Which Public Health Issues Plague Your Town?

TAB
Webinar Series:
Hot Topics

March 23, 2023

West Virginia University
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO BROWNFIELDS COMMUNITIES

WVU TAB

EPA Region 3 Technical Assistance to Brownfields (TAB) provider

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Meet Today's Speaker!

Christiaan Abildso, PhD, MPH

- Associate professor in the Department of Social and Behavior Sciences in the WVU School of Public Health
- Research interests include:
  - Health promotion program evaluation and social-ecological determinants of physical activity
  - Policy and the built environment.

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Webinar Overview

Today, we will highlight…

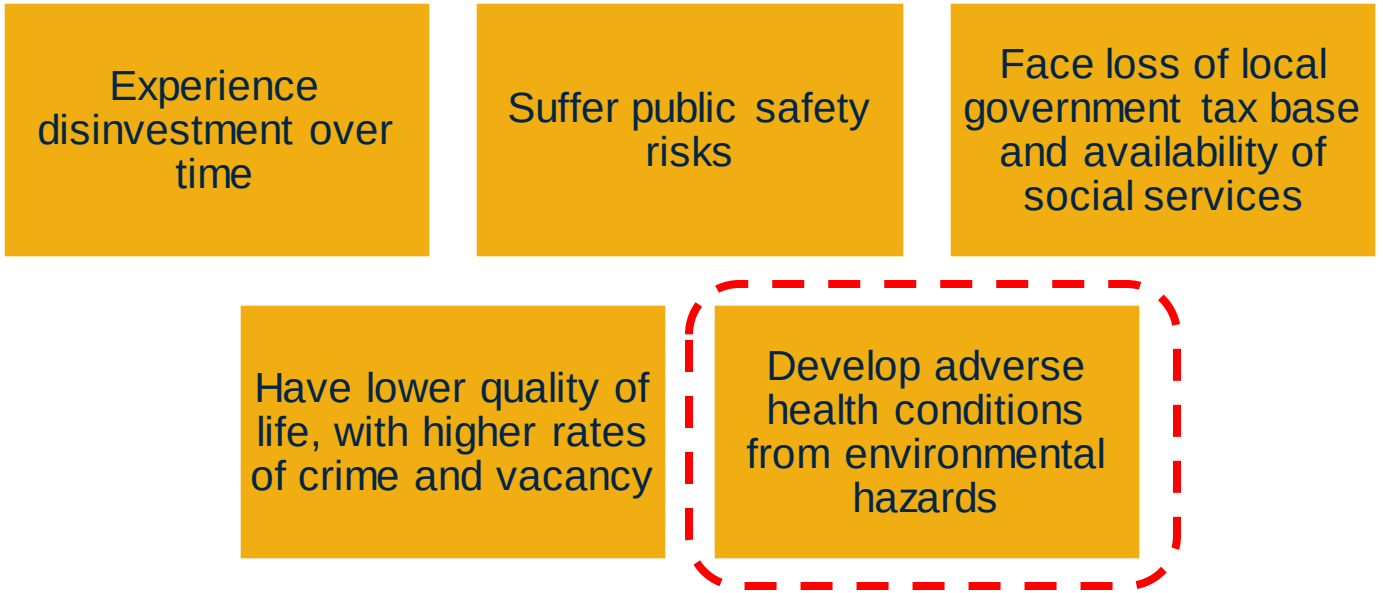
1) The importance of health data for Brownfields grant applications
2) Different sources for local public health data
3) An opportunity to find *your* local data – a quiz!

Objectives:

1) Identify city- and county-level health data to use in future brownfield grant applications
2) Identify one health disparity in your local area

Brownfields and Public Health

Community concerns about brownfields often center on public health issues to turn health and safety liabilities into assets. Communities with brownfields often:



How Public Health Interacts with the Community Capitals

- From research in rural physical activity, published in 2021: https://www.mdpi.com/1660-4601/18/20/10574

International Journal of
Environmental Research and Public Health

MDPI

Article

What Sets Physically Active Rural Communities Apart from Less Active Ones? A Comparative Case Study of Three US Counties

Christiaan G. Abildso [1,*], Cynthia K. Perry [2], Lauren Jacobs [3], M. Renée Umstattd Meyer [4], Megan McClendon [4,†], Michael B. Edwards [5], James N. Roemmich [6], Zachary Ramsey [1] and Margaret Stout [7]

How Public Health Interacts with the Community Capitals

- From research in rural physical activity, published in 2021: https://www.mdpi.com/1660-4601/18/20/10574

