

Healthy Housing Solutions Inc.

Assessing Community Health: Tools and Data



Noreen Beatley, Sr Project Manager
2017 New Partners for Smart Growth

Leveraging Hospital Resources to Invest in Healthy, Sustainable Communities

Support for Community Health?

Healthy Housing Solutions Inc.



RWJF Commission to Build a Healthier America
A collection of key content and lessons learned from a national initiative to improve health equity.

Closing Socioeconomic Gaps in Health
The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Commission to Build a Healthier America was a national, independent, non-partisan group of leaders established in 2008 to examine the many factors outside of medical care that influence health.

Commission Recommendations
Beyond Health Care
April 1, 2014 | 1 hour
The RWJF Commission to Build a Healthier America issued 10 cross-cutting recommendations.

THE KRESGE FOUNDATION
Expanding opportunities in America's cities.

The BUILD HEALTH Challenge
The BUILD Health Challenge works closely with communities throughout the country to facilitate high-impact, upstream solutions to prevent and mitigate complex and emerging problems before they escalate into downstream crises. BUILD launched as a partnership with the leading partners, Military Reserve, De Beaumont Foundation, the Colorado Health Foundation, The Kroger Foundation and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and within two years has grown to include new partners such as Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Foundation, Episcopal Health Foundation, Mid-South Health Foundation, New Jersey Health Initiatives and Intelligent Community Initiatives.

Build Healthy Places Network

By joining forces, community developers and health professionals can have a more powerful impact.

GRANTMAKERS IN HEALTH
Better health through better philanthropy.

About GHI • Meetings • Webinars • Publications • Newsroom • Job Board

For more than 35 Years, Grantmakers In Health has supported health funders of all sizes and interests through education, networking, and leadership. We help funders learn, connect, and grow.

Learn
Stay on top of current health issues and philanthropic practice through meetings, publications, podcasts, and webinars.

Connect
Collaborate with nonprofits and individuals who share your vision.

Grow
Strengthen the skills of your employees, staff, and business.



Data Sources



Healthy Communities



Unlock data. Gain Knowledge.
Focus resources. Measure results.

HCI PLATFORM

The leading community and population health engagement platform helps you plan programs and interventions.

Free insight by design. Our customizable, web-based information systems provide health data to help you understand population health, community engagement, and risk factors. Analyze, interpret and evaluate using advanced health data and visualization tools. Tailor data to your needs. Increase community health engagement and build stronger partnerships.

EPA EJSCREEN Walk Score Get Scores Find

More Demographic
2010-2014 ACS
2010-2014 ACS

Category Population
Method Quantity
Measure 5
Color
Transparency 10
Border 1

Great Nearby Places
Walk Score
87

View neighborhood restaurants, coffee shops, grocery stores, schools, parks, and more.

LEARN MORE ABOUT CDC WORKS FOR

CDC Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CDC 24/7: Saving Lives. Protecting People™

SEARCH

CDC A-Z INDEX

500 Cities: Local data for better health



The 500 Cities project is a collaboration between CDC, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and the CDC Foundation. The purpose of the 500 Cities project is to provide city- and census tract-level small area estimates for chronic disease risk factors, health outcomes, and clinical preventive service use for the largest 500 cities in the United States. These small area estimates allow cities and local health departments to better understand the burden and geographic distribution of health-related variables in their jurisdictions, and help them plan public health interventions. [More about the 500 Cities Project](#)



Largest 500 US Cities,* by 2010 Population

* To ensure inclusion of all states, 3 cities from Vermont, West Virginia, Wyoming were included in this 500 cities list. The 500 cities represent 33.4% of total US Census 2010 population of 308,745,538. The 27 measures cover chronic health conditions, behaviors, and risk factors.

For More Information

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation hosted an informational webinar on the 500 Cities Project on June 30, 2016. The [500 Cities Project webinar recording](#) is now available.

Download the 500 Cities Data

Go to the 500 Cities Data Portal to download the data, create a custom report, customize visualizations, and more.

[500 Cities Data Portal](#)

Related Links

- [Programs and Interventions](#)
More information about interventions and related efforts.

Download Maps for All Measures by City (PDF)



Select a state to view map books for available cities. Each map book contains census tract data for all 28 measures for one city.

Select one

[View map books](#)

SEARCH

GO TO TPL ORG
FAQ
PARKSVALUATOR

CONATE

METHODOLOGY ABOUT

PROVE YOUR PARKSCORE
WHAT IS A PARKSCORE
OUR METHODOLOGY

INQUIRY REPORTS

ABOUT
Organization
City, State



Key Benefits



Generate community engagement



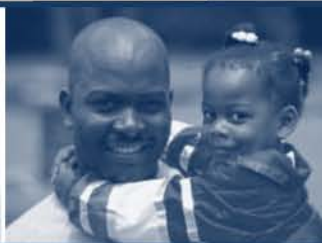
Reveal differences/disparities



Target resources and action

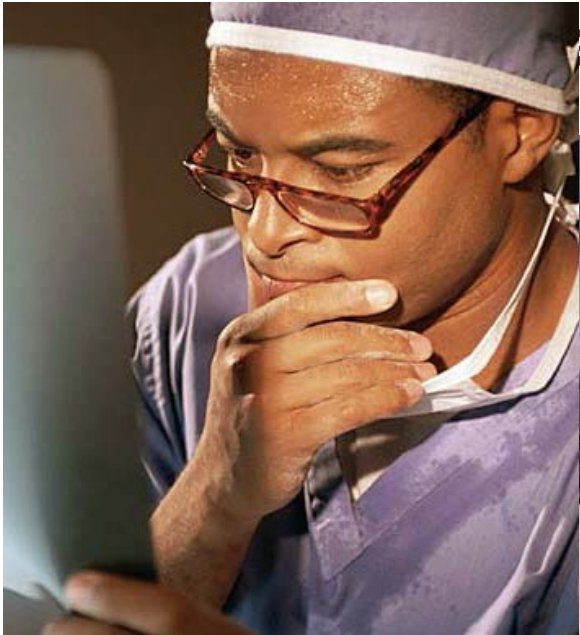


Provide information for planning



Data Applications

data?



