1.0 list of disadvantaged communities

The 1.0 communities list contains information about census tracts across all U.S. states, the District of Columbia, U.S. territories, and lands of Federally Recognized Tribes that have been identified as disadvantaged by the 1.0 version of the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool.

The tool provides important information by identifying communities that experience high burdens. These communities are considered disadvantaged. This information will be used for the Justice40 Initiative.

The current version of the tool is 1.0. The tool will be regularly updated based on research, feedback, and the availability of new datasets.

How to use the list

The Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool uses census tracts. Census tracts are small units of geography. Census tracts are generally between 1,200 to 8,000 people. Census tract boundaries for statistical areas are determined by the U.S. Census Bureau once every ten years. The tool utilizes the census tract boundaries from 2010. This was chosen because many of the data sources in the tool currently use the 2010 census boundaries.

The spreadsheets available for download from the tool list the unique codes for census tracts across the U.S. states and territories.

For reference, the current version of the draft communities list is v1.0. Updated versions will be made available when the next version of the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool is released.

Agencies should ensure that they either use the CEJST website directly or download the data on disadvantaged communities directly from the CEJST website. Agencies should not, for instance, use information obtained through an alternative ArcGIS server. This is an important step to ensure that they do not risk using a list of communities that is outdated or inaccurate.

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

Methodology (v1.0)

Under the current methodology, communities will be considered disadvantaged:

If they are in census tracts that meet the thresholds for at least one of the tool's categories of burden, or

If they are on land within the boundaries of Federally Recognized Tribes

Census tracts that are surrounded by tracts that are identified as disadvantaged and meet an adjusted low income threshold are also considered disadvantaged.

Things of note

Not all the data used in CEJST are available or used for all U.S. territories.

Puerto Rico: The data used for Puerto Rico are from all relevant and available fields in the energy, housing, legacy pollution, transportation, and workforce development categories. The following data are used: low income, projected flood risk, energy cost, lack of indoor plumbing, lead paint, housing cost, proximity to hazardous waste facilities, proximity to Superfund or National Priorities List (NPL) sites, proximity to Risk Management Plan (RMP) facilities, diesel particulate matter exposure, traffic proximity and volume, underground storage tanks and releases, wastewater discharge, low median income, poverty, unemployment, and high school education. Linguistic isolation was removed for Puerto Rico based on feedback received during the beta period.

American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands: For these U.S. territories, the tool uses the following data: unemployment, poverty, low median income, and high school education. These burdens are in the workforce development category.

Tribal Nations

To respect Tribal sovereignty and self-government and to fulfill Federal trust and treaty responsibilities to Tribal Nations, lands of Federally Recognized Tribes are designated as disadvantaged on the map. Alaska Native Villages are included as point locations that are smaller than a census tract. In many instances, census tracts and Tribal lands have different boundaries.

Thresholds, percentiles, percents, and Yes / No burdens

The 1.0 version of the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool uses thresholds in most cases to identify whether a census tract is disadvantaged. Each threshold consists of an environmental, climate, or other burden and the associated socioeconomic burden.

Most of the datasets that are used for the thresholds are percentiles. Percentiles reflect the distribution of a variable 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 burden that lists a census tract as "77th percentile" means that this census tract has a higher measurement on this burden than 77% of all other census tracts.

Each threshold has a cutoff value. The census tract must be above the 90th percentile in most cases.

For the high school education burden, the tool uses percents. This shows the share of the burden that the tract experiences. The abandoned mine land, Formally Used Defense Sites, and historic underinvestment burdens show a simple yes or no.

