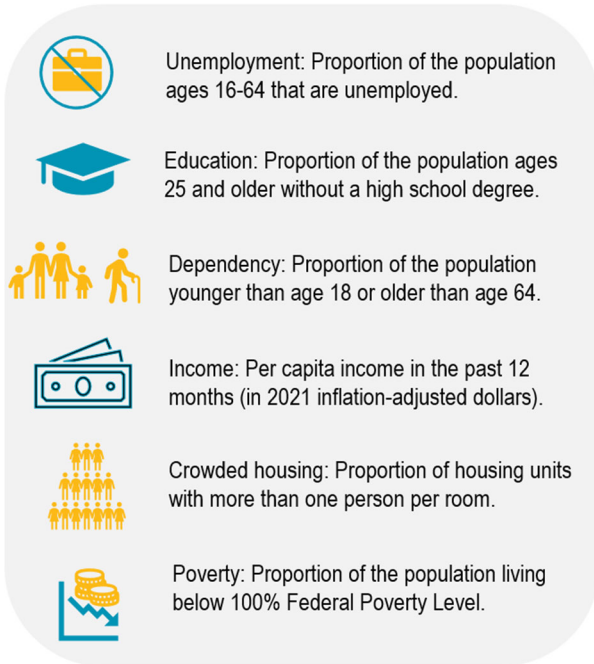


ECONOMIC HARDSHIP INDEX

Estimated* Economic Hardship Index by Subregional Area, San Diego County, 2021

Figure 1: Components of EHI



Economic Hardship Index (EHI): Index of economic conditions based on crowded housing, dependency, education, income, poverty, and unemployment, with a higher value indicating worse economic conditions.¹

The estimated EHI compares economic conditions between subregional areas in San Diego County. The six indicators include: unemployment, dependency, educational attainment, per capita income, crowded housing, and poverty (see Figure 1). Data were obtained from the US Census Bureau's 2021 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimates. The six component variables were standardized with equal weight. The EHI is the normalized sum of the six standardized component variables.^{2,3} A higher value of EHI indicates worse economic conditions. The estimated EHI values for the subregional areas were calculated based on aggregating census tract data.

The estimated EHI by subregional area shows the variation in levels of economic hardship (see Figure 2) and allows identification of communities with greater economic hardship.

Table 1: Subregional Areas with the Highest Estimated* Economic Hardship Index, San Diego County, 2021

Subregional Area (SRA)	Region	Economic Hardship Index	Life Expectancy
Chula Vista	South	100.0	73.3
National City	South	98.4	74.7
Mountain Empire [^]	East	85.0	N/A
South Bay	South	84.5	76.0
Southeastern San Diego	Central	83.7	74.0
Mid-City	Central	79.6	82.0
El Cajon	East	74.2	82.4
Lemon Grove	East	65.7	75.7
Anza-Borrego Springs [^]	North Inland	63.7	N/A
Fallbrook	North Inland	61.7	78.3
Escondido	North Inland	58.9	77.8
Vista	North Coastal	58.9	77.0
Spring Valley	East	55.3	80.2
Laguna-Pine Valley [^]	East	51.5	N/A
Oceanside	North Coastal	51.0	78.6

In 2021, **Chula Vista SRA** (South Region) had the **highest economic hardship index** compared to all other SRAs in San Diego County.

In 2021, **3 out of 5 subregional areas** with the highest economic hardship were in **South Region** in San Diego County.

