

## Getting Started: Overlaying Data on the Opportunity Atlas

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### Introduction

As detailed in the “Overlaying Data” tutorial video, The Opportunity Atlas allows you to overlay your own geographic data onto local maps of opportunity outcomes and neighborhood characteristics. The uses of overlaying vary by individual needs and local data availability, but below is a list of widely applicable datasets that can serve as a starting point. Keep in mind that this is not an exhaustive list. It is also important to remember that many amenities, facilities, and other community elements captured in datasets like these may reflect time periods other than those in the Opportunity Atlas.

Typically, the best datasets to overlay are those that contain the addresses or latitude and longitude coordinates for the data in question. This allows the location of events (like crimes) or amenities (like financial institutions) to be juxtaposed with geographic patterns of opportunity.

Datasets at the Census tract level (such as the HCV dataset below) can also be made suitable. By using [shapefiles](#) from the Census Bureau, you can acquire the latitude and longitude coordinates for the center of each tract. This is useful for marking tracts that meet certain conditions or labelling tracts with corresponding values from the data (such as the number of HCV-holding households).

### Sample Datasets

#### **Affordable Housing**

- [Low Income Housing Tax Credit \(LIHTC\) Database](#). National data from the Office of Housing and Urban Development on all housing developments subsidized by the Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) and placed into service before 2019. These data include the latitude and longitude coordinates of each development and can be restricted by state and Census tract.
- [Housing Choice Voucher \(HCV\) Dataset](#). National data from the Office of Housing and Urban Development on the number and percentage of households occupied by Housing Choice Voucher holders. The dataset is current and updated quarterly. These data are tract-level and should be merged with the Census shapefiles mentioned above.

#### **Health Services**

- [Hospital Location Dataset](#). National data from the Homeland Infrastructure Foundation-Level Data (HIFLD) Subcommittee on the latitude and longitude coordinates of hospitals. The hospitals are categorized by type and capacity and can be restricted by state, county, city, and zip code. The dataset is current and updated periodically.

#### **School and Education**

- [Childcare Center Location Dataset](#). National data from the HIFLD Subcommittee on the addresses of childcare centers, including those located at schools and religious institutions. The dataset is current, updated periodically, and can be restricted by state, county, city, and zip code.

- [Public School Location Dataset](#). National data from the National Center for Education Statistics on the locations of public schools from the 2015-2016 school year to the 2018-2019 school year. The dataset includes both addresses and latitude and longitude coordinates and can be restricted by state, county, city, and zip code.

#### **Social Service**

- [Food Bank Location Database](#). National list of foodbanks compiled by FoodBanks.net that is current and continually updated. The database includes addresses and can be searched by city, state, and zip code.

This list is not exhaustive and may be updated. More geographic data can be found in [this list](#) of national and local ArcGIS data portals, the Data.gov [dataset catalog](#), and the HFILD [open data portal](#). In addition, states and many cities have their own open data portals, often with richer data than can be found at the national level.

Email us at [policy@opportunityinsights.org](mailto:policy@opportunityinsights.org) with other national datasets that could be included here.