1.0 communities methodology

Communities are **identified as disadvantaged** by the 1.0 version of the tool if they are located in census tracts that meet the thresholds for at least one of the tool's categories of burden below:

Climate change

Are at or above the 90th percentile for expected agriculture loss rate OR expected building loss rate OR expected population loss rate OR projected future flood risk OR projected future wildfire risk

AND are at or above the 65th percentile for low income

Energy

Are at or above the 90th percentile for energy cost OR PM 2.5 in the air

AND are at or above the 65th percentile for low income

Health

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

AND are at or above the 65th percentile for low income

Housing

Experienced historic underinvestment OR at or above the 90th percentile for housing cost OR lack of green space OR lack of indoor plumbing OR lead paint

AND are at or above the 65th percentile for low income

Legacy pollution

Have at least one abandoned mine land OR Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) OR are at or above the 90th percentile for proximity to hazardous waste facilities OR proximity to Superfund (National Priorities List (NPL)) sites OR proximity to Risk Management Plan (RMP) facilities

AND are at or above the 65th percentile for low income

Transportation

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

AND are at or above the 65th percentile for low income

Water and wastewater

Are at or above the 90th percentile for underground storage tanks and releases OR wastewater discharge

AND are at or above the 65th percentile for low income

Workforce development

Are at or above the 90th percentile for linguistic isolation OR low median income OR poverty OR unemployment

AND fewer than 10% of people ages 25 or older have a high school education (i.e. graduated with a high school diploma)

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Burdens data

The datasets used in the 1.0 version of the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool come from a variety of sources and were selected based on relevance and availability. The tool relies on publicly available, nationally consistent data on income, education, environment, climate, health, and other burdens.

Dataset	Description	Used for	Source	Available for
Low income	People in households where income is less than or equal to twice the federal poverty level, not including students enrolled in higher ed	All categories except for workforce development	Census Bureau's American Community Survey from 2015-1019	All U.S. states, District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico
Expected agriculture loss rate	Economic loss to agricultural 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 building loss rate	Economic loss 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	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
NEW Projected flood risk	Projected risk to properties at projected from floods from tides, rain, riverine and storm surges within 30 years	Climate change category	First Street Foundation's Climate Risk Data Access from 2022	All U.S. states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico
NEW Projected wildfire risk	Projected risk to properties from wildfire from fire fuels, weather, humans, and fire movement within 30 years	Climate change category	First Street Foundation's Climate Risk Data Access from 2022	All contiguous U.S. states and the District of Columbia
Energy cost	Average annual energy costs divided by household income	Energy category	Department of Energy (DOE)'s LEAD Tool from 2018	All U.S. states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico
PM2.5 in the air	Level of inhalable particles, 2.5 micrometers or smaller	Energy category	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s 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

Burdens data

The datasets used in the 1.0 version of the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool come from a variety of sources and were selected based on relevance and availability. The tool relies on publicly available, nationally consistent data on income, education, environment, climate, health, and other burdens.

Dataset	Description	Used for	Source	Available for
Asthma	Share of people who have been told they have asthma	Health category	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) PLACES data from 2016 - 2019	All U.S. states and the District of Columbia
Diabetes	Share of people ages 18 years and older who have diabetes other than diabetes during pregnancy	Health 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	Share of people ages 18 years and older who have been told they have heart disease	Health 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 a person can expect to live	Health 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
NEW Historic under-investment	Census tracts with historically high barriers to accessing home loans	Housing category	National Community Reinvestment Coalition (NCRC) dataset of formerly redlined areas using digitized maps from the Home Owners Loan Corporation (HOLC) from 2010	Metro areas of U.S. that were graded by the Home Owners' Loan Corporation
Housing cost	Share of households making less than 80% of the area median family income and spending more than 30% of income on housing	Housing category	Department of Housing & Urban Development's (HUD) Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy dataset from 2014 - 2018	All U.S. states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico
NEW Lack of green space	Share of non-crop land covered with artificial materials like concrete or pavement	Housing category	Data from Multi-Resolution Land Characteristics (MRLC) consortium; data analysis provided by The Trust for Public Lands and American Forests Percent Developed Imperviousness (CONUS) from 2019	Contiguous lower 48 U.S. states and the District of Columbia

Burdens data

The datasets used in the 1.0 version of the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool come from a variety of sources and were selected based on relevance and availability. The tool relies on publicly available, nationally consistent data on income, education, environment, climate, health, and other burdens.

