

# Know your community's risk factors!

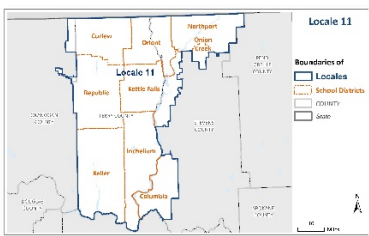
School districts • Communities • Counties • State

Irina Sharkova, PhD, Aaron Starks, MA, Sandy Salivaras, MSc, MPH

Supported by the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, Facilities, Finance, and Analytics Administration, Research and Data Analysis Division Community Outcomes and Risks Evaluation (CORE) Information System, in collaboration with the Washington State Health Care Authority, Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery

drug use • alcohol use • availability of drugs • violent crime among adults, teens • weapons in schools • academic performance • low test scores • high school drop-outs • teen arrests • early criminal justice involvement • adult arrests • teen births • infant and child mortality • child injuries, accident hospitalization • low weight births • sexually transmitted diseases • suicides and attempts • injuries to women • food stamp assistance • unemployment • welfare rates • prison rates • home sales • people moving to and from your community • voting registration rate • divorce rate • rates of referral for victims of child abuse and neglect • alcohol-related traffic fatalities • domestic violence • use of state-funded drug and alcohol services • property crimes • degree of economic and social deprivation • issues of child and family health • *more...*

## Find your community

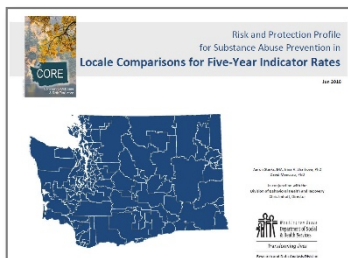


Available from the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services and published two times a year, you'll find annual risk indicators at the school district\*, locale\*\*, county and state levels.

For the indicators identified above, find county level reports, comparisons with state and national indicators, and counties similar to yours. State reports compare all counties and offer maps showing the values for each indicator. Most of the indicators are also available for school districts and locales.

See tips on getting the data on page two of this handout. The data are here: <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/ffa/research-and-data-analysis/community-risk-profiles>

## Compare your community to others!



### FOR PLANNERS, DECISION MAKERS, COMMUNITY MEMBERS

#### *Community Drug and Alcohol Data for Prevention Planning: Five-year Rates of Risk Factors and Problem Outcomes*

This report by the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services provides data for drug and alcohol prevention planning at the locale level. Working with locales (large school districts or groups of smaller districts) and 5-year average rates overcomes small number problems. Online at: <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/data/research/research-4.53-state.pdf>

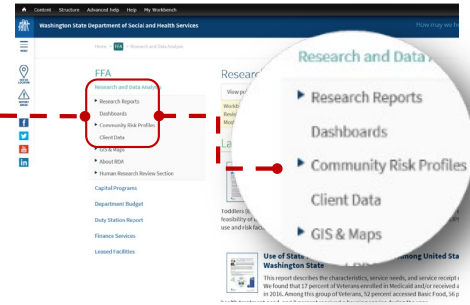
\* School districts serve as a good geographic approximation for many Washington communities.

\*\* Locales are school districts or groups of school districts that, when added together, include 20,000+ residents. At this threshold we are able to report rare events.

## Tips for using the CORE Risk Profiles

- From the RDA Website  
<https://www.dshs.wa.gov/ffa/research-and-data-analysis>

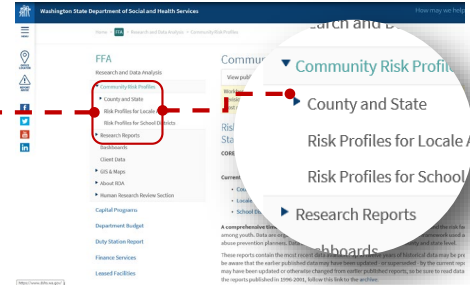
- Click on **Community Risk Profiles** in the left hand column



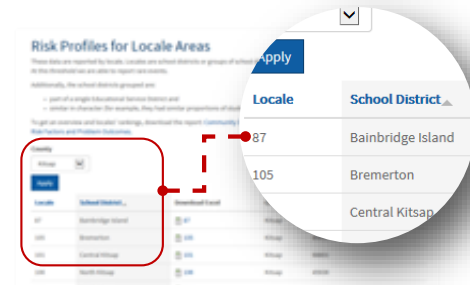
- From here, you'll have access to the data:

- County and State
- Risk Profiles for Locale Areas\*
- Risk Profiles for School Districts

\***Locales** are school districts or groups of school districts that, when added together, include 20,000+ residents. At this threshold we are able to report rare events. Locales do not cross Educational Service District boundaries.



- Once you've selected your geographic level, select your area from the list of geographic names to proceed. Because of the large number of locales (118) and school districts (295), their reports do not fit on a single screen. Use the drop down menu to select the county where your locale or district is located. You may also sort the reports by school district name, by locale ID number, or by school district population size.



- Depending on your selection, you can download a PDF file or Excel spreadsheet containing the data. If you have opened an Excel spreadsheet, the data will be in tabs, which will be visible at the bottom of your screen. Be sure to consult the "how to" section that can be found on the first two-three tabs in Excel files or the first few pages in the PDF documents. Technical Notes are the end of each file/document.

If you have any difficulties at all, or need assistance interpreting the data, feel free to give us a call (see below for contact names/numbers). *We'll be happy to help.*

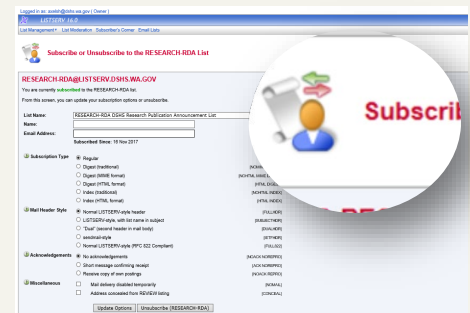
## Subscribe to Risk Profile updates

Sign up for e-mail alerts when new data and reports are available

You can request free notification about updates to our data and publications, or cancel notification at:

<https://www.dshs.wa.gov/ffa/research-and-data-analysis/sign-dshs-research-rda>

If for any reason you have trouble signing up, please contact Nora Ellsworth, Research and Data Analysis, at 360.902.0701, [nora.ellsworth@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:nora.ellsworth@dshs.wa.gov). *We're here to help!*



## CONTACT

Irina Sharkova, PhD, 360.902.0743  
[irina.sharkova@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:irina.sharkova@dshs.wa.gov)