

THE LIVABILITY INDEX: GREAT NEIGHBORHOODS FOR ALL AGES

AARP Public Policy Institute
@AARPPolicy
#LivIndex

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WHAT IS A LIVABLE COMMUNITY?



“A livable community is one that is safe and secure, has affordable and appropriate housing and transportation options, and offers supportive community features and services. Once in place, those resources enhance personal independence; allow residents to age in place; and foster residents’ engagement in the community’s civic, economic, and social life.”

—AARP Public Policy Institute

THE 8 DOMAINS OF LIVABILITY

The availability and quality of these community features impact the well-being of older adults



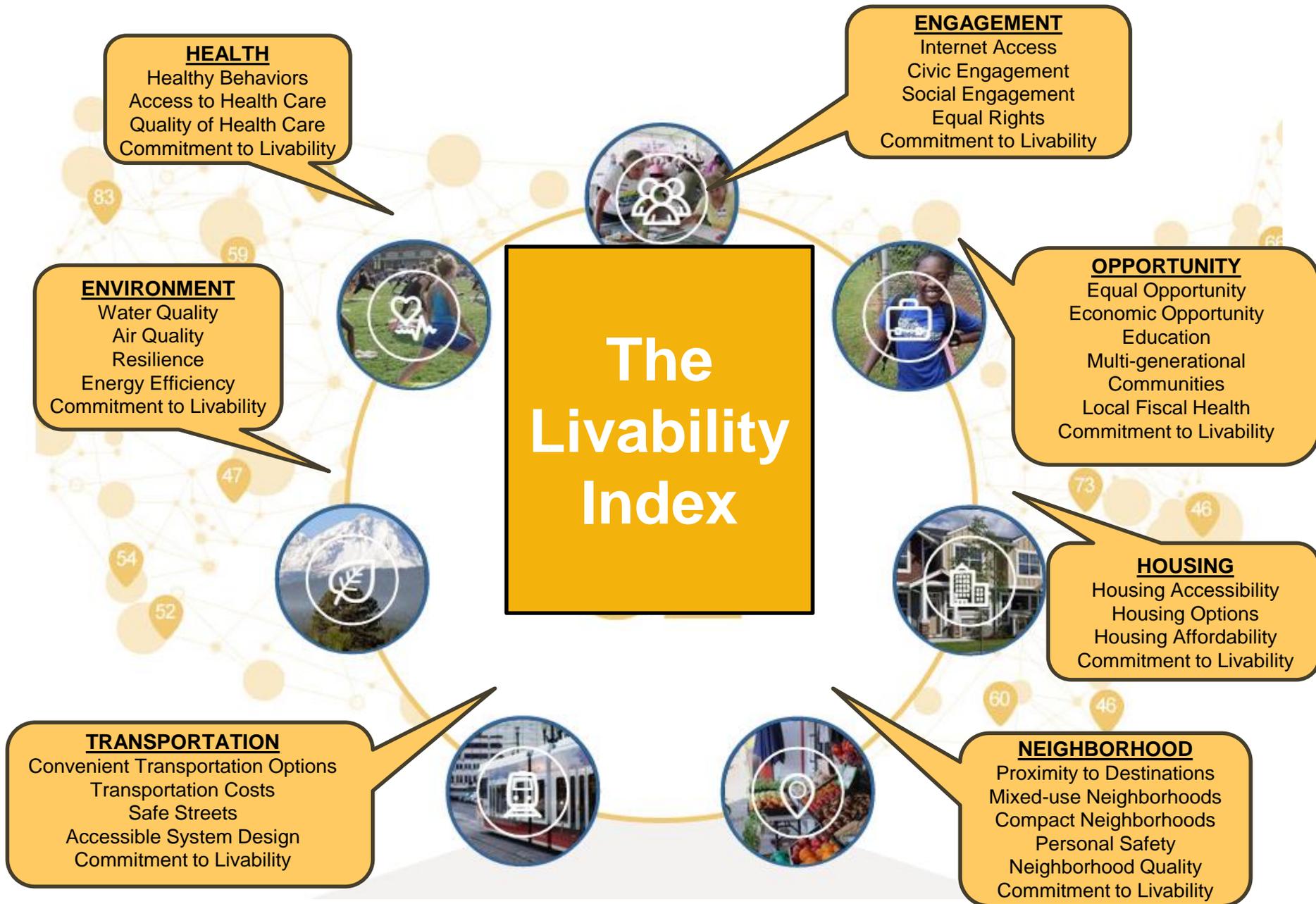
The Built Environment

The Social Environment

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LIVABILITY INDEX COMPONENTS:



- **Categories** are general topic areas that define the type of characteristics found within a community
- **Attributes** are qualities or features regarded as a characteristic of a livable community.
- **Metrics** are standards or statistics that measure the degree to which a community possesses an attribute. Each attribute has at least one metric associated with it.
- **Policies** are actions that communities can take to improve livability over time.

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METRICS/POLICIES SELECTION CRITERIA:

- *Reflect academic research and policy principles (industry and AARP)*
- *Feasible*
- *Relevant*
- *Easily communicated*

HEALTH-RELATED METRICS IN THE LIVABILITY INDEX

Transportation Domain

- Walk trips
- Speed limits
- Crash rates

Neighborhood Domain

- Access to healthy food
- Access to parks
- Transit / auto accessibility

Environment Domain

- Regional air quality
- Local industrial pollution

Engagement Domain

- Social involvement

Health Domain

- Tobacco Use
- Obesity Prevalence
- Preventable hospitalizations
- Access to exercise opportunities
- Health care professional shortage areas
- Patient satisfaction

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Livability Index | Great Neighborhoods for All Ages

LIVABILITY DEFINED | FEATURED COMMUNITIES | ABOUT US

personal safety | quality of health care | access to destinations

How livable is your community?

enter your address, city, state or zip code

air quality | water quality | housing affordability

LEARN MORE

The Livability Index scores cities and communities across the U.S. for the services and amenities that impact your life the most.

Search for your city or learn more about how we define livability.

Location Results

Current Location: Los Angeles, [Los Angeles County, CA](#)

