Accessing Open Data:
Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance

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Friday, July 22, 2016

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About BNIA-JFI

- Non-profit started over 15 years ago by local stakeholders, now based within Jacob France Institute at University of Baltimore

- “One-stop-shop” for comprehensive, non-partisan data indicators and training
  - Multiple topic areas
  - Longitudinal data (2000 - 2016)

- Member of the National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership at Urban Institute
  - 35 cities focusing on data democratization
  - http://www.neighborhoodindicators.org
Community Indicators

- Individual statistics, that when combined, provide a picture of what is happening in a community
  - Crime rate, unemployment rate, median household income, life expectancy, etc.

- When tracked over time, indicators can provide insight to the overall direction of a community
  - Is crime getting better or worse? Are more people finding jobs? Are there fewer vacant and boarded up houses?

- Used for setting goals and tracking progress
  - Did an intervention strategy work? How does the neighborhood compare to the city as a whole?
Vital Signs

- Yearly report of our comprehensive indicators; *Vital Signs 14* was released in Spring 2016 with data through 2014
- 160+ indicators, 50+ sources
- **Topic areas:**
  - Census Demographics
  - Housing and Community Development
  - Children and Family Health and Well-Being
  - Crime and Safety
  - Workforce and Economic Development
  - Arts and Culture
  - Education and Youth
  - Sustainability
Community Statistical Areas

- Groupings of Census Tract (2010) geographies, based on similar populations
- Tract boundaries allow us to easily get population and household counts
  - Adjusting data for population allows you to compare areas!
- Total number: 55 communities
Accessing *Vital Signs* Online

Options for all data users at all skill levels

**Beginners**
- Data tables (online and PDF) for communities OR topics
- Downloadable summary reports
- Downloadable, pre-made maps

**Advanced**
- Search for indicator data tables online and display certain years
- Download open data in Excel and GIS formats

[http://www.bniajfi.org](http://www.bniajfi.org)