



# NNIP Partners Helped Their Communities Respond to the COVID-19 Pandemic

*Memo for the Annie E. Casey Foundation*

*January 2022*

In March 2020, NNIP partner organizations were well-positioned to assist their local nonprofits, foundations, government agencies, and residents with data to help understand the unfolding COVID-19 pandemic and to promote equitable recovery and response. The Annie E. Casey Foundation's support of NNIP made it possible for partners to learn from each other by gathering regularly to share their activities, insights, and challenges. In this memo we document some of the ways NNIP partner and potential partner organizations contributed to their communities over the past 18 months:

- Making COVID-19 related data more accessible
- Focusing attention on vaccine equity
- Mapping resources to serve people in need
- Mapping vulnerability to guide resource allocation
- Identifying communities with limited computer and broadband access
- Supporting Census 2020 efforts to get out the count
- Understanding social and economic impacts for policymaking and program planning
- Addressing housing needs and tracking and preventing evictions

- [Building community data capacity in COVID-19 response](#)

Many of these examples, other insights and synthesis from NNIP, and stories from grantees of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s “[Using Data to Inform Local Decisions on COVID-19 Response and Recovery](#)” grant program are documented on our Medium blog: [Local Data for Equitable Recovery](#).

## Making COVID-19 Related Data More Accessible:

- **Atlanta:** Neighborhood Nexus has created various maps and tools surrounding COVID, housed on [this page](#). This includes updated [cases and deaths](#), aggregated by state and disaggregated by metropolitan areas, along with census tract maps for the [medically-vulnerable](#) and [economically vulnerable](#). With the reopening of the economy and society, they also [map mobility](#) across Georgia by county. Neighborhood Nexus is working with public agencies, nonprofit service providers, and the philanthropic community to provide data-informed analysis and guidance for the pandemic.
- **Baltimore:** The Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance created an [interactive data dashboard and mapping hub](#) on which users can view COVID-19 cases and a selection of *Vital Signs* community indicators to better understand the communities and people most affected by COVID-19. The dashboards also include analysis of the top 211, 311, and 911 calls for assistance during 2020 to help identify community needs.

---

### BOX 1

#### How Many Lives Can Stay at Home Orders Save?

Community Information Now (CI:Now) in **San Antonio** used epidemiologists’ COVID models to [estimate](#) how many lives could be saved by staying home. They estimated that based on March 25, 2020 numbers, 60 days of staying home could save an estimated 9,644 lives in 60 days. CI:Now staff created a template so that [other NNIP cities could replicate the analysis](#), which was used locally by policymakers to advocate for social distancing. Houston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and New Haven all used this model to also estimate the lives saved from adhering to stay at home orders.

The Urban Health Collaborative (UHC) in Philadelphia, in their role supporting the Big Cities Health Coalition (BCHC), also replicated CI:Now’s analysis to estimate how many hospitalizations and lives were saved by city-implemented shelter-in-place/stay-at-home orders in [BCHC’s 30 metropolitan areas](#). UHC found that across the cities, 2.1 million hospitalizations and 200,000 lives were saved.

- 
- **Charlotte:** UNC Charlotte Urban Institute [maps](#) the cumulative number of confirmed COVID cases per 100,000 residents in the 14-county metropolitan region. The maps and related graphics, including a weekly COVID summary by county, are updated on a regular basis.

- **Columbus:** Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) has a [Central Ohio COVID-19 Resource Hub](#) to help communities find resources and tools during COVID. The various dashboards include vaccinations, number of cases, local government resources, approved childcare centers, food and resources, and transportation and mobility resources.
- **Dallas:** The Institute for Urban Policy Research at UT Dallas has a North Texas [COVID Resources page](#), including an [interactive dashboard](#) that shows the daily trend in COVID cases and deaths by county and metro areas.
- **Flint:** MapFlint has a [COVID-19 resource page](#), which includes COVID cases dashboard for Genesee County, disaggregated by zip code, and the state of Michigan.
- **Honolulu:** Hawaii Data Collaborative launched a [COVID Data Resources](#) platform to provide current COVID case counts, testing rates, vaccination rates, and other COVID-related indicators. These data are disaggregated by age groups and race as it is compared to the state's general population. The page also has up to date data on the COVID-recession, tourism, unemployment, and community mobility.

