Draft communities list

The draft communities list contains information about census tracts across the United States and territories identified by the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool that either now or have historically experienced disproportionately higher levels of environmental and economic burdens.

The data and methodology used in the draft communities list, which will be updated and refined based on public feedback to better reflect the lived experiences of communities, will improve the consistency of how agencies implement programs and initiatives, including Justice40, across the federal government.

Draft methodology (v0.1)

Under the current methodology (v0.1) in the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool, disadvantaged communities are identified as a census tract where:

IF *it is above the threshold for one or more climate or environmental indicator*

AND *it is above the threshold for one or more socioeconomic indicato*r

THEN *the community is considered disadvantaged.*

The methodology for identifying communities of focus is currently in a draft, pre-decisional form that may change over time as more datasets become available.

How to use the list

The Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool considers a census tract to be a disadvantaged community if it meets the requirements of the current methodology (v0.1). Census tracts are small, relatively permanent statistical subdivisions of a county identified with a unique numeric code. Census tracts average about 4,000 inhabitants.

The spreadsheet contained in this zip file lists 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.

A note on the U.S. territories

The data sources described in the methodology & data are used to identify disadvantaged communities for all fifty states and the District of Columbia. However, not all of these data sources are currently available for the U.S. territories. The Census ACS data from 2015-2019 was used to identify disadvantaged communities for Puerto Rico. This uses the same methodology as all fifty states and the District of Columbia for which data is available, which is all fields in the Training and Workforce Development category. For American Samoa, Northern Mariana Islands, Guam and U.S. Virgin Islands, the last reported data from the Census Bureau is the Decennial Census from 2010. The Decennial Census data from 2010 was used for American Samoa and Northern Mariana Islands using only the unemployment, poverty, area median income, and high school degree achievement rate fields in the Training and Workforce Development category of the methodology. Work is underway to identify disadvantaged communities and update the CEJST accordingly for Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Draft communities methodology

Communities will be defined as disadvantaged and thus prioritized for investment benefits for the purposes of Justice40 if they meet the qualifications under one or more of the eight categories of criteria below.

*Low income: at or above 65th percentile for percent of census tract population of households where household income is at or below 200% of the federal poverty level

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 low income*

THEN the community is disadvantaged.

Clean energy and energy efficiency

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

AND is low income*

THEN the community is disadvantaged.

Clean transportation

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

AND is low income*

THEN the community is disadvantaged..

Affordable and sustainable housing

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

AND is low income*

THEN the community is disadvantaged.

Legacy pollution

IF at or above the 90th percentile for proximity to hazardous waste facilities **OR** proximity to NPL sites **OR** proximity to RMP facilities

AND is low income*

THEN the community is disadvantaged.

Clean water and waste infrastructure

IF at or above the 90th percentile for wastewater discharge

AND is low income*

THEN the community is disadvantaged.

Health burdens

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

AND is low income*

THEN the community is disadvantaged.

Training and workforce development

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

AND where the high school degree achievement rates for adults 25 years and older is less than 90%

THEN the community is disadvantaged.

Draft communities data

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

Dataset	Description	Responsible party	Date range	Methodology
Low income	Percent of a census tract's population of households where household income is at or below 200% of the federal poverty level	Census's American Community Survey	2015 - 2019	All methodologies except for workforce development
Expected agriculture loss rate	Economic loss rate to agriculture resulting from natural hazards each year	Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)	2014 - 2021	Climate change
Expected building loss rate	Economic loss rate to buildings resulting from natural hazards each year	Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)	2014 - 2021	Climate change
Expected population loss rate	Rate relative to the population in fatalities and injuries resulting from natural hazards each year	Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)	2014 - 2021	Climate change
Energy cost burden	Average annual energy cost ($) divided by household income	Department of Energy (DOE) LEAD Score	2018	Clean energy and energy efficiency
PM2.5 in the air	Fine inhalable particles, with diameters that are generally 2.5 micrometers and smaller	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Air and Radiation (OAR) fusion of model and monitor data as compiled by EPA's EJSCREEN, sourced from EPA National Air Toxics Assessment (NATA), 2017 U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) traffic data	2017	Clean energy and energy efficiency
Diesel particulate matter exposure	Mixture of particles that is part of diesel exhaust in the air	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) National Air Toxics Assessment (NATA) as compiled by EPA's EJSCREEN	2014	Clean transportation
Traffic proximity and volume	Count of vehicles (average annual daily traffic) at major roads within 500 meters, divided by distance in meters (not km)	Department of Transportation (DOT) traffic data as compiled by EPA's EJSCREEN	2017	Clean transportation
Housing cost burden	The percent of households in a tract that are earning less than 80% of HUD Area Median Family Income by county and are paying greater than 30% of their income to housing costs	Department of Housing & Urban Development's (HUD) Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy dataset	2014 - 2018	Affordable, sustainable housing

