

Putting data into action: Using the Health Dashboards to Engage Communities and Improve Health, with Air Pollution Data as an Example

The Health Dashboard Project

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The Health Dashboard Project is supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The latest air pollution –ozone data are produced by Daniel Tong’s team from George Mason University

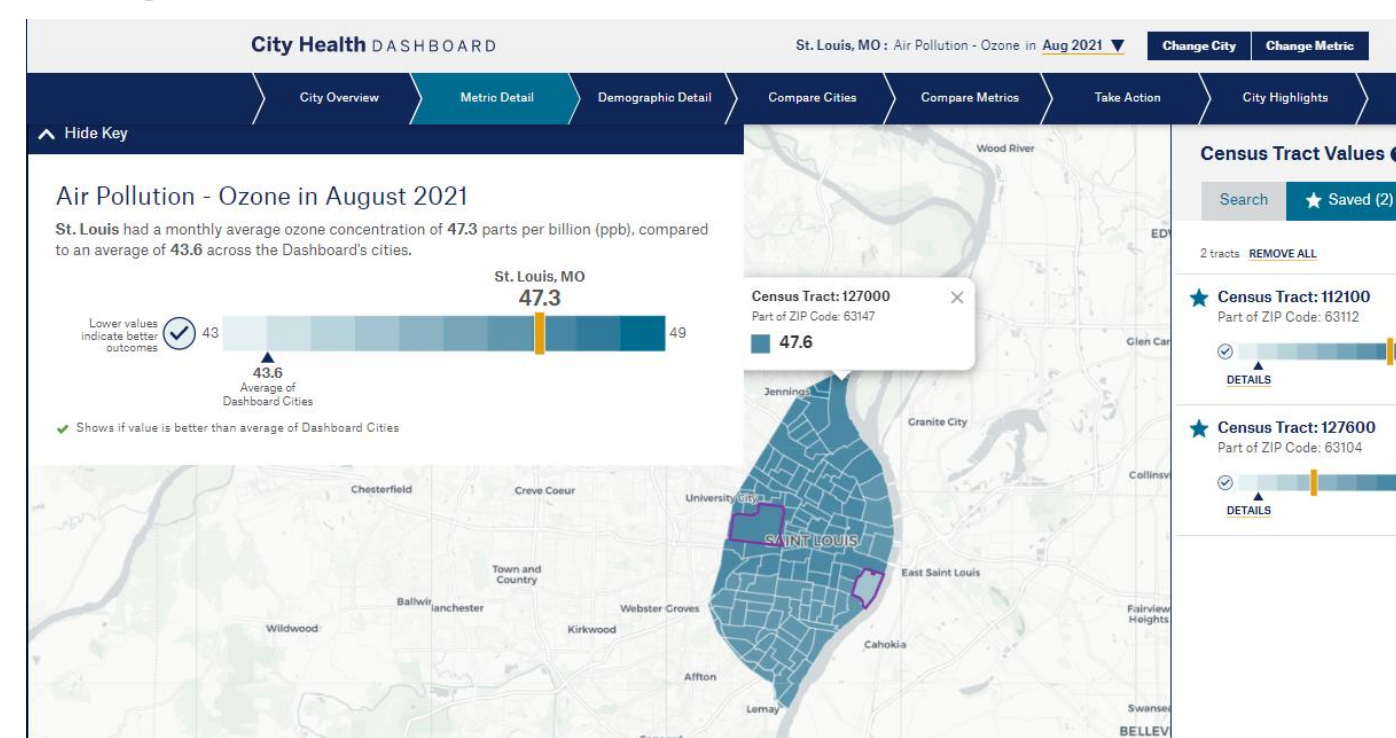


Background

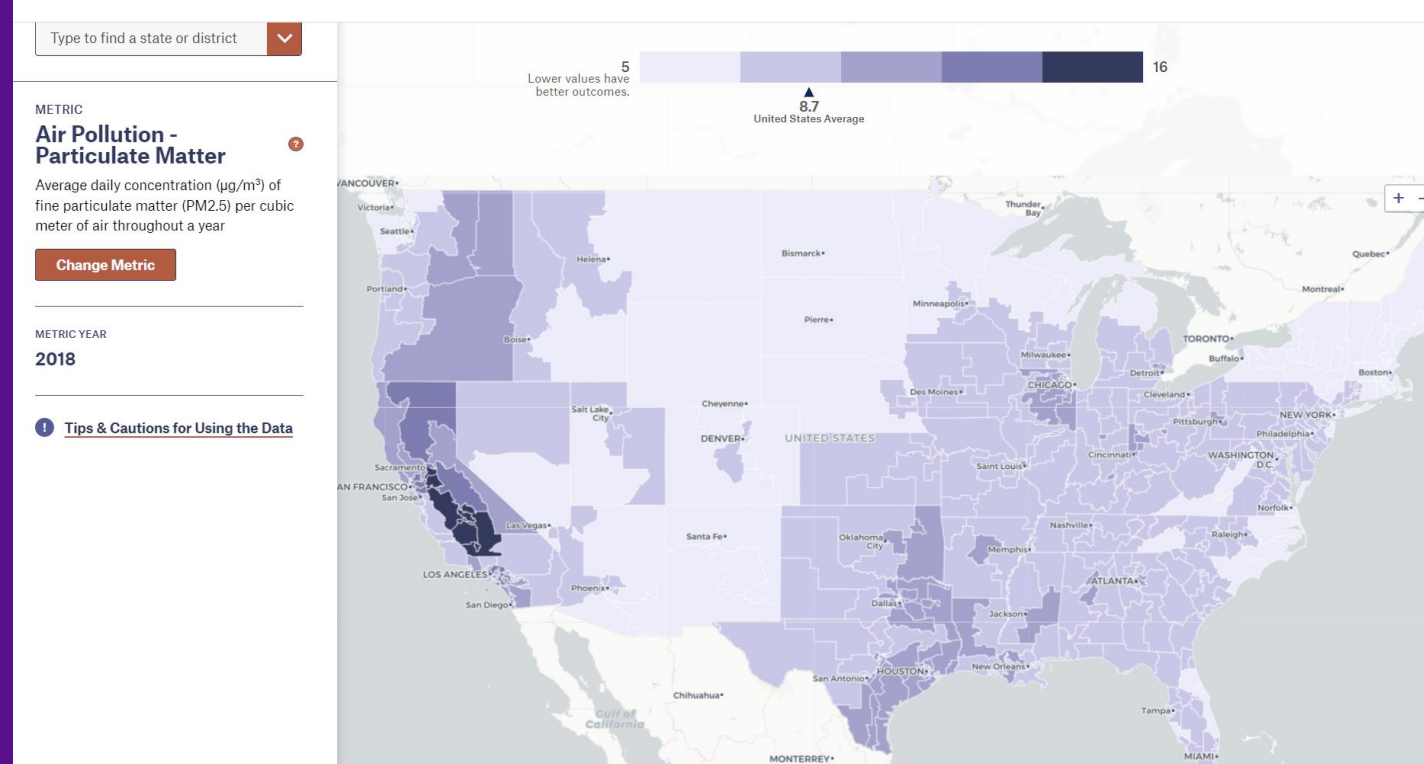
- The Health Dashboard Project produces two interactive online Dashboards intended for different audiences; The City Health Dashboard and The Congressional District Health Dashboard.
- Our audiences include congressional staffers, local health departments, city government agencies, community organizations, health and education advocates, philanthropies, researchers, students, and media
- Our main partners are Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, The National League of Cities, The International City/County Management Association, The Bipartisan Policy Center and The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