RECENT LOCATIONS: Los Angeles County, CA ×

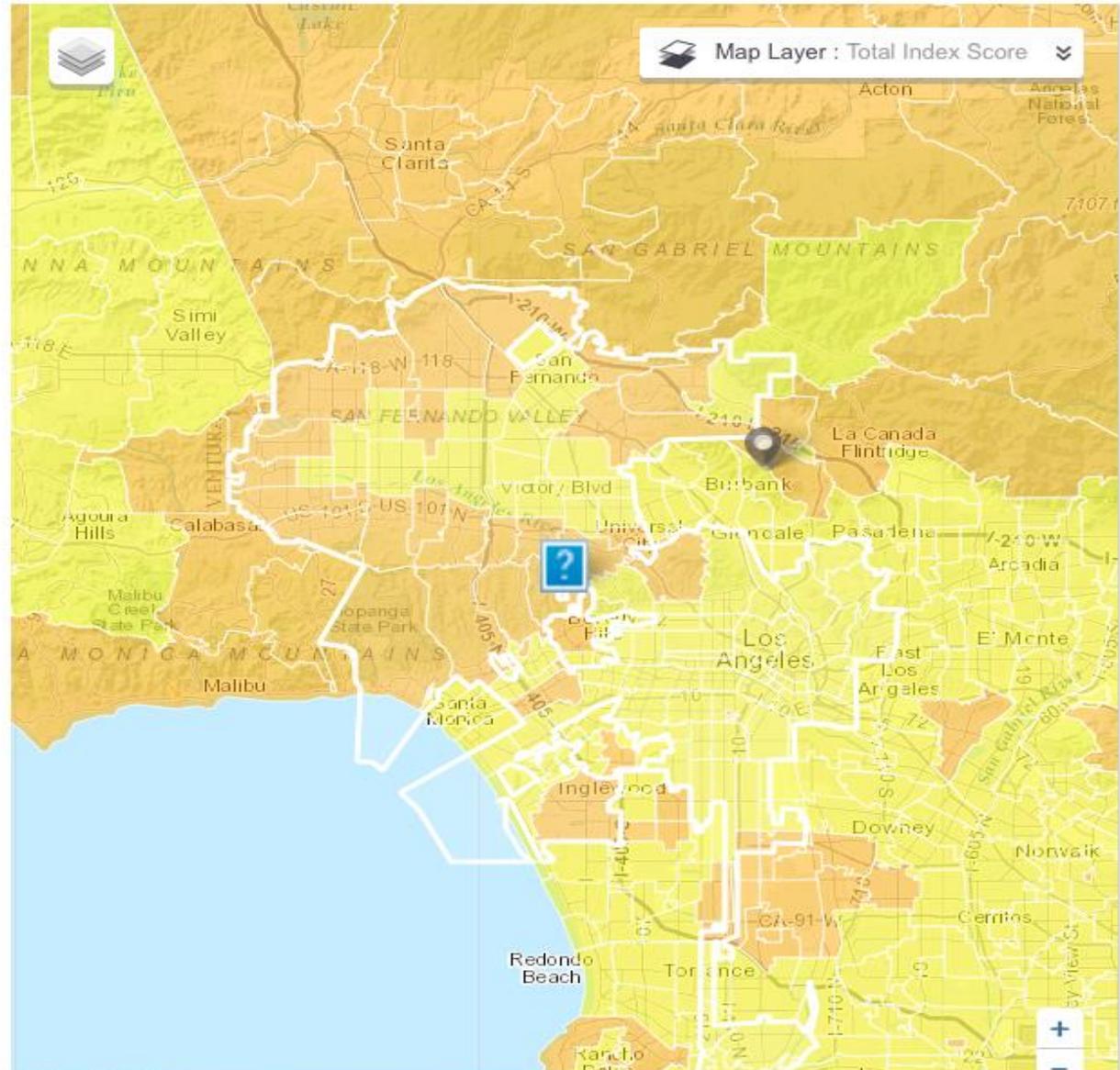
Livability Score 



[CUSTOMIZE THIS SCORE](#)

CATEGORY SCORE

- 38** HOUSING
Affordability and access ➤
- 70** NEIGHBORHOOD
Access to life, work, and play ➤
- 59** TRANSPORTATION
Safe and convenient options ➤
- 20** ENVIRONMENT
Clean air and water ➤
- 66** HEALTH
Prevention, access, and quality ➤
- 37** ENGAGEMENT
Civic and social involvement ➤
- 39** OPPORTUNITY
Inclusion and possibilities ➤





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HEALTH

Prevention, access, and quality



Community conditions influence health behaviors. Healthy communities have comprehensive smoke-free air laws, offer easy access to exercise opportunities, and have high-quality health care available. Because health is so deeply related to quality of life, many other categories of livability in this Index include metrics related to health. For example, access to healthy foods, jobs and education, number of walk trips, lower speed limits, social engagement measures, and air and water pollution are all related to health. Where you live matters.

Metrics

Policies

Resources

How does my community compare to neighborhoods across the country?

● TOP THIRD
 ● MIDDLE THIRD
 ● BOTTOM THIRD

+ Healthy behaviors
SMOKING PREVALENCE **13.4% of people smoke regularly** ●
Median US neighborhood: 20.3%

+ Healthy behaviors
OBESITY PREVALENCE **21.1% of people are obese** ●
Median US neighborhood: 27.8%

+ Healthy behaviors
ACCESS TO EXERCISE OPPORTUNITIES **97.3% of people have access** ●
Median US neighborhood: 83.2%

+ Access to health care
HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE AREAS **4 index from 0 to 25** ●
Median US neighborhood: 0

+ Quality of health care
PREVENTABLE HOSPITALIZATION RATE **62.4 preventable hospitalizations per 1,000 patients** ●
Median US neighborhood: 62.1

+ Quality of health care
PATIENT SATISFACTION **61.6% of patients are satisfied** ●
Median US neighborhood: 67.3%

Livability Score ?



