How to Use the Population Indicators Tool in the UDS Mapper

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## Acronyms Used in This Lesson

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>What It Stands For</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACS</td>
<td>American Community Survey</td>
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<tr>
<td>CDC</td>
<td>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention</td>
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<tr>
<td>FPL</td>
<td>Federal Poverty Level</td>
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<tr>
<td>HRSA</td>
<td>Health Resources and Services Administration</td>
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<tr>
<td>UDS</td>
<td>Uniform Data System</td>
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<tr>
<td>ZCTA</td>
<td>ZIP Code Tabulation Area</td>
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</tbody>
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Population Indicators Tool

- Enables you to do cold spot analysis to find high-need areas based on data that are common indicators of health status

- About the data:
  - Total population (not the patient population)
  - Drawn from a number of different sources, at a variety of geographic levels, and are updated annually (if underlying data are updated)
  - See [https://www.udsmapper.org/knowledge-base.cfm](https://www.udsmapper.org/knowledge-base.cfm) for the most current data source dates
  - All data are displayed by ZCTA
  - Data that are not available from the source at the ZCTA level were imputed based on US Census population data

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Population Indicators: Data and Sources (1)

- ACS 5-year estimates, natively by ZCTA
  - % of Population in Poverty (at or below 100% FPL)
  - % of Population Low-Income (at or below 200% FPL)
  - % of Population Not Employed
  - % of Households with Limited English Proficiency
  - % of Population with Less Than High School Education

- ACS 1-year estimates, natively by county (imputed)
  - % of Population Uninsured

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Population Indicators: Data and Sources (2)

- HRSA Area Resource File, natively by county (imputed)
  - Low Birth Weight Rate

- CDC Wonder, natively by county (imputed)
  - Age-Adjusted Mortality Rate

- CDC Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), natively by county (imputed)
  - % of Adults Ever Told They Have Diabetes
  - % of Adults Ever Told They Have High Blood Pressure
  - % of Adults Who Are Obese
  - % of Adults with No Dental Visit in the Past Year
  - % of Adults Who Have Delayed or Not Sought Care Due to High Cost
  - % of Adults with No Usual Source of Care
Clear Colored Layers from the Map

- Population Indicators are best visualized with a clear map background
- Before displaying Population Indicators data on the map, you should remove other colorful data layers including the Main Maps
  - Open the **Main Maps** tool, click **No Main Map Selected**

[Image of Main Maps tool]

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How to Open the Population Indicators Tool

- Click on the **Population Indicators icon** (looks like a group of people) in the Tool Box in the upper right corner of the map.
- If you only see a blue bar with a few tool buttons, click the **white, downward-pointing arrow** to reveal the tools.

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Zoom Level to Use the Population Indicators Tool

- You must be close in to the map in order to activate the indicators.
- If starting at the default level, zoom in four times.
National and Local Data Ranges in the Population Indicators

- The color within each slider shows the range of the data for the geography you are currently seeing on the screen and will change as you move around the country.
- The hashmarks within each slider indicate the range of the values that will be displayed on the map.
- The number range under the slider bar for each indicator shows the value your indicator is set to (left number) and the maximum value of that dataset for the nation.

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Turn on a Population Indicator

- Every indicator starts set to the national average
- When you turn on an indicator, the areas that are colored in are the ZCTAs whose value for that indicator are equal to or greater than the national average
Use Reasonable Benchmarks

- Because you can set your own values in this tool, it is important to use reasonable benchmarks when looking for “high” need
  - By default, the indicator is set to the national average
- Otherwise, saying that an area has high need may be false – it must be compared to something tangible rather than just a user selected number
Where to Find Benchmarks

- Benchmarks other than the national average include published targets (Healthy People 2020) or state or regional averages.
- While you can use any benchmark, there is a table of state rates for each benchmark available on the UDS Mapper site [https://www.udsmapper.org/benchmarks.cfm](https://www.udsmapper.org/benchmarks.cfm).
Set appropriate benchmark

- 18.2% of Californians have less than a high school education
- People with this education level may have a hard time finding employment that offers health insurance
Population Indicator Benchmark (2)

Turn off education level indicator and turn on the diabetes indicator

- California has a diabetes prevalence of 10%
Compare Indicators

Turn education level indicator back on to look for overlap to find cold spots of need based on multiple indicators:

- **Blue areas**: at least 18% of population with less than high school education
- **Purple areas**: at least 10% diabetes prevalence
- **Blended areas**: at least 18% of population less than high school education AND at least 10% diabetes prevalence

Because blended colors will not appear in the legend, we recommend you not turn on more than two indicators at a time, as colors will blend and start to become confusing.
How to Download the Data

• The Population Indicators data are available to view in the **Data Table** and can be downloaded
  • The data will only be available for the ZCTAs that are selected in the Explore Service Area tool

• To visually figure out the rate in a specific ZCTA, gradually move the slider button and note when the ZCTA becomes unfilled
  • For example, if you move the slider setting for % of Adults With No Usual Source of Care from 10 to 11, and you see a ZCTA become unfilled, you know that 10% of adults in that ZCTA have no usual source of care
End of Lesson

Proceed to the next lesson to continue learning how to use the UDS Mapper