Public Health Professional / Advocates / Citizens

Elected Officials

City Planners / Developers



Data Applications

How can it be used?


- ✓ Strategic Planning and Policy Development
- ✓ Community Health Needs Assessment
- ✓ Land Use Regulation
- ✓ Public Infrastructure and Program Investments
- ✓ Business and Residential Site Selection
- ✓ Plan and Program Performance Monitoring
- ✓ Civic Engagement
- ✓ Education
- ✓ Research and Evaluation



Evaluation

COMMUNITY COMMONS Site-Wide Activity

CONDUENT
Healthy Com



Unlock data. Focus resource

HCI PL

The leading community programs vital an

From Insight to Action
tools to help hospitals, organizations assess health outcomes, and instruments to become outcomes.

What are the



Providence, Rhode Island

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Community Health Needs Assessment

How can Community Commons help you?

Identify Vulnerable Populations

This toolkit is a free web-based platform designed to assist hospitals and organizations in identifying vulnerable populations to make measurable improvements in community health.

Identify the most vulnerable populations

- Our **Vulnerable Population Footprint** tool is a free web-based platform designed to assist hospitals and organizations in identifying vulnerable populations and health care needs based on spatial visualization of two key indicators: poverty and educational attainment. [Show me how.](#)

Neighborhood systems and structures can support healthy living and healthy behaviors

The Healthy Communities Assessment Tool (HCAT) ranks each city neighborhood on more than 40 social, economic, and physical factors important to community health. Users can examine how their own neighborhood performs on each factor and compare neighborhoods on their overall ranking of core indicators from the Healthy Communities Index (HCI).



Find a Neighborhood



Explore Neighborhood Rankings



Explore Indicators and Domains



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Healthy Communities Office
Providence City Hall
25 Dorrance Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903
Main: (401) 421-7740
Mayor's Office: (401) 421-2489

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U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes (OLHCHH)
451 7th Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20410
Telephone: (202) 708-1112
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HEALTHY HOMES
Healthy Families | Healthy Children



Healthy Communities Transformation Initiative *Background and Criteria*

- ✓ **Neighborhood Level Indicators**
- ✓ **Nexus to Health**
- ✓ **Data Availability**
- ✓ **Actionability**
- ✓ **Community Relevance**



Healthy Community Index (HCI) Indicators

Access to Parks and Open Space	Publicly Assisted Households	Preventable Hospitalizations	Access to Mainstream Financial Services
Educational Attainment	Local Business Vitality	Reading Proficiency	Violent Crime
Residential Proximity to Traffic	Long-Term Unemployment	Toxic Releases from Facilities	School Proximity to Traffic
Business Retention	Low Birth Weight	Age of Housing	Walkability
Chronic School Absence	Motor Vehicle Collisions	Voter Participation	Vacancy Rate
Commute Mode	Offsite Alcohol Outlets	Residential Mobility	Blood Lead Levels
Housing Costs	Pedestrian Connectivity	Transit Accessibility	Employment Rate
Food Deserts	Transportation Costs	Travel Time to Work	Proximity to Brownfields
HS Graduation Rate	Preschool Enrollment	Tree Cover	Proximity to Superfunds
School Readiness	Concentrated Poverty	Income Inequality	Life Expectancy
Park Quality	Racial/Ethnic Diversity	Population	





[Portal Home](#)

[HCAT Download
Request](#)

[HCAT Demonstration](#)

[Login](#)

WHAT IS THE HEALTHY COMMUNITIES ASSESSMENT TOOL (HCAT)?

The Healthy Communities Assessment Tool (HCAT) is an evidence-based web platform tool that offers a comprehensive approach for evaluating factors that contribute to community health. Developed by HUD's Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes and part of a larger HUD Healthy Communities initiative, the HCAT is designed to evaluate physical, social, and economic service structures at the neighborhood level that support healthy living and healthy behaviors in our communities.



Community health is determined by a range of factors such as the availability of fresh food, parks and green space, affordable housing and access to transportation, education and employment. To accurately assess the well-being of our communities, these factors need to be considered at the neighborhood level – where they impact our daily lives and where residents can get involved to improve their health and quality of life.

HOW DOES THE HCAT WORK?

The HCAT utilizes a comprehensive set of social, physical and environmental indicators that comprise the Healthy Community Index (HCI). Through the HCAT, cities can use the HCI to evaluate how well individual



neighborhoods are faring compared to others. The HCAT can also be used to identify areas of opportunity, as well as help prioritize community needs and challenges. Unlike other indicator tools that generally have health as one category within the tool, the HCAT is specifically designed with a health lens across all indicators to help focus strategies to improve neighborhoods through investment, resource development, and programs.



HCAT users can access data for key indicators of community health within specific neighborhoods, as well as generate an overall cumulative ranking of the more than 40 evidence-based social, physical and economic environment indicators for all neighborhoods. A higher neighborhood rank (i.e., 1 is best) indicates better performing systems that support community health and well-being.

See the full list of [Healthy Communities Index \(HCI\)](#) indicators employed in the HCAT.

DEMONSTRATION SITE

To see the HCAT in action, see the demonstration of the City of Minneapolis's site, available via the above link (the [HCAT demonstration](#) will open in a new tab).