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ENVIRONMENT

Clean air and water

Good communities maintain a clean environment for their residents. Great communities enact policies to improve and protect the environment for generations to come. The Livability Index looks at air and water quality. It measures communities' actions to create resilience plans to prepare for emergencies and natural disasters, and it awards points to states that have policies promoting energy efficiency and that protect consumers from having their utilities cut off during extreme weather events.

Metrics

Policies

Resources

How does my community compare to neighborhoods across the country?

● TOP THIRD ● MIDDLE THIRD ● BOTTOM THIRD

+ Water quality DRINKING WATER QUALITY	1.82% of people are exposed to violations Median US neighborhood: 0.50%
+ Air quality REGIONAL AIR QUALITY	97.3 unhealthy air quality days per year Median US neighborhood: 8.0
+ Air quality NEAR-ROADWAY POLLUTION	32.86% of people are exposed Median US neighborhood: 0.00%
+ Air quality LOCAL INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION	0.03 index from 0 to 311,000 Median US neighborhood: 0.00

Livability Score ?



CUSTOMIZE THIS SCORE

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ENGAGEMENT
 Civic and social involvement

>
- 39

OPPORTUNITY
 Inclusion and possibilities

>

NEIGHBORHOOD
Access to life, work, and play
✕

What makes a neighborhood truly livable? Two important qualities are access and convenience. Compact neighborhoods make it easier for residents to reach the things they need most, from jobs to grocery stores to libraries. Nearby parks and places to buy healthy food help people make smart choices, and diverse, walkable neighborhoods with shops, restaurants, and movie theatres make local life interesting. Additionally, neighborhoods served by good access to more distant destinations via transit or automobile help residents connect to jobs, health care, and services throughout the greater community.

Metrics	Policies	Resources
How does my community compare to neighborhoods across the country? ● TOP THIRD ● MIDDLE THIRD ● BOTTOM THIRD		
+ Proximity to destinations ACCESS TO GROCERY STORES AND FARMERS' MARKETS	6.3 stores and markets ● Median US neighborhood: 0.0	
+ Proximity to destinations ACCESS TO PARKS	1.0 parks ● Median US neighborhood: 0.0	
+ Proximity to destinations ACCESS TO LIBRARIES	0.2 libraries ● Median US neighborhood: 0.0	
+ Proximity to destinations ACCESS TO JOBS BY TRANSIT	27,432 jobs ● Median US neighborhood: 0	
+ Proximity to destinations ACCESS TO JOBS BY AUTO	535,864 jobs ● Median US neighborhood: 55,312	
+ Mixed-use neighborhoods DIVERSITY OF DESTINATIONS	0.90 index from 0 to 1 ● Median US neighborhood: 0.81	
+ Compact neighborhoods ACTIVITY DENSITY	23,094 jobs and people per sq. mi. ● Median US neighborhood: 3,567	
+ Personal safety CRIME RATE	290 crimes per 10,000 people ● Median US neighborhood: 304	
+ Neighborhood quality VACANCY RATE	6.4% of units are vacant ● Median US neighborhood: 8.8%	

Livability Index

Compare Locations

Part of understanding the livability of your location, or prospective location, is understanding how that location compares with other livable communities across the nation. Use our Location Comparison tool to examine the difference between up to three (3) different locations, comparing Livability Categories and the metrics and policies that go into defining them.

LOCATION	Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, CA ^x	San Francisco, San Francisco County, CA ^x	San Diego, San Diego County, CA ^x
TOTAL INDEX SCORE	47	66	53
 HOUSING Affordability and access +	38	62	40
 NEIGHBORHOOD Access to life, work, and play +	70	76	66
 TRANSPORTATION Safe and convenient options +	59	85	56
 ENVIRONMENT Clean air and water +	20	57	42
 HEALTH Prevention, access, and quality +	66	85	72
 ENGAGEMENT Civic and social involvement +	37	58	42
 OPPORTUNITY Inclusion and possibilities +	39	37	51



FOR MORE INFORMATION

The Livability Index

www.aarp.org/livabilityindex

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