---

## BOX 2

### **Black Equity Coalition Deploys Data to Reduce COVID-19's Impact on the Black Community in Allegheny County**

Harnessing interdisciplinary expertise and perspectives, the [Black Equity Coalition](#) (BEC) in Pittsburgh successfully used data to advocate for programs and policies to decrease racial disparities in COVID-19 response and created a forum to tackle other health inequities. The group of predominantly Black leaders formed the BEC in spring 2020 to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic's disparate impact on Allegheny County's Black community. It included funders, epidemiologists, social scientists, government officials, public health professionals, and health care practitioners.

The Western Pennsylvania Regional Data Center (WPRDC), the Pittsburgh-based NNIP Partner, serves on the BEC Data Committee, along with BEC members and other local data and technology organizations. Building on several years of work, the WPRDC had a critical role as a connector, strengthening the data ecosystem and recruiting other people to join the committee. The 20 active members have been meeting twice a week for more than a year to exchange information and address the community's data access and advocacy needs.

Early in the pandemic, the Pennsylvania Department of Health and Allegheny County Health Department were not releasing testing and case data by race, but pressure and support from BEC members and the data committee resulted in these data being publicly released, first as a dashboard and later as [open data](#), along with [a guide](#) to help people understand the data on WPRDC's open data portal. The BEC Data Committee also urged agencies to report data by race and ethnicity, [creating its own dashboard](#) focused on monitoring disparities over time. The committee internally analyzed data to guide outreach to the specific health providers driving the high shares of missing race and ethnicity information, particularly for testing. Allegheny County now prioritizes asking about race in case investigations and uses data from its integrated data system to improve the quality of testing and case data, while maintaining confidentiality for individuals. As of March 2021, only 12 percent of positive COVID-19 case records in Allegheny County omit race, much below the 37 percent statewide. According to Dr. Tiffany Gary-Webb, a member of the BEC leadership group and data committee,

“Seeing something happen right away was extremely different from the past—that we saw a problem, advocated for things to be fixed, and got it changed.”

The BEC also influenced the accessibility of COVID-19 testing for Black residents. The two major health plans initially opened testing sites outside of the city, far from the city’s Black neighborhoods. WPRDC and data committee partners compiled data on Black population distribution in relation to locations of testing sites and federally qualified health centers (FQHCs). Based on this proposal, the county health department and some local health insurance providers began providing COVID-19 testing at the FQHCs and in other accessible community locations. Per capita testing rates among Black residents exceeded rates among white residents since the strategy’s implementation. As of March 2021, 35 percent of Black Allegheny County residents received a COVID-19 test, compared with 27 percent of white residents.

In addition, BEC members used information from the data committee to reach thousands of people through outreach campaigns and media outlets, including “What Black Pittsburgh Needs to Know”; YouTube videos and [Facebook Live broadcasts](#) organized by 1Hood Media; Black Women, Wise Women; and UrbanKind Institute. The current campaign is “[Share Your Vaccine Story](#)”, a series of short videos in which community members share their emotions, experiences, and decisionmaking processes regarding receiving the COVID-19 vaccine. Since last summer, the racial gap in COVID-19 infections has been closing. The ratio of Black to white COVID-19 cases in the county fell from 3:1 in July 2020 to 3:2 by January 2021.

Through the BEC Data Committee, local data and technology organizations collaboratively leveraged their expertise, relationships, and infrastructure to support Black-led efforts to advance racial equity. Regular convenings built trust among the participants and created shared understanding from data. The committee addressed bias and quality issues in the data systems, made data widely accessible, and helped to improve access for Black residents to testing. Dr. Gary-Webb believes the BEC and its data efforts are changing the culture around equity and social change in the Pittsburgh area, shifting power to Black leaders with the support of white allies. This year, the BEC added vaccination equity in their report, [Missing Our Shot](#), to its agenda, and it will continue to advocate for community oriented, primary and preventive health care to meet the health needs of communities of color.

NNIP conferred the [2021 G. Thomas Kingsley Impact Award](#) on the Western Pennsylvania Regional Data Center at the University of Pittsburgh for their support of the Black Equity Coalition’s mission to use data to reduce racial disparities in COVID-19 testing for Allegheny County’s Black community and to reach thousands of residents with information about the pandemic. Their story was also covered in December 2021 on [National Public Radio](#) through [Kaiser Health News](#), and the Census Bureau awarded them a \$20,000 prize for the Dashboard as part of the Open Data for Good Challenge in December 2021.

