



cityhealth

AN INITIATIVE OF

the de Beaumont Foundation + Kaiser Permanente

# 2022 POLICY ASSESSMENT

2022 marks a new chapter for CityHealth. Following the remarkable city achievements over the initiative's first five years, CityHealth has expanded the number of cities it works with and has raised the bar with a revised policy package and enhanced criteria. Today, CityHealth is proud to partner with America's 75 largest cities to adopt 12 upstream, prevention-oriented policies that can improve people's access to healthy choices and address critical health disparities in their communities.

Last year, CityHealth published the final assessment of its inaugural nine-policy package with a strong record of success. Nearly 93% of America's 40 largest cities earned an overall medal, almost doubling the number of medals awarded in the initiative's first assessment in 2017. This dramatic increase in policy adoption — including during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic and amidst the transformational movement for racial justice — was proof that city leaders were redefining the role of city-led action to improve health in local communities, and intentionally focusing on racial and health equity in meaningful ways.

CityHealth is building on this movement for local health action with a new policy package and larger footprint. By updating the menu of evidence-informed policies that address social determinants of health and working with more cities to adopt these policies, CityHealth has the potential to multiply its impact and improve the health of millions of people living in America's largest cities. With this new policy package, cities have an opportunity to earn their next gold medal and adopt healthy policies that are timely, focused on health equity, and help address critical health disparities — today, and for decades down the road.

## BACKGROUND

CityHealth, an initiative of the de Beaumont Foundation and Kaiser Permanente, works to advance a package of

## OVERALL RESULTS

Out of the nation's 75 largest cities, there were:



**49%**  
of America's 75 largest cities (37 of 75) earned an overall medal in 2022



**39 MILLION**  
people live in a city that has earned an overall medal

tried and tested policy solutions that ensure all people in our largest cities have access to healthy choices. This package of 12 equitable policy solutions can help ensure all people have a safe place to live, a healthy body and mind, and a thriving environment. Each policy solution has specific criteria needed to earn a gold, silver, or bronze medal. Policy criteria and additional information can be found at [cityhealth.org](http://cityhealth.org).

Two exemplary cities rose to the top by earning overall gold medals: **Boston** and **Denver**. These two cities qualified for an overall gold by earning at least five individual gold policy medals; Boston earned 6 individual golds and Denver earned 5 individual golds. The complete results for all cities can be found at the conclusion of this report.

# KEY FINDINGS: Policy Medals

In 2022, America's 75 largest cities earned 371 individual policy medals across all 12 policies, including 126 gold medals, 102 silver medals, and 143 bronze medals.

Cities can earn gold, silver, or bronze medals depending on the number and strength of their policies in each area. For a full description of how medals are awarded for each policy and to learn about CityHealth's methodology, visit [cityhealth.org](http://cityhealth.org) or see the assessment's accompanying methodology document. The methodology document also contains information on preemption, where cities are prevented from adopting policies due to state or county laws that restrict local authority in certain areas.

## 371 TOTAL POLICY MEDALS

127

gold medals

101

silver medals

143

bronze medals



## Affordable Housing Trusts

Affordable Housing Trusts are a community-driven way for cities to invest in building and maintaining affordable housing for everyone. These trusts receive public funding to support the preservation and production of affordable housing and increase opportunities for families and individuals to access quality affordable homes.

CityHealth assessed cities' Affordable Housing Trusts policies using criteria that include multi-stakeholder oversight requirements, diversity in funding sources, and regular evaluation and public reporting.

15

gold medals

11

silver medals

12

bronze medals

38 of 75 cities earned a medal for Affordable Housing Trusts



## Complete Streets

Complete Streets policies balance people's needs and safety across all forms of transportation, including walking, biking, public transit, and cars. From street lighting to bike lanes to crosswalks, these policies ensure that all residents have safe, convenient ways of getting around and staying active. All people from all neighborhoods should have access to Complete Streets that help them get where they need to go, live, play, and grow.

CityHealth assessed cities' Complete Streets policies with criteria that include measures to prioritize vulnerable users, ensure compliance, and collect and publicize equity data.

4

gold medals

18

silver medals

1

bronze medals

23 of 75 cities earned a medal for Complete Streets

"On behalf of the city of Denver, we are grateful for this recognition. Our city is dedicated to improving the health and well-being of all of our residents."

— Denver Councilmember Amanda Sawyer



## Earned Sick Leave

Earned Sick Leave policies require employers to allow employees to take paid time off for illness or injury for themselves or their family members. Done well, these policies can reduce the spread of contagious illnesses, increase employment and income stability, and save cities money in health care costs. Cities that require companies to offer Earned Sick Leave ensure that all employees feel secure in their jobs when they fall ill — and keep communities healthy by stopping the spread of contagious illness.

