



Keeping Americans safe, healthy and secure: CDC is dedicated to helping protect people, families and communities from chronic diseases, violence, injuries and many other dangerous and costly threats that impact our nation's health and safety.

Safeguarding Americans' health

The issue: Chronic diseases and conditions—such as heart disease, stroke, diabetes and cancer—are among the most common, costly and preventable health problems in America. Other issues affecting Americans include environmental hazards, injuries and violence, vaccine-preventable diseases, healthcare-associated infections, sickle cell disease, birth defects and maternal and child health.

Why it matters:

- Chronic diseases are responsible for 7 of 10 deaths each year, and treating people with chronic diseases accounts for 86 percent of our nation's health care costs. Heart disease, the leading cause of death for both men and women, costs America about \$207 billion each year in health costs and lost productivity.
- On any given day about 1 in every 25 patients has a healthcare-associated infection, resulting in \$30 billion in annual costs.
- About 12,500 of the 4 million newborns screened each year are diagnosed with a severe condition that can affect their long-term health or survival.
- Approximately 700 women die of pregnancy-related causes each year and about half of these deaths are preventable. Studies have shown that an increasing number of pregnant women have chronic health conditions, such as hypertension, diabetes and heart disease, which may put them at higher risk for complications.

Solution and impact: The CDC Foundation advances hundreds of initiatives with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that save and improve lives. For example:

- A partnership with CDC and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation offers a first-of-its-kind data analysis for the 500 largest American cities to identify data on 27 chronic disease measures, enabling local targeting of interventions for maximum health impact.
- An initiative with CDC, Genzyme and Biogen develops laboratory methods to detect new target conditions for newborn screening including spinal muscular atrophy—the leading genetic cause of infant death—to help protect babies from premature death or disability and enable children to reach their full potential.
- A collaboration with CDC and *Merck for Mothers* is working to better understand the causes and factors contributing to pregnancy-related death, with the aim of identifying opportunities with the greatest potential to end preventable maternal mortality.



7 out of 10

U.S. deaths are caused by chronic diseases each year

How you can help: CDC plays a vital role in protecting families, communities and businesses across America. Join us. To learn more, contact Advancement at the CDC Foundation, advancement@cdcfoundation.org, 404.653.0790.

About us: The CDC Foundation is an independent, nonprofit organization and the sole entity created by Congress to mobilize philanthropic resources to support CDC's critical health protection work. Since 1995, we have launched nearly 1,000 programs in more than 100 countries and raised over \$700 million through engagements with philanthropies, corporations, organizations, governments and individuals.

Stories of impact: 500 Cities Project offers new data for health



Doing more together: We view philanthropy as an opportunity to contribute to breakthrough collaborations and innovations to address complex health challenges—now and in the future.

Old Colony YMCA in Brockton, MA, recently discovered something startling: a single neighborhood more burdened by poor health such as asthma, high blood pressure and elevated cholesterol than surrounding areas. Most surprising, however, was that this particular area had a lower prevalence of unhealthy behaviors like binge drinking than other locations within Brockton.

In the past, public health officials may have expended limited resources on the entire Brockton metropolitan area because they wouldn't have been able to pinpoint the specific neighborhood facing the spike and determine why it was happening.

Brockton's experience illustrates how instrumental data on small geographic areas is in designing effective approaches to addressing health needs within a community. Thanks to the 500 Cities Project, a first-of-its-kind data resource collaboration between the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the CDC Foundation and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Brockton officials were able to learn about their community's health at a level of detail never seen before: the census tract, defined as subdivisions of a county, averaging around 4,000 people.

Knowing where a community thrives or suffers is essential to addressing poor health and efficiently utilizing resources to ensure everyone has the opportunity to lead healthier lives.

The 500 Cities Project features an interactive website that gives anyone, from public health stakeholders to curious residents, the ability to retrieve, visualize and explore uniformly-defined city and census tract-level data for the 500 largest U.S. cities. This collaboration provides

analysis of 27 chronic disease measures, health outcomes and clinical preventive service use. The data, derived from small area estimates, will empower anyone to better see how health varies by location and plan tailored interventions.

Back in Old Colony YMCA, officials are using 500 Cities data along with other data sets to fine-tune prevention efforts. They know that two area emergency departments have extremely high rates of hospitalizations for poorly-managed diabetes. 500 Cities data reveal that many of these hospitalizations arise from the same census tract, which suffers from nearly twice the rates of diabetes as neighboring tracts.

For the first time ever, CDC and the CDC Foundation are providing city and neighborhood data for 500 of the largest U.S. cities.

Brockton Knocks Down Diabetes, a local coalition of over 40 organizations, combined two 500 Cities maps to pinpoint the best locations to hold educational workshops. By focusing on the areas with the greatest need for those two indicators, they hope to have the greatest impact.

Story excerpted from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Feb. 23, 2017, [Culture of Health blog post](#) by Oktawia Wójcik.

Learn more: To find out how you can help CDC safeguard America's health, or to learn more, contact Advancement at the CDC Foundation, advancement@cdcfoundation.org, 404.653.0790.