The 500 Cities Project: Local data for better health

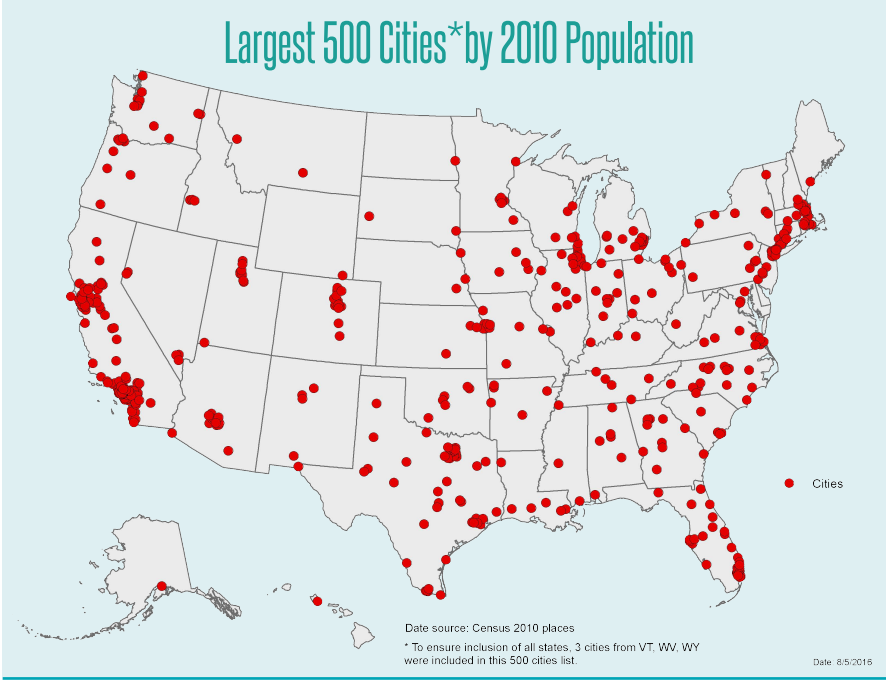
Number of Cities	500
Proportion of Total US Population Accounted for per the 2010 Census	33%
Number of Measures	27

How does the 500 Cities Project fill a current need?

Effective planning for improving the health of residents within the nation's largest cities requires high quality, small-area data for the current health status and behavioral risk factors that influence health. While limited data are available at the county and metropolitan levels, no data have been made available on a large scale for cities and for small areas within cities.

What is the purpose of this project?

This project identifies, analyzes, and reports city and census tract-level data, obtained using small area estimation methods, for a select number of chronic disease measures for the 500 largest American cities. Measures include unhealthy behaviors (e.g., current smoking), health outcomes (e.g., coronary heart disease, diabetes, etc.), and prevention (e.g., health insurance coverage, cholesterol screening, etc.). The data is available through a public, interactive "500 Cities" website that allows users to view, explore, and download city- and tract-level data.



What is the unique value of this project?

- Reflects innovations in generating valid small-area estimates for population health.
- Measures complement existing sets of surveillance indicators that report state, metropolitan area, and county- level data.
- Releases data for cities, many of which cover multiple counties or don't follow county boundaries, and for census tracts for the first time.
- Enables retrieval, visualization, and exploration of a uniformly-defined selected city and tract-level data for the largest 500 US cities for conditions, behaviors, and risk factors that have a substantial impact on population health.

How will the data advance health?

High-quality, small-area epidemiologic data are necessary to improve population health. These data can be used both by individual cities and groups of cities collectively to:

- Inform the development and implementation of effective and targeted prevention activities;
- Identify emerging health problems;
- Establish and monitor key health objectives.

To view and explore the city and neighborhood-level data visit: www.cdc.gov/500cities

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