

Draft list of disadvantaged communities



The draft communities list contains information about census tracts across the U.S. states and territories that have been identified as disadvantaged by the current version of the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool.

The tool will provide important information for the Justice40 Initiative. The goal of the Justice40 Initiative is to provide 40 percent of the overall benefits of certain Federal investments in seven key areas to disadvantaged communities. These seven key areas are: climate change, clean energy and energy efficiency, clean transit, affordable and sustainable housing, training and workforce development, the remediation and reduction of legacy pollution, and the development of critical clean water infrastructure.

The current version of the tool is in a public beta form and will be regularly updated.

How to use the list

The Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool considers communities to be disadvantaged for the purposes of the Justice40 Initiative if they are in a census tract that meets the requirements of the current methodology. Census tracts are small, relatively permanent statistical subdivisions of a county defined by the U.S. Census Bureau, usually cover a contiguous area, and are identified with a unique twelve digit numeric code. A census tract is generally between 1,200 to 8,000 people, with an average size of 4,000 people. The census tract level currently represents the smallest geographical unit for which publicly-available and nationally-consistent datasets can be consistently displayed on the tool.

The spreadsheets contained in this zip file list the unique codes for communities across the U.S. states and territories.

The data in the draft communities list is being developed and refined for the purpose of helping Federal agencies improve the geographic targeting of the benefits of certain Federal programs to better address the needs and challenges of communities that have been or are currently overburdened by pollution, subjected to disinvestment, or otherwise disadvantaged.

For reference, the current version of the draft communities list is v0.1. Updated versions will be made available via the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool.

If you have further questions or feedback regarding data and tool usability, please email Screeningtool-Support@omb.eop.gov.

Draft methodology (v0.1)

Under the current formula, a census tract will be identified as disadvantaged in one or more categories of criteria:

IF the census tract is above the threshold for one or more environmental or climate indicators

AND the census tract is above the threshold for the socioeconomic indicators

The methodology for identifying disadvantaged communities is currently in a beta form and may be updated based on feedback and research.

Things of note



! The U.S. territories

The data sources used to identify disadvantaged communities in all fifty states and the District of Columbia. However, not all of these data sources are currently available for the U.S. territories.

For Puerto Rico, the Census Bureau's American Community Survey data from 2015-2019 was used for higher ed enrollment rate and all the other fields in the training and workforce development category to identify disadvantaged communities. Data in the other categories are unavailable at this time.

For American Samoa and the Northern Mariana Islands, the data used to identify disadvantaged communities are from the 2010 Decennial Census, the last reported data from the U.S. Census Bureau. Available data for these territories includes unemployment, poverty, low median income, and high school degree achievement rate fields in the training and workforce development category.

Work is currently underway to identify disadvantaged communities and update the tool accordingly for Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

! Tribal Nations

The tool covers all U.S. census tracts, including those located within Tribal Nations, to the extent that data is available. CEQ is engaging in consultation and coordination with Tribal Nations on the beta version of the tool to provide Tribal Nations with meaningful opportunities for input, consistent with CEQ's [Action Plan for Consultation and Coordination with Tribal Nations](#), President Biden's Memorandum on [Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation-to-Nation Consultation](#), and Executive Order 13175 on [Consultation and Coordination With Indian Tribal Governments](#).

! Thresholds and percentiles

The beta version of the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool uses thresholds to identify whether a census tract is disadvantaged. Each threshold consists of an environmental or climate indicator and two related socioeconomic indicators. For example, each of the tool's remediation and reduction of legacy pollution thresholds use an environmental indicator related to proximity to pollution sites and socioeconomic indicator related to income and education.

Most of the datasets that feed into the thresholds are percentiles. Percentiles reflect the distribution of a variable and run from the 0th percentile, meaning the lowest score on a given scale, to the 100th percentile, meaning the highest score on a given scale. A variable that lists a census tract as "77th percentile" means that this census tract has a higher measurement on this variable than 77% of all other census tracts.

Each indicator has a cutoff value as a threshold, so a tract satisfies an indicator if it exceeds the indicator's cutoff value. For example, to exceed one of the legacy pollution thresholds, a tract must be closer to hazardous waste, Risk Management Plan facilities (RMP), or Superfund sites than 90% of all census tracts, and meet the socioeconomic indicators (i.e. have more households living below 200% of the Federal poverty level than 65% of all census tracts, and have more than 80% of individuals 15 years or older who are not currently enrolled in higher education in the census tract.

