Housing:

Q’s to ask: Which counties need more affordable housing? Is rent burden a problem? Is there overcrowding?

* number of members per household
* number of affordable housing (at each type)
* number who own homes
* number who rent homes
* number rent burdened;
* can also analyze by race; average income;
* number on waiting list for affordable housing
* Number of people in home
* Types of family relationships in home (grandparents, primary family, etc.   
    
  Types of Affordable Housing: LIHTC, Project Based Section 8, Section 202, Section 811, Section 515; <https://affordablehousingonline.com/affordable-housing-data> ; https://preservationdatabase.org/documentation/data-sources/

Environmental:

Q: Are people’s health affected by their environment? Is there a difference between urban vs. rural?

* PM 2.5
* Location of Superfund Sites
* Environmental Violations
* Location of power plants
* Amt of greenspace and public parks, sidewalks, trails
* Crimes
* Proximity to state parks, recreational areas
* Bike friendliness

Educational

Q’s: What resources/strategies are successful public schools using? Is the quality of education different in urban vs. rural schools? How do charter schools compare? How do elementary, middle, and high schools compare?

* National Ranking
* Amount school district spends per child
* Test scores?
* Academic and recreational after school programs
* School district’s accomplishments
* Extracurriculars and are they funded by the school or parents?
* Amt of AP/IB courses offered
* % grad. Rate
* % pursuing higher education: public vs. private; in-state vs. out of state
* % going to technical/vocational school
* % going to work full-time
* Student/teacher ratio
* Number of libraries in the community
* Number of field trips and outdoor learning
* High/low turnover of teachers and faculty
* Is there a PTA?

Food:

Q’s: Which populations are vulnerable to food insecurity?

* Number of grocery stores
* Number of specialty grocery stores, such as Trader Joe’s, coops, whole foods, etc.
* Do they have farmer’s markets? Do they accept food stamps, etc?
* Distance to nearest grocery stores
* Number of people who rely on cars/bikes/ public transportation/uber/lyft

Health:

* Common diseases in a county.
* Number of public/low cost (YMCA) and private gyms available?
* Environmental factors, such as sidewalks, etc. to encourage walking.

Conclusion:

* Which communities lack necessary resources? Are there a correlation between race, age, socioeconomic status?
* What needs to happen to resolve these issues?

Notes:

* Generally, households pay rent equal to 30 percent of their incomes, after deductions, while the federal government pays the remainder of rent or rental costs.
* Assistance provided under HUD programs falls into three categories: public housing, tenant-based, and privately owned, project-based.
* In public housing, local housing agencies receive allocations of HUD funding to build, operate or make improvements to housing. The housing is owned by the local agencies. Public housing is a form of project-based subsidy because households may receive assistance only if they agree to live at a particular public housing project.
* Currently, tenant based assistance is the most prevalent form of housing assistance provided. Historically, tenant based assistance began with the Section 8 certificate and voucher programs, which were created in 1974 and 1983, respectively. These programs were replaced by the Housing Choice Voucher program, under legislation enacted in 1998. Tenant based programs allow participants to find and lease housing in the private market. Local public housing agencies (PHAs) and some state agencies serving as PHAs enter into contracts with HUD to administer the programs. The PHAs then enter into contracts with private landlords. The housing must meet housing quality standards and other program requirements. assisted households may move and take their subsidy with them.
* The third major type of HUD rental assistance is a collection of programs generally referred to as multifamily assisted, or, privately-owned, project-based housing. These types of housing assistance fall under a collection of programs created during the last four decades. What these programs have in common is that they provide rental housing that is owned by private landlords who enter into contracts with HUD in order to receive housing subsidies. The subsidies pay the difference between tenant rent and total rental costs. The subsidy arrangement is termed project-based because the assisted household may not take the subsidy and move to another location. The single largest project-based program was the Section 8 program, which was created in 1974. This program allowed for new construction and substantial rehabilitation that was delivered through a wide variety of financing mechanisms. An important variant of project-based Section 8 was the Loan Management Set Aside (LMSA) program, which was provided in projects financed under Federal Housing Administration (FHA) programs that were not originally intended to provide deep subsidy rental assistance. Projects receiving these LMSA “piggyback” subsidies were developed under the Section 236 program, the Section 221(d)(3) Below Market Interest Rate (BMIR) program, and others that were unassisted when originally developed.The third major type of HUD rental assistance is a collection of programs generally referred to as multifamily assisted, or, privately-owned, project-based housing. These types of housing assistance fall under a collection of programs created during the last four decades. What these programs have in common is that they provide rental housing that is owned by private landlords who enter into contracts with HUD in order to receive housing subsidies. The subsidies pay the difference between tenant rent and total rental costs. The subsidy arrangement is termed project-based because the assisted household may not take the subsidy and move to another location. The single largest project-based program was the Section 8 program, which was created in 1974. This program allowed for new construction and substantial rehabilitation that was delivered through a wide variety of financing mechanisms. An important variant of project-based Section 8 was the Loan Management Set Aside (LMSA) program, which was provided in projects financed under Federal Housing Administration (FHA) programs that were not originally intended to provide deep subsidy rental assistance. Projects receiving these LMSA “piggyback” subsidies were developed under the Section 236 program, the Section 221(d)(3) Below Market Interest Rate (BMIR) program, and others that were unassisted when originally developed.