- 
- **Indianapolis:** The Polis Center’s [COVID-19 Data Hub](#) has other maps, dashboards, and datasets, including a hotspots map, tracking cases (at the county level), and the [impact of the early pandemic on businesses](#). In December 2021, the Census Bureau awarded Polis a \$20,000 prize for their [COVID-19 Index interactive map and report](#) as part of the Open Data for Good Challenge.
  - **Los Angeles:** Neighborhood Data for Social Change created a [dashboard](#) that maps COVID-19 cases per capita and vaccination rates, across neighborhoods and aggregated by race. They also map neighborhood data on populations that are most vulnerable to severe cases (i.e. Over

65, without health insurance, living below the federal poverty line, and the rate of asthma-related ER visits per 1,000 people).

- **New Orleans:** The [Data Center website](#) provides graphics and tables with up-to-date data on COVID-19 tests, cases and deaths in New Orleans.
- **New York:** The Furman Center's [Neighborhood-Level Analysis of COVID-19](#) cases divided the city's Zip Codes into quintiles based on the number of cases per 1,000 people and then examined race and various indicators, including broadband, public transit, income, and poverty. They found that areas with high Black and Hispanic populations, areas where less of the population can work from home, and areas with less of a transit ridership decline have higher rates of COVID-19 on average.

## Focusing Attention on Vaccine Equity

- **Boston:** Boston Indicators' report, [Despite progress, vaccination gaps by race and town remain](#), found that as of April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021 the COVID vaccination rate for Asian, Black, and Latinx residents is lower than white residents' vaccination rates, particularly for Latinx residents whose vaccination rate is 30 percent lower. The report also found that towns with the highest COVID cases have the lowest vaccination rates. Their [August update](#) reported that racial disparities in vaccination rates narrowed slightly statewide. Large disparities persist in many cities and towns in Massachusetts.
- **Connecticut:** DataHaven's ongoing statewide survey revealed from June 2021 interviews a need [for greater attention to vaccine equity](#) as concerns about the vaccines including the ability to take off work to get it remained prevalent.
- **Houston:** The Kinder Institute published [Mapping inequity in Houston's COVID-19 vaccination rollout](#), a blog post that maps vaccine providers and COVID-19 rates in comparison to segregation in Houston. The post shows that the east side, where predominately Black and Brown residents live, has fewer vaccination resources and a higher rate of COVID-19 cases, compared to the whiter and wealthier west side.
- **Pittsburgh:** The Black Equity Coalition (BEC) Data Working Group brought together various experts to understand data's relation to racial equity. [Missing Our Shot: COVID-19 Vaccine Equity in Allegheny County](#) highlights the disparities in Allegheny County related to early vaccine rollout by race and provides insight on equity considerations for the distribution phase, directed towards the Pennsylvania Department of Health and the Allegheny County Health Department.

## Mapping Resources to Serve People in Need

- **Charlotte:** UNC Charlotte Urban Institute created a [Charlotte-Area Food Access Resources Map](#) to help people struggling with food access amidst COVID job losses. The map shows

places where people can receive food as well as where people can donate food. The map can also filter by the type of food resource: for children, for seniors, prepared meals, food boxes, food delivery, and others.

- **Durham:** The [Data Works NC Health Indicators site](#) already had collected community resources related to health, parenting, access to outdoor exercise, and mental/spiritual support, so it was easily re-purposed to publicize places of help for neighbors.
- **Flint:** MapFlint created an [interactive resource map](#) of student meal distribution, water distribution, food pantries, and a vaccine finder in response to COVID-19 across Genesee County.
- **Houston:** Urban Harvest partnered with The Kinder Institute for Urban Research at Rice University to get timely data on areas with the greatest number of residents struggling with food insecurity. Their research partnership helped [build a stronger data culture](#) at Urban Harvest who is now using a data tool built by Kinder to choose new sites for their mobile market to ensure extensive and equitable community outreach.
- **Indianapolis:** The Polis Center created a [resource map](#) during COVID for locations of food pantries and soup kitchens that are open (using data from Indy Hunger Network), locations at schools, churches, and parks that meals are provided by various community based organizations, and locations of meals outside of Indianapolis given by school corporation websites. They gathered this data from the Indy Hunger Network and Indiana 211 Partnership.
- **South Bend:** The Center for Civic Innovation at the University of Notre Dame developed [The Pantry Explorer](#) to map food pantries in South Bend, Indiana to help coordinate local food needs. The tool also offers biweekly updates on stock levels for different types of foods, dairy, grains, vegetables, meat, etc., at various food pantries.

