

Addressing the Narratives in Health-Centric Data Collection A Case Study of Chicago and Johannesburg

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ABSTRACT: How we think about social and health problems depends upon data: data informs what those problems are and whom those problems affect. Health-centric data collection often occurs at a national or international level; however, large scale data collection fails to adequately express inequities that occur at local levels. Within cities, inequities in quality of life, environmental exposure, and socioeconomic factors impact traditionally cited health metrics, such as disease prevalence disease or mortality rate. Global cities do not have a standardized method, or even conceptual framework, for collecting small-scale data that measures a holistic set of indicators. This lack of framework precludes local actors from making pragmatic and effective public health decisions. This study will employ a geospatial analysis of two cities with comparatively rich data—Chicago and Johannesburg--to highlight the potential of localized data to inform local health decisions regarding allocation of health resources. The project aims to contribute to an increasingly standardized model for localized urban data collection in order to increase the capacity of cities to reduce urban health inequities.

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