

Themes

Tell a Story

1 While data doesn't tell the whole story, it can be used for storytelling purposes, but we must be thoughtful about our approach. We can diversify our data sources, work with our staff and partners to advise on data publications and focus on short and simple presentations of available data.

Elevate Voices

2 We must focus on reaching unheard voices by speaking directly with communities and using both quantitative and qualitative data for storytelling. Specifically, we need to collect additional data including postpartum care data, EHR data, sexual health data, mental health data, maternal mortality data, substance use data, and process indicator data. We need to reach vulnerable populations including Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, migrants, and Asian populations, and youth. We also need to reach populations on all islands.

Create Meaningful Momentum

3 We must remember to lead with purpose. What are we going to do with our data? Collecting data for data collection's sake is a waste of resources, so what actions can we or should we take based on what we learn?

Improve Health

4 Data are limited, but we must make sure we integrate equity and social determinants of health into everything.

Acknowledge Biases

5 Human biases, judgement, experiences, etc. influence the way data are collected, perceived, defined, and interpreted. Thus, all data are flawed by limitations of those collecting and that must be acknowledged. There are many ways to collect and interpret data, rather than one right way. Data is also received differently by various audiences, and that should be considered.

Avoid Data Manipulation

6 We must be careful about the way data are presented, especially concerning disparities. An absence of data does not mean that no disparities are present. We must disaggregate and use trend data in a nuanced way, to ensure appropriate representation of communities.

DOH FHSD, University of Alabama at Birmingham's Applied Evaluation and Assessment Collaborative, and Hilopaa Family to Family, Inc. gathered state and community partners in May 2024 to discuss the priorities for the Title V Maternal and Child Health Needs Assessment. Mahalo to all of our partners who attended this meeting and shared the insights that informed these overarching themes