

The
KEY **Players**
of the **DATA** for
HEALTH
JUSTICE
Ecosystem



PREMISE

Considering the level of investment it often takes for the information to be gathered, datasets about large populations or infrastructure are rarely created by single individuals without a clear purpose.

The modern advancement of technology has made it easier to create data for the sake of creating data.

It takes more nuance and accountability to create data that supports health justice.

Making the macro environmental data on social, political, and structural factors more accessible for health justice.

Centring new datasets on health justice causes, such as framing the data, funding, etc.

PURPOSE

This document will highlight key player archetypes who significantly contribute to the creation and use of macro environmental data for health justice purposes.

These initial archetypes are based on the observation and experiences within some of the health justice work involving macro environmental data.

The goal of this strand of *Macro Environmental Data for Health Justice* is to engage with this ecosystem through research in the form of surveys, events, and interviews to create an informed profile of each of the key players in the *Macro Environmental Data for Health Justice* process.

Background

The key player descriptions have been developed following previous work on health justice and the role of data in understanding and advocating for communities. To get a full background on this topic, we recommend reading these previous Centric Lab publications relating to health justice and data:

- [Using Data for Health Justice](#) (2021)
- [Pathway To Community Health Justice](#) (2022)
- [Macro Environmental Data For Health Justice](#) (2022)

This section will give you a quick background on the topic and terminology in order to get the most value from the key player descriptions.



What is “macro environmental data”?

According to the Environmental Protection Agency: “Environmental information or data is defined as any measurements or information that describe environmental processes, location, or conditions; ecological or health effects and consequences; or the performance of environmental technology.”

Macro environmental data is a term we are using for data that represents information at a large geopolitical scale about the condition of people, activities, or (built or natural) environments.

Examples include: pollution, deprivation, demographic, average road activity.

This data represents information on a scale that one person couldn't simply discover by themselves to inform their decision-making about health.

What is “health justice”?

A requirement that all persons have the same chance to be free from hazards and stressors that jeopardise health, fully participate in society, and access opportunity.

Health justice addresses the political, commercial, and social determinants of health that result in poor health for individuals and consequential negative outcomes for society at large.

Health justice means everyone deserves the tools and environments that give them access to wholeness, dignity, and safety through their lifetime.

Excerpts from our [Using Data for Health Justice](#) report:

- “The common outcome of these [health] justice paths is health data complementing localised understandings of health in order to develop more thorough and transferable health knowledge to enable wise and equitable decisions”
 - For instance, if people from a variety of cities and nations are discussing the effects of air pollution, they will have policies, behaviour, physiology, and language that also vary around the experience of air pollution. Providing the right data can be a useful gateway to understanding the global context of the environment someone else is coming from.
- Another justice path of health data is formed by creating robust strategies and goals around health justice based on the scale of impact and

What is “health justice”?

...continued



community involvement.

- If we look at the example of respiratory health, the appropriate health data can help a community or individual find another community with similar experiences and levels of respiratory difficulty to find out what may be similar about the other and their environment.
- Thirdly, those who are practitioners can help democratise the access to data as part of healing infrastructures.
 - Communities have a very long and successful history of generating healing justice. From the African American communities putting forward the first case of environmental racism to Turtle Island and Sibling Lands resistance and protection of Land, Water, and Air. However, communities often are doing the work with little to no economic or structural support. Therefore, creating toolkits and healing infrastructures can play a key role in supporting communities.



What is the relationship between “macro environmental data” and “health justice”?

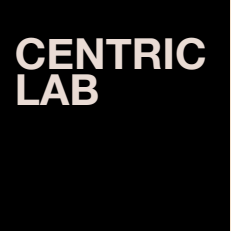
We can look at this relationship as a two-way relationship between macro decisions and local impacts.

From the ground up, macro environmental data is a way for people who are advocating for health justice to translate the lived and localised experiences into a format that is more relevant for larger structural decisions.

- For instance, information on psychosocial factors such as deprivation in addition to vehicular activity and peak heat might reinforce the local campaigns against certain types of further construction or traffic.

From the top down, macro environmental data informs the decisions made by larger entities with structural goals, responsibilities, and impacts on communities.

- For instance, knowing about macro built environment features, vehicular activity, and the comparative health data of a ward compared to other wards nearby may support a city starting stronger air pollution initiatives in this ward.



What is [Macro] Environmental Data for Health Justice?

Vision: Equitable data collection and communication practices that empower environmental health justice amongst communities.

Purpose: To facilitate the production of accessible, equitable and just data that support health justice.

What are the steps needed?

The *Macro Environmental Data for Health Justice* investigation has highlighted three categories that describe a loosely structured set of steps involved in taking phenomena at a larger societal level and create meaningful environmental data for health justice:

- Context:

- To create accurate context of the macro environmental data to be collected, you need to gather information on the phenomena itself, the research and relation to public health, the current relevant policy goals, the cultural significance and value, and the current tools and metrics people use to represent this information.