- Rural counties with higher rates of physical activity (PA) primarily influenced by the Natural Environment (land, water, mountains, oceans), resulting in…
  - Cultural Capital (positive attitudes about PA)
  - Human Capital (individuals engaging in PA and using knowledge, skill & ability to encourage PA)
  - Organizational Capital (PA policies & programs)
  - Social Capital (PA-focused collaboration)
  - Financial Capital (investments in PA places & programs)
  - Built Capital (PA places/access)…
  - And more physically active people, increasing Cultural & Human Capital (and on and on)

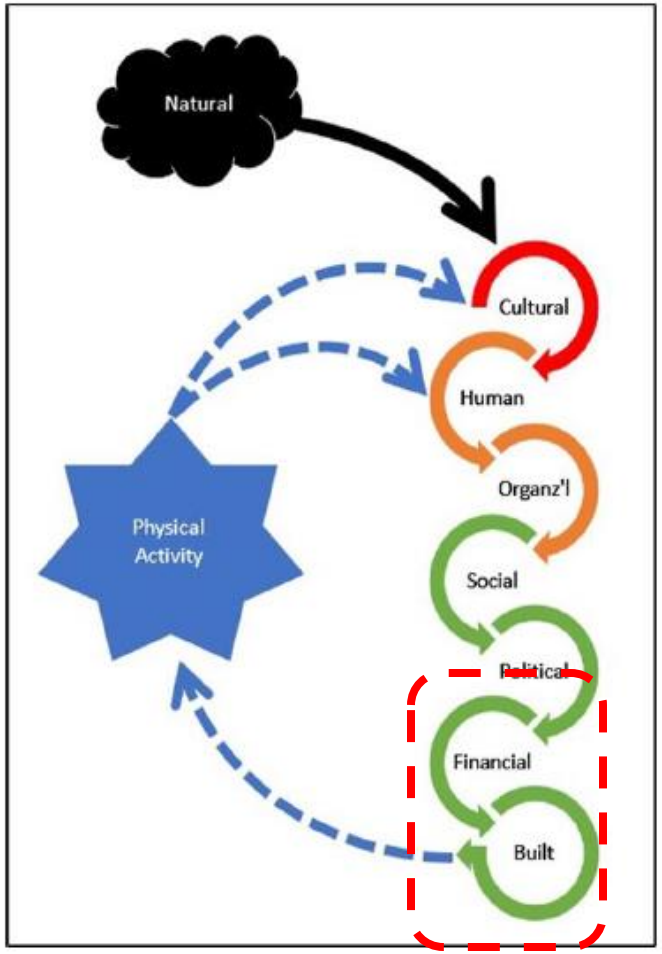


Figure 1. A hypothetical cyclical model of how the forms of community capital create physically active rural communities. Note. Different colors (red, orange, green) represent different levels on the causal chain.

Why You Need Health Data

EPA Brownfield grants want to know the environmental, social, ***health*** and economic needs of your target area!

EPA also wants to see how a Brownfields grant will reduce the environmental, social, ***health***, and economic burdens in a community.

EPA Brownfield Assessment Grants

- Assessment Grants provide funding for a grant recipient to inventory, characterize, assess, conduct a range of planning activities, develop site-specific cleanup plans, and conduct community engagement related to brownfield sites.
- Can be used for planning activities, including:
  - Community Health Assessment
  - Equitable Development Activities
  - Site Reuse Assessment
  - Market Study
- EPA: Protecting public health in brownfield redevelopment

Why You Need Health Data

EPA Brownfields Grant Application, *Section V.A. – Narrative Scoring Criteria*

1) 40 points: Project Area Description and Plans for Revitalization

2) **40 points:** Community Need and Community Engagement

3) **50 points:** Task Descriptions, Cost Estimates, and Measuring Progress

4) **35 points:** Programmatic Capability and Past Performance
- Includes the degree to which the local health agency in involved (*Part 2 of this series*)

