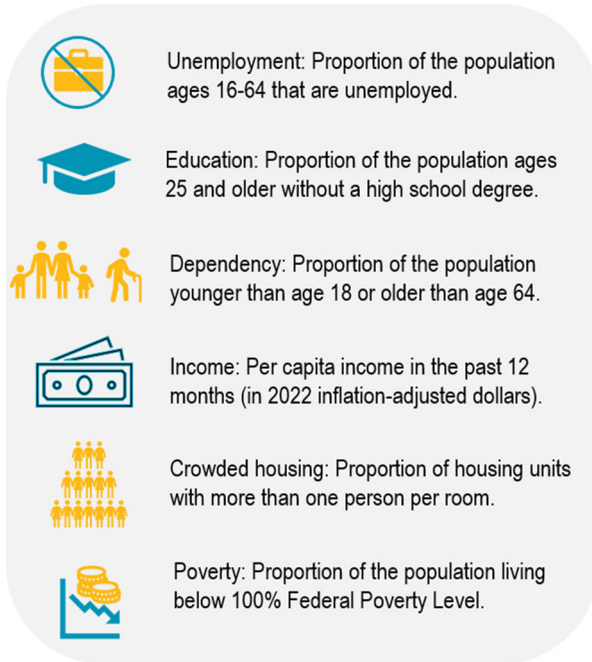


ECONOMIC HARDSHIP INDEX

Estimated* Economic Hardship Index by Subregional Area, San Diego County, 2022

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 2022 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, 2022

Subregional Area (SRA)	Region	Economic Hardship Index	Life Expectancy
Chula Vista	South	100.0	75.3
National City	South	99.3	77.8
Mountain Empire [^]	East	86.0	N/A
Southeastern San Diego	Central	83.8	77.9
South Bay	South	83.7	79.3
Mid-City	Central	75.1	78.0
El Cajon	East	74.2	82.5
Anza-Borrego Springs [^]	North Inland	67.7	N/A
Vista	North Coastal	62.8	77.2
Lemon Grove	East	61.8	75.6
Fallbrook	North Inland	61.4	79.4
Laguna-Pine Valley [^]	East	61.0	N/A
Spring Valley	East	57.7	80.0
Escondido	North Inland	57.3	78.0
Oceanside	North Coastal	49.9	77.8

In 2022, **Chula Vista SRA** (South Region) had the **highest economic hardship index** compared to all other SRAs in San Diego County.

In 2022, **3 out of 5 subregional areas** with the highest economic hardship were in **South Region** in San Diego County.

In 2022, **9 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.

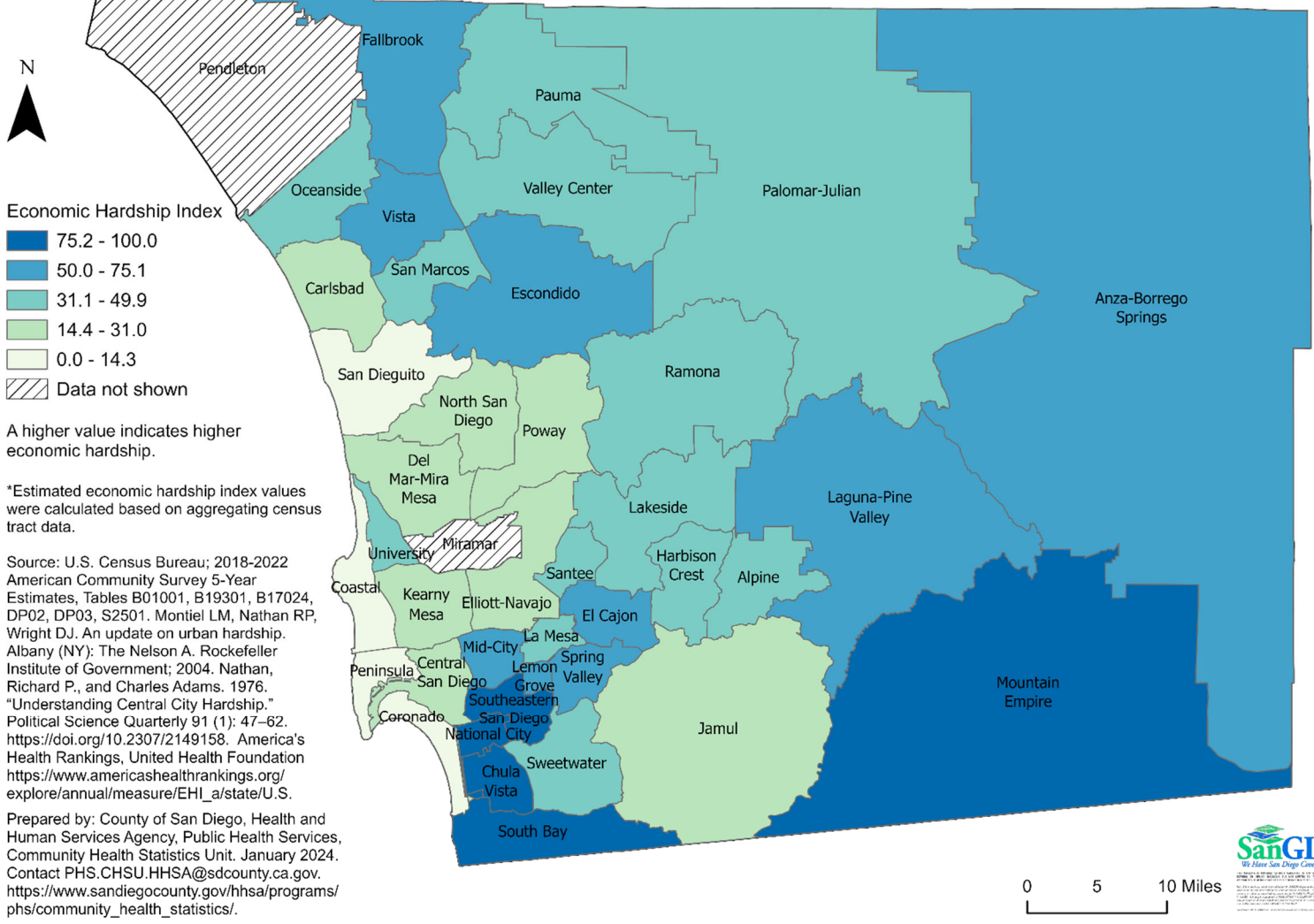
[^]Life Expectancy data not available, censored due to variance in population size.

Figure 2: Estimated* Economic Hardship Index by Subregional Area, San Diego County, 2022

Estimated* Economic Hardship Index by Subregional Area, San Diego County, 2022



Accredited on May 17, 2016
 Recredited on August 21, 2023



*Estimated economic hardship index values were calculated based on aggregating census tract data.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; 2018-2022 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, 2022 (vintage: 11/2023) were derived from the 2020 decennial census. The COVID-19 pandemic was associated with increases in all-cause mortality. COVID-19 deaths have affected the patterns of mortality including Life Expectancy. Prepared by County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit. January 2024.

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