

About the Platform

The Connect2Health^{FCC} Task Force's *Mapping Broadband Health in America* platform allows users to visualize, overlay and analyze broadband and health data at the national, state and county levels — informing policy prescriptions and investment decisions.

The maps are an interactive experience, enabling detailed study of the intersection between connectivity and health for every state and county in the United States. Users can generate customized maps that display broadband access, adoption and speed data alongside various health measures (e.g., obesity, diabetes and physician access) in urban and rural areas. These maps can be used by both public and private sectors, and local communities, to identify opportunities and gaps in connected care.

Explore questions like:

- What is the relationship between connectivity and health?
- How do rural and urban areas compare on broadband and health?
- What is the chronic disease picture in higher vs. lower connectivity areas?
- Where can existing broadband infrastructure be leveraged now—by policymakers, entrepreneurs, or other stakeholders—to help address physician shortages or high levels of chronic disease?
- Where do infrastructure gaps and poor health outcomes coincide—both at the national and county levels—in order to better target and prioritize marketplace solutions and private sector investment?

Key features:

- Interactive data visualization tools
- Unique URLs created for each customized map to facilitate sharing and collaboration
- Easily-accessible statistics about connectivity and health at the national and state levels, which help ground the user experience
- Customizable zoom levels to state, county, or automatic
- Support of open government and open data initiatives through APIs and downloadable data sets, allowing stakeholders to overlay other data sets of interest.

Priority 2017, Rural Priority 2017 and Positive Trend Counties

In conjunction with the release of *Mapping Broadband Health in America 2017*, the Task Force conducted a series of data analyses and identified key “critical need” counties at the intersection of broadband and health with the goal of driving better decision-making and creating a roadmap for private investment and coordinated public support. All U.S. counties were considered for inclusion in the nationwide priority list, the *Priority 2017*; only counties with majority rural population were considered for the *Rural Priority 2017* list.

Also new this year is our *Positive Trend Counties (PTC)* inventory. The counties included on this PTC inventory were previously identified as having critical broadband health needs, but the latest data reflects progress (to above our specified thresholds) in either their broadband access metrics and/or health status. If positive trends continue, these counties would “graduate” from the lists altogether.

To learn more, visit www.fcc.gov/health/maps.