## Mapping Vulnerability to Guide Resource Allocation

- **Atlanta:** Neighborhood Nexus helped The Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta and the United Way think through how to deploy dollars from their relief fund. Nexus staff analyzed the list of nonprofit organizations and came up with a framework that identified those serving vulnerable populations, providing critical services, and with the infrastructure so they could ramp up services if they received an injection of cash. They shared their results with the funders to inform their decisions.
- **Detroit:** Data Driven created [an interactive map](#) with layers showing populations that are at a higher risk for COVID-19, including older residents, the uninsured, asthma-related hospital visits, populations living in group quarters, single-parent households, and children living below 200% of the poverty line.

- **Memphis:** Innovate Memphis created a [COVID Socioeconomic Vulnerability Index](#), combining Urban's Low-Income Job Loss Estimates with housing, demographic, and income data from the ACS, at the tract level. Then they overlaid pre-COVID eviction trends (2016 - 2019) and 2020 foreclosures (downloaded weekly) to help the City and County government target limited relief dollars in high need areas. Once eviction moratorium is lifted, weekly updated eviction data will be overlaid as well.
- **Milwaukee:** Data You Can Use created a [Map of the Health Conditions Related to COVID-19](#) at the census tract and neighborhood level with multiple health indicators that may increase risk of COVID, using the CDC's PLACES (previously 500 Cities) dataset, such as older adults, people with health conditions, and pregnant people.
- **Philadelphia:** Urban Health Collaborative built [three dashboards](#): one using the CDC social vulnerability index, another with additional COVID-related vulnerabilities related to health conditions, housing, and access to resources, and a third on essential worker indicators. These dashboards help to identify where COVID may have the most impact and highest health risk, at the census tract level. This effort aims to inform policy, public health, and community partners throughout the city on where to allocate COVID recovery funds.
- **San Antonio:** Community Information: Now supported the United Ways in Corpus Christi and Victoria, Texas with data on demographics, business loss, paycheck protection loans, and 5changes in benefit eligibility, 211 requests and more to enable them to target their recovery efforts toward communities that were already experiencing inequities prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and have been hardest hit during the pandemic.
- **Seattle:** Community Counts created a [COVID-19 Vulnerable Communities Data Tool](#) that shows neighborhoods or school districts, with maps and graphs, with the highest counts or rates by vulnerability indicators. The indicators include groups that are at higher risk for COVID, including older adults, high-risk health conditions and pregnancy, race and ethnicity, poverty, language, access to care, and students and families. The aim of the tool is to focus resources for communities that may be vulnerable due to social or economic conditions to ensure health equity across King County. For example, it was used early in the pandemic to distribute face masks to low-income neighborhoods.

## Identifying Communities with Limited Computer and Broadband Access

- **Austin:** [Children's Optimal Health](#) received grant to look at digital access, including device, internet access and necessary skills needed for education, health care, and jobs especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. The study uses mixed-methods approach and will focus on people and families with lower incomes across the 5-county Austin MSA. Results are expected in late 2021.

- **Columbus:** The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Council summarized the issues of the technology and broadband access for the Central Ohio region in [this policy brief](#). They note the digital divide created a difficult transition to virtual life in the pandemic, low digital literacy makes it difficult for some residents to navigate virtual resources, many sectors and small businesses found it difficult to transition to operate virtually, and real-time technological interaction is a growing method for building community connectivity.
- **Los Angeles:** USC's Neighborhood Data for Social Change [mapped the rate of households without computer access](#) and internet access in neighborhoods across LA County to show that in some neighborhoods as many as 30% of households do not have an internet connection, mostly affecting low-income families of color, using 2018 ACS data. They also compared the racial makeup of households without internet access to the percent living below the poverty line. This directly impacts those children's ability to successfully learning from home during the pandemic when schools transitioned to remote. Los Angeles Unified School District worked with Verizon and KCET to make technology and internet accessible to more families.
- **New Haven:** DataHaven [piloted a survey](#) in Summer 2021 New Haven public school parents on their needs and perceptions of technology, home internet service, and remote learning. Most parents surveyed reported their student had trouble accessing online content due to internet connectivity problems and that their student's learning suffered.