USING THE HCAT

[Potential Uses of the HCI / HCAT](#) provides examples of how health determinant indicators have been used to impact changes in a variety of communities across the country.

DOWNLOAD THE HCAT

The HCAT template is available for download to City agencies, citizen groups, and other local stakeholders interested in assessing and improving the health of their communities. Data collection and uploads are the responsibility of the downloading organization. Limited technical assistance is available once your city and organization has registered to download the HCAT template. Download the [HCAT Administrative Guide](#) to learn more about the HCAT and the steps necessary to set up and collect data for a local HCAT site.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The HCAT *Resources* tab provides key information about how indicators in the Healthy Communities Index (HCI) were selected and the HCAT developed. It also provides steps for how to collect data for each indicator and allows public-face users to download a copy of the neighborhood definition file used for your local HCAT and specific indicator value data. Additional resources, focused how communities can address social, economic and environmental issues according to the various domains included in the HCAT may also be added to your local HCAT. Administrators may add specific local and state resources, as well as add Additional Resources available here. [Additional Resources Version 1](#) provides a pdf of the additional resources, whereas [Additional Resources 2](#) provides the material formatted in html.

Adding the additional resources to your local HCAT:

Once your local HCAT has been set up, the Administrator will click on "Dashboard," apply "Basic Page" under type of content management, and select Resources "Edit." Replace all of the content (text and html coding) in the "body" of the resources page with the html formatted material in Resources Version 2, and select "Save." This will update your local HCAT with a wide variety of resources your community can use to help them address and improve neighborhood indicators.



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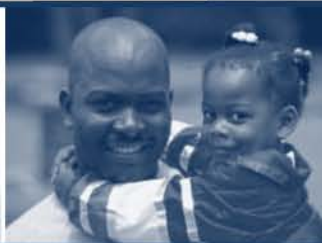
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes (OLHCHH)

healthycommunities@hud.gov



HCAT Demonstration





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Neighborhood systems and structures can
support healthy living and healthy behaviors

The Healthy Communities Assessment Tool (HCAT) ranks each city neighborhood on more than 40 social, economic, and physical factors important to community health. Users can examine how their own neighborhood performs on each factor and compare neighborhoods on their overall ranking of core indicators from the Healthy Communities Index (HCI).



Find a Neighborhood



Explore Neighborhood Rankings



Explore Indicators and Domains



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Neighborhood Ranking

Explore Neighborhoods

Compare

You may compare up to 3 neighborhoods at a time

	Neighborhood▲	Rank	Tier
<input type="checkbox"/>	Blackstone	2	Top
<input type="checkbox"/>	Charles	9	Middle
<input type="checkbox"/>	College Hill	4	Top
<input type="checkbox"/>	Downtown	16	Middle
<input type="checkbox"/>	Elmhurst	7	Top
<input type="checkbox"/>	Elmwood	18	Bottom
<input type="checkbox"/>	Federal Hill	12	Middle
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fox Point	3	Top
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hartford	19	Bottom

Select a neighborhood to see more detailed ratings or compare up to 3 neighborhoods at a time.

Search for an address to see suggested neighborhoods.

See how your neighborhood rates among state and national goals.

Green for the top rankings.

Yellow for the middle rankings.

Red for the bottom rankings.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Manford	19	Bottom
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hope	6	Top
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lower South Providence	24	Bottom
<input type="checkbox"/>	Manton	11	Middle
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mount Hope	8	Top
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mount Pleasant	5	Top
<input type="checkbox"/>	Olneyville	23	Bottom
<input type="checkbox"/>	Reservoir	13	Middle
<input type="checkbox"/>	Silver Lake	15	Middle
<input type="checkbox"/>	Smith Hill	17	Middle
<input type="checkbox"/>	South Elmwood	21	Bottom
<input type="checkbox"/>	Upper South Providence	25	Bottom
<input type="checkbox"/>	Valley	14	Middle
<input type="checkbox"/>	Wanskuck	10	Middle
<input type="checkbox"/>	Washington Park	22	Bottom
<input type="checkbox"/>	Wayland	1	Top
<input type="checkbox"/>	West End	20	Bottom



City of Providence

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HEALTHYHOMES

Healthy. I. Healthy.



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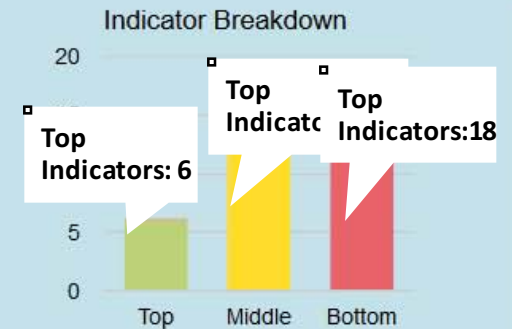
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Overall Ranking
24
of
25

[Compare Multiple Neighborhoods](#)

Lower South Providence

Lower South Providence is located along the west side of the Providence River, south of Downtown Providence with Broad Street to the west, Public Street and Upper South Providence to the north, and Interstate 95 to the south. While many feel that "South Providence" is a cohesive whole made up of Upper and Lower South Providence, Lower South Providence is markedly different in that it does not have nearly as many institutional buildings and spaces as Upper South Providence. Lower South Providence saw a large increase in population during the nineteenth century with the rise of the streetcar and new industries. Tracing back to the 1630s when Roger Williams purchased the land from the Native Americans settled there, Lower South Providence became known for its strong Irish working class community, which later made it a place of resettlement from other low-income city residents displaced by gentrification and development in the twentieth century.



