



About the New Orleans Youth Data Inventory

Louisiana collects a variety of data about children. Beginning at birth we begin measuring children in a variety of ways including their size, their immunization status and growth progress as well as information about families with children (where they live, their income levels, access to various services, etc.). Once children enter school, especially public schools, we begin to measure academic readiness and progress.

In most cases, the data is tracked to the institutions that serve children. So rather than track each child, we record how children at a particular preschool, school, afterschool or summer program are doing on a variety of measures. So as children move between these institutions, they are tracked differently. These methods of measurement make following a particular group of children or young people difficult but also protects the privacy of young people and their families who are generally not asked to consent to the data collection about their lives.

In order to answer questions like “how are the children in a particular neighborhood doing?” or “how are Black girls performing academically?,” researchers either need to get access to raw data that includes characteristics of individual children or piece together a few data sets to draw some informed logical conclusions.

In most cases, the raw data is only accessible to some researchers to protect student anonymity and privacy. Recently, new laws have created increased limits on how data can be shared by state actors like the Louisiana Department of Education.

Included in this listing of data sources are data sets that answer some key questions about the demographic identities of children living in New Orleans and about their progression through the education system and some of their experiences. In various combinations, these sets of data can provide a partial picture of the condition of New Orleans youth.