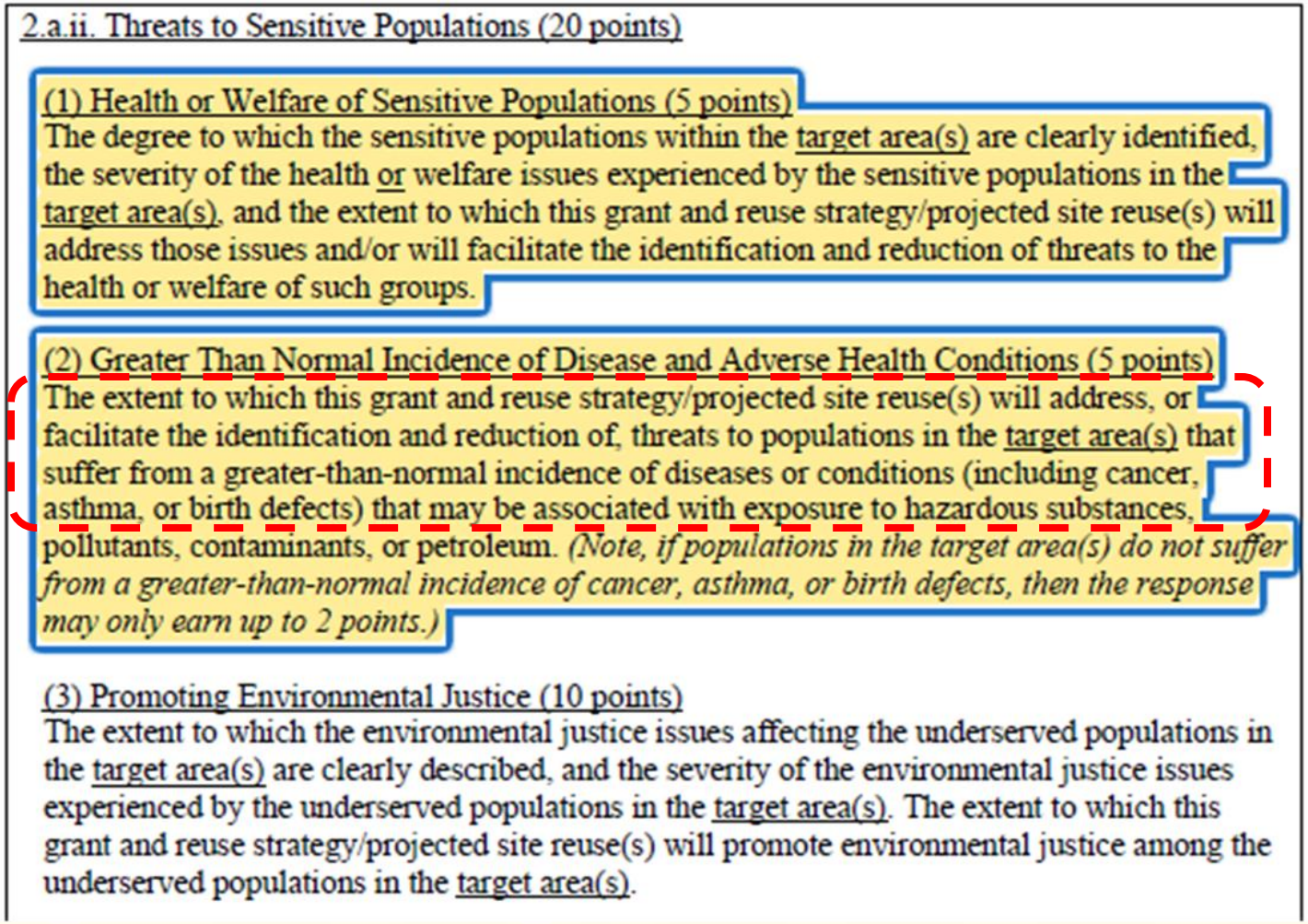
Out of 165 points

Why You Need Health Data

COMMUNITY NEED AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT Breakdown

1. *25 points – Community Need – including 20 points to 2.a.ii. Threats to Sensitive Populations, including*
    1. *Health or Welfare of Sensitive Populations (5 points)*
    2. *Greater Than Normal Incidence of Disease and Adverse Health Conditions (5 points)*
    3. *Promoting Environmental Justice (10 points)*

40 points



2.a.ii. Threats to Sensitive Populations (20 points)

(1) Health or Welfare of Sensitive Populations (5 points)
The degree to which the sensitive populations within the target area(s) are clearly identified, the severity of the health or welfare issues experienced by the sensitive populations in the target area(s), and the extent to which this grant and reuse strategy/projected site reuse(s) will address those issues and/or will facilitate the identification and reduction of threats to the health or welfare of such groups.

(2) Greater Than Normal Incidence of Disease and Adverse Health Conditions (5 points)
The extent to which this grant and reuse strategy/projected site reuse(s) will address, or facilitate the identification and reduction of, threats to populations in the target area(s) that suffer from a greater-than-normal incidence of diseases or conditions (including cancer, asthma, or birth defects) that may be associated with exposure to hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or petroleum. *(Note, if populations in the target area(s) do not suffer from a greater-than-normal incidence of cancer, asthma, or birth defects, then the response may only earn up to 2 points.)*

(3) Promoting Environmental Justice (10 points)
The extent to which the environmental justice issues affecting the underserved populations in the target area(s) are clearly described, and the severity of the environmental justice issues experienced by the underserved populations in the target area(s). The extent to which this grant and reuse strategy/projected site reuse(s) will promote environmental justice among the underserved populations in the target area(s).