Draft communities methodology



Communities are **identified as disadvantaged** by the current version of the tool for the purposes of the Justice40 Initiative if they are located in census tracts that are at or above the thresholds in one or more of eight categories of criteria below.

Climate change

IF at or above the 90th percentile for expected agriculture loss rate OR expected building loss rate OR expected population loss rate

AND is above the 65th percentile for low income AND 80% or more of adults 15 or older are not enrolled in higher education

Clean energy and energy efficiency

IF at or above the 90th percentile for energy burden OR PM2.5 in the air

AND is above the 65th percentile for low income AND 80% or more of adults 15 or older are not enrolled in higher education

Clean transit

IF at or above the 90th percentile for diesel particulate matter exposure OR traffic proximity and volume

AND is above the 65th percentile for low income AND 80% or more of adults 15 or older are not enrolled in higher education

Affordable and sustainable housing

IF at or above the 90th percentile for lead paint AND median home value is at or less than the 90th percentile OR at or above the 90th percentile for housing cost burden

AND is above the 65th percentile for low income AND 80% or more of adults 15 or older are not enrolled in higher education

Reduction and remediation of legacy pollution

IF at or above the 90th percentile for proximity to hazardous waste facilities OR proximity to National Priorities List (NPL) sites OR proximity to Risk Management Plan (RMP) facilities

AND is above the 65th percentile for low income AND 80% or more of adults 15 or older are not enrolled in higher education

Critical clean water and waste infrastructure

IF at or above the 90th percentile for wastewater discharge

AND is above the 65th percentile for low income AND 80% or more of adults 15 or older are not enrolled in higher education

Health burdens

IF at or above the 90th percentile for asthma OR diabetes OR heart disease OR low life expectancy

AND is above the 65th percentile for low income AND 80% or more of adults 15 or older are not enrolled in higher education

Training and workforce development

IF at or above the 90th percentile for low median income as a percent of area median income OR linguistic isolation OR unemployment OR percent individuals in households at or below 100% Federal poverty level

AND 10% or more of adults 25 or older have not attained a high school degree AND 80% or more of adults 15 or older are not enrolled in higher education

Draft communities data



These datasets were selected for use in the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool because they are publicly-available and nationally-consistent.

Dataset	Description	Used in	Source	Available for
Low income	Percent of a census tract's population of households where household income is at or below 200% of the Federal poverty level	All categories except for training and workforce development	Census Bureau's American Community Survey from 2015-2019	All U.S. states and the District of Columbia
Higher education non-enrollment	Percent of people 15 or older who are not currently enrolled in college, university, or graduate school.	All categories	Census Bureau's American Community Survey from 2015-2019	All U.S. states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico
Expected agriculture loss rate	Economic loss rate to agriculture resulting from natural hazards each year	Climate change category	Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) National Risk Index from 2014-2021	All U.S. states and the District of Columbia
Expected building loss rate	Economic loss rate to building value resulting from natural hazards each year	Climate change category	Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) National Risk Index from 2014-2021	All U.S. states and the District of Columbia
Expected population loss rate	Rate of fatalities and injuries resulting from natural hazards each year	Climate change category	Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) National Risk Index from 2014-2021	All U.S. states and the District of Columbia
Energy burden	Average annual energy cost per household (\$) divided by average household income	Clean energy and energy efficiency category	Department of Energy's (DOE) LEAD Score from 2018	All U.S. states and the District of Columbia
PM2.5 in the air	Fine inhalable particles, with diameters that are generally 2.5 micrometers or smaller	Clean energy and energy efficiency category	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Air and Radiation's (OAR) fusion of model and monitor data from 2017 as compiled by EPA's EJSCREEN, sourced from EPA National Air Toxics Assessment (NATA) and the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) traffic data	All U.S. states and the District of Columbia
Diesel particulate matter exposure	Mixture of particles that is part of diesel exhaust in the air	Clean transit category	Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) National Air Toxics Assessment (NATA) from 2014 as compiled by EPA's EJSCREEN	All U.S. states and the District of Columbia