CityHealth assessed cities' Complete Streets policies with criteria that include the ability for workers to use Earned Sick Leave to care for family members or recover from domestic violence, the minimum amount of sick time a worker can earn, and the size of businesses covered under the local law.

7

gold medals

10

silver medals

19

bronze medals

36 of 75 cities earned a medal for Earned Sick Leave



## Flavored Tobacco Restrictions

Flavored Tobacco Restrictions policies prohibit all retailers from selling flavored tobacco products — including flavored e-cigarettes and menthol cigarettes — to protect the health of our communities. Prohibiting the sale of flavored tobacco products can reduce use of these dangerous and addictive products and supports the well-being of everyone — especially young people.

CityHealth assessed cities' Flavored Tobacco Restrictions policies with criteria that include prohibiting the sale of three categories of tobacco products: menthol cigarettes; flavored e-cigarettes and vaping devices; and other flavored tobacco products including cigars, cigarillos, dipping tobacco, chew, and hookah.

5

gold medals

7

silver medals

8

bronze medals

25 of 75 cities earned a medal for Flavored Tobacco Restrictions



## Eco-Friendly Purchasing

Eco-Friendly Purchasing policies help to limit exposure to toxic chemicals in city-owned buildings. Since cities collectively spend billions of dollars every year purchasing potentially toxic products, prioritizing the city's selection of less harmful products in three categories — cleaning supplies, foodware, and furnishings — means that leaders are able to use the power of city procurement to impact health. When city leaders buy eco-friendly products for city buildings, they make it clear that the health of our communities and our environment is worth protecting.

CityHealth assessed cities' Eco-Friendly Purchasing policies with criteria that include annual reporting requirements, adherence to independent standards, and inclusion of all requests for proposals (RFPs) and contracts.

4

gold medals

2

silver medals

10

bronze medals

16 of 75 cities earned a medal for Eco-Friendly Purchasing



## Greenspace

Public greenspaces, from parks to trails to public commons, help families be healthier in body and mind and keep our environment thriving. Greenspace policies can expand equitable access to parks, increase tree canopy, and reduce pollution. These policies ensure all families, not just a few, have access to public land, nature, and their benefits.

CityHealth assessed cities' Greenspace policies with criteria that include measurable goals to expand park access or tree canopy, park and greenspace spending levels, and the prioritization of underserved and disinvested neighborhoods.

20

gold medals

13

silver medals

14

bronze medals

47 of 75 cities earned a medal for Greenspace



## Healthy Food Purchasing

Healthy Food Purchasing policies set standards for the food available for purchase on city property. These policies can help ensure that healthy food options are available in city-owned or controlled places and give city residents food choices that can help them achieve and maintain a healthy weight. Cities that prioritize health in their food purchases increase access to healthy choices — and can use their purchasing power to lead by example.

CityHealth assessed cities' Healthy Food Purchasing policies with criteria that include mandating nutrition standards and specifying the venues covered by the policy.

2

gold medals

2

silver medals

19

bronze medals

23 of 75 cities earned a medal for Healthy Food Purchasing



## Healthy Rental Housing

Healthy Rental Housing (also known as “proactive rental inspection”) policies have a strong evidence base that shows the link between potential health harms within rental properties and the ability to proactively inspect and remediate these harms. These policies can help detect life-threatening toxins, like mold and asbestos, and have a strong upstream prevention focus that could prevent poor health problems before they start.

CityHealth assessed cities' Healthy Rental Housing policies with criteria that include the interval and location of inspections, landlord payment of registration or inspection fees, and evaluation and reporting requirements.

2

gold medals

3

silver medals

19

bronze medals

24 of 75 cities earned a medal for Healthy Rental Housing



## High-Quality, Accessible Pre-K

Done right, all children benefit from early childhood education, regardless of family income or zip code. CityHealth's assessment of High-Quality, Accessible Pre-K programs evaluates 10 quality benchmarks established by the National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER), which include measures around quality, access, local funding, and data collection. When all families have access to high-quality pre-K, more children have the opportunity to succeed as they begin their educational journeys.

CityHealth assessed cities' High-Quality, Accessible Pre-K policies with criteria that include the number of NIEER quality benchmarks the program meets, access thresholds, collection of equity data, and inclusion of local funding.

