PLACE MATTERS

Philadelphia Children's Health & Well-being
Questions & Answers

1. **Why should I be interested in community assets and risk factors?**

Although Philadelphia has many maps highlighting its risks, few of those maps address the range of risks affecting children as well as the assets that can help mitigate those risks. This mapping project does both. By highlighting assets, we show that all communities have strengths to build upon and provide a roadmap for city government, community organizations, and residents to further support communities.

2. **Don't we have enough maps of Philadelphia?**

There are a lot of maps of Philadelphia. However, most of these maps are deficit focused. For example, we have seen many versions of maps portraying the opioid epidemic in Philadelphia and highlighting Kensington as a "hot spot" of activity. Yet, this neighborhood contains many assets; for instance, there is the highest behavioral health and SNAP utilization. Utilization of benefits can help mitigate poverty and exposure to trauma.

3. **What does this all mean for children and how we allocate resources?**

Achieving equity for children in Philadelphia will not occur by simply allocating the same amount of resources equally in every community, because the risk in those communities varies. We must use data to guide decision-making about how to effectively distribute the city's resources.

4. **What can I do with these maps?**

These maps provide guidance for government, funders, and local communities to identify where particular strengths and risks are located. We can build upon existing strengths and work to reduce risks. For instance, if a community has high quality schools but high exposure to trauma, schools can be an effective partner to mitigate this risk.

5. **Where is the data from?**

Most of the data used is publicly available except for the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) data and the behavioral health utilization data. Please see the methods description for more detail. All of the methods on how to do this yourself are available through GitHub.

6. **How were scores calculated?**

Scores were generated for each risk and asset at the census tract level and then aggregated to each city council district. Risks were subtracted from assets to compute the final cumulative score. Scores for each council district were ranked highest (best) to lowest (worst). The scores at the census tract level are percentiles. Because the aggregation to city council district took the mean, the scores at the city council district level will not represent a scale of 0 to 100.

7. **What is a percentile?**

A percentile is a score where a certain percentage of scores fall below that number. If you know that your score on a test is in the 90th percentile, that means you scored better than 90% of people who took the test. We used percentiles as a way to compare district scores to each other.

8. **Why is this data presented at the district level?**

This data is broken down to the census tract level, but by showing the data at the city council district, we hope that council members and the mayor can more easily use the data for informed decision making.

9. **How should assets be utilized to mitigate risk?**

Assets should be strengthened to help mitigate risks to the extent possible. We also need to take a person-centered approach. Some risks, such as poverty, pose significant risks to communities and need to be addressed through a variety of evidence-based programs and policies.

10. **Do the risks and assets consider quality?**

The risks and assets include indicators of quality when data is available. Some assets, such as behavioral health utilization, only account for access, not quality or outcomes.

11. **How can the city allocate resources to build assets to offset risks?**

When allocating resources, the city should consider both the level of risk in each community and the existing assets that can be built upon to mitigate those risks.

12. **How will Scattergood use these maps?**

Scattergood strives to use data to guide our decision-making and inform our work. We plan to build upon these maps and look forward to expanding our partners; continual improvement of the maps will help inform program planning, implementation, and evaluation of city initiatives.

13. **Why isn't the risk or asset I am interested in on the map?**

We see this map as a start. Let us know what is missing.

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