



ELEVATE
KANSAS
A Health Coalition Community

Using Data as a Conversation Starter, Not a Conclusion

Avanthi Chatrathi

June 10, 2026



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A Health Coalition Community

Uniting Coalitions to Advance Health

elevatekansas.org



**COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT
INSTITUTE**



Kansas



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- All microphones have been muted. Please enter your questions/comments into the chat.
- Handouts will be shared via the Zoom chat during the presentation.
- Slides and resources will be housed on elevatekansas.org along with the presentation recording.



KANSAS HEALTH INSTITUTE

Using Data as Conversation Starter, Not a Conclusion

Elevate Coalition Compass Series

June 10, 2026



Learning Objectives

By the end of our time together, you will be able to:

- Explore local data sources to find data relevant to your community.
- Identify strategies to share data with communities in engaging ways.
- Describe ways to involve community members and partners in interpreting data and co-create action steps.



Who We Are



- Nonprofit, nonpartisan educational institution based in Topeka.
- Established in 1995 with a multi-year grant from the Kansas Health Foundation.
- Committed to convening meaningful conversations around tough topics related to health.



Hello!



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Finding and Using Local Data



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Why Local Data Matters

- National numbers don't always tell your community's story
- Local data sources
 - Community surveys — including CHA/CHNAs
 - Public health databases
 - Census tools
 - Local reports
 - Community stories
- What data reflect the experience of the people in your community?



Examples of Data Sources

Governmental

Federal

- U.S. Census
- CDC – Centers for Disease Control & Prevention

State

- KDHE – Kansas Department of Health and Environment
- KDADS – Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services
- KSDE – Kansas Department of Education

Nonprofits/ Organizations

National

- County Health Rankings & Roadmaps
- America's Health Rankings
- KIDS COUNT
- Feeding America
- Kauffman Entrepreneurship Index
- **United for ALICE**

Kansas

- **Kansas Health Matters**
- K-State 105
- **Kansas Communities that Care**
- **United to Transform**
- KHI Info Hubs



Kansas Health Matters



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Kansas Health Matters website. At the top is the logo, which features a stylized gauge icon above the text "KansasHealthMatters". Below the logo is a navigation bar with five items: "DATA", "TOOLS", "PROMISING PRACTICES", "RESOURCES", and "INITIATIVES", each with a small downward arrow. The main content area features a large blue banner for the "NEW FEATURES SOCIONEEDS INDEX® SUITE". The banner includes the text "The SocioNeeds Index® Suite provides analytics around social determinants of health to advance equitable outcomes." and three overlapping images: a basket of vegetables labeled "Food Insecurity Index", hands being held together labeled "Health Equity Index", and a person's face labeled "Mental Health Index". Below the banner are three circular icons: a bar chart for "HEALTH INDICATORS", a list icon for "TOPIC AREAS", and a clock with a checkmark for "FEATURED RESOURCES". Each icon has a brief description below it.

NEW FEATURES
SOCIONEEDS INDEX® SUITE

The SocioNeeds Index® Suite provides analytics around social determinants of health to advance equitable outcomes.

Food Insecurity Index

Health Equity Index

Mental Health Index

HEALTH INDICATORS

A health indicator is a measure designed to summarize information about a given priority topic in population health or

TOPIC AREAS

Explore data within one of our topic areas:

FEATURED RESOURCES

We've drawn together a diverse collection of professional resources for researchers, policy-makers, advocates, and



Interpreting the Data

Crafting a Key Finding

Revisit your
purpose.

Remind yourself
of your **audience.**
*(E.g., coalition members,
policymakers, general
public)*

Ask yourself:
*What story does this
data tell?*
Why is it important?



Guiding Principles for Conversations About Data

Curiosity

Humility

Connection

Mindfulness

Bravery



How has your coalition used data as a conversation starter, not a conclusion?



