How to Examine Your Mobility Metrics

Looking for guidance on examining and interpreting Mobility Metrics data for your community? Fill out this worksheet to get started. (A [completed worksheet](#) for Washington, DC, is also available as a guide.)

Search for your community in the [Upward Mobility Data Dashboard](#) and follow the five steps below in order, as each step builds on the information you gather in the one before it.

Step 1: Select a predictor and look at the topline, summary-level statistic for its corresponding metric.

Note: Some predictors have two metrics.

Ask yourself:

What stands out about this metric's value?

How does this reflect (or not reflect) your knowledge and perceptions of mobility in your area?

Step 2: Select a category to break down the metric's topline value into values for different subgroups.

Note: We use "category" to describe the different subgroups into which Mobility Metrics data can be broken down or disaggregated. Available categories differ across metrics, ranging from racial and ethnic groups to income levels. Not all Mobility Metrics data can be disaggregated, so some metrics don't have categories.

Ask yourself:

How do these values differ from the topline value for the whole population? Do the values differ across categories?

Which disparities stand out the most and why?

Step 3: Look at these data over multiple years.

Ask yourself:

Have the data changed or mostly stayed the same? What trends emerge across categories in the data and why?

Is it surprising how the data have changed or stayed the same? Do the trends you're seeing align with your knowledge about conditions in the community over those periods?

Step 4: Select one or more peer communities and look at their metric values alongside your own.

Ask yourself:

How does your community's metric value compare with the values for your peer communities?

What's most notable about these differences?

What environmental factors in your community, the peer community, or both communities might account for these differences?

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Step 5: Select additional metrics within and across pillars to identify systemic trends.

Ask yourself:

Looking across all the pillars and specifically at the pillar for the metric you just analyzed, what other predictors may affect or be affected by this metric?

How might you be able to use the data visualization for the metric you selected?

Explore more Mobility Metrics resources

Now that you've examined your metrics, view these resources to improve your data and learn how to use them:

- [Six Ways to Use the Mobility Metrics](#)
- [Planning Guide for Local Action](#)