- Collection:

- Collection then becomes the process where you start with what would be the ideal metrics to collect and create as macro environmental data consider the investment to collect the data given the resources available, and come to an agreement on what feasible metrics would contribute to the goal of health justice.

- Communication:

- Environmental data for health justice is only as good as people's ability to interpret it and use it, so communication and advocacy through the data is a process should be carried out with relevant groups or individuals to the health justice outcomes.



Why map the key players of this ecosystem?

Our conversations with practitioners, community advocates, and other urban/public health focused colleagues have confirmed that a lot of health justice work operates in silos.

There aren't currently recognisable resources or tools that help people understand and navigate the data creation and use process specifically for health justice.

Maps create equitable opportunities to effectively strategise by identifying and engaging with valuable people and resources that may not have been visible from previous experiences.

Key Player Descriptions

Here we will present the starting points for a selection of key player archetypes that influence the creation and use of macro environmental data for health justice.

The key players described are not the only people involved in the health justice process, but they are a core set of roles that we have currently identified.

We believe that when people understand and identify with these key player archetypes, we will be able to make progress in creating a clearer, more effective ecosystem for decisions and campaigns that promote health justice with larger datasets.

COMMUNITY ADVOCATES



Associated Steps of MED for HJ

CONTEXT COMMUNICATION

ROLE

- Advance the epistemologies surrounding health and environmental phenomena.
- Researchers are usually housed in public or academic institutions that support this development.

OPPORTUNITIES

- In a space that can validate the context, develop experimental design, and document research on health justice issues for further application.

EXAMPLES:
Clean Air Southall & Hayes, C

DATA SPECIALISTS



Associated Steps of MED for HJ

COLLECTION

ROLE

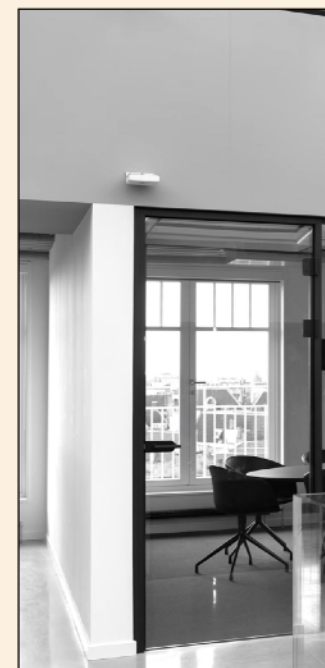
- Primary data collector, analyser, and presenter.
- Primarily focus on the methodology and efficacy of data collection.

OPPORTUNITIES

- There are universities and consultancies who take on the task of creating macro datasets, such as models on air pollution.
- Create open datasets that others can use.
- Develop progressive and accessible methods to collect and present community-led datasets.
- Developing the information and knowledge infrastructures that support health justice.

EXAMPLES:
Universities, Consultancies

FUNDERS



Associated Steps of MED for HJ

CONTEXT COLLECTION COMMUNICATION

ROLE

- Allocate funding to those who can practically carry out the research for context, and communication or advocacy.
- Support the infrastructure of a pro

OPPORTUNITIES

- Develop funding structures that specifically

EXAMPLES:
Innovate UK Catapult Netwo

RESEARCHERS



Associated Steps of MED for HJ

CONTEXT COLLECTION COMMUNICATION

ROLE

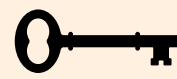
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OPPORTUNITIES

- In a space that can validate the context, develop experimental design, and document research on health justice issues for further application.
- Ability to understand a phenomenon without being tied to a direct commercial output.

EXAMPLES:
Innovate UK Catapult Network, Nesta, Impact on Urban Health

FUNDERS



Associated Steps of Macro Environmental Data for Health Justice

CONTEXT

COLLECTION

COMMUNICATION

ROLE

- Allocate funding to those who can practically carry out the research for context, data collection, and communication or advocacy of the data.
- Support the infrastructure of a project.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Develop funding structures that specifically enable health justice data applications with other key players involved.
- Focus more funding towards community consultation to understand the context of the data throughout the data collection and creation process.
- Funding that enables thorough & ethical collection methods that create more meaningful datasets.
- Funding that allows typically marginalised people to participate in the context, collection, and communication steps of data creation.

EXAMPLES:

Innovate UK Catapult Network, Nesta, Impact on Urban Health

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Associated Steps of Macro Environmental Data for Health Justice

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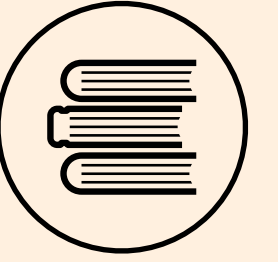
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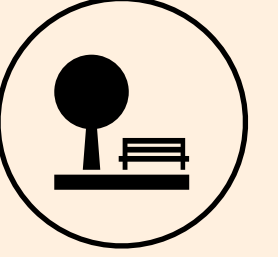
OPPORTUNITIES

- Become a space that can validate the context, develop experimental design, and document research on health justice issues for further application.
- Understand a health or ecological phenomenon without being tied to a direct commercial output.

