

Healthy Municipalities Atlas

The Healthy Municipalities Atlas is a publicly accessible **web platform**, based on geographic information systems, which **characterizes the municipalities of the Portuguese Network of Healthy Municipalities (RPMS)** across a wide range of health dimensions and indicators.

This initiative originated from the agreement between the RPMS and the University of Coimbra to develop a **tool aimed at informing the political decision-making of municipalities**, thereby promoting healthier environments and individuals.

Aims

- **Positioning the RPMS as a reference network** of the World Health Organization's Healthy Cities Project at both national and international levels.
- **Offering a comprehensive framework for evaluating population health** in an integrated, multidimensional, and systematic approach, capable of shaping the development of Municipal Health Profiles.
- **Creating a knowledge-sharing platform** to promote and disseminate **best practices in policies, measures, and actions** aimed at enhancing health determinants.

The Atlas incorporates data from **64 municipalities*** where 4,557,911 inhabitants reside, accounting for 44% of the Portuguese population (in 2021).

* Members of RPMS until June 2022

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Web platform



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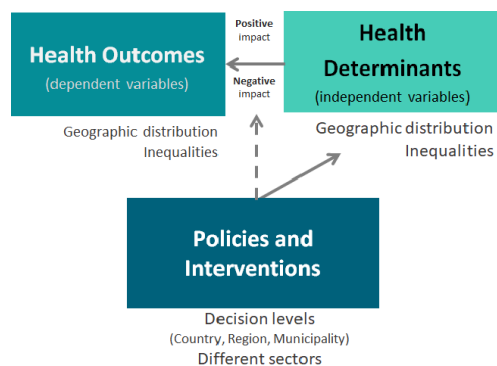
Healthy Municipalities Atlas Portuguese Network of Healthy Cities



<https://atlasunicipiossaudaveis.pt/>

Approach

Integrated, geographic, and multidimensional approach, incorporating evidence on the distribution of **health outcomes** and their respective **determinants** (social, economic, environmental) within the territory.



Population Health Approach
Source: Adapted and translated from Kindig & Stoddart (2003)



Healthy Municipality Index

The Healthy Municipality Index aggregates the performances of municipalities in **health determinants** indicators, considering their respective **influence in the population's health** (positive/negative) and the **municipality's capacity for intervention**.

Weights are based on the municipality's capacity of intervention in each dimension (ranging from 0 to 100).

- Physical Environment:** 23%
- Economic and Social Environment:** 21%
- Built Environment:** 19%
- Lifestyle and Health Behaviours:** 15%
- Education:** 11%
- Healthcare:** 7%
- Safety:** 4%

Data & Evidence

To address health determinants, it is essential to **know their distribution within the territory** and assess their respective impacts.

The population health of each municipality is assessed across **9 dimensions** - two related to health outcomes and seven concerning health determinants -, further broken down into **94 indicators** (54 priority indicators and 40 complementary indicators).



Indicators 94

Dimensions

- Mortality
- Morbidity
- Healthcare
- Lifestyle and Health Behaviours
- Education
- Economic and Social Environment
- Physical Environment
- Built Environment
- Safety



Comparator

This module enables the **comparison of a municipality's performance across various indicators**: (i) within the same dimension, (ii) across different dimensions, and (iii) between different years or periods.

Action



Projects and initiatives

The Atlas contains a compilation of over **800 projects and initiatives** developed by local authorities that directly or indirectly **contribute to improving the performances** of one or more indicators related to **health determinants** included in the Atlas.

The listed **projects and initiatives** take into account the **relevance of the indicators**, particularly: (i) their **capacity to inform policies**; (ii) their **modifiability through measures and interventions** within the scope of municipal competencies and responsibilities of local authorities.



A project can yield benefits across various indicators, signifying its contribution to multiple dimensions simultaneously.



Reports

This module allows for the creation of a PDF report that outlines the **municipality's performance** across the 94 indicators included in the Atlas.



Participatory process

The Atlas was developed in **close collaboration** with the Network and engaged the **active participation of municipal technicians and decision-makers** from municipalities. Several **participatory processes** were conducted, including two **Web-Delphi** for indicator selection and a **Workshop** to assign weights to the dimensions of the Healthy Municipality Index. Municipalities also played a proactive role in mapping the projects and initiatives.