SNIP (Small-geography Neighborhood Indicator Performance) Score Methodology

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NNIP partners share beliefs that the places where people live affect their health, security, education, and economic success. And that we can only make progress if we understand how these issues intersect and vary across neighborhoods and among different groups of people. The network sees neighborhood-level data as a critical tool to help people identify strengths; uncover problems; and change policies, programs, and investments to better meet the needs of all residents.

To assess how well the network is doing to assemble, transform, and maintain neighborhood-level data and to encourage partners to continue and expand on the hard work of obtaining and maintain data across topics, we developed a score called the SNIP (Small-geography Neighborhood Indicator Performance). The SNIP creates a standardized scale to compare across partners and places where ease of access to different sources of data may vary considerably. It is updated annually to allow the network to see trends overtime. The SNIP is designed to consider whether the data are a) neighborhood-level, b) across topics, and c) recurrently updated.

NNIP partners are expected to provide an annual update of their state and local administrative data holdings at the neighborhood level or other small geography. This inventory is used to calculate the SNIP.[1] Data that are held only at city, county or metropolitan area level are not represented in the neighborhood data inventory or the SNIP calculation. Data from national surveys, such as the American Community Survey, are not included in data inventory or the SNIP calculation. The data inventory also asks partners to identify whether a data source is held in-house or not. Data held in-house means that they been downloaded, cleaned, and are ready to be used for a variety of purposes. It does not mean that the data was the result of primary data collection by the partner. Birth and death certificate data produced by the local public health department and transferred to the NNIP partner would be an example of data held in-house.

We identified 23 data subcategories and 77 data elements in the neighborhood data inventory (see the table below). To test whether partners have data across topics, we narrowed the list to ten subcategories that represent topic areas that are important to having a broad understanding of neighborhood context. As the recency of data sources varies, based on

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[1] Small geographies are defined as one the following: Address/parcel, Block group, Census tract, School, ZIP code, and other sub city/county geographies (ie. ward). The "school" geography applies only to school and student data.

analysis of the NNIP partners data inventories, we have made assumptions about the most recent time period data needs to represent to be considered up-to-date for the purposes of the SNIP score (see the recency required column in the table below). For example, due to the length of time it takes for public health departments to process vital statistics, typically the most recent data one can acquire are two to three years old.

If a partner has any one of the data elements in a subcategory that is part of the SNIP calculation and meets the recency criteria listed in the table then they would get credit for having data in that subcategory. The number of SNIP subcategories the partner has data in is then tallied and each partner receives a score from 0 to 10 for their organization. NNIPHQ also looks at the scores across partners and will use the information to provide better support to NNIP partners on this critical function.

Data Elements in the NNIP Partner Neighborhood Data Inventory

Category	Subcategory	SNIP (Yes/ No)	Recency Required	Data Source/Indicator
Child Welfare	Child abuse / neglect	No		Child abuse / neglect
	Foster care	No		Foster care
Education	Enrollment (K-12)	Yes	1 year lag	Student enrollment
				Free/reduced price lunch
				Special education
	Enrollment (early childhood)	No		Head start enrollment
				Other pre-school enrollment
				Licensed child care providers/slots
	Student performance and discipline	No		Student absences
				Student proficiency
				Kindergarten readiness assessment
				Student discipline
Health	Child Health	Yes	2 year lag	Immunizations
				Child blood-lead levels
	Other Health	Yes	2 year lag	Hospital admissions by cause
				ER visits
				Outpatient, doctor offices etc. visits
				Injury surveillance data
				Communicable diseases
				Electronic health records
				Insurance claims
				STDs
	Vital Statistics	Yes	3 year lag	Births with characteristics
				Deaths by cause
Public Assistance	Public Assistance	Yes	2 year lag	TANF
				Food Stamps / SNAP
				Medicaid

Category	Subcategory	SNIP (Yes/No)	Recency Required	Data Source/Indicator
				S-CHIP
				WIC
				Subsidized child care
	Housing Assistance	No		Other subsidized housing
				Public housing units
				Housing vouchers
Crime and Public Safety	Part 1 Crime	Yes	1 year lag	Part I crime reports
	Part 2 Crime	No		Part II crime reports
	Public Safety	No		Arrests (adults)
				Arrests (juvenile)
				Complaints about police conduct
				Police use of force
				Police pedestrian stops
				Police vehicle stops
				911 calls for service
	Prisoner Re-entry	No		Ex-offenders returning from prison
				Ex-offenders returning from jail
				Prison population
				Jail population
				Bail
				Charging decisions
				Sentencing
				Persons on probation / parole
Economy	Businesses/ Licenses	Yes	2 year lag	Establishments (unemp. insurance records)
				Business inventory (other)
				Business licenses
				Liquor licenses / stores
	Unemployment	No		Unemployment claims
				Unemployment wage records
Housing	Characteristics	Yes	1 year lag	Property characteristics
	Sales	Yes	1 year lag	Property sales (volumes, prices)
	Distressed properties	Yes		Foreclosures (mortgages)
				Tax delinquencies & foreclosures
				Demolitions
				Housing code violations
	Other actions on properties	No		Building permits
				Property tax assessments
				Evictions
	Vacancy	No		Vacant parcels
				Water usage / shutoffs

Category	Subcategory	SNIP (Yes/No)	Recency Required	Data Source/Indicator
				Electric usage / shutoffs
Environment	Environment	No		Bike lanes
				Impervious surface
				Tree canopy
Other	Other	No		Voting registration / records
				Community referral calls (211)
				Community referral providers (211)
				City requests for service (311)
				Local government capital budget
				Drivers' license records

Number of SNIP Subcategories	10
Total Subcategories	23
Total Data Elements	77