22

gold medals

12

silver medals

30

bronze medals

64 of 75 cities earned a medal for High-Quality, Accessible Pre-K



## Legal Support for Renters

Renters have legal protections, but few can access those protections when faced with eviction because most don't have the means to obtain legal representation. Legal Support for Renters policies ensure all eligible tenants have access to full legal representation, which substantially improves the likelihood that residents will stay in their homes; or, if they must move, that they will have more time to find new housing and lower their risk of homelessness. These policies also help renters keep their records free from evictions and can help reduce rent debt.

CityHealth assessed cities' Legal Support for Renters policies with criteria that include eligibility requirements, degree of coverage, and evaluation and reporting.

2

gold medals

6

silver medals

6

bronze medals

14 of 75 cities earned a medal for Legal Support for Renters



## Smoke-Free Indoor Air

Cities can put people's health first by ensuring that businesses and other indoor spaces remain free from the smoke and vapor from tobacco (including e-cigarettes and heated tobacco products) and cannabis. Smoke-Free Indoor Air policies protect non-smokers from the harmful effects of tobacco and reduce smokers' consumption of tobacco at the same time. Casinos, gaming venues, multi-unit housing, and bars — or any other public space we enjoy with family and friends — should have clean air to protect everyone's health.

CityHealth assessed cities' Smoke-Free Indoor Air policies with criteria that include the types of workplaces and venues the policy applies to and the inclusion of vaping and marijuana.

21

gold medals

6

silver medals

5

bronze medals

32 out of 75 cities earned a medal for Smoke-Free Indoor Air policies.



## Safer Alcohol Sales

When communities have smart policies and practices around alcohol sales, everyone is safer — and physically and mentally healthier — by reducing excessive drinking and related violence. Safer Alcohol Sales policies put cities in charge of the location and practices of alcohol retailers. Policies that govern where, when, and how alcohol may be sold in a neighborhood can reduce crime, increase safety, and decrease spending on health care and criminal justice.

CityHealth assessed cities' Safer Alcohol Sales policies with criteria that include coverage of all alcohol sales, ability to address public health and safety, and enforcement.

23

gold medals

11

silver medals

34 of 75 cities earned a medal for Safer Alcohol Sales

**"Achieving health equity requires working in partnership across agencies to build systems that truly improve the health of our residents."**

**— Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, Boston Commissioner of Public Health and Executive Director of the Boston Public Health Commission**





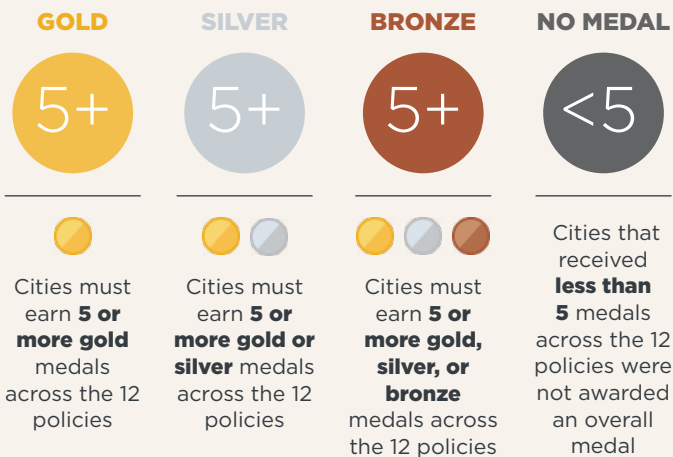
## OUR METHODS

This is the first annual assessment of CityHealth’s revised policy package. To revise the package, CityHealth consulted with local leaders, public health experts, researchers, and members of the business community to select 12 health-related, equitable policies that are proven to benefit people’s health, well-being, and quality of life. All policies in the package and their associated criteria were chosen with the following guiding principles in mind: 1) Policies demonstrate evidence of health impact; 2) Policies are largely under city jurisdictional authority; 3) Policies are replicable, having been successfully adopted in at least one of the 75 largest cities; 4) Policies are pragmatic, including a likelihood of gaining bipartisan support; and 5) Policies

employ “best practices,” with criteria recommended by subject matter experts and implementation partners.

To award medals, the Center for Public Health Law Research at Temple University’s Beasley School of Law and other evaluation partners performed policy surveillance, the systematic collection and analysis of laws of public health significance, based on the criteria established for each policy. Medals are awarded for high-achieving policies (gold), good policies (silver), and acceptable policies (bronze). Cities with no policy, or a policy that did not meet the minimum requirements, received no medal. CityHealth’s assessment also includes information about relevant county and state level laws impacting city policy adoption. Additional information, including all policy criteria, methodology, and data on state-level preemption, is available at [cityhealth.org](http://cityhealth.org).

