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.
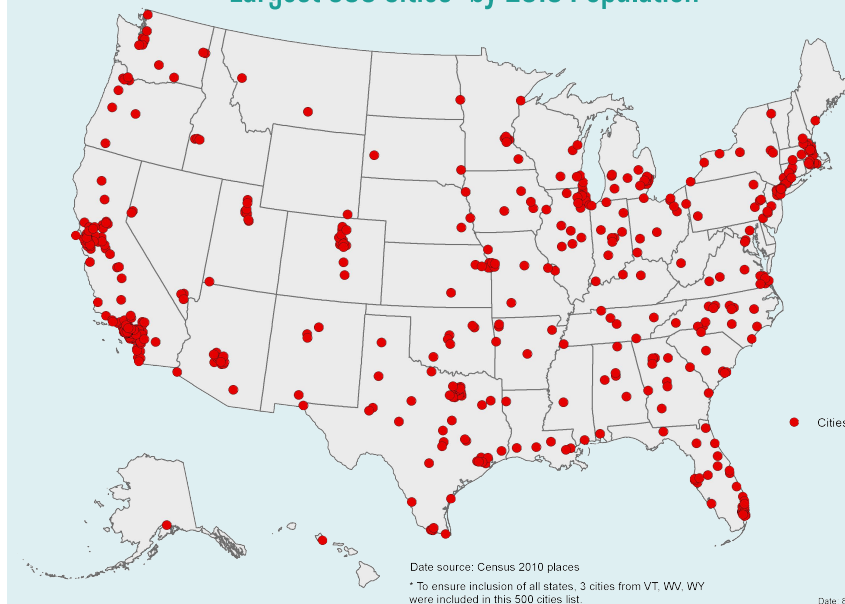
What is the purpose of this project?

This project will identify, analyze, and report 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 will be available through a public, interactive "500 Cities" website that will allow users to view, explore, and download city- and tract-level data.

Largest 500 Cities* by 2010 Population

Date source: Census 2010 places
* To ensure inclusion of all states, 3 cities from VT, WV, WY were included in this 500 cities list.

Date 8/5/2016

What is the unique value of this project?

▶ Reflects innovations in generating valid small-area estimates for population health.

▶ Measures will 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.

When will the 500 Cities Project be available for use?

In December of 2016 the data will be published online through the CDC Chronic Data Portal. The Project's dedicated, interactive website for city- and tract-level data will launch by May of 2017.

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.

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