Indicator Details

Indicators ▲	Primary Domain	Indicator Value	Rank	Tier
Access to Mainstream Financial Services	Economic Health	-%	-	Data N/A
Access to Parks and Open Space	Natural Areas	3.0%	18	Bottom
Adult Educational Attainment	Educational Opportunities	62.1%	20	Bottom
Age of Housing	Housing	75.4%	2	Top
Blood Lead Levels in Children	Housing	9.8%	13	Middle
Business Retention	Economic Health	-0.1%	9	Middle
Chronic School Absence	Health Systems and Public Safety	30.4%	13	Middle
Commute Mode Share	Transportation	35.1%	9	Middle
Employment Rate	Employment Opportunities	48.3%	22	Bottom
Excessive Housing Cost Burden	Housing	54.2%	25	Bottom



Demographic and Contextual Indicators

	Neighborhood	City Wide
Concentrated Poverty	49.6%	29%
Income Inequality	0.5	0.50

Food Desert	Neighborhood Characteristics	66.7%	9	Middle
High School Graduation Rate	Educational Opportunities	75.0%	8	Top
Household Transportation Costs	Transportation	17.2%	9	Middle
Local Business Vitality	Economic Health	50.2%	22	Bottom
Long-Term Unemployment	Employment Opportunities	7.4%	12	Middle
Low Birth Weight	Health Systems and Public Safety	10.6%	20	Bottom
Motor Vehicle Collisions	Health Systems and Public Safety	67.8	22	Bottom
Offsite Alcohol Outlets	Neighborhood Characteristics	9.6	19	Bottom
Pedestrian Connectivity	Transportation	182.9	3	Top
Preschool Enrollment	Educational Opportunities	22.3%	17	Middle
Preventable Hospitalizations	Health Systems and Public Safety	-	-	Data N/A
Proximity to Brownfield Sites	Environmental Hazards	1.7%	20	Bottom
Proximity to Superfund Sites	Environmental Hazards	-%	-	Data N/A



Life Expectancy	-	78.8
Population	7,601	178,042
Racial and Ethnic Diversity	1.2	1.44

These measures, while clearly significant to community health, may not fit the criteria of “actionable” at the neighborhood level or data may only be available at a city-wide level. Because individual neighborhoods may not have a direct impact on these measures, they have been excluded from the Neighborhood’s overall ranking. However, they are documented to provide “context” for the neighborhood which could potentially identify alternative avenues to improve community health.

Compare Indicator to Targets

Select an Indicator... ▼

See how the selected neighborhoods compare to state and national goals for a specific indicator.



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Pedestrian Connectivity

The HCI Pedestrian Connectivity indicator is a measure of the density of street intersections, availability of sidewalks or paths, and how closely intersections are spaced to access how easily residents can navigate the neighborhood using active transportation modes of travel (i.e., walking, biking or any method of travel that involves human energy). This indicator is the most commonly used measure of the quality of the pedestrian environment as a large number of intersections per square mile tends to correlate with a well-connected grid of streets and smaller block sizes. When looking at the built environment and travel behavior, pedestrian connectivity shows a strong link to the number of walk trips taken by residents and increased physical activity. Posted under Transportation Services, pedestrian connectivity is also linked to neighborhood characteristics, economic health, housing, health systems and public safety, education, and employment. Data are available through the EPA's Smart Location Database.

Neighborhood▲	Indicator Value	Rank
Blackstone	196.5	1
Charles	147.3	7
College Hill	138.5	11
Downtown	63.1	25
Elmhurst	128	15
Elmwood	149.2	5

Key Citations:

1. Ewing R, Cervero R. Travel and the built environment: a meta-analysis. *Journal of the American Planning Association*. 2010;76:3(2010):265-294.
2. Frank L., et al. Many pathways from land use to health: associations between neighborhood walkability

Federal Hill	134.1	12
Fox Point	157.8	4
Hartford	76.8	24
Hope	140.6	10
Lower South Providence	182.9	3
Manton	104.3	20
Mount Hope	145.5	8
Mount Pleasant	188.6	2
Olneyville	112.1	18
Reservoir	99.8	21
Silver Lake	109.5	19
Smith Hill	83.4	23
South Elmwood	117.2	17
Upper South Providence	132.4	13
Valley	149.1	6
Wanskuck	142	9
Washington Park	97.1	22
Wayland	119	16
West End	129.9	14

and active transportation, body mass index, and air quality,” Journal of the American Planning Association. Winter 2006;72(1):75-87.



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Neighborhood systems and structures can
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HCI DOMAINS AND INDICATORS

The Healthy Communities Assessment Tool (HCAT) provides planners, community development and neighborhood advocates, and policy makers an understandable way to evaluate community health. The HCAT provides a cumulative ranking of the social, physical and economic environment of every neighborhood based on Healthy Community Index (HCI) core indicators: the higher the rank (i.e., 1 is best), the more supportive the community is of human health and well-being. For example, a neighborhood with an HCAT score of 26 (out of 55 neighborhoods) could be considered to be healthier or have better health prospects than half of the other neighborhoods in the city. Demographic and contextual indicators are not included in the neighborhood score. [Note: In instances where indicator values are tied between neighborhoods, the same ranking will be assigned, e.g., an indicator returns the following five values for neighborhoods A through E, respectively, 93%, 87%, 87%, 84% and 79%. The indicator ranking would follow as A=1; B and C =2, D=4, and E=5.]

The HCAT further splits HCI indicators into three tiers (or tertiles): top, middle and bottom, to show how each indicator ranks relative to other neighborhoods and provide a clearer picture of which determinants of community health are having the greatest effect on the neighborhood's ranking.

The HCAT also allows users to compare specific indicators to pre-determined benchmarks or goals such as Healthy People 2020 or a City or State designated target (as available).

