Call for Proposals: Student Grants
Analysis of Big City Health Data

Looking for a Capstone project? Hoping to do some data analysis or present at a conference to bolster your resume before graduation? The Big Cities Health Coalition is offering mini-grants for graduate students to conduct analysis of data using its Big Cities Health Inventory Platform. Small grants are available for students to do an analysis of data from the Big Cities Health Inventory (BCHI) on issues ranging from opioids to gun violence to infectious disease, among many others.

The (BCHI) is an open access data platform that provides a “snapshot” of health in 30 of the largest, most urban cities in the United States. Very little public health data is available at the local level but the BCHI is a standardized data collection hub that allows for comparability of health indicators across city jurisdictions. The platform contains over 18,000 data points across more than 50 health, socio-economic, and demographic indicators across 11 categories. The BCHI was created to help address the continuing need for more comprehensive data and comparative perspective on the most pressing health issues facing the nation’s urban areas. To explore the BCHI, visit: https://bchi.bigcitieshealth.org

Award funding: A small stipend for the student as well as registration and travel costs to present at a relevant conference (e.g., NACCHO Annual, APHA, etc.) will be provided and capped at a total value of $3,000. Stipend amount will depend on the cost of conference registration and travel. Final projects will be shared through BCHC networks to member cities and on the BCHC website, social media and other communication channels. BCHC will need to approve both the research project and how/where it is being presented, perhaps in conjunction with other awardees.

Application Guidelines: Students can conduct an analysis of any health indicator and research question of their choosing, using the BCHI data. NACCHO anticipates funding three projects. Students must submit a short application (maximum 2 pages – no exceptions) that includes:

- Abstract that concisely summarizes the proposed analysis
- Identification of which BCHI data you will be using including which indicator(s) and city (cities)
- Explanation of research question for analysis and rationale for selecting this question
- Proposed methodology for analysis
- Possible conferences for presentation (i.e., to which conference(s) will you submit abstracts).
• Indicate your availability to present at the 2018 NACCHO Annual conference in New Orleans, LA from July 10-13, 2018
• Graduate school and degree program enrolled in

Preference will be given to applications that look at all cities for which the specific indicator data is available and for research questions that align with BCHC’s mission to advance equity and health for present and future generations.

**Application Review Process:** Awards are distributed on a competitive basis. Successful applicants will provide a clear overview of their proposed topic and objectives and link specific proposal to larger BCHC goals.

Suggested topics include:

• Investigate how demographic information such as child poverty, population uninsured, preschool enrollment, or excessive housing cost burden impacts levels of chronic disease and how that differs by city.
• Do opioid-related overdose mortality rates or children’s blood lead levels differ significantly by race/ethnicity, sex, or city of residence and are they correlated with any other factors?
• With which other indicators do we see correlation with injury/violence indicators?

Others topics can be considered in collaboration with BCHC staff. Applications should be submitted to Meghan McGinty at mmcginty@naccho.org by 11:59PM ET December 22, 2017. Award recipients will be announced in mid-January.

*The Big Cities Health Coalition (BCHC) is a forum for the leaders of America’s largest metropolitan health departments to exchange strategies and jointly address issues to promote and protect the health and safety of the 55 million people they serve. Together, these public health officials directly affect the health and well-being of one in six Americans. For more information about BCHC, please visit [www.bigcitieshealth.org](http://www.bigcitieshealth.org).*

*The BCHC is an independent project of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO). NACCHO represents the nation’s nearly 3,000 local governmental health departments. These city, county, metropolitan, district, and tribal departments work every day to protect and promote health and well-being for all people in their communities. For more information about NACCHO, please visit [www.naccho.org](http://www.naccho.org).*