Key Messages

Launch Message Guide

What is the City Health Dashboard?

- The City Health Dashboard empowers cities to create thriving communities.

- The City Health Dashboard is an online resource to provide city- and neighborhood-level data on 36 key measures of health, such as opioid overdose deaths, lead exposure risk, and the factors that shape health, such as housing affordability and racial and ethnic segregation. The Dashboard helps cities leverage the power of data to improve the health and well-being of everyone in their community, neighborhood by neighborhood.

- The Dashboard equips the 500 largest U.S. cities with a one-stop resource allowing users to view and compare data from multiple sources on health and the factors that shape health to guide local solutions that create healthier and more equitable communities.

Priority Messages

A key ingredient for a thriving community is healthy people.

- Neighborhoods right next to each other can provide drastically different opportunities for health and well-being.

- Data on things like preventable diseases, opioid overdose deaths, lead exposure risk, housing costs, racial & ethnic segregation and third-grade reading levels can help us understand where these gaps in opportunity exist and target programs and policy changes to address them.

What gets measured gets done. But when it comes to measuring and improving health, it's often hard to find rigorous data that show what's happening at the community level.

- This online resource enables community leaders in the nation's 500 largest cities (or those with populations of 66,000 or above) to easily see where their city or specific neighborhoods stand on 36 key measures of health, such as obesity and primary care physician coverage, and drivers of health, such as housing affordability and graduation rates.

- Neighborhood-level data allows city leaders to target health improvement efforts to marginalized communities or disinvested places. For example, using the data to target specific health challenges in neighborhoods with the highest barriers to health can improve health and health equity.

Every city is unique and will develop its own roadmap toward better health.

- We all have a role to play to improve well-being in our communities. With city and neighborhood-specific data, community leaders, city officials, and advocates have a clearer picture of the biggest challenges in their communities and are better positioned to drive change.

- The Dashboard will compile best practices and resources for driving change across communities and link to successful strategies from around the country to help community leaders and practitioners take action.

Frequently Asked Questions

Where can I access the Dashboard and does it cost money?

- The City Health Dashboard is a free online resource and can be accessed at www.cityhealthdashboard.com

- We also encourage you to follow City Health Dashboard on Twitter and Facebook at @CityHealthData for the latest updates.

What is unique about the City Health Dashboard?

- Most data on health and drivers of health and well-being (e.g., housing, education and access to healthy food) are not organized at the city (or neighborhood) level, but at the county, state or national level.

- The City Health Dashboard pulls together city- and neighborhood-level data on health and conditions that shape health from multiple national sources, creating a one-stop online resource. It also includes resources to help cities take action.

- Users can use the Dashboard to explore how environmental influences, such as air pollution and lead exposure, and social and economic influences, such as poverty and income inequality, impact a community's health and well-being and can use the data to dig deeper into these challenges.

- Users can compare their city to others, which creates an opportunity to explore how similar-sized cities successfully address specific challenges.

Who should use the City Health Dashboard?

- Everyone! Anyone who cares about the well-being of their city can use this online resource's robust data to help work toward creating a more thriving community.

- Examples of the Dashboard's users could include: city health department staff and city leadership, city planners, community development organizations, nonprofits, philanthropies, researchers, and more.

What can people do with the City Health Dashboard's data?

- City leaders will have data to better identify the most pressing health issues, dig deeper into how to address those challenges, and target programs and staffing more effectively.

  - EXAMPLE: Using City Health Dashboard data, community health workers in Waco, Texas, are now able to pinpoint the leading health and social service needs in specific neighborhoods to target programming and services to better help the residents they are working with. For example, one community health worker used the Dashboard's data to see the high level of mental health needs in one community and used that as an entry point to get women who traditionally do not go to the doctor into care.

  - EXAMPLE: A city could use the Dashboard to look at why certain neighborhoods have high infant mortality rates. Communities can drill down and look at drivers of health such as poverty, access to health insurance or rates of prenatal care and better target prematurity prevention programs to the neighborhoods within a city.

How often will the City Health Dashboard's data be updated?

- While data on the Dashboard will be refreshed as often as underlying datasets are updated, the small-area estimates for neighborhoods or cities are derived from national survey sets that may not always be powered to detect modest trends.