[Learn more about the development of the HCI.](#)

DEMOGRAPHIC AND CONTEXTUAL



Demographic and contextual measures are designed to provide an understanding of the overall community and some of the challenges (and opportunities) that specific neighborhoods may encounter. Indicators assigned as demographic and contextual measures have an impact on neighborhood health, but there is limited to no capacity to significantly impact or change them at the neighborhood level. All of the demographic and contextual measures were reviewed across HCI domains, found to be broader than one domain, and fundamentally vital to community health.

Although **indicators represented in this domain will not be included in neighborhood rankings/scores**, nor will the indicators appear in neighborhood comparisons. These measures

are simply meant to provide contextual information essential to understanding a neighborhood and its potential to impact key factors of community health.

Indicators	Short Description
Concentrated Poverty	Proportion of residents at or below the national poverty level.
Income Inequality	A measure of the distribution of income (i.e., the gap between rich and poor).
Life Expectancy	Life expectancy is the average number of years an individual can expect to live
Park Quality	Comprehensive rating system measuring how U.S. cities are meeting the need for quality parks.
Population	Number of residents within the neighborhood compared to the overall city.
Racial and Ethnic Diversity	Measure of the extent to which several different racial and ethnic groups are present in a community.

ECONOMIC HEALTH



Economic health indicators measure the fiscal well-being of a community and its residents.

Economic factors have a strong influence on health outcomes and community health. Indicators within this domain focus on economic growth and status, such as business retention and vitality, and access to mainstream financial services, because they reflect a community's purchasing power, ability to reduce poverty, and availability of public services, all of which contribute to health



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Neighborhood Ranking

Explore Neighborhoods

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m/neighborhood-ranking

Resources

HCI & HCAT Specific

Information regarding the development of the Healthy Community Index (HCI) and Healthy Community Assessment Tool (HCAT) can be found here, along with information about potential uses of the HCI and HCAT, User guides for data collection and the HCAT, other selected sustainable indicator projects, and ongoing information and research related to healthy communities.

- [Framework and Assumptions Used to Develop the HCI](#)
- [HCTI Project Overview](#)
- [National Advisory Panel \(NAP\) biographies](#)
- [Potential Uses of the HCI / HCAT](#)
- [Other Community Indicator Projects](#)
- [Using the Shannon-Wiener Index to Compute Racial/Ethnic Diversity](#)
- [ZIP to Census Tract Crosswalk](#)

Community Health Initiative Resources

Below you will find a handful of resources intended to help you understand the impact of community and the built environment on health and well-being, as well as ways to impact the factors that influence community health. These resources have been assigned to domains to assist you in finding information, however you may find some links in more than one domain as they impact more than a single domain area.

General Resources

[HUD Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Housing \(OLHCHH\)](#)

OLHCHH created the Healthy Communities Index and its companion, the Health Communities Assessment Tool (HCAT), to help communities identify and track social, economic and environmental determinants of community health. OLHCHH provides

help communities identify and track social, economic and environmental determinants of community health. OERPH provides funds to state and local governments to develop cost-effective ways to reduce lead-based paint hazards. The office also enforces HUD's lead-based paint regulations, provides public outreach and technical assistance, and conducts technical studies to help protect children and their families from health and safety hazards in the home.

Healthy People 2020

Healthy People 2020 provides national objectives for improving health. The Healthy People initiative has established benchmarks and monitored progress for more than three decades with the goal of encouraging collaborations across communities and sectors; empowering individuals toward making informed health decisions; and measuring the impact of prevention activities.

Health Indicators Warehouse (HIW)

HIW provides access to high quality data to help improve understanding of a community's health status and determinants, and facilitates the prioritization of interventions. The HIW serves as the data hub for the HHS Community Health Data Initiative, a flagship HHS open government initiative to release data; encourage innovative application development; and catalyze change to improve community health.

CDC Division of Community Health (DCH)

DCH provides a wealth of research and resources related issues that impact community health.

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Commission to Build a Healthier America

The RWJF Commission to Build a Healthier America was a national, independent, non-partisan group of leaders that came together from February 2008 to December 2009 to examine factors outside of medical care that influence health. The Commission researched and reviewed evidence, collected new data and listened to experts, leaders and citizens around the country. Based on their research and this feedback, the Commission issued 10 recommendations to improve health at the local, state and federal levels.

Investing in What Works for America's Communities

What Works is a series of reports and case studies that showcase examples of policy, programs and projects designed to improve American quality of life. Developed by leaders from diverse disciplines, the site provides articles focusing on issues ranging from fighting poverty and workforce development to transit-oriented development.

National Neighborhood Indicators Project (NNIP)

The NNIP is a collaborative effort by the Urban Institute and local partners to promote the development and use of neighborhood information in local policymaking and community building. The site features access to an array of data source and a library of resources for developed by Project partners or for the overall project.

International City/County Management Association (ICMA)

ICMA offers a variety of resources and network of knowledge from its work with City officials, both across the United States and internationally. ICMA's Center for Performance Analytics provides analytical tools, training, and technical assistance. Its Center for Sustainable Communities provides practice research; training, education, and technical assistance; and communication about sustainability for local government professionals and stakeholders. Current focus areas include: data and technology; economic development; energy and environment; service delivery; social equity/community development; and sustainability planning. Finally, ICMA's Center for Management Strategies helps local government managers identify and implement leading practices to address organizational efficiency and effectiveness. Focus areas include: Citizen engagement; High performance organizations; priority based budgeting; collaborative service delivery; process improvement; and data driven communities

Center on Society and Health

The Center on Society and Health at Virginia Commonwealth University is an academic research center that studies the health implications of social factors—such as education, income, neighborhood and community environmental conditions, and public policy. The Center provides research on issues related to improving the health of Americans. The Center's work spans all geographic levels—international comparisons between the US and other countries, conditions affecting Americans nationwide, the health of states, and studies of cities, communities, and neighborhoods—with a focus on drawing the connections between society and health.