Draft communities data

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

Dataset	Description	Responsible party	Date range	Methodology
Lead paint	Percent of housing units built pre-1960, used as an indicator of potential lead paint exposure in low median value homes	Census's American Community Survey	2015 - 2019	Affordable, sustainable housing
Low median home value	Median home value of owner-occupied housing units in the census tract	Census's American Community Survey	2015 - 2019	Affordable, sustainable housing
Proximity to hazardous waste facilities	Count of hazardous waste facilities (Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facilities and Large Quantity Generators) within 5 km (or nearest beyond 5 km), each divided by distance in kilometers	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) TSDF data calculated from EPA RCRA info database as compiled by EPA's EJSCREEN	2020	Legacy pollution
Proximity to National Priorities List (NPL) sites	Count of proposed or listed NPL - also known as Superfund - sites within 5 km (or nearest one beyond 5 km), each divided by distance in kilometers	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) CERCLIS database as compiled by EPA's EJSCREEN	2020	Legacy pollution
Proximity to Risk Management Plan (RMP) faculties	Count of RMP (potential chemical accident management plan) facilities within 5 km (or nearest one beyond 5 km), each divided by distance in kilometers	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) RMP database as compiled by EPA's EJSCREEN	2020	Legacy pollution
Wastewater discharge	Risk-Screening Environmental Indicators (RSEI) modeled Toxic Concentrations at stream segments within 500 meters, divided by distance in kilometers (km)	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Risk-Screening Environmental Indicators (RSEI) Model as compiled by EPA's EJSCREEN	2020	Clean water and waste infrastructure
Asthma	Weighted percent of people who answer "yes" to both of the following questions: "Have you ever been told by a doctor, nurse, or other health professional that you have asthma?" and the question "Do you still have asthma?"	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) PLACES	2016 - 2019	Health burdens
Diabetes	People ages 18 years and older who report being told by a health professional that they have diabetes other than diabetes during pregnancy	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) PLACES	2016 - 2019	Health burdens

Draft communities data

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

Dataset	Description	Responsible party	Date range	Methodology
Heart disease	Weighted percent of people ages 18 years and older who report ever having been told by a health professional that they had angina or coronary heart disease	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) PLACES	2016 - 2019	Health burdens
Low life expectancy	Average number of years of life a person who has attained a given age can expect to live	CDC's U.S. Small-area Life Expectancy Estimates Project (USALEEP)	2010 - 2015	Health burdens
Low median Income	Median income of the census tract calculated as a percent of the area's median income	Census's American Community Survey	2015 - 2019	Workforce development
Linguistic Isolation	The percent of limited speaking households, which are households where no one over age 14 speaks English well.	Census's American Community Survey	2015 - 2019	Workforce development
Unemployment	Number of unemployed people as a percentage of the civilian labor force	Census's American Community Survey	2015 - 2019	Workforce development
Poverty	Percent of a tract's population in households where the household income is at or below 100% of the federal poverty level	Census's American Community Survey	2015 - 2019	Workforce development
Low high school degree achievement rate	Percent (not percentile) of people ages 25 years or older in a census tract whose education level is less than a high school diploma	Census's American Community Survey	2015 - 2019	Workforce development