The Enhanced HPI 3.0: Advancing Health Equity Through High-Quality Data

What is the Healthy Places Index?

The Healthy Places Index (HPI) is a powerful and easy-to-use data and policy platform created to advance health equity through open and accessible data. Evidence-based and peer-reviewed, the HPI supports efforts to prioritize equitable community investments, develop critical programs and policies across the state, and much more. Originally launched in 2018 by the Public Health Alliance of Southern California (Alliance), the HPI has become a go-to data tool for hundreds of state and local government agencies, foundations, advocacy groups, hospitals and other organizations that want to apply a health equity lens to their work. On April 6, 2022, the third update was released during National Public Health Week.

Neighborhood-by-neighborhood, the HPI maps data on social conditions that drive health — like education, job opportunities, and clean air and water. This data is used by community leaders, policymakers, academics and other stakeholders to compare the health and well-being of communities, identify health inequities and quantify the factors that shape health.

How Does it Work?

The HPI tool evaluates the relationship between 23 identified key drivers of health and life expectancy at birth — which can vary dramatically by neighborhood. Based on that analysis, it produces a score ranking from 1 to 99 that shows the relative impact of conditions in a selected area compared to all other such places in the state. The HPI scores and compares geographies across the state, now with the ability to view data neighborhood-by-neighborhood, providing an even more granular view of community well being.

The HPI score rank is divided into four quartiles and displayed on a map where users can explore healthy conditions across census tracts, cities, counties, congressional districts, school districts, and now, ZIP codes and unincorporated areas. Additionally, the HPI platform provides detailed data about specific social drivers of health in any location and allows users to filter by race, ethnicity, and country of origin.

Additionally, the HPI gives policy recommendations tailored to the health conditions of each geography. These recommendations provide guidance on where resources should be directed to create the most impact. The HPI was built on the premise that lasting systems change can only occur when communities and leaders understand and recognize the connections between race and place when addressing health equity.

You can learn more about the communities using the newest edition of the Healthy Places Index across California.

Go to healthyplacesindex.org for more information.

If you have questions about the HPI and how you can utilize it in your own work, please go to our website at healthyplacesindex.org or contact the Public Health Alliance at AskHPI@ThePublicHealthAlliance.org

The Public Health Alliance is fiscally administered by the Public Health Institute
What Is New In HPI 3.0?

Building upon HPI 2.0 and incorporating invaluable input from our user community, HPI 3.0 now includes completely updated data and introduces new and enhanced features to make data more accessible.

Community leaders, academics, advocates and residents will now be able to:

• Compare data across geographies and time periods
• Examine the link between race and place
• Explore longitudinal data
• Filter geographies by race, ethnicity, and country of origin
• Analyze historic redlining data to highlight the impact of racist policies
• Track indicator changes over time
• Conduct side-by-side map comparisons
• View data by ZIP code and unincorporated areas
• View hundreds of new decision-support layers, including measures of equity, diversity, and inclusion; schools, students, and education; climate projections; and housing stock
• Get policy recommendations tailored to the needs of their community

How Can HPI 3.0 Be Used?

Anyone can access the HPI platform at map.healthyplacesindex.org and use it for free. The HPI 3.0 provides community leaders, policymakers, academics, and other stakeholders with the sound, validated data needed to identify and combat inequity and elevate community voices. Some additional ways the HPI 3.0 can be used are outlined below:

• **State and local leaders** can use HPI 3.0 alongside input from community residents to prioritize investments, resources, and programming in neighborhoods where health needs are greatest, ensuring that all residents have what they need to be healthy.
• **Planners** can use the tool to analyze data and prioritize resources as they update their general or specific area plans.
• **Transportation agencies** can use the HPI to inform smart investments in health-promoting infrastructure such as sidewalks and bicycle lanes.
• **Other agencies (i.e. park or public works departments)** can use it to evaluate needs, plan investments, and apply for grants.
• **School districts** can use the tool to understand the needs of their student body and community or to develop specific policies such as a Safe Routes to School Plans.
• **Community-based organizations** can conduct high-level analysis and produce maps that show health inequities in the communities they serve and use this information to influence policymakers or apply for grants.
• **State organizations** that span multiple communities or regions of California can use the tool to study the different areas they serve and advocate for increased resources and greater investments in these locations—or suggest that the tool is used to allocate funding and other programs to areas where they will have the greatest impact.

About The Public Health Alliance of Southern California

The Public Health Alliance of Southern California is the coalition of 10 health departments in Southern California, representing 60% of the state's population. We envision vibrant and activated communities across California, achieving health, justice, and opportunities for all.

Through the Healthy Places Index (HPI), widely regarded as the state’s premier source of health equity data, we advance health equity and racial justice. The Public Health Alliance is fiscally administered by the Public Health Institute.

For more information visit thepublichealthalliance.org