Demographic and Contextual Measures

National Poverty Center

The National Poverty Center provides research on the multilayered issues of poverty. The Center promotes policy-relevant research, mentors and trains emerging scholars, and informs public discourse on the causes and consequences of poverty.

Spotlight on Poverty and Opportunity

Spotlight on Poverty and Opportunity is a non-partisan initiative that brings diverse perspectives from the political, policy,

advocacy and foundation communities to find solutions to economic hardship and poverty. Spotlight provides ongoing exchange of ideas, research and data to inform policies to reduce poverty and increase opportunity in the United States.

Poverty and Race Research Action Council (PRRAC)

PRRAC works to eradicate issues of poverty and racism. Current projects focus on health, housing, education, and civil research issues.

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Maps for Life Expectancy

RWJF developed maps for life expectancy in several communities across the country which show that where you live has an influence on how long you can expect to live

American Planning Association's (APA) City Parks Forum

The City Parks Forum provides a venue for urban leaders interested in addressing the challenges of creating and enhancing parks. It is a collaboration between the APA and the National Recreation and Park Association that seeks to utilize parks in planning vital, livable communities. The site provides case studies, briefs, and technical reports to help community leaders understand how parks play an integrated role in urban environments and how to improve access to parks and recreational areas.

Economic Health

Corporation for Economic Development (CFED)

CFED's Knowledge Center provides a range of resources that showcase research, publications and events in the asset building field. Visitors can find case studies and resources of best practices designed to help low-income families build assets.

Pew Charitable Trust

The Pew Charitable Trust consumer banking project studies the accounts that Americans rely on to manage their finances, including checking accounts, prepaid cards, and mobile payments. The site provides research and analysis about consumer protections and the financial marketplace.

National League of Cities (NLC)

NLC has developed a resource center to help local governments support entrepreneurs and small businesses in their

community. The site provides case studies, research and resources designed to help cities with the tools they need to empower business owners and help foster a strong small business community.

Small Business Administration (SBA)

The SBA features research and statistics to support Communities in their effort to grow and retain small businesses.

Education

Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP)

CSSP provides resources to help communities improve opportunities for children and families. The site promotes policy solutions and provides technical assistance to help communities understand how to use data for learning and accountability, build partnerships to support change, implement effective policy to support early childhood education, and communication strategies and policies to improve educational outcomes.

Brown Center on Education Policy

The Brown Center on Education Policy at the Brookings Institute provides empirical analysis on U.S. education policy. The Center's primary activities focus on quantitative social science, and its research is wide-ranging. Recent work includes studies on the impact of curriculum, academic standards and accountability, class size, instructional technology, school choice, the Common Core, student loans, preschool education, public pensions, teacher evaluation, philanthropic advocacy, the costs of assessments, the contributions of school districts and their leaders to student outcomes, math education, and the academic achievement of U.S. students on international assessments. The [Brown Center Report on American Education](#) is an annual analysis of the state of education in the U.S. and the [Brown Center Chalkboard](#) is a source of analysis and opinion from Brown Center scholars and guests.

National Center for Children and Families

NCCF advances policy, education, and development of children and their families. Housed at Teachers College, Columbia University, the Center produces and applies interdisciplinary research to improve practice and to raise public awareness of social issues that affect the well-being of children and families in the United States and around the world.

Kids Count

A project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT is the premier source for data on child and family well-being in the

Download Assessment Data

The Healthy Communities Index (HCI) neighborhood rankings and indicator values are available for download below. Data used in the HCI and Healthy Communities Assessment Tool (HCAT) come from a variety of sources which may be updated periodically. However, as data in the HCI and HCAT are not automatically updated, data available from the HCAT may not represent the most current indicator values available. For users interested in learning more about the data sources and/or recreating the HCI with the most current data, information about the data source and steps to collect the data for each indicator are provided below.

[Neighborhood Definition File](#)[Download Overall Neighborhood Rankings and Values](#)[Download Overall Indicators](#)

Indicator Data Download Locations

Indicators	Download Location	Additional Information
Access to Mainstream Financial Services	CFED Bank On	CFE Bank On information can be found at /www.joinbankon.org/#/resources#bank-on-national-account-standards . The Pew Charitable Trust also has some data and resources available at http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/projects/consumer-banking
Access to Parks and Open Space	U.S. Census TIGER Shapefiles, Local Data Request	
Adult Educational Attainment	US Census Data: Educational Attainment	Data Source: Table S1501: Educational Attainment ACS 5-year Estimates (Most recent year) Data Collection Steps: 1. Select Advanced Search, select "Show me All" 2. Search for table in topic or table name. 3. Under geographies, select Census tract - 140, state, and all census tracts.