## Supporting Census 2020 Efforts to Get Out the Count

- **NNIP HQ:** Urban documented how NNIP Partners helped [communities pivot 2020 Census outreach](#) for hard-to-count groups after the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Boston:** The Boston Foundation and Boston Indicators published an article, [Census in the time of coronavirus](#). Their data shows the hardest to county cities and towns in Massachusetts, which are disproportionately high immigrants or non-English speaking jurisdictions. The article discusses how online counting is helpful during the pandemic, but also makes it difficult for those without internet access to fill out Census information.
- **Houston:** The Kinder Institute for Urban Research examined how [evictions could affect the Census 2020 count](#). Using eviction data from the Harris County Justice of the Peace Court, Kinder looked at eviction filings by neighborhood and found that many of the neighborhoods with high eviction rates have on average lower Census response rates. Evictions could result in hundreds of millions of dollars lost from federal funding.
- **Minneapolis:** CURA built a [map](#) that is more locally-tailored than the Census Bureau's [Response Rates](#) website. They added neighborhood boundaries, a swipe tool to compare current response with 2010 final response rates, a count of households (2018 ACS), and an estimate of households still needing to respond. They plan to update this weekly using the Census API.



- **New Orleans:** The Data Center created [maps](#) for local coalitions to identify areas that may need additional support for census outreach and included community assets, such as schools, that could support COVID-19 efforts. The Data Center also included COVID-19-specific questions related to the census on their evolving [FAQ webpage](#).
- **Pittsburgh:** The Western Pennsylvania Regional Data Center created PPT slides for professors to insert at the beginning of online classes telling students how to respond for their originally planned residence and drafted notes to parents and students.
- **San Antonio:** CI:Now in San Antonio created an online data tool to help local partners monitor response rates and finely target outreach strategies. The interactive tool displays response rate trends for the county, cities and towns, and census tracts and compares current response rates with 2020 goals and to the 2010 mail return rate while highlighting key undercount indicators.

## Understanding Social and Economic Impacts for Policymaking and Program Planning

- **Atlanta:** As input to the Atlanta Regional Commission's economic modeling of the short and long-term economic impacts, Neighborhood Nexus collected a comprehensive list of the local philanthropic relief funds - who is sponsoring them, the geographic area, and how much they have collected to date.

---

### BOX 3

#### Using 211 Data to Measure Real Time Community Needs

The [Urban Institute](#) [summarized](#) various NNIP partners' use of data from 211 calls, a free telephone and online referral service that operates in 240 locations across the US. These 211 data help give a better understanding of the demand for services in communities to identify types of support for local families.

- **Austin:** Children's Optimal Health [mapped multiple needs identified by 211 calls](#) by zip code, including food, housing, health, financial, and utility needs. The data informed community organizing and outreach efforts in Austin's hardest hit communities.
- **Boston:** Boston Indicators tracked the [Demand for Social Assistance Programs](#) by using 211 data. They looked at the percent change in calls to 211 by six different subject areas, housing, food, employment, etc., from the week of March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 to the week of April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Total weekly calls to 211 were also tracked, showing spikes after Massachusetts' eviction moratorium ended in mid-October.
- **Seattle:** King County used weekly 211 calls to [examine social service needs](#) from February 2020 to January 2021. They found that housing, food, and information services were the highest needs during the pandemic. 211 callers' race and ethnicity were compared to the county's population, showing that Black and Latinx populations have disproportionately higher social service needs.

