500 Cities Data Challenge

Putting Local Data to Work for Healthier Communities

Are you using or would you like to use a **data-driven** approach to improve health outcomes, prevention, and healthy behaviors in your community? Is your idea **innovative**, **collaborative**, and working **across sectors**? Are you interested in exploring a question at **the intersection of health and other social outcomes**? Then we encourage your organization to apply to the 500 Cities Data Challenge.

The 500 Cities Data Challenge

Researchers and practitioners from all sectors are encouraged to use the 500 Cities dataset in combination with other non-health data sources to:

1) **Conduct analysis to answer a cross-sector question**, or

2) **Build practical tools to target a cross-sector intervention.**

The competition is open to only those ideas that advance understanding of health outcomes, prevention, and unhealthy behaviors in relation to other sector outcomes – including housing, education, transportation, violence, civic participation, and others. The data challenge is especially seeking organizations working in health and social determinants of health in rural or underrepresented communities. Technical assistance will be available for those organizations who require support in data analysis and research.

About The 500 Cities Data

In collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the CDC Foundation launched the 500 Cities project in 2015. Using one-of-a-kind small area estimation approaches, the 500 Cities dataset provides city-level data on health outcomes, risky behaviors, and use of prevention services for the 500 largest American cities.

This important new dataset and corresponding website sheds light on the geographic distribution of health-related outcomes, providing a unique opportunity for community leaders to bridge the gap between health outcomes and housing, education, transportation, and more.

For more information, please email 500citieschallenge@urban.org.

Look out for the release of the 500 Cities Data Challenge Call for Submissions in November 2017

The 500 Cities Data Challenge is a partnership between the
Urban Institute & the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Project Leads

Shena Ashley is principal investigator of this project and director of the Center on Nonprofits and Philanthropy at the Urban Institute. She uses research to help nonprofits, governments, and foundations achieve outcomes that contribute to healthy, thriving, equitable, inclusive, and connected communities.

Oktawia Wojcik is a program officer at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Her work at RWJF focuses on driving demand for healthy places and practices and building a Culture of Health through research that informs both grantmaking and broader health-related policy and practice.

About

Urban Institute

The nonprofit Urban Institute is dedicated to elevating the debate on social and economic policy. For nearly five decades, Urban scholars have conducted research and offered evidence-based solutions that improve lives and strengthen communities across a rapidly urbanizing world. Our objective research helps expand opportunities for all, reduce hardship among the most vulnerable, and strengthen the effectiveness of the public sector.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

For more than 40 years the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has worked to improve health and health care, building a national Culture of Health that enables everyone in America to live longer, healthier lives. RWJF's goal is to help raise the health of everyone in the United States to the level that a great nation deserves, by placing well-being at the center of every aspect of life.