Attainment	Factfinder2	<p>4: Click Download, OK and open zip folder.</p> <p>5: Report data from Column CD: Total; Estimate; Percent high school graduate or higher.</p> <p>Data also available in Column JF in Table DP02: SELECTED SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS IN THE UNITED STATES</p>
Age of Housing	US Census Data: Factfinder2	<p>Table: DP04 Selected Housing Characteristics ACS 5-Yr Estimates (most recent year available)</p> <p>Select columns:</p> <p>BL: Estimate; YEAR STRUCTURE BUILT - Total housing units</p> <p>CF: Estimate; YEAR STRUCTURE BUILT - Built 1970 to 1979</p> <p>CJ: Estimate; YEAR STRUCTURE BUILT - Built 1960 to 1969</p> <p>CN: Estimate; YEAR STRUCTURE BUILT - Built 1950 to 1959</p> <p>CR: Estimate; YEAR STRUCTURE BUILT - Built 1940 to 1949</p> <p>CV: Estimate; YEAR STRUCTURE BUILT - Built 1939 or earlier</p> <p>Sum the YEAR STRUCTURE BUILT columns of years prior to 1980 and divide by YEAR STRUCTURE BUILT - Total housing units.</p>
Blood Lead Levels in Children	Local Data Request	<p>Local Request to the State Environment or Health agency.</p> <p>Some state and local health departments may be reluctant to share blood lead data at the address level due to privacy concerns. However, they may be willing to report aggregate data at the census block or tract level.</p>
Business Retention	US Census Data: Factfinder2	<p>Table: ZIP Code Business Statistics: Total for Zip Code (As indicated by the ??, the specific table number changes year to year CB??00CZ11)</p> <p>Table: 20XX County Business Patterns: ZIP Code Business Statistics: Total for Zip Code</p> <p>Step 1. Record the number of establishments in current year using aggregate totals from all zip codes in the geographic area. i.e., city/county/MSA, desired.</p> <p>Step 2. Record the number of establishments in the previous year</p> <p>Step 3: Use Zip Code to Census Tract Crosswalk to determine appropriate Census tract for data collected in ZIP code form. See "Resources" for information re: using Zip to Census Tract crosswalks.</p>



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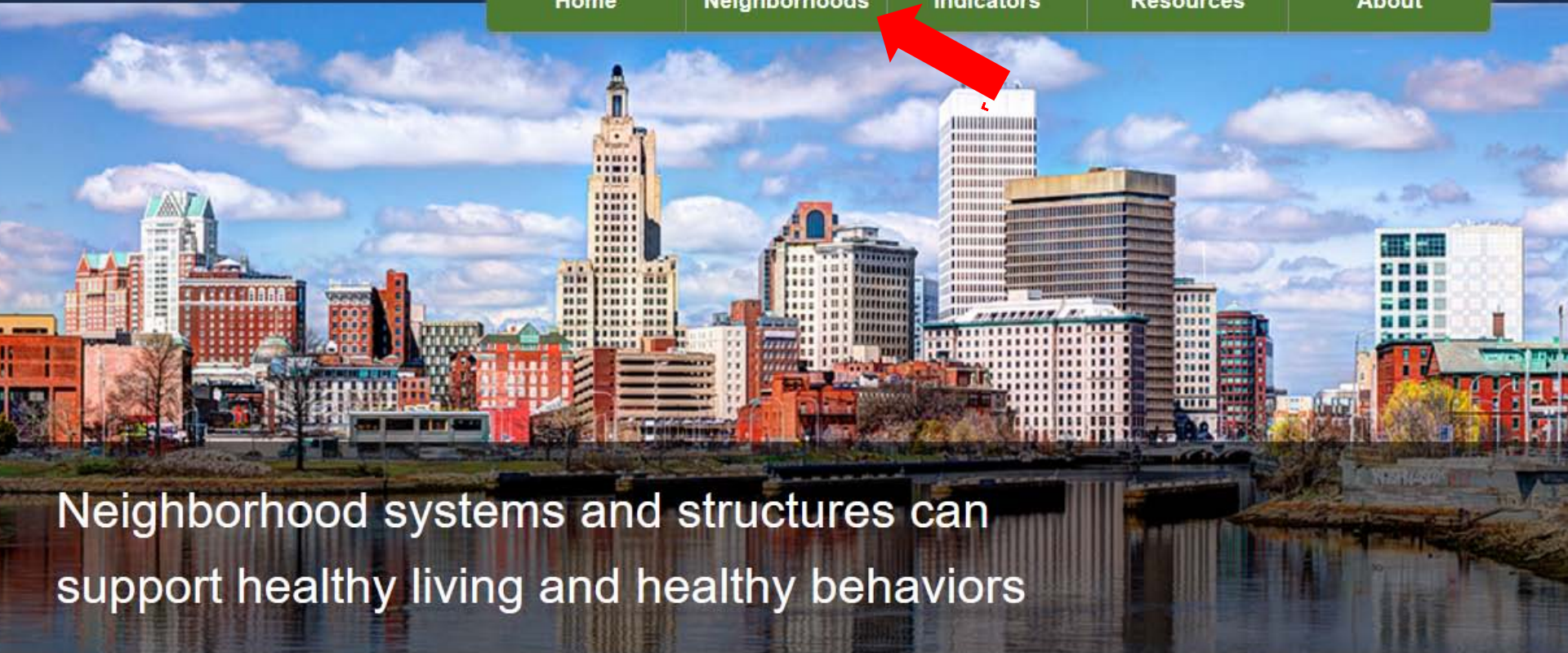
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Neighborhood systems and structures can
support healthy living and healthy behaviors



The Healthy Communities Assessment Tool (HCAT) ranks each city neighborhood on more than 40 social, economic, and physical factors important to community health. Users can examine how their own neighborhood performs on each factor and compare neighborhoods on their overall ranking of core indicators from the Healthy Communities Index (HCI).