- 
- **Boston:** Boston Indicators partnered with the Center for Housing Data at Massachusetts Housing Partnership (MHP) to shape an equitable and just COVID recovery. The [COVID Community Data Lab](#) is organized in three parts, a series of research briefs, a repository charts and graphs analyzing real-time data, and a series of policy proposals called [Seizing the Moment: Proposals for a Just and Equitable Recovery](#).
  - **Boston:** Boston Indicators published a [research brief](#) providing a demographic profile of frontline workers and compared them to the rest of Massachusetts's workforce. They found that frontline workers are less likely to have a college education and more likely to be immigrants, people of color, and women. The brief concludes with the suggestion to expand hazard pay for frontline workers, citing Atlanta's implementation of hazard pay for public safety and sanitation workers.
  - **Charlotte:** UNC Charlotte Urban Institute looked at [three areas of inequality](#) highlighted by COVID, parks and greenways, broadband access, and transportation. They included maps for each inequality and descriptions of each across the county.
  - **Chicago:** The Institute for Housing Studies created [an analysis](#) to show the potential economic impacts of COVID on households with workers in occupations most vulnerable to mass layoffs. The analysis found that lower-income renter households are hit the hardest, 53.6 percent have an at-risk worker. Additionally, nearly half of renter householders with an at-risk worker were already housing insecure before the pandemic. Maps and charts accompany the analysis, showing the geographic and racial impacts. This analysis was conducted to support Chicago-area housing and community development practitioners as they think through the need for housing and place-based interventions.
  - **Chicago:** The Institute for Housing Studies [partnered with Elevated Chicago](#), the Public Health Institute of Metropolitan Chicago and Rudd Resources to engage community-based organizations and stakeholders working on walkability initiatives to learn about the place-based and neighborhood impacts resulting from the pandemic and racial justice protests. The [takeaways from the community engagement](#) included a need to reframe community image and context, prioritize walkability, strengthen neighborhood resources, continue to convene the community to inform projects and investments, and improving access to data can help communities make the case for walkability investments.
  - **Cleveland:** [Child Care in Cuyahoga County](#) is a story map led by Starting Point in collaboration with the Center on Urban Poverty and Community Development at Case Western Reserve University, who prepared the story map and vital data aspects of the project. The story map explores the impact of the pandemic on childcare, providing local stakeholders with information intended to help them respond effectively and equitably to the pandemic.

- **Honolulu:** Hawaii Data Collaborative collaborated with Aloha United Way for a project on ALICE (Assets Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) households. They summarized the impact of COVID on ALICE households in this [flyer](#), finding that there were 42% of households before COVID and 59% of households after the COVID shut down could be classified as ALICE. They estimated that 35,000 additional households would fall into ALICE status or below by the end of 2020.
- **Houston:** The Kinder Institute for Urban Research created an [Estimated Number of Jobs Lost to COVID-19 Data Dashboard](#) by each neighborhood in Harris County. Each neighborhood job loss estimate is broken down by industry, such as food services, retail trade, health care, and many more. Across the county, an estimated 9 percent to 11.8 percent of residents lost their jobs due to COVID, mostly in the service industry. The Kinder Institute also used various demographic indicators to identify neighborhoods that experience even greater challenges. Indicators include percent renter occupied units, percent who are rent burdened, poverty rate, unemployment rate, and percent children living with single parents. This [report](#) synthesizes both data projects.

---

#### BOX 4

##### Listening to Young People to Inform Pandemic Response

With grants from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, NNIP Partners in Chicago, Durham, and San Antonio partnered with local organizations and schools to gather input from young to inform and enhance the effectiveness and equity of programs, policies, and other community strategies for COVID-19 response.

- **Chicago:** In collaboration with Communities United (CU), a grassroots, intergenerational racial justice organization, the Institute for Housing Studies (IHS) engaged with youth and families in five neighborhoods in Chicago to identify housing and community development challenges resulting from COVID-19. The project documented neighborhood conditions using local data on public and private sources, amplified the lived experiences of young people, and informed strategies to address inequities exacerbated by COVID-19. CU identified five youth leaders to participate in an advisory board for the project and who helped design and disseminate a survey touching on key housing and community issues. In the survey, youth expressed challenges related to loss of household income, increased anxiety, adjusting to remote learning, and gun violence. The most important resources youth considered to be missing from their communities included mental health services, job opportunities, and affordable housing. IHS [shared these results](#) with the youth and got feedback on how they reflected the youths' lived experiences. IHS also [created a data workbook](#) on indicators identified from priority issues in the survey that can be used to inform future advocacy campaigns. IHS and Communities United are continuing to work together to on [a project to support immigrant communities](#) and preserving affordable housing.
- **Durham:** Through their project, DataWorks NC expanded community knowledge of the impacts of COVID-19 to include the perspectives of young people and spread information about evictions and eviction diversion resources to families most directly impacted by COVID-19. To staff this project, they hired a high school student intern through Hillside New Tech High School who focused on communicating qualitative research findings from a facilitated [peer workshop](#).

A graduate school intern focused on developing their GIS skills and analyzing property level records to inform efforts to [identify problem evictors](#). Together, the two interns elevated the stories and experiences of community members facing eviction during COVID-19, generated data presentations to contextualize those experiences, and expanded DataWorks NC's knowledge base of policy solutions. These lessons from research and engagement were disseminated through [a new podcast](#) featuring interns and members of the full project team.

