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# Accessing Open Data: Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance



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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>



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# 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?

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# 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

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# 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

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