EXAMPLES:

Centric Lab, Nesta, University College London

COMMUNITY ADVOCATES



Associated Steps of Macro Environmental Data for Health Justice

CONTEXT

COMMUNICATION

ROLE

- Can range from grassroots campaigners to local community members who are familiar with health injustices or working towards certain health justices.
- Bring people together under identified socio political issues.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Closer to the ground in assessing what ethical and accessible health justice looks like in action.
- Cultural focal points and liaisons for engagement with key members of infrastructure looking to support meaningful change and justice for communities.

EXAMPLES:

Clean Air Southall & Hayes, Civic Square, Little Ninja

JOURNALISTS



Associated Steps of Macro Environmental Data for Health Justice

CONTEXT

COMMUNICATION

ROLE

- Publish information related to health and society with a critical lens that accurately represents the overt and underlying injustices for better understanding by the population.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Become trusted sources for connecting important data and data uses with citizens and those who want support in their health justice campaigns.
- Determining how data and science is communicated plays a crucial part in access to more funding, community adoption, successful advocacy, and transparency.
- Maintain the scientific and health justice culture for communities.

EXAMPLES:

ENDS Report, Bureau of Investigative Journalism, Non-Profit Quarterly

LOCAL AUTHORITIES



Associated Steps of Macro Environmental Data for Health Justice

CONTEXT

COLLECTION

COMMUNICATION

ROLE

- Work with local people and partners, such as local businesses and other organisations, to agree and deliver on local priorities.
- The usual first point of contact for the public with responsibility related to public information and initiatives.

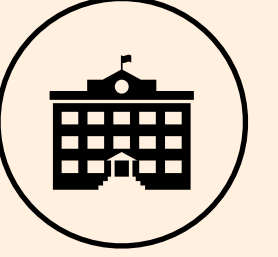
OPPORTUNITIES

- Like researchers from academia, they have access to certain funding, often tied to political goals around health and productivity.
- Become a trusted intermediary between individuals, communities, and health justice applications that require an intersection of information best not kept in purely private environments.
- Consensual commissioners of data about communities that make ethical and informed decisions for society more accessible.

EXAMPLES:

West Midlands Combined Authority, Greater London Authority, Southwark Council

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES



Associated Steps of Macro Environmental Data for Health Justice

CONTEXT

COLLECTION

COMMUNICATION

ROLE

- Remits involve larger scale social benefits and decision-making.
- Government agencies or closely aligned with the government.
- Often aligned with national and international health, economic, and infrastructure initiatives.

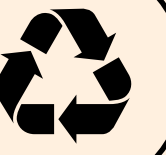
OPPORTUNITIES

- Setting the pace and practice for data creation that leads to health justice or infrastructure transparency.
- Being a recognisable portal between public and related/relevant data.

EXAMPLES:

Ordnance Survey, DEFRA, Land Registry

CAMPAIGNERS



Associated Steps of Macro Environmental Data for Health Justice

CONTEXT

COMMUNICATION

ROLE

- Exist as an intersection between publication, membership, campaigning, and advocacy rooted in medical or professional (often younger) groups.
- Articulate and strategise the actions that support change in specific policies or infrastructure.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Creating the case for data availability or creation through active engagement in systems that support or inhibit health justice.
- Facilitating the language and terminology that translates data into action for a range of citizens.
- Campaigners can be valuable translational assets between community advocates and engagement in systems of power with data.
- Macro environmental data enables them to present research on injustices and create realistic objectives for change.

EXAMPLES:

Medact, Health 4 Green New Deal, Systemic Justice

STORYTELLERS



Associated Steps of Macro Environmental Data for Health Justice

COMMUNICATION

ROLE

- Capture the cultural relevance and impact of health justice work.
- Articulate and strategise the actions that support change in specific policies or infrastructure.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Work with technical key players to integrate the “why” and “how” of macro environmental data with how citizens live and make decisions.
- Support the accessibility of work done by journalists, researchers, and campaigners.

EXAMPLES:

Julian Knxx, Love Ssega, Voices that Shake!

Summary

CONTEXT

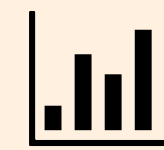
COLLECTION

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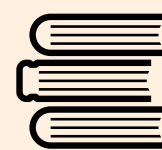
FUNDERS



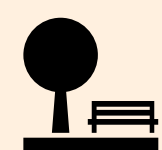
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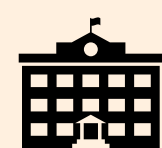
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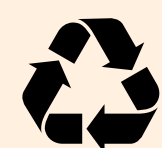
LOCAL AUTHORITIES



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This set of key player descriptions is a starting tool to help those who are working towards health justice identify and understand the entities they likely need to engage to fulfil an upcoming, data-supported strategy.

If you want further insights in how to use it, please contact us:

hello@thecentriclab.com