How to Find Local Public Health Data

City- and county-level resources

West Virginia University

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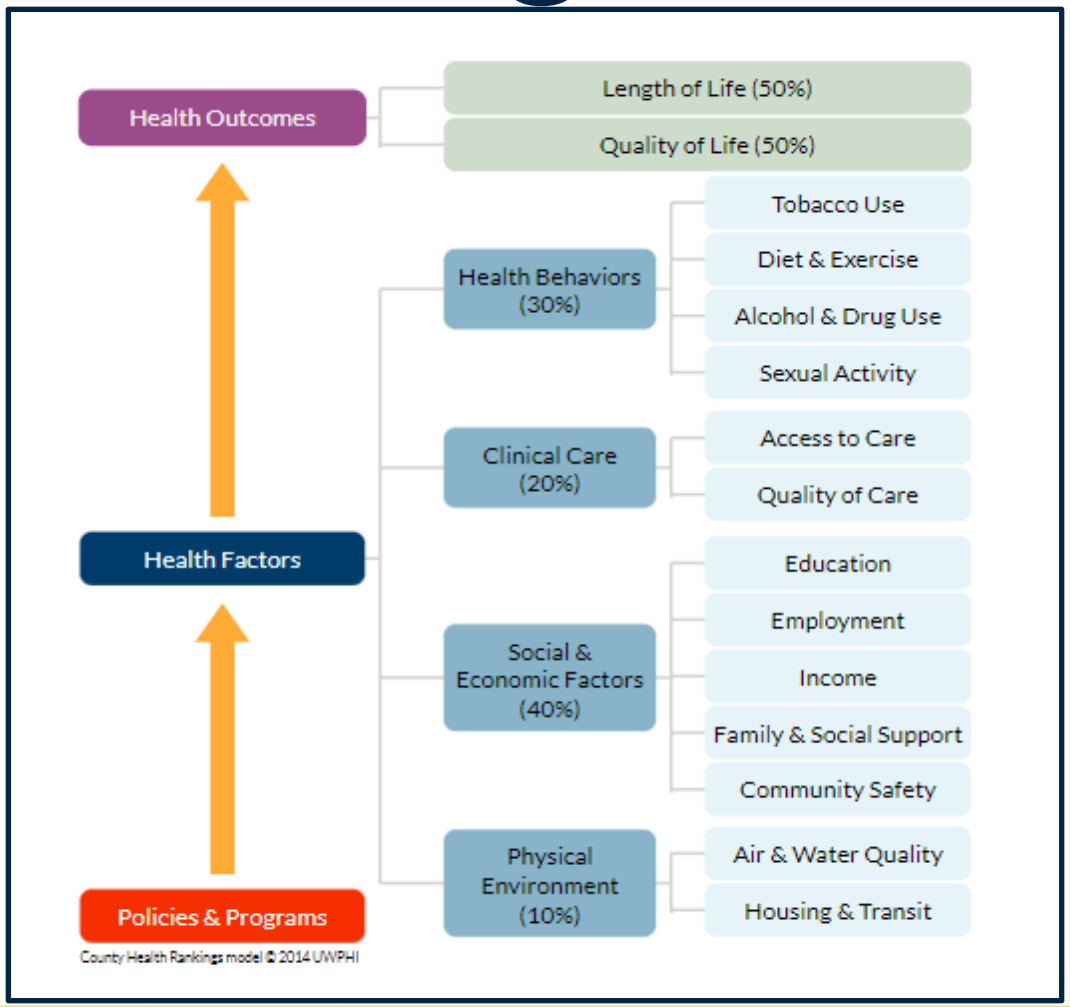
County Health Rankings

- County Health Rankings & Roadmaps (CHR&R) is a program of the University of Wisconsin Health Institute
- Provides data, evidence, guidance, and examples to build awareness of how multiple factors influence health and support community leaders in improving health equity
- Tool measures health of nearly every county in all 50 states

County Health Rankings



Source: [County Health Rankings & Roadmaps (CHR&R)]

County Health Rankings

PROS

- Provides overview of **county-level data**
- Good for comparison against state, US, and other counties in your state
- Highlights areas of strength & in need of improvement

