crucial resources for their safety and health which deepen existing racial disparities.
- Keep track of shifts in departmental resources intended to address immediate COVID-19 needs and their subsequent impact on communities of color through the reallocation of funds, staff time, resources, etc.

FAST TRACK: Data sources supporting quick decision-making

Vulnerable Population to COVID-19 (Communities Count; Public Health—Seattle & King County)
This new data tool shows which communities in King County may be more impacted by COVID-19. It includes data related to 1) older adults, 2) high-risk health conditions and pregnancy, 3) healthcare access and social conditions, and 4) children and families.

Racial and Social Equity Index and Map (OPCD)
Combines three sub-indices to identify where RSJI-priority and disadvantaged populations make up relatively large proportions of residents. Sub-indices are 1) Race, English Language Learners, and Origins Index; 2) Socioeconomic Disadvantage Index; and 3) Health Disadvantage Index. Index was designed with interdepartmental consultation to help prioritize neighborhoods for programs, planning, and investments. (The link also provides access to other census tract-level data, e.g., population 65+, children and elders in poverty, most common worker industries, people without health insurance, and households without a vehicle).

City of Seattle Population and Demographics Website (OPCD)
Provides access to demographic, socioeconomic, and housing data. See "About Seattle" webpage on Race and Ethnicity and the "Exploring the Patterns of People" mapping app with American Community Survey data at the neighborhood level. Additional ACS data and maps that can help inform COVID-19 response are in ArcGIS Online. For help finding data, contact the City Demographer.

Health Food Availability Report (HSD)
See Healthy food priority neighborhoods in Seattle (p. 22) as well as key findings on "who experience food insecurity in Seattle?" (p. 56) and "who falls into the food security gap?" (p. 67)

Technology Access and Adoption Study Dashboard (IT)
This dashboard shows internet sources and devices used in households, as well as other internet access locations in different zip code areas. Data are also available by race, age, and income.

Seattle Hazard Identification and Vulnerability Analysis (OEM)
This analysis is concerned about how disasters magnify pre-existing inequality. Page 3-12 shows groups and neighborhoods particularly vulnerable to disasters.

Seattle Immigrant and Refugee Data Sheet (OIRA)
This datasheet provides a snapshot of key indicators for Seattle's Immigrant and Refugee communities. Visit the Office for Immigrant and Refugee Affairs for additional information.

Urban Indian Health Institute Dashboard (Seattle Indian Health Board)
This dashboard captures data specific to American Indian and Alaska Native peoples in Seattle across a range of indicators.

DEEP DIVE: Data sources supporting a deeper analysis

City Workforce Power Analysis (SDHR)
Race and gender of employees across different levels of pay and supervisory authority. (VPN required)

City Employee Demographics (SDHR)
This dashboard can show real-time department demographics and other data down to the level of job title. You can look at each job title (just click on it to filter the whole page) by race, gender, and the intersection of race and gender to understand the demographic impacts of any workforce decisions. (VPN required)

City Employee Demographics Public Dashboard (SDHR)
This public-facing dashboard uses the monthly data publication to data.seattle.gov. That data is subject to some redaction, and a few departments are excluded. It has slightly different numbers than the above internal-only city dashboard.

COVID-19 Emergency Food Resources Map (HSD)
Maps of resources across Seattle to provide emergency food, including food banks, student to-go meals, and other feeding programs.

Equitable Development Monitoring Program (OPCD)
A new program to inform City policies, programs, and investments and aid work within communities to reduce race-based disparities. Includes Community Indicators (topics include housing affordability, neighborhood livability, transportation, and education and economic opportunity); Indicators of Heightened Displacement Risk; and Information on Neighborhood Change so indicators can be viewed in historical context and recent shifts in demographics.

Exploring Patterns of People of Color in Seattle and King County (OPCD)
This map presents 2018 ACS data by census tract on race, housing, commuting, employment, income, poverty, youth, and other topics. It also provides maps on social, economic, and housing characteristics as well as demographic estimates and neighborhood profiles.

Displacement Risk Map and Index (OPCD)
The Displacement Risk Index identifies neighborhoods where displacement of marginalized populations may be more likely. It combines data about demographics, economic conditions, and the built environment. It was originally developed as part of the Growth and Equity Analysis (p.18) that informed the most recent major update of the City's Comprehensive Plan in 2016.

Occupation Dashboard (OED)
Data related to jobs, earnings, and demographics.

CONTACT
If you have questions or suggestions for this list, please contact Shuxuan Zhou at SOCR. (This list was updated on March 29, 2021.)