Air pollution Data on our Websites

Timely Monthly Ozone data for St. Louis, August, 2021

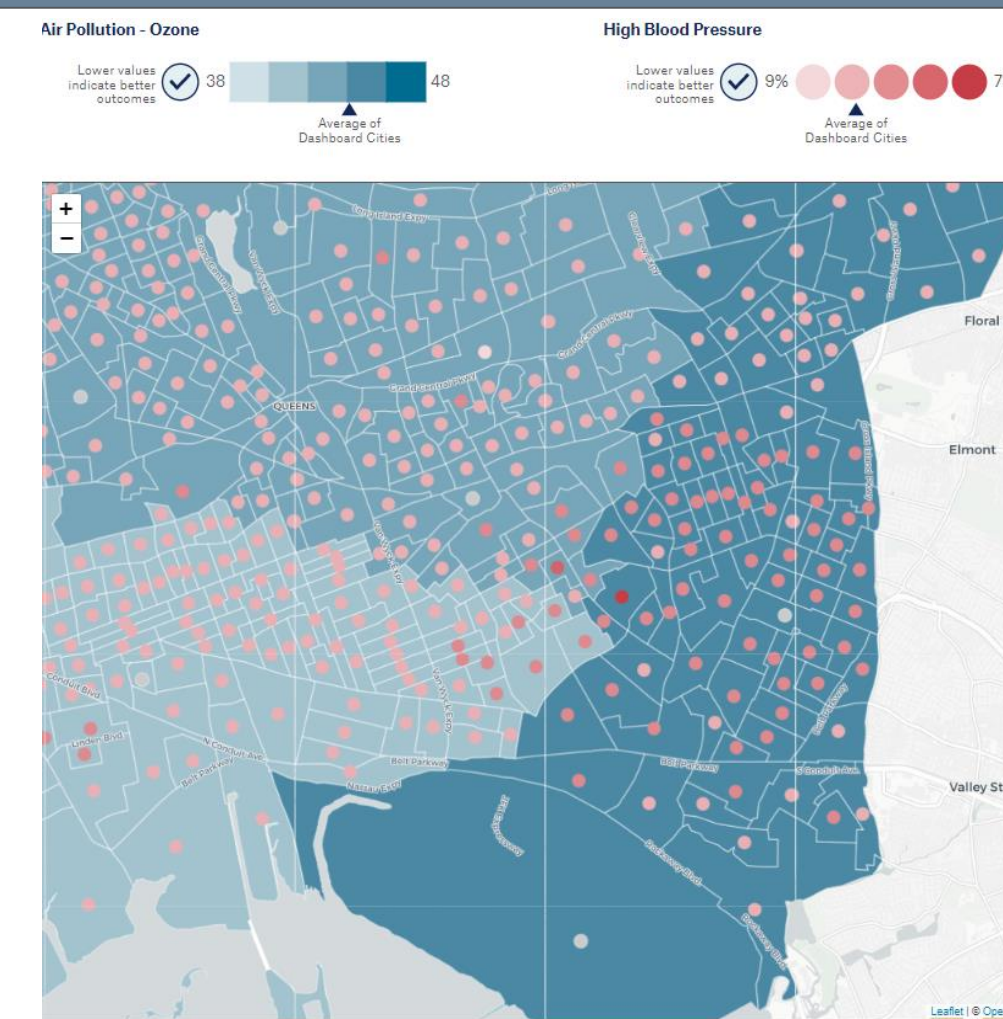


PM2.5 (EPA data) for US by Congressional districts, 2018



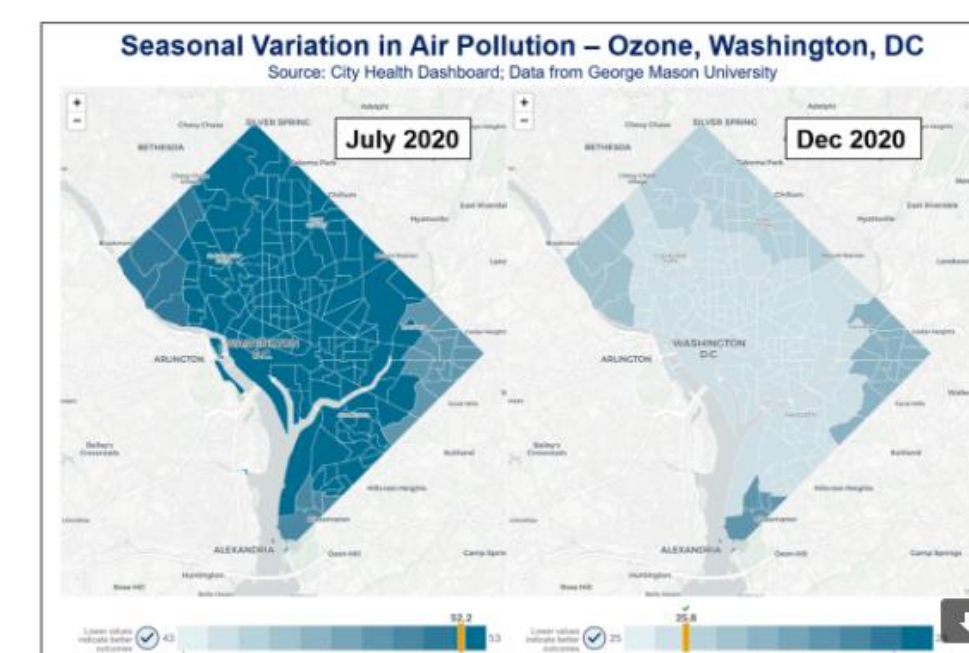
We are adding 2022 Ozone and PM2.5 from Daniel Tong’s team at George Mason University in August.

