Creating Healthy Communities

The Polis Center at IUPUI is dedicated to supporting the creation of healthy and resilient communities. We collaborate with the public health, healthcare, social service, and academic sectors to enhance the use of place-based information for the improvement of health in Indiana and beyond.

Through these partnerships, The Polis Center transforms social, cultural, economic, and environmental data into actionable information and builds the capacity of hospitals, public health agencies, community-based organizations, and others to identify and address community needs.
What We Do

Build Capacity
- Train individuals and organizations to access and use place-based information to better understand their communities and the social and environmental determinants of health, well-being, and resilience.
- Consult on the development and use of evidence-based methods for assessing the needs of individuals, organizations, and communities.
- Provide community health needs assessment (CHNA) services to hospital systems, treatment facilities, public agencies, and others.
- Help organizations identify needed community services as well as potential organizational partners and institutional supporters.

Develop Knowledge Platforms
- Pool and disseminate knowledge about Indiana communities and place-based determinants of health, well-being, and resilience.
- Develop data warehouses, data dashboards, and information portals for our partners and for the public.
- Enable partners to readily discover, visualize, understand, and share information for community health assessment and planning, population health management, clinical decision support, and policy development.

Create Actionable Information
- Create new information through applied research, analysis, geoprocessing, and modeling.
- Curate an extensive set of social and environmental data and spatially integrate these data with clinical and epidemiological data to inform medical and public health research.
- Translate community health indicators, community input, and intervention research into community health priority scores for evidence-based community health improvement planning.

For more information, contact: Karen Comer, Director of Collaborative Research and Health Geoinformatics, kzfrederi@iupui.edu
polis.iupui.edu/about/news/