



Frequently Asked Questions — 2023 CityHealth Policy Assessment

What is a CityHealth medal?

- CityHealth annually assesses America’s 75 largest cities based on its package of 12 upstream, prevention-oriented policy solutions. Cities earn gold, silver, bronze or no medal in each of the 12 policies. Additionally, CityHealth awards overall medals based on the number of individual medals a city earns. The results of this assessment are published on cityhealth.org.

What are the policy areas that are assessed annually by CityHealth?

- CityHealth assesses cities on 12 policy areas including:
 - Affordable Housing Trusts
 - Complete Streets
 - Earned Sick Leave
 - Eco-Friendly Purchasing
 - Flavored Tobacco Restrictions
 - Greenspace
 - Healthy Food Purchasing
 - Healthy Rental Housing
 - High Quality, Accessible Pre-K
 - Legal Support for Renters
 - Safer Alcohol Sales
 - Smoke-Free Indoor Air

How are CityHealth medals determined?

- To award medals, the Center for Public Health Law Research at Temple University’s Beasley School of Law and other evaluation partners perform policy surveillance, the systematic collection and analysis of laws of public health significance, based on the criteria established for each policy.
- Information about relevant county and state level laws impacting city policy adoption is also included in CityHealth’s assessment.
- Additional information, including all policy criteria, methodology and data on state-level preemption, is available at cityhealth.org.

How can my city improve our medal in 2024?

- CityHealth works with subject matter experts, technical assistance partners, communications specialists and government relations professionals to support cities in adopting the policy package and celebrating their achievements.
- The assessment is intended to serve as an accountability framework, giving residents, policymakers and community leaders the tools to drive health improvements in their cities.
- Several policy areas present rich opportunities for movement in the year ahead, and as cities confront public health-related challenges, we hope they will find opportunities for innovation, creativity and solutions, centering the health and well-being of their city residents.
- To connect with CityHealth and access the many resources available for cities, we invite you to email our Co-Executive Directors, Katrina Forrest (katrina@cityhealth.org) and Catherine Patterson (catherine@cityhealth.org).

How does CityHealth plan to promote the medals?

- CityHealth will release its assessment on December 5. The initiative will promote the assessment on its social media channels and with the media, and we invite you to promote your city's achievement using the template materials that CityHealth will share on the report's release. Learn more at cityhealth.org.

How can residents get involved in supporting public health efforts in the city?

- Residents can actively engage by staying informed about health-related issues in their cities and beyond, make healthy lifestyle choices, and by actively participating in community programs and health education events, and supporting local health initiatives.

What policy areas generally saw significant movement in 2023 across all cities?

- Affordable Housing Trusts and Greenspace saw the most significant movement in 2023, as the pandemic worsened the existing housing crisis and emphasized the value of public outdoor space.

We noticed different policies on the CityHealth site from previous years. Were there different policies before?

- In 2022, as part of its five-year update to the policy package, CityHealth raised the bar by revising the policy package of nine policies with 12 innovative, evidence-informed policies that address the social determinants of health. CityHealth also enhanced the criteria to earn overall medals to reflect the expanded number of policies.