

Category: Data Dissemination – Completed – Staff

Health Atlas Tool Visualizes Place-Based Social Determinants of Health Across the United States

D. Oh, K. Kemper, D. Meltzer, S. Shariff-Marco, S. Gansky, E. Charlebois, K. Rhoads, S. Gomez, M. Pletcher, M. DeRouen

UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center

1. Background

Where we live, including the physical and social environments that surround us, influences health in both positive and negative ways. New visualization tools are needed to better understand the relationships between social determinants of health and key measures of human health and illness.

2. Goals

[Health Atlas](#) aims to help users explore place-based characteristics and see how they relate at a population level across the United States.

3. Solutions and Methods

Health Atlas is an interactive mapping website developed at the University of California, San Francisco in partnership with Stamen Design. Health Atlas expanded in May 2024 to include data from all 50 states in the U.S., the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. The tool visualizes data at the census tract, ZIP code, county, congressional district, and state levels. Health Atlas is built upon a curated database of over 120 nationally available variables including data from the American Community Survey (e.g., demographics, socioeconomics), CDC PLACES (e.g., health and health care), EJ Screen (e.g. environmental exposures), and other sources (e.g., structural racism, income inequality, built environment).

4. Outcomes

The newly released national version of Health Atlas supports researchers, public health professionals, advocacy groups, and engaged citizens in assessing and addressing issues around health inequities by visualizing neighborhood factors and providing downloadable data for research. Health Atlas will also expand opportunities for national collaborations by facilitating multi-state comparisons and partnerships on research and programming.

5. Lessons Learned and Future Directions

We envision the national Health Atlas will contribute to community empowerment, impactful health equity research, and effective public health initiatives.