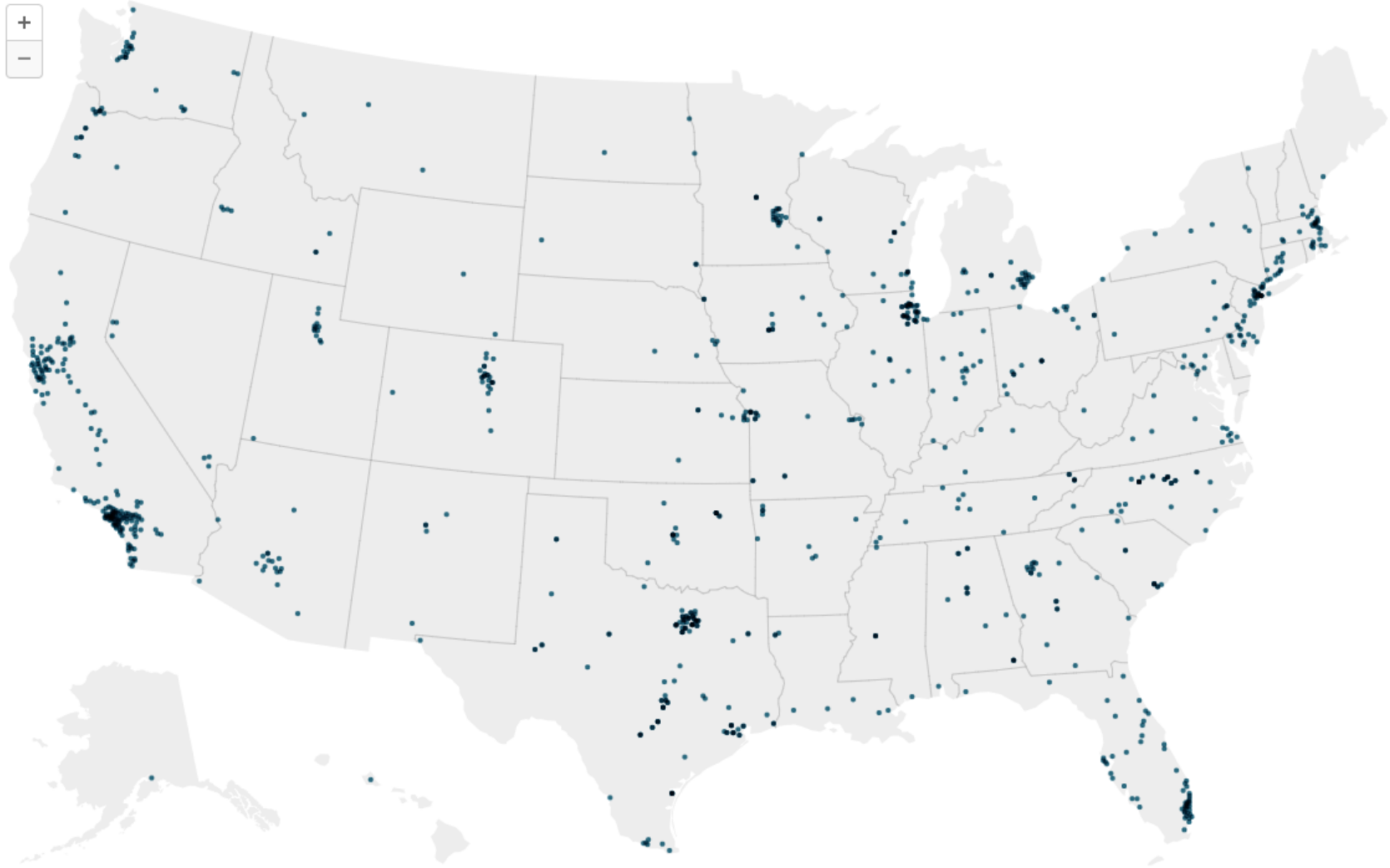
CONS

- **Lacks sub-county** level data
- **Lacks asthma, cancer, birth defects** data

City Health Dashboard

- Created by the NYU Grossman School of Medicine Department of Population Health
- Offers data on 40 measures of health and drivers of health for over 900 cities in the U.S.
  - All cities with populations of >50,000
- Goal is to provide communities and city leaders with an array of regularly updated data specific to their neighborhood and/or city boundaries to improve public health