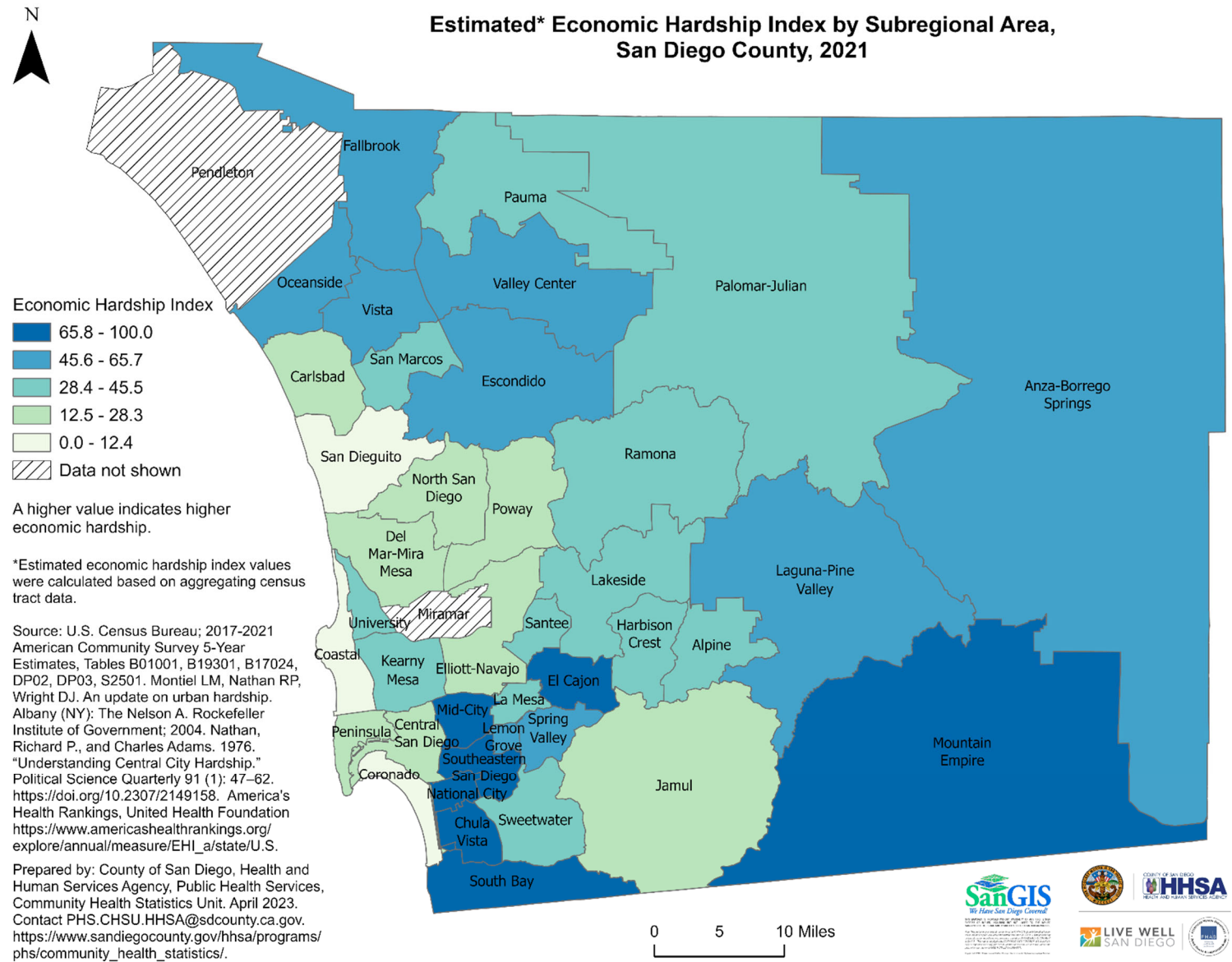
In 2021, **8 out of 10 subregional areas[§]** with the highest economic hardship also had the **lowest life expectancies** in San Diego County.

[§]Among subregional areas (SRA) that had data availability for economic hardship index as well as life expectancy.

[^]Life Expectancy data not available, censored due to variance in population size.



Figure 2: Estimated* Economic Hardship Index by Subregional Area, San Diego County, 2021



*Estimated economic hardship index values were calculated based on aggregating census tract data.
 Source: U.S. Census Bureau; 2017-2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Tables B01001, B19301, B17024, DP02, DP03, S2501. Life Expectancy: California Department of Public Health, Center for Health Statistics, Office of Health Information and Research, Vital Records Business Intelligence System (VRBIS). SANDAG Population Estimates, 2021 (data extracted: 09/2022). *Population estimates were derived using the 2010 Census and data should be considered preliminary.
 Prepared by County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit. April 2023.

References

1. America's Health Rankings analysis of U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, United Health Foundation, AmericasHealthRankings.org, accessed 2023.
2. Montiel LM, Nathan RP, Wright DJ. An update on urban hardship. Albany (NY): The Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government; 2004.
3. Nathan, Richard P., and Charles Adams. 1976. "Understanding Central City Hardship." Political Science Quarterly 91 (1): 47-62. <https://doi.org/10.2307/2149158>.