- **San Antonio:** Community Information Now (CI:Now) partnered with the statewide group MOVE Texas to elevate opportunities to support young people through the City of San Antonio (COSA) \$191 million COVID-19 Recovery and Resilience Plan and related recovery initiatives. MOVE Texas works to engage and mobilize young people ages 18 to 30 with an emphasis on young people of color. Through this work, CI:Now aimed to increase young people's data literacy and ability to communicate their needs and priorities. CI:Now and MOVE Texas surveyed young people about their priorities and needs and put together an overview of local and federal relief efforts and mechanisms young people can use to connect with officials to advocate for their needs. CI:Now produced an [infographic](#) and [storymap](#) that highlighted both the quantitative data from the survey and lifted up the voices of the youth. Young people were most concerned about keeping spirits up, job security, and caring for their loved ones. One-quarter of young people had experienced a loss of income, and many expressed anger, fear, and uncertainty.

We documented our partners tips for engaging young people in research in this [Medium blog](#).

- 
- **Houston:** Amelyn Ng, an architect fellow at Rice University, partnered with the Center for Urban Transformation to document the pandemic's effects on households through discussions with residents of Houston's Fifth Ward for a pilot study, "[Stay-at-Home Stress](#)." Taking the approach of architectural documentation, the researchers set out to build a nuanced portrait of individual lives in a difficult situation.
  - **Grand Rapids:** The Johnson Center [analyzed data from the Paycheck Protection Program](#) to understand how eligible nonprofits benefited from the use of the loans. They estimated about 40 percent of eligible nonprofits received a loan, but that varied considerably by state. However, about two-thirds of eligible nonprofit jobs were protected through the program.
  - **Indianapolis:** The Polis Center created a map that shows [COVID Neighborhood-Level Risk Factors](#) using census data and the CDC's PLACES data. The map has two indexes, socioeconomic risk, using data on uninsured people, asthma, smoking rates, and diabetes and age risk, using cancer and heart disease data. They found that neighborhoods outside of downtown have the highest socioeconomic risk, while age risk is geographically spread out across the city.
  - **New Haven:** [Pandemic Highlights Need for a Renewed Statewide Focus on Food Insecurity shows](#) showcases DataHaven's research on health equity in New Haven, which found that Black and Latinx residents have higher levels of food insecurity, heightened by COVID-19.
  - **New Haven:** This [article](#) highlights the increased difficulty of opioid drug users during the COVID-19 pandemic. DataHaven's publication, [Towards Health Equity in Connecticut](#) shows

that the presence of fentanyl in the drug supply is increasing and that Black and Latino residents have opioid-related death rates as high or higher than white residents. Their report also highlights the reason people turn to opioids, which the social isolation of COVID-19 could cause people to relapse and increases the risk of overdose.

- **New Orleans:** The Data Center did bite-sized analyses on the [demographic](#) and [economic impacts](#). Indicators for the demographic analysis include income and poverty, access to vehicles and internet, housing costs, health conditions, and race/ethnicity, mostly using ACS data, PLACES data, and a previous racial wealth divide report. They compared these data to Seattle, Westchester County, and New York City. Unemployment and at-risk workers indicators are examined for the economic impact, showing that the risk of job loss is unevenly distributed to workers with lower incomes. These reports were intended to inform policy decisions and resource allocation.
- **New York:** The Furman Center did an [analysis](#) on the housing costs of households most vulnerable to layoffs from the pandemic using 2018 ACS Microdata on households in New York City. They found that households with lower incomes are more likely to work in jobs that are prone to layoffs, a third of households had one member that worked in a vulnerable occupation, and Hispanic workers disproportionately worked in vulnerable occupations.
- **Memphis:** [Innovate Memphis](#) partnered with [COMMONS](#), a coalition of eight place-based community organizations, primarily in Black neighborhoods, to administer surveys and interviews with neighborhood community members. They paired the qualitative data with data on property ownership, tax status, utility cutoffs, eviction filings, and neighborhood conditions. Their findings provide a snapshot of social-economic needs in Memphis during the pandemic.
- **Washington, DC:** The Urban-Greater DC team at the Urban Institute supported the evaluation of the [THRIVE East of the River Partnership](#) with provided direct cash payments of \$5500 and grocery assistance to 500 households. Urban documenting the emergency intervention's effectiveness and provide data and evidence to inform ongoing program design and management and trained community researchers to assist in data collection and analysis.