Turning Data Into Shared Action



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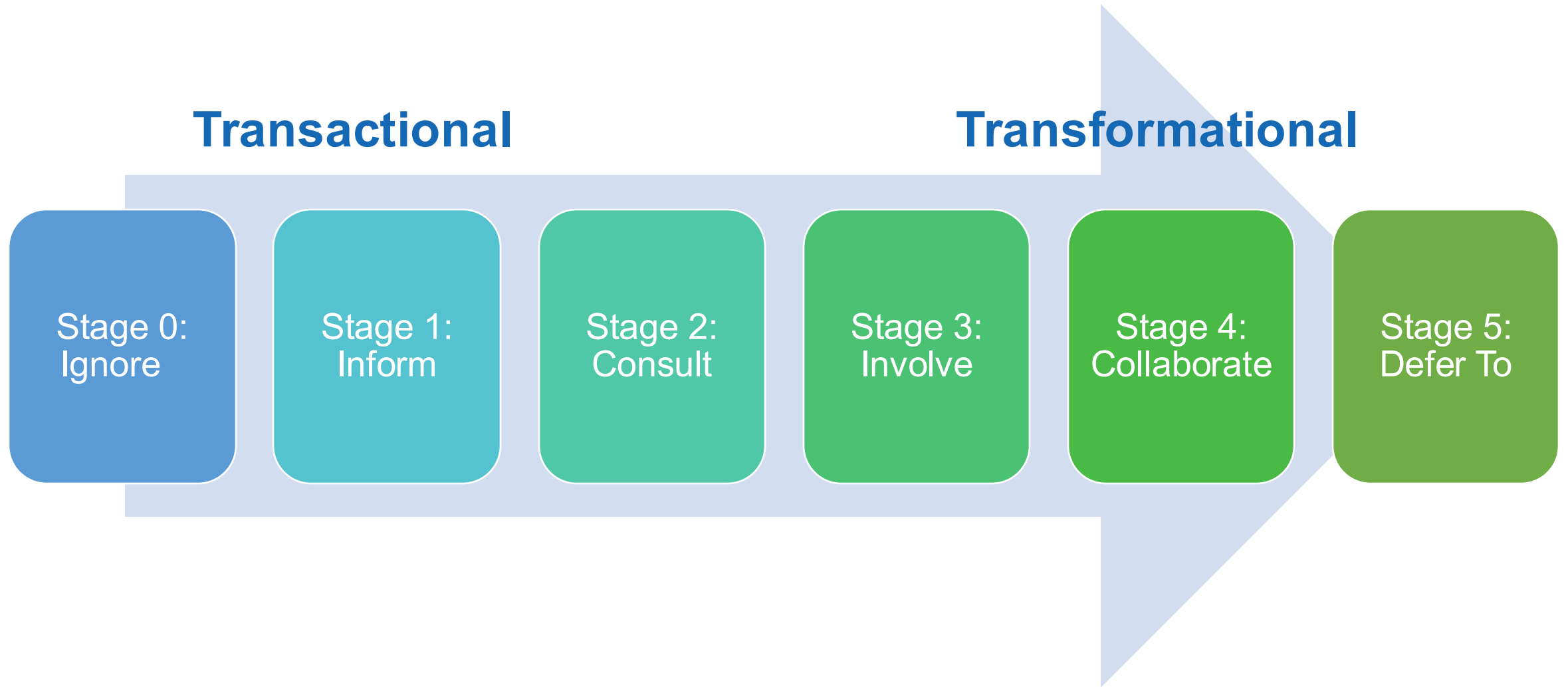
Engage Communities In Action Planning

- Actively involve people affected by health issues that you are addressing.
- Involve communities in interpreting data and developing action items.
- Co-create action steps with community members and community partners.

Remember to start this early!



Spectrum of Community Engagement



Using Data as a Conversation Starter Across the Spectrum of Community Engagement

Stage 1: Inform

- Goal: Provide the community with useful information
- Data-Sharing Actions: Open houses, presentations, fact sheets
- Strategies for Engaging Community: Raise awareness and spark curiosity through key findings



Using Data as a Conversation Starter Across the Spectrum of Community Engagement

Stage 2: Consult

- Goal: Gather community perspectives to inform decision or plan
- Data-Sharing Actions: Focus groups, surveys, community forums
- Strategies for Engaging Community: Invite input on priorities and planned next steps based on data



Using Data as a Conversation Starter Across the Spectrum of Community Engagement

Stage 3: Involve

- Goal: Ensure community priorities guide the decision-making
- Data-Sharing Actions: Interactive workshops, data walks, community meetings with resident polling
- Strategies for Engaging Community: Provide opportunities for communities to interpret and draft findings from data and recommend next steps



Using Data as a Conversation Starter Across the Spectrum of Community Engagement

Stage 4: Collaborate

- Goal: Co-design or co-implement solutions with community
- Data-Sharing Actions: Co-design, collect and interpret shared data
- Strategies for Engaging Community: Share responsibilities for identifying and completing next steps



Using Data as a Conversation Starter Across the Spectrum of Community Engagement

Stage 5: Defer To

- Goal: Support community-driven decisions
- Data-Sharing Actions: Consensus building meetings, participatory action research
- Strategies for Engaging Community: Follow the community's lead in analysis and action planning



Strategies to Increase Community Power

Community coalitions are essential to building community power.

- Build relationships and strengthen trust with communities affected by the data.
- Create space for community interpretation of data.
- Identify next steps to center community decision-making in data collection, interpretation and action planning.



Real-World Example



Reflections and Resources



THANK YOU!

Any Questions?



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