## **ECONOMIC HARDSHIP INDEX**

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

Figure 1: Components of EHI



Unemployment: Proportion of the population ages 16-64 that are unemployed.



Education: Proportion of the population ages 25 and older without a high school degree.



Dependency: Proportion of the population younger than age 18 or older than age 64.



Income: Per capita income in the past 12 months (in 2021 inflation-adjusted dollars).



Crowded housing: Proportion of housing units with more than one person per room.



Poverty: Proportion of the population living below 100% Federal Poverty Level.

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.<sup>1</sup>

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.<sup>2,3</sup> 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 <sup>^</sup>	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 <sup>^</sup>	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 <sup>^</sup>	East	51.5	N/A
Oceanside	North Coastal	51.0	78.6

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

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<sup>§</sup> 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.









Estimated\* Economic Hardship Index by Subregional Area, San Diego County, 2021 allbrook Pauma Valley Center Palomar-Julian Economic Hardship Index Vista 65.8 - 100.0 45.6 - 65.7 San Marcos Carlsbad Escondido 28.4 - 45.5 Anza-Borrego Springs 12.5 - 28.3 0.0 - 12.4Ramona San Dieguito Data not shown North San Diego A higher value indicates higher Powav economic hardship. Mar-Mira \*Estimated economic hardship index values Laguna-Pine Mesa were calculated based on aggregating census Lakeside Valley tract data. University S Harbison Source: U.S. Census Bureau: 2017-2021 Crest **Alpine** American Community Survey 5-Year Coastal Estimates, Tables B01001, B19301, B17024, Kearny Elliott-Navajo DP02, DP03, S2501. Montiel LM, Nathan RP, Mesa Wright DJ. An update on urban hardship. Albany (NY): The Nelson A. Rockefeller Peninsula Central San Die Spring emon Institute of Government; 2004. Nathan, Mountain Richard P., and Charles Adams. 1976. "Understanding Central City Hardship. Coronado Political Science Quarterly 91 (1): 47-62. Jamul https://doi.org/10.2307/2149158. America's Health Rankings, United Health Foundation Sweetwater https://www.americashealthrankings.org/

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.

explore/annual/measure/EHI\_a/state/U.S.

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phs/community\_health\_statistics/.

Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit. April 2023. Contact PHS.CHSU.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov.

https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/hhsa/programs/

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; 2017-2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Tables B01001, B19301, B17024, DP02,

South Bay

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.

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10 Miles

LIVE WELL

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.