Draft communities data



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Dataset	Description	Used in	Source	Available for
Traffic proximity and volume	Count of vehicles (average annual daily traffic) at major roads within 500 meters, divided by distance in meters	Clean transit category	Department of Transportation's (DOT) traffic data from 2017 as compiled by EPA's EJSCREEN	All U.S. states and the District of Columbia
Housing cost burden	Percent of households in a census tract that are both earning less than 80% of HUD Area Median Family Income by county and are spending more than 30% of their income on housing costs	Affordable and sustainable housing category	Department of Housing & Urban Development's (HUD) Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy dataset from 2014 - 2018	All U.S. states and the District of Columbia
Lead paint	Percent of housing units built pre-1960, used as an indicator of potential lead paint exposure in census tracts with median home values less than the 90th percentile	Affordable and sustainable housing category	Census Bureau's American Community Survey from 2015 - 2019	All U.S. states and the District of Columbia
Median home value	Median home value of owner-occupied housing units in the census tract	Affordable and sustainable housing category	Census Bureau's American Community Survey from 2015 - 2019	All U.S. states and the District of Columbia
Proximity to hazardous waste facilities	Count of hazardous waste facilities (Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facilities and Large Quantity Generators) within 5 kilometers (or nearest beyond 5 kilometers), each divided by distance in kilometers	Reduction and remediation of legacy pollution category	Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) TSDF data from 2020 calculated from EPA RCRA database as compiled by EPA's EJSCREEN	All U.S. states and the District of Columbia
Proximity to National Priorities List (NPL) sites	Count of proposed or listed NPL - also known as Superfund - sites within 5 kilometers (or nearest one beyond 5 kilometers), each divided by distance in kilometers	Reduction and remediation of legacy pollution category	Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) CERCLIS database from 2020 as compiled by EPA's EJSCREEN	All U.S. states and the District of Columbia
Proximity to Risk Management Plan (RMP) facilities	Count of RMP (potential chemical accident management plan) facilities within 5 kilometers (or nearest one beyond 5 kilometers), each divided by distance in kilometers	Reduction and remediation of legacy pollution category	Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) RMP database from 2020 as compiled by EPA's EJSCREEN	All U.S. states and the District of Columbia

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Dataset	Description	Used in	Source	Available for
Wastewater discharge	Risk-Screening Environmental Indicators (RSEI) modeled toxic concentrations at stream segments within 500 meters, divided by distance in kilometers	Critical clean water and waste infrastructure category	Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Risk-Screening Environmental Indicators (RSEI) Model from 2020 as compiled by EPA's EJSCREEN	All U.S. states and the District of Columbia
Asthma	Weighted percent of people who answer "yes" to both of the following questions: "Have you ever been told by a health professional that you have asthma?" and "Do you still have asthma?"	Health burdens category	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) PLACES data from 2016 - 2019	All U.S. states and the District of Columbia
Diabetes	Weighted percent of people ages 18 years and older who report being told by a health professional that they have diabetes other than diabetes during pregnancy	Health burdens category	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) PLACES data from 2016 - 2019	All U.S. states and the District of Columbia
Heart disease	Weighted percent of people ages 18 years and older who report being told by a health professional that they had angina or coronary heart disease	Health burdens category	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) PLACES data from 2016 - 2019	All U.S. states and the District of Columbia
Low life expectancy	Average number of years of life a person who has attained a given age can expect to live	Health burdens category	Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) U.S. Small-Area Life Expectancy Estimates Project (USALEEP) from 2010 - 2015	All U.S. states and the District of Columbia
Low median Income	Median income of the census tract calculated as a percent of the area's median income	Training and workforce development category	Census Bureau's American Community Survey from 2015 - 2019 Census Bureau's American Community Survey from 2010	All U.S. states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico American Samoa and the Northern Mariana Islands
Linguistic isolation	Percent households where no one over the age 14 speaks English well	Training and workforce development category	Census Bureau's American Community Survey from 2015 - 2019	All U.S. states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico

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Dataset	Description	Used in	Source	Available for
Unemployment	Number of unemployed people as a percentage of the civilian labor force	Training and workforce development category	Census Bureau's American Community Survey from 2015 - 2019 Census Bureau's American Community Survey from 2010	All U.S. states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico American Samoa and the Northern Mariana Islands
Poverty	Percent of a census tract's population in households where the household income is at or below 100% of the Federal poverty level	Training and workforce development category	Census Bureau's American Community Survey from 2015 - 2019 Census Bureau's American Community Survey from 2010	All U.S. states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico American Samoa and the Northern Mariana Islands
High school degree non-attainment	Percent of people age 25 years or older in a census tract whose education level is less than a high school diploma.	Training and workforce development category	Census Bureau's American Community Survey from 2015 - 2019 Census Bureau's American Community Survey from 2010	All U.S. states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico American Samoa and the Northern Mariana Islands