## OVERALL MEDAL STATUS



## NEXT STEPS

CityHealth’s goal is that city leaders will use this assessment as a tool to work together and move toward earning a gold medal for each policy in future assessments. These data are intended to serve as an accountability framework, giving residents, policymakers, and community leaders the tools to drive health improvements in their cities.

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. To keep up with CityHealth and access the many resources available for cities, we invite you to connect with us at [cityhealth.org/join-us](http://cityhealth.org/join-us).



"Health policy is not a stagnant thing... CityHealth continues to push the envelope to ensure that we're helping communities thrive."

— San Antonio Mayor Ron Nirenberg





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	2022 Overall Medal	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
Memphis, TN	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🟡	🕒	🕒	🕒
Mesa, AZ	🕒	🕒	🕒	🟠	🕒	🕒	🟠	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒
Miami, FL	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒
Milwaukee, WI	🟠	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🟠	🕒	🟠	🕒	🟡	🕒	🕒
Minneapolis, MN	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🟡	🟠	🟠	🟡	🟠	🟡	🟡	🟡
Nashville, TN	🕒	🟠	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🟠	🕒	🕒	🟡	🕒	🕒	🕒
New Orleans, LA	🕒	🕒	🟡	🕒	🕒	🕒	🟠	🟠	🟠	🕒	🟡	🟡	🟡
New York, NY	🟠	🟠	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🟠	🟠	🕒	🕒	🕒	🟡	🟡
Newark, NJ	🟠	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🟠	🕒	🕒	🟡	🕒	🕒
Oakland, CA	🟠	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🟡	🕒	🕒	🕒	🟠	🕒	🟡	🕒
Oklahoma City, OK	🕒	🟠	🕒	🕒	🟠	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🟡	🕒	🕒	🕒
Omaha, NE	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🟠	🕒	🟡	🕒	🕒
Orlando, FL	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🟡	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒
Philadelphia, PA	🕒	🟡	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🟠	🟡	🟠	🟡	🕒	🕒	🕒
Phoenix, AZ	🕒	🕒	🕒	🟠	🟡	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒
Pittsburgh, PA	🟠	🟡	🕒	🟠	🟠	🕒	🟡	🕒	🟠	🟡	🕒	🕒	🕒
Plano, TX	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🟠	🕒	🕒	🟡
Portland, OR	🕒	🟡	🕒	🟠	🕒	🕒	🟡	🕒	🟠	🕒	🕒	🕒	🟡
Raleigh, NC	🕒	🟠	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒
Riverside, CA	🕒	🕒	🕒	🟠	🕒	🕒	🟠	🕒	🕒	🟠	🕒	🕒	🕒
Sacramento, CA	🟠	🕒	🕒	🟠	🕒	🟡	🟠	🟠	🕒	🟠	🕒	🕒	🕒
Saint Paul, MN	🕒	🕒	🕒	🟡	🕒	🕒	🟡	🕒	🕒	🕒	🟡	🟡	🟡
San Antonio, TX	🟠	🟡	🕒	🕒	🟠	🕒	🟡	🟠	🕒	🟡	🕒	🕒	🟡
San Diego, CA	🟠	🕒	🕒	🟡	🟠	🟠	🕒	🕒	🟠	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒
San Francisco, CA	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🟡	🟡	🟡	🟠	🟠	🕒	🟠	🕒	🟡
San Jose, CA	🕒	🕒	🕒	🟠	🟠	🕒	🟡	🟠	🕒	🟠	🕒	🕒	🕒
Santa Ana, CA	🟠	🕒	🕒	🟠	🕒	🟡	🟠	🕒	🕒	🟠	🕒	🕒	🕒
Seattle, WA	🕒	🟡	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🟠	🕒	🟡	🟠	🕒	🟠
St. Louis, MO	🟠	🟡	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🟠	🟡	🕒	🟡	🕒	🟡	🟠
Stockton, CA	🟠	🕒	🕒	🟠	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🟡	🟠	🕒	🟡	🕒
Tampa, FL	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🟠	🕒	🕒	🟡	🕒
Toledo, OH	🕒	🟡	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🟡	🟠	🕒	🕒
Tucson, AZ	🕒	🕒	🟡	🟠	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒
Tulsa, OK	🕒	🟠	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🟠	🕒	🟡	🕒	🟡	🕒
Virginia Beach, VA	🕒	🟠	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🟡	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒
Washington, DC	🕒	🟡	🕒	🟠	🟡	🟠	🕒	🟠	🟠	🕒	🟡	🕒	🕒
Wichita, KS	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒	🟡	🕒	🕒	🕒	🕒

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