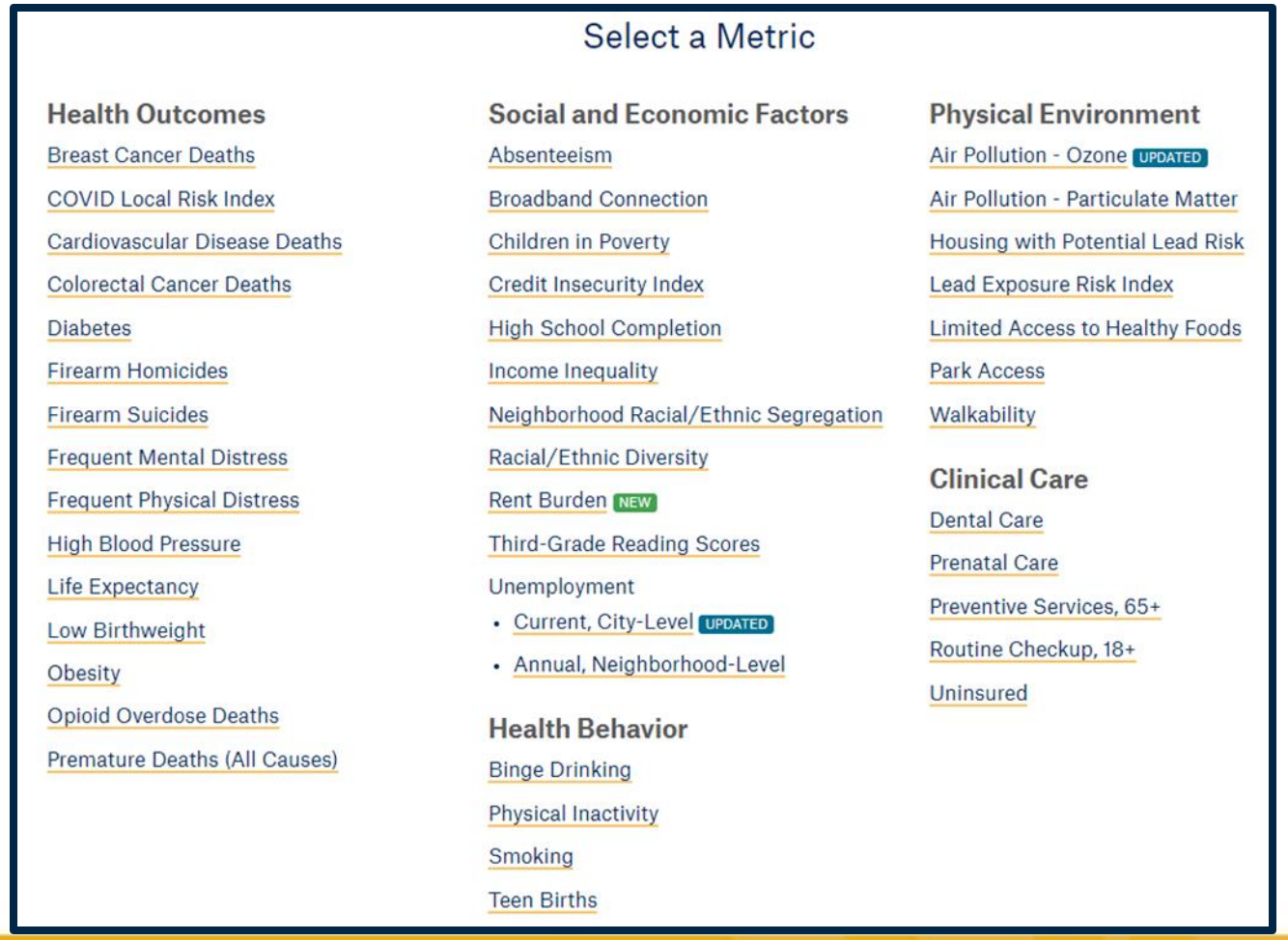
906 cities



Source: City Health Dashboard • Download image • Created with Datawrapper

City Health Dashboard Communities

City Health Dashboard

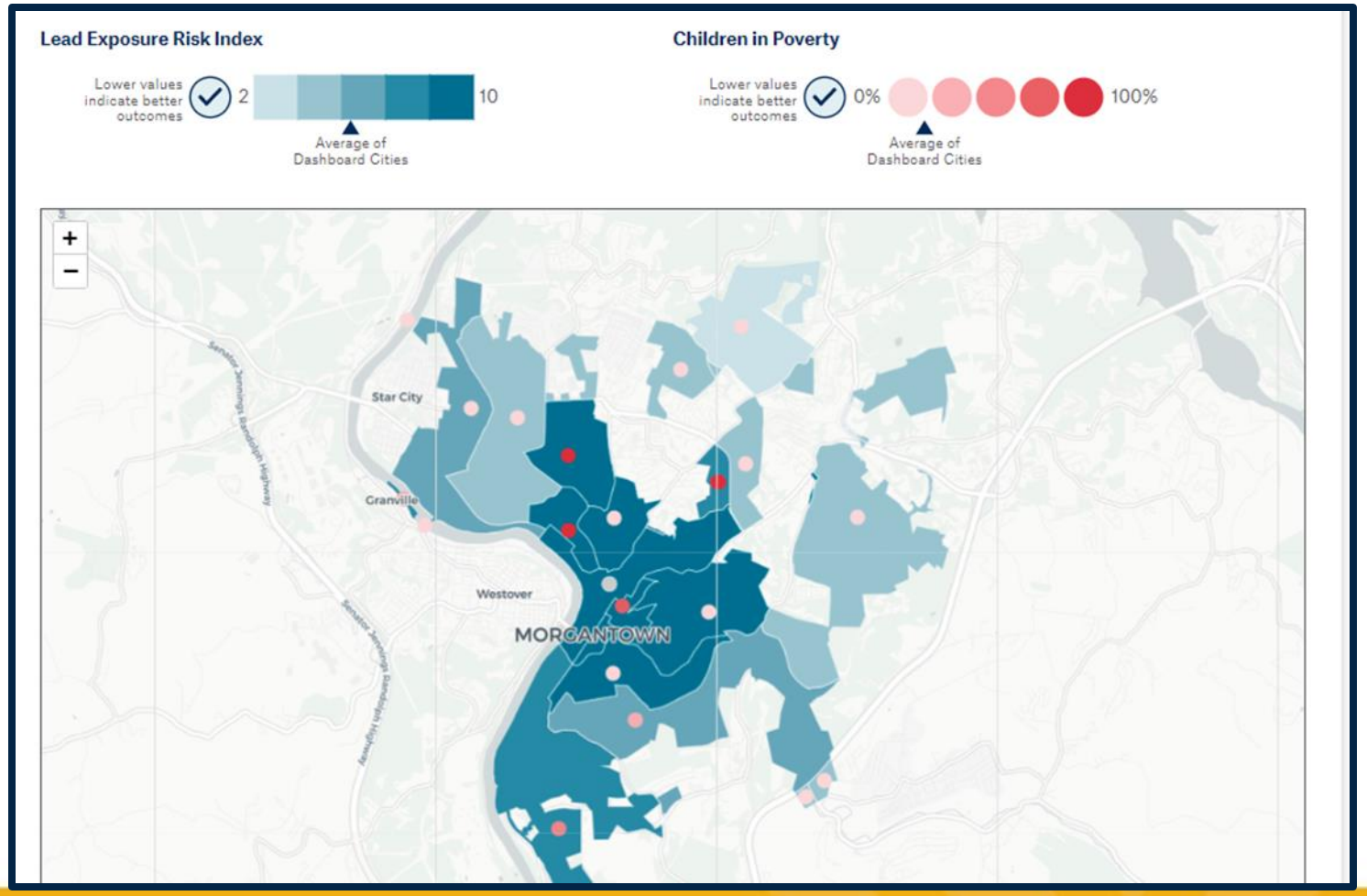


City Health Dashboard

PROS

- Provides a number of health metrics at the city level
- Provides cancer **mortality** data
- Identifies **vulnerable populations**
- Can do a **metric comparison** – valuable mapping at tract-level

City Health Dashboard



City Health Dashboard

CONS

- **Lacks asthma & birth defects** data
- Only includes data for **900 cities** with 50,000+ population (and a few others)
- Some measures at city-level, some at tract level data

CDC Places

PLACES
LOCAL DATA FOR BETTER HEALTH

- Collaboration between CDC, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and the CDC Foundation

- Provides model-based, population-level analysis and community estimates of health measures to all counties, places (incorporated and census-designated places), Census tracts, and ZIP Code Tabulation Areas