Dataset	Description	Used for	Source	Available for
NEW Lack of indoor plumbing	Share of homes without indoor kitchens or plumbing	Housing category	Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)'s Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS) data from 2014-2018	All U.S. states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico
Lead paint	Share of homes that are likely to have lead paint	Housing category	Census Bureau's American Community Survey from 2015 - 2019	All U.S. states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico
NEW Abandoned mine land	Presence of one or more abandoned mine land within the tract	Legacy pollution category	Department of the Interior's (DOI) Abandoned Mine Land Inventory System (e-AMLIS) from 2017	All U.S. states and the District of Columbia
NEW Formerly Used Defense Sites	Presence one or more Formerly Used Defense Site within the tract	Legacy pollution category	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) from 2019	All U.S. states and the District of Columbia
Proximity to hazardous waste facilities	Count of hazardous waste facilities within 5 kilometers	Legacy pollution category	Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facilities (TSDF) data from 2020 calculated from EPA's RCRA database as compiled by EPA's EJScreen	All U.S. states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico
Proximity to Superfund sites	Count of proposed or listed Superfund (or National Priorities List (NPL)) sites within 5 kilometers	Legacy pollution category	Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) CERCLIS database from 2020 as compiled by EPA's EJScreen	All U.S. states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico
Proximity to Risk Management Plan (NPL) facilities	Count of Risk Management Plan (RMP) facilities within 5 kilometers	Legacy pollution category	Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) RMP database from 2020 as compiled by EPA's EJScreen	All U.S. states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico

Burdens data

The datasets used in the 1.0 version of the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool come from a variety of sources and were selected based on relevance and availability. The tool relies on publicly available, nationally consistent data on income, education, environment, climate, health, and other burdens.

Dataset	Description	Used for	Source	Available for
Diesel particulate matter exposure	Amount of diesel exhaust in the air	Transportation category	Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) National Air Toxics Assessment (NATA) from 2014 as compiled by EPA's EJScreen	All U.S. states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico
NEW Transportation barriers	Average relative cost and time spent on transportation	Transportation category	Department of Transportation's (DOT) transportation access disadvantage from 2022	All U.S. states and the District of Columbia
Traffic proximity and volume	Count of vehicles at major roads within 500 meters	Transportation category	Department of Transportation's (DOT) traffic data from 2017 as compiled by EPA's EJScreen	All U.S. states the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico
NEW Underground storage tanks and releases	Formula of the density of leaking underground storage tanks and number of all active underground storage tanks within 1500 feet of the census tract boundaries	Water and wastewater category	Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) UST Finder from 2021 as compiled by EPA's EJScreen	All U.S. states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico
Wastewater discharge	Modeled toxic concentrations at parts of streams within 500 meters	Water and wastewater category	Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Risk-Screening Environmental Indicators (RSEI) model from 2020 as compiled by EPA's EJScreen	All U.S. states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico
Linguistic isolation	Share of households where no one over age 14 speaks English very well	Workforce development category	Census Bureau's American Community Survey from 2015 - 2019	All U.S. states and the District of Columbia
Low median Income	Comparison of median income in the tract to median incomes in the area	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, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands

Burdens data

The datasets used in the 1.0 version of the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool come from a variety of sources and were selected based on relevance and availability. The tool relies on publicly available, nationally consistent data on income, education, environment, climate, health, and other burdens.

Dataset	Description	Used for	Source	Available for
Poverty	Share of people in households where the income is at or below 100% of the Federal poverty level	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, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands
Unemployment	Number of unemployed people as a part of the labor force	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, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands
High school education	Percent of people ages 25 years or older whose high school education is less than a high school diploma	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, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands
NEW Tribal lands	The Land Area Representation (LAR) dataset depicts the exterior extent of a Federal Indian land area	Identifying lands of Federally Recognized Tribes	Bureau of Indian Affairs' Land Area Representation (LAR) dataset from 2018	Federally Recognized Tribes, including Alaska Native villages