Linking Air Pollutants with Health Outcomes



Data Communications

The air we breathe is essential to our health. That’s why the Dashboard recently added a monthly measure of ozone pollution with data going back to January 2018. Let’s zoom into ozone pollution in Washington, D.C. in [July](#) and [December](#) of 2020 to illustrate why the timeliness of this data is important.



Ozone featured in “Data On the Go” in our 4/2022 monthly newsletter, a brief visual bite-sized graphic (with short accompanying text) that shows a quick takeaway from the data.

Architects harness health data to prioritize design decisions
Mar. 1, 2022

Teaching the next generation of public health leaders at University of Memphis
Mar. 12, 2021

Vassar students get personal with health and social data
Feb. 16, 2022

Raising awareness of COVID risk and testing in Manchester, NH
Sep. 15, 2020

Impact Stories: To show how users are putting data to work locally, the Dashboard compiles user Impact Stories. These are brief descriptions of the challenge they faced, and how Dashboard data helped them solve it.

Data into Action: how cities use Dashboard data

Clifton Health Department community newsletter featuring air pollution metrics from City Health Dashboard.

Data Collection Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Health Status: Existing Data Focus Groups Key Informant Interviews Community Voice Survey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Built Environment Assessments Local Public Health System Assessment Forces of Change Assessment
Sources of Existing Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City Health Dashboard - 500 Cities Data Developed by NYU Langone Health, with funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, City Health Dashboard offers data on 37 health-related measures for the 500 largest U.S. cities. New Jersey State Health Assessment Data (NJSHAD) Clifton Police Department Data 	
City Health Dashboard		
Clifton is doing better than the 500-Cities average on:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High School Graduation Alcoholism Income Inequality Violent Crime Racial/Ethnic Diversity Children in Poverty Unemployment Neighborhood Racial & Ethnic Segregation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Park Access Walkability Limited Access to Healthy Foods Binge Drinking Smoking Frequent Mental Distress Optical Ocular Deaths Cardiovascular Disease Deaths 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diabetes Frequent Physical Distress Obesity Life Expectancy Premature Deaths (all causes) Dental Care
Clifton is doing worse than the 500-Cities average on:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Third Grade Reading Proficiency Expensive Housing Cost Air Pollution Housing with Potential Lead Risk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lead Exposure Risk Index Physical Inactivity Breast Cancer Deaths Colorectal Cancer Deaths 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High Blood Pressure Preventive Services Uninsured
Focus Group Themes (80 participants)	Key Informant Interview Themes (14 participants)	Community Voice Survey Themes (376 participants)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited Access to Programs & Services Need for Neighborhood Safety Improvement Limited Community Engagement Variation in the Value of Ethnic & Cultural Diversity Rising Homelessness Environmental Health Concerns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mental Health Obesity/Nutrition Physical Inactivity Drug Abuse Cancer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roads Community Safety Pedestrian Safety Community Pride Health Insurance Housing Mental Health Care Education Air Quality Exercise Opportunities
Overall Community Health Assessment Priorities Identified		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Affordable Housing/Homelessness Environmental Health Lack of Healthcare & Health Insurance Limited Access to Services, Lack of Access to Resources & Lack of Preventive Services Neighborhood Safety Obesity, including Nutrition & Physical Activity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cancer Education Drug & Alcohol Abuse Maternal & Infant Health Mental Health Variation in the Value of Ethnic & Cultural Diversity 	

Our data are most useful for smaller cities and health departments with limited data capacity.

Evaluations:

East Point, GA used Dashboard data to describe health status/outcomes among city residents in their comprehensive plan update and use the website to monitor health equity progress over time.

Targeted interventions:

Hillsborough, NJ used Dashboard data to identify neighborhoods with high COVID risk for COVID education, vaccine promotion, and free rapid test kit distribution and conducted extensive outreach to apartment complexes within the identified high need neighborhoods.

Petersburg, VA used Dashboard data to decide where (in which neighborhoods) to place mobile farm markets across the city.

Grant applications and Accreditation:

Marietta/Belpre Health Department used Dashboard data to implement a Community Health Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan as part of their application to become a nationally accredited health department.

Petersburg, VA used Dashboard data to identify a comparator city for a NIH CompPASS grant proposal that will focus on planning, implementing, and evaluating community-led structural interventions to address health disparities and achieve health equity.