Data Equity Maryland

The Maryland State Data Disaggregation Workgroup

What is Data Disaggregation and Why Does it Matter?

Data disaggregation involves the practice of breaking down aggregated data into specific subgroups based on various demographic characteristics such as race, ethnicity, gender, income, and more. This process provides a clearer picture of disparities that might be masked when data is collected and reported in aggregate form. We strongly believe that implementing data disaggregation policies is an essential step towards understanding and addressing systemic inequities that persist within our state.

Evidence from various jurisdictions across the country has shown that data disaggregation leads to more targeted policy interventions, ensuring that marginalized communities receive the resources and support they need.

Understand

When we collect, analyze, and share consistent, accurate, comprehensive data, we begin to better understand and shed light on inequalities in education, healthcare, housing, employment, and criminal justice.

Act

A data-driven approach to change can empower policymakers to make informed decisions, allocate resources effectively, and ensure that no community in Maryland is left behind.
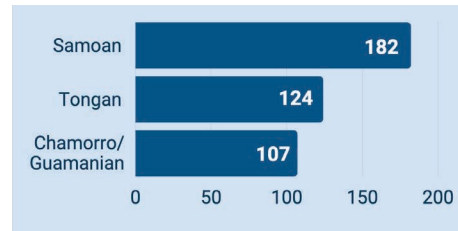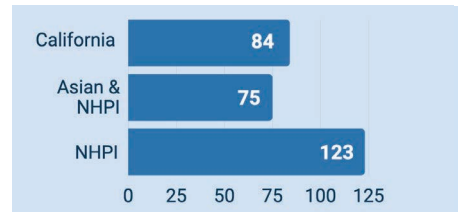
Monitor

By creating standards and accountability, we can track and make adjustments as we all work toward creating a more inclusive community so that all Marylanders can thrive.

We are convinced that by embracing data disaggregation, *we can unlock the potential for transformative change and create a more just and equitable society for all Maryland residents.*
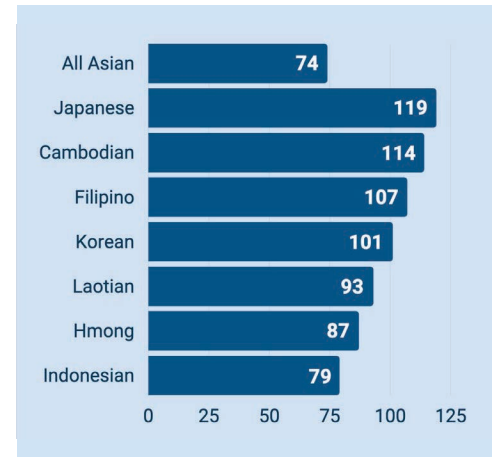
Health statistics for Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders (NHPI) and Asians are often combined into a single category — or may not be reported at all — in many public data systems.

Death rates for Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders (NHPI) were **almost 1.5 times higher than California's overall death rate.**

California	84
Asian & NHPI	75
NHPI	123

All Asian	74
Japanese	119
Cambodian	114
Filipino	107
Korean	101
Laotian	93
Hmong	87
Indonesian	79

Samoan	182
Tongan	124
Chamorro/Guamanian	107

Among NHPIs, death rates for Samoans were **more than 2 times higher than California's death rate.**

Seven Asian subgroups had death rates higher than the Asian aggregate. **Averages can mask the toll taken on smaller racial and ethnic groups.**

Understanding the granular data can show major health impacts, and in turn, interventions leading to more equitable support.

AB1726 was signed into law in 2016, requiring the California Department of Health to collect and release disaggregated data on AANHPI populations in everything from rates of major diseases to leading causes of death to pregnancy rates to housing status. In late 2020, Santa Clara County in California collected disaggregated data on COVID-19 rates and found that Vietnamese and Filipino residents were being hit harder than any other Asian American groups. Similarly, around that time, Asian Health Services, a federally qualified health center in Alameda County, started collecting disaggregated data for those coming to receive COVID-19 testing and found that Vietnamese residents had nearly twice the case rates of the aggregated Asian Americans. This information informed the COVID-19 response team to conduct targeted in-language outreach and education in areas like Little Saigon of Oakland. Soon after, the positivity rates leveled out for this group.

https://healthlaw.org/advancing-health-equity-through-disaggregated-race-ethnicity-data/
https://healthpolicy.ucla.edu/publications/Documents/PDF/2021/Disaggregating-CA-COVID-19-Data-NHPIs-Asians-infographic-may2021.pdf

Data Disaggregation Plan Recommendations

1 Legislation for Data Disaggregation
Advocate for the introduction of legislation that mandates the collection, reporting, and analysis of disaggregated data across various sectors, such as education, healthcare, criminal justice, and economic opportunities.

2 Statewide Data Collection Guidelines
Collaborate with relevant agencies to establish clear guidelines for collecting and reporting disaggregated data, ensuring consistency and accuracy in data collection methods.

3 Regular Reporting and Accountability
Implement a system for regular reporting on disaggregated data findings and outcomes to hold government agencies accountable for addressing disparities and improving outcomes for all segments of the population.