## Addressing Housing Needs and Tracking and Preventing Evictions

- **Atlanta:** Neighborhood Nexus partnered with Sarah Stein at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta and Georgia Tech on the [Atlanta Region Eviction Tracker tool](#). The purpose of this tool is to improve understanding and ability to respond to eviction-related housing instability, particularly in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic for Metro Atlanta policymakers, non-government organizations, service providers, tenant organizers, and government entities. The tool captures formal evictions activity in the metro Atlanta area as it is reflected in county court websites.

- **Boston:** The Boston Foundation and a group of partners created the [Greater Boston Housing Report Card](#), which analyzes the housing challenges as a result of COVID. The series of briefs and webinars uses data to examine households' abilities to pay rents and mortgages, connections between place and the uneven spread of COVID, and the overall economic impact of COVID on the housing market.
- **Dallas:** [The Institute for Urban Policy Research at UT Dallas](#) partnered with [Texas Tenants' Union](#) to analyze whether tenants in Dallas who had a grace period to pay rent avoided eviction at higher rates than tenants in cities that did not enact this policy. Using eviction records from ten Justice of the Peace courts in Dallas County and full case files for a random sample of cases from one court, they compared trends in eviction filings, showing that eviction policies reduced the number of filings, but many policies lacked universal protection and educational outreach.
- **Durham:** In this [blog](#), DataWorksNC traced property owners that mass-evicted in 2020, noting that some received support from the federal Paycheck Protection Program loans. The owners of some of the complexes are large scale real estate investment firms, tying the loss of affordable and safe housing in Durham County back to global speculative investment.
- **Houston:** The Kinder Institute for Urban Research examined how [evictions could affect the Census 2020 count](#). Using eviction data from the Harris County Justice of the Peace Court, Kinder looked at eviction filings by neighborhood and found that many of the neighborhoods with high eviction rates have on average lower Census response rates. Evictions could result in hundreds of millions of dollars lost from federal funding.
- **Memphis:** Innovate Memphis used the 2008 Subprime Mortgage Crisis as a lens to examine how Memphis can proactively and collaboratively respond to COVID housing impacts already underway in collaborative report with the Memphis Division of Housing and Community Development in the [State of Memphis Housing 2020 report](#).
- **New Haven:** A [media article](#) highlights DataHaven's [Towards Health Equity in Connecticut](#) to show its findings in the important role of stable housing for a smooth transition to reopening the economy post-COVID. The report found that evicted and homeless adults are much more likely to experience unemployment compared to those with stable housing. The data also shed light on housing inequalities for Black, Latino, and Asian households in Connecticut, where these residents are more likely to experience severe housing cost burden and income loss due to the pandemic.
- **Washington, DC:** Urban-Greater DC is facilitating a cross-sector workgroup to spur collaboration to get federal rental assistance to those most in need and prevent evictions and to develop a holistic framework for eviction diversion, include pre-court diversion efforts.

# Building Community Data Capacity in COVID-19 Response

- **Detroit:** Data Driven Detroit created a portal, [“What do we know about data in a pandemic?”](#) that includes a guide to data consumption – that breaks down how to understand data being presented in the pandemic, be a conscious and thoughtful consumer of data, and understand per-capita rates and reliability measures. The portal also includes maps of populations vulnerable to COVID-19, related blogs, and data on the Paycheck Protection Program loans.
- **Milwaukee:** Data You Can Use [paired students up](#) with several community groups to help them clean up their membership lists and published basic tips on sorting/finding in Excel so they can maintain their lists and more easily use the data to communicate with their members.
- **Milwaukee:** [Data You Can Use engaged residents and neighborhood organizations](#) in a review of neighborhood-level data on underlying conditions associated with COVID-19 to identify strategies for response and recovery. Sharing data with residents democratized and vetted the data and increased their data literacy. Data You Can Use used this opportunity to implement [data chats as a technique for engaging stakeholders](#) during a pandemic. This format was well received by residents, with several of the neighborhood groups asking for scripts to use to host more data chats with their churches, block clubs, and at other community events. An early outcome one neighborhood group achieved was successfully advocating for increased COVID-19 testing capacity in their neighborhood.
- **Minneapolis:** The Center for Urban and Regional Affairs at the University of Minnesota helped a neighborhood organization map and track block clubs in Minneapolis to ensure every block had someone who can communicate with neighbors about resources available, volunteer needs and opportunities, etc. during the pandemic.