

3rd Place – Team Old Dominion University – Data Bridges Global

Story Map for Hampton Roads Wellness Intersectionality Study

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The Hampton Roads Wellness Intersectionality Study for the Datathon 2023 delves into the comprehensive analysis of community wellness in the Hampton Roads region. Initially focusing on health and safety, the study evolved to prioritize 66 schools in low-income areas and communities of color. The selection includes 14 private and 52 public schools, distributed across cities based on specific criteria.

To further enhance prioritization, the study incorporates proximity to areas vulnerable to sea-level rise and uses the Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) to identify regions with less vegetation. Geospatial analysis and maps are developed to visually represent the suggested areas and the final list of prioritized schools, with a commitment to transparency and public access.

This intersectional approach aims to address disparities and create a more resilient and equitable community wellness framework. The study emphasizes public engagement, recognizing the importance of community involvement in fostering a healthier and more sustainable Hampton Roads.

Recap of Key Findings and Prioritization Criteria: In summarizing our comprehensive study on community wellness in Hampton Roads, several key findings and prioritization criteria emerge as pivotal to our mission:

1. Focus on Disparities:

- The initial analysis highlighted significant disparities in wellness across Hampton Roads communities.
- Prioritization criteria included financial, social, physical, and environmental aspects to address these disparities comprehensively.

2. School Prioritization:

- A critical decision was made to prioritize schools in low-income areas and communities with a higher population of people of color.
- The resulting list comprises 66 schools, balancing between 14 private and 52 public institutions.

3. City Distribution:

- The distribution of prioritized schools across cities is as follows: Norfolk (26), Portsmouth (12), Newport News (10), Hampton (9), Chesapeake (7), and Suffolk (2).
- This strategic distribution aims to maximize impact across diverse urban landscapes.

4. Enhanced Prioritization Criteria:

- Beyond socio-economic factors, further prioritization considers schools' proximity to areas vulnerable to sea-level rise.
- The incorporation of the Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) refines prioritization based on environmental considerations.

5. Geospatial Mapping:

- Geospatial maps visually represent the identified areas and prioritized schools, providing a clear guide for future initiatives.
- Transparency in mapping ensures accessibility for both the public and stakeholders.

Potential Impact on Community Wellness in Hampton Roads: The implications of our findings and prioritization criteria extend far beyond data points and maps; they underscore a transformative potential for community wellness in Hampton Roads.

1. Equitable Access to Wellness Resources:

- By targeting schools in low-income areas and communities of color, our approach seeks to bridge the gap in access to wellness resources, fostering a more equitable distribution.

2. Resilience Against Environmental Challenges:

- Prioritizing schools in proximity to areas vulnerable to sea-level rise anticipates future challenges, instilling resilience within communities and educational institutions.

3. Green Infrastructure Initiatives:

- Encouraging communities and schools to apply for funding, especially through programs like the Retain Your Rain Mini-Grant, facilitates the creation of green infrastructure projects, positively impacting environmental and physical wellness.

4. Community Engagement and Collaboration:

- The study actively encourages community engagement, emphasizing that collective efforts are pivotal for sustained improvements.
- Collaboration with organizations willing to support community initiatives further enhances the potential for positive change.

5. Holistic Wellness Approach:

- By considering financial, social, physical, and environmental factors, our approach takes a holistic view of community wellness, recognizing the interconnectedness of these elements.

In conclusion, the Hampton Roads Wellness Intersectionality Study not only identifies areas of concern but, more importantly, provides a roadmap for actionable change. Through targeted initiatives, community engagement, and a commitment to equity, we envision a future where Hampton Roads residents experience improved wellness across all facets of their lives.

Link to the story map and web maps:

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/859f4fe24b6d4b17a06162922f66b7f6>