Introduction to the AFFH Data and Mapping Tool (AFFH-T)

The AFFH Data and Mapping Tool (which you will see abbreviated AFFH dash T) is an easy-to-use online, interactive mapping and reporting tool that allows users to explore and analyze fair housing-related conditions and patterns in geographies of interest across all U.S. states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. This video provides a short overview of the features and uses of the AFFH-T.

The AFFH-T was developed by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development with the goal of supporting jurisdictions and public housing authorities in their fair housing planning processes. The tool is available at no cost and is accessible to the general public, so the AFFH-T can also be used by anyone interested in better understanding fair housing-related conditions. In addition to the online interface, the AFFH-T includes a downloadable version of the dataset that can be used for supplementary or custom analyses.

The AFFH-T's underlying dataset is a unique collection of information derived from thirteen different data sources that capture information on demographic, housing, education, health, transportation, and economic conditions, including a series of indices created specifically to support fair housing planning and a robust set of variables related to protected classes under the Fair Housing Act.

Collectively this information helps jurisdictions, public housing authorities and other users explore a wide range of fair housing-related information. Example use cases include: examining the geographic relationship between demographic groups and neighborhood conditions; seeing how the locations of federally assisted housing developments relate to racially or ethnically concentrated areas of poverty; or understanding how fair housing conditions have changed over time, going back to 1990.

The online tool can be accessed at egis.hud.gov/affht. Both the online tool and downloadable data can also be accessed from HUD's Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing web page, which is accessible from the HUD.gov homepage by searching for "AFFH" in the search bar.

Upon opening the tool and specifying their geography of interest, users can choose from a set of 18 maps that have been designed to capture relationships between key fair housing conditions. Once a map is selected, it can be explored interactively. Clicking on a location will reveal a set of more detailed information about the location selected. Specific information will vary based on the map the user is currently exploring.

Some maps also have multiple variations that allow toggling between multiple time periods or displaying information about different protected classes.

Each map can be further customized to specify what information is being displayed on the map and how it is represented using the Table of Contents, or TOC tab, on the right side of the screen. The User Guide provides more detailed information on how to modify these characteristics.

Some variables in the Table of Contents have a table button that will allow the use of a linked table at the bottom of the screen. This feature allows users to do more in-depth analysis by sorting geographies and highlighting areas of the map that correspond to conditions of interest.

Users can print the resulting maps, including their customizations, to an image file or physical copy so that their map can be shared with others or inserted into planning documents.

The AFFH-T interface also allows users to generate summary tables using the Export Tables button on the left side of the screen. These tables can be downloaded to analyze the jurisdiction- and region-level trends associated with the map selected.

We hope this has been a helpful introduction to the AFFH Data and Mapping Tool. To learn more about this tool and fair housing planning more generally, please visit HUD's Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Page.