

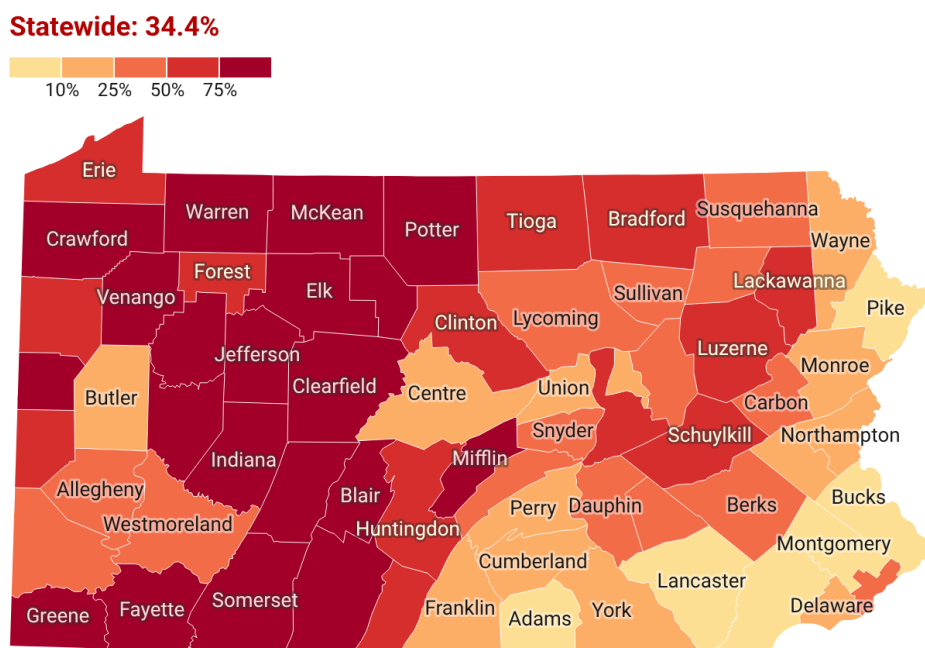
## Exploring Updated Area Deprivation Index Data

HARRISBURG – The Area Deprivation Index (ADI) from the Neighborhood Atlas has been updated to include the most recent data from the American Community Survey's 2020-2024 5-Year Estimates (ADI version 4.0.1). The ADI is a composite measure of socioeconomic data based on education, employment, income, poverty, and housing characteristics. Block groups across the nation are ranked from least to most disadvantaged based on their composite score, and these scores are most often used to explore the social determinants of health in academic research.

This brief examines how Pennsylvania's block groups compare by identifying block groups in the bottom (least disadvantaged) and top (most disadvantaged) 30 percent of national rankings. For each county, the result is presented as a share of population: the number of residents living in those block groups divided by the county's total population.

### Most Disadvantaged

Block groups classified as "most disadvantaged" included those with ADI rankings in the top 30 percent of the nation. Approximately 34.4 percent of Pennsylvania's population lived in the most disadvantaged block groups. Twenty counties had 75 percent or more of their population living in the most disadvantaged block groups.



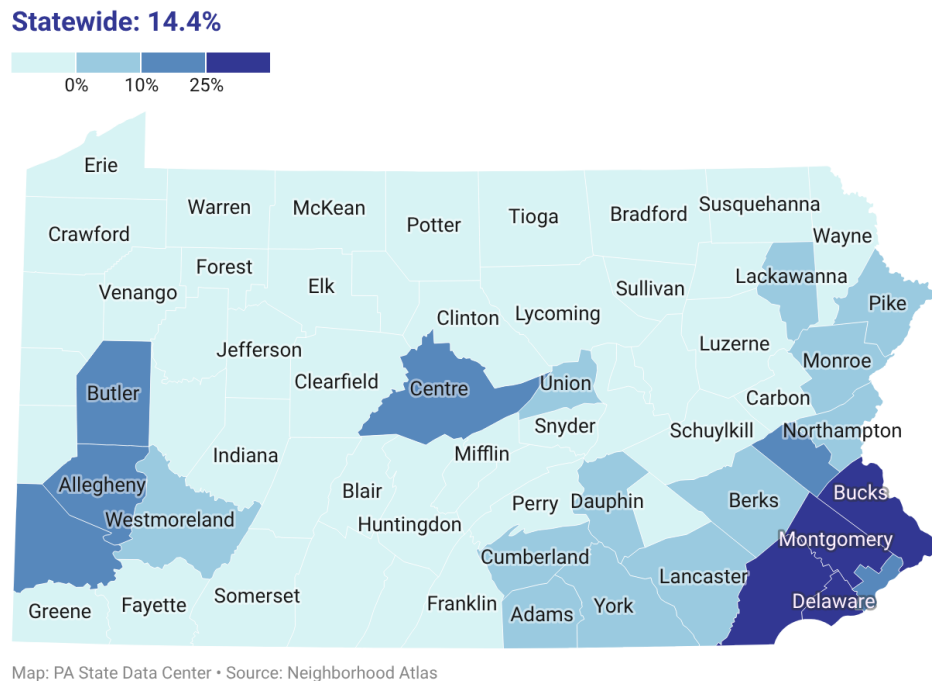
Map: PA State Data Center • Source: Neighborhood Atlas

**Figure 1.** Percent of each county's population living in the most disadvantaged block groups based on ADI. [Link to most disadvantaged interactive map.](#)

The highest share of population in the most disadvantaged block groups occurred in the state's rural areas, such as those across the western and north-central counties. Cameron had the highest share (100%), followed by Jefferson (98.7%), Venango (96.3%), and Elk (95.6%).

## Least Disadvantaged

Block groups classified as “least disadvantaged” included those with ADI rankings in the bottom 30 percent of the nation. Approximately 14.4 percent of Pennsylvania’s population lived in the least disadvantaged block groups. Two-thirds of Pennsylvania counties (45 of 67) had no population residing within the least disadvantaged block groups.



**Figure 2.** Percent of each county's population living in the least disadvantaged block groups based on ADI. [Link to least disadvantaged interactive map.](#)

The least disadvantaged block groups are concentrated in the southeastern suburbs around Philadelphia, with smaller clusters near Pittsburgh and State College. Chester had the highest share (63.5%), followed by Montgomery (49.6%), Bucks (48.2%), and Delaware (30.8%).

**Credit:** Nathaniel Netznik, MAS '27, Research Specialist Intern, Institute of State & Regional Affairs.

**Note:** The Neighborhood Atlas ADI is one of several tools used to measure area-level disadvantage, such as the Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) and Social Deprivation Index (SDI), each with its own methodology and trade-offs. This version does not standardize its input variables before scoring, which research has shown can cause housing-cost measures (especially home value) to carry outsized weight. As a result, disadvantaged areas in high-cost housing markets may rank as less disadvantaged than other indicators suggest. Results should be read with this limitation in mind.

### Sources:

Kind AJH, Buckingham WR. Making Neighborhood-Disadvantage Metrics Accessible: The Neighborhood Atlas. *New England Journal of Medicine*. 2018;378(26):2456–2458. DOI: 10.1056/NEJMp1802313. PMID: PMC6051533.

University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health. 2024 Area Deprivation Index v4.0.1. Downloaded from <https://www.neighborhoodatlas.medicine.wisc.edu/> on July 8, 2026.

**Questions?** Contact the Pennsylvania State Data Center at [pasdc@psu.edu](mailto:pasdc@psu.edu) or [pasdc.hbg.psu.edu](mailto:pasdc.hbg.psu.edu).