



**Census Tract:** “An area roughly equivalent to a neighborhood established by the Bureau of Census for analyzing populations. They generally encompass a population between 2,500 to 8,000 people. Bureau of Census describes them as "relatively permanent", but they do change over time.”

**Claritas Data:** “A supplemental dataset that includes approximately 100, 250, or 500 data elements that describe the demographic characteristics of your community at the state, county and zip code or census tract level. Nielsen Claritas annual estimates provide richer population estimates than the Census.”

**Dashboard:** A collection of indicators.

**Demographics:** Characteristics of a population such as race, ethnicity, gender, age, education, profession, occupation, income level, and marital status.

**Determinants of Health:** Factors that contribute to a person's current state of health such as biology/genetics (e.g. age), individual behavior (e.g. alcohol use, smoking), social environment (e.g. income, gender), physical environment (e.g. where a person lives), and health services (e.g. access to quality health care, health insurance).

**Health Disparity:** “A type of difference in health that is closely linked with social or economic disadvantage. Health disparities negatively affect groups of people who have systematically experienced greater social or economic obstacles to health.”

**Indicator:** Describes an aspect of the population used to measure health or quality of life.

- Health indicators may include measurements of illness or disease, as well as behaviors and actions related to health.
- Quality of life indicators include measurements related to economy, education, built environment, social environment, and transportation.”

**Promising Practices:** The Promising Practices database informs professionals and community members about documented approaches to improving community health and quality of life.

**Resource Library:** The Resource Library allows you to locate resources that help make your community a healthier place.

**SocioNeeds Index:** A tool developed by Healthy Communities Institute to measure of socioeconomic need that is correlated with poor health outcomes. All zip codes in the United States are given an Index Value from 0 (low need) to 100 (high need). To help you find the areas of highest need in your community, your zip codes are ranked from 1 to 5 based on their Index Value, color-coded and displayed on an interactive map.

#### **Additional FAQ**

[Answers to Common Questions](#)  
[Data and Dashboards](#)  
[Using the dashboards](#)  
[Using the Indicator Detail Page](#)

[Create and save a custom dashboard](#)  
[Using the demographics module](#)  
[Using the Report Assistant](#)