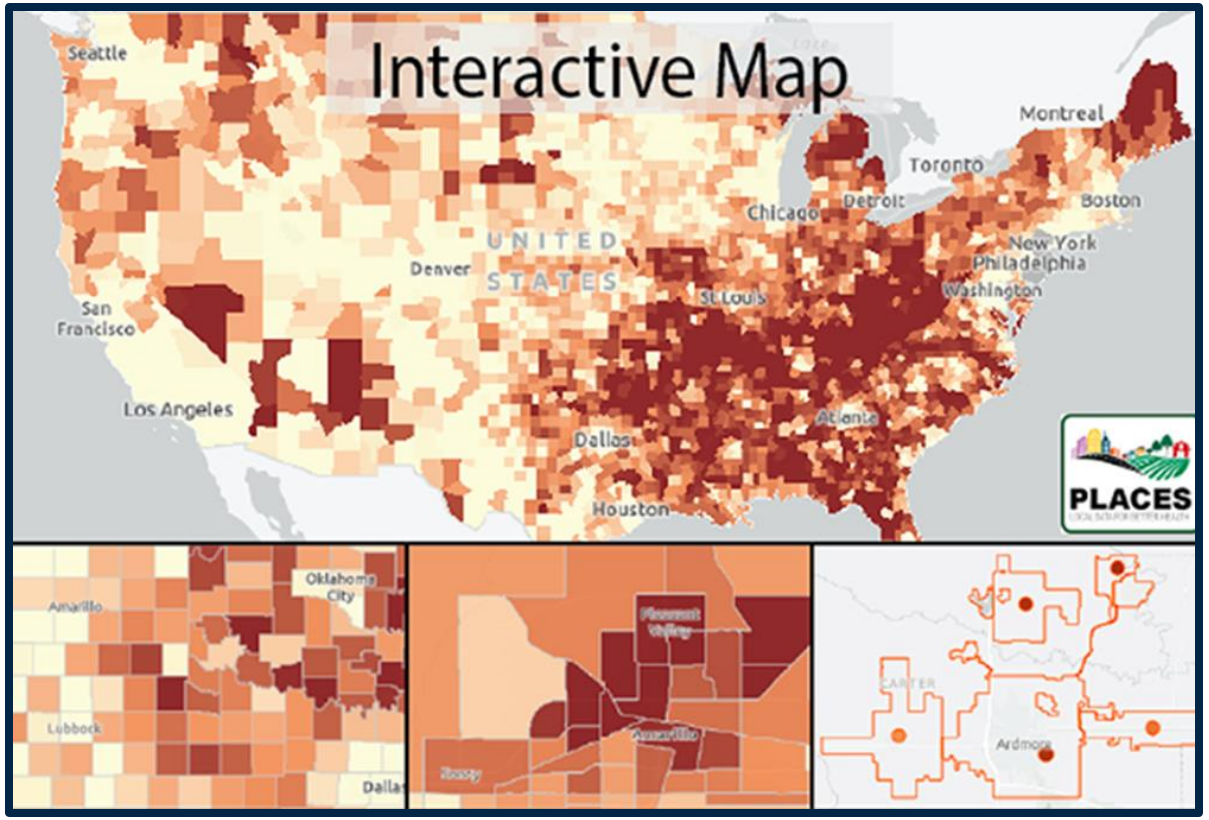
CDC Places

Health Outcomes Measure Definitions

Print

On This Page

- Arthritis among adults aged ≥18 years
- Current asthma prevalence among adults aged ≥18 years
- High blood pressure among adults aged ≥18 years
- Cancer among adults aged ≥18 years
- High cholesterol among adults aged ≥18 years who have been screened in the past 5 years
- Chronic kidney disease among adults aged ≥18 years
- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease among adults aged ≥18 years
- Coronary heart disease among adults aged ≥18 years
- Depression among adults aged ≥18 years
- Diagnosed diabetes among adults aged ≥18 years
- Obesity among adults aged ≥18 years
- All teeth lost among adults aged ≥65 years
- Stroke among adults aged ≥18 years



CDC Places

PROS

- Data from **entire U.S.**, at various levels
  - County
  - Place
  - Census Tract
  - ZIP Code Tabulation Area (ZCTA)
- Has asthma & cancer prevalence measures
- Maps allow zoom to local level

CONS

- Lacks **birth defects** data, and other exposures (particulate matter, lead)
- Lacks ability to **compare by vulnerable populations**

Find Your Local Data – A Quiz!

- Use CDC PLACES: https://www.cdc.gov/places/ to find the asthma rate in a place you'd like to look up, ideally where you have a Brownfield
- Enter in the chat the **name of the city & Census tract** you looked up and the **asthma rate**
- When done, talk through it, data available for download

Summary

- **Health data exist** – at county, city, and census tract levels, even for the smallest towns
- Health data are **required** in your Brownfields Assessment grant application in the COMMUNITY NEED and COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT section – specifically in 2.a.ii. *Threats to Sensitive Populations*
- Mapping & downloadable data are available to you
- Helpful Resource:

  EPA's Community Health Assessment one-pager

Upcoming Events

State Conferences

VA Brownfields Conference

- Danville, VA
- June 13-15, 2023

WV Brownfields Conference

- Wheeling, WV
- September 12-14, 2023
- Call for Sessions Open

Hot Topic

- **Public Health – Part 2**
  - April 13 at 12 PM
  - Register Here

Learn how your town can use this information in redevelopment plans and grant applications through the EPA brownfields program.

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Schedule a one-on-one consultation