Find a Neighborhood



Explore Neighborhood Rankings



Explore Indicators and Domains



City of Providence

Healthy Communities Office

Providence City Hall
25 Dorrance Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903
Main: (401) 421-7740
Mayor's Office: (401) 421-2489

[CONTACT US](#)

PROVIDED BY

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Urban Development
Office of Lead Hazard Control and
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451 7th Street S.W.
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Neighborhood Ranking

Explore Neighborhoods

Compare

You may compare up to 3 neighborhoods at a time

	Neighborhood▲	Rank	Tier
<input type="checkbox"/>	Blackstone	2	Top
<input type="checkbox"/>	Charles	9	Middle
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	College Hill	4	Top
<input type="checkbox"/>	Downtown	16	Middle
<input type="checkbox"/>	Elmhurst	7	Top
<input type="checkbox"/>	Elmwood	18	Bottom
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Federal Hill	12	Middle
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fox Point	3	Top
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Hartford	19	Bottom

Select a neighborhood to see more detailed ratings or compare up to 3 neighborhoods at a time.

Search for an address to see suggested neighborhoods.

See how your neighborhood rates among state and national goals.

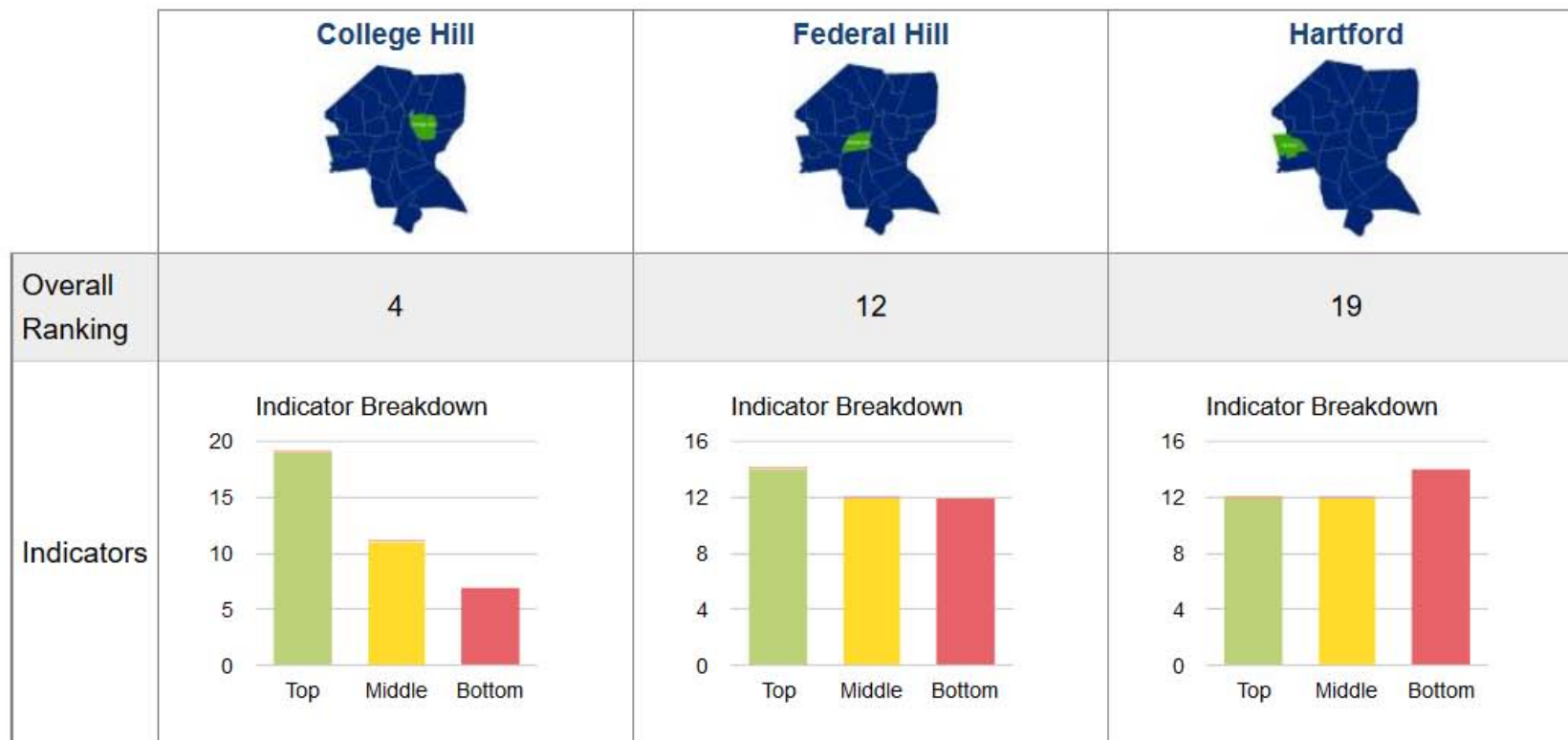
Green for the top rankings.

Yellow for the middle rankings.

Red for the bottom rankings.

Multiple Neighborhood Comparison

Change neighborhood selections



Indicator Level	College Hill			Federal Hill			Hartford		
	Value	Rank	Tier	Value	Rank	Tier	Value	Rank	Tier
Access to Mainstream Financial Services	0%	-		0%	-		0%	-	

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Search Neighborhoods

Please type in your address or zip code below to find your neighborhood. You can also click on the markers below and explore neighborhoods by clicking on that neighborhood's name.

The screenshot displays a web interface for searching neighborhoods in Providence, Rhode Island. At the top, there is a search bar with a green button labeled "Use my current location" and a text input field containing "Type in an address...". To the right of the input field is a green "Submit" button. Below the search bar is a map of Providence and its surrounding areas, including North Providence, Hope, Rumford, East Providence, and Johnston. The map is populated with numerous red location markers, each representing a neighborhood. Major roads like I-95, I-295, and various state routes (e.g., 1A, 15, 44, 104, 128, 146, 152, 114A) are visible. Landmarks such as Snake Den State Park and McCoy Stadium are also labeled.

HCAT Portal

www.huduser.gov/healthycommunities

For more information -

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