

ORIENTATION

This workbook includes the preliminary results of the Vermont Underserved Community Index (the "Index") for county subdivisions (towns) and labor market areas (LMAs), with a supplemental summary tab depicting the top 25% of communities in each county.

INDEX SCORING

County subdivisions can receive a combined need and capacity score ranging from **0 to 100**. Higher scores indicate that a community has high need and low capacity. Communities are then ranked to determine their position relative to other communities in the state. Communities in the top 25% are considered underserved.

FLAGS

Results with relative standard error greater than **30%** will include a **flag**, indicating that the scores may be unreliable.

EXCLUDED TOWNS

This Index excludes county subdivisions with populations below 50 due to high margins of error in their results.

Subdivision	County	Population
Averill town	Essex	21
Avery's gore	Essex	0
Buels gore	Chittenden	29
Ferdinand town	Essex	16
Glastenbury town	Bennington	9
Lewis town	Essex	2
Somerset town	Windham	6
Warner's grant	Essex	0
Warren's gore	Essex	2

VARIABLES

The Index includes the following subindices and variables, with each subindex **weighted equally**.

Capacity Subindex

Name	Description	Source
Town Manager or Administrator	Presence of at least one municipal manager or administrator based on a list of Vermont town managers and administrators. County subdivisions on the list receive a score of 0. Each county subdivision not on the list receives a 100.	Vermont League of Cities, 2022.
College or University Presence	County subdivisions with no college/university within 15 miles driving distance receive a score of 100. County subdivisions with a college/university within 15 miles receive a score from 50-99, and county subdivisions with a college/university receive a score from 0-49. Scores vary by student enrollment headcount over a 12-month period. County subdivisions with a larger student population receive a lower score.	National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, 2020.
Population Density	County subdivision population. County subdivisions with fewer than 2,500 people receive a score of 100. Those with populations between 2,500 and 9,999 receive a 50. All other county subdivisions receive a score of 0.	U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2020.
Population Change	Change in population from 2000 to 2020 as a fraction of the 2020 population.	U.S. Census Bureau, 2021: National Historical Geographic Information System

Need Subindex

Name	Description	Source
Race and Ethnicity	Percentage of population that is a race or ethnicity other than white non-Hispanic.	U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census, 2020.
High School Graduate	Population of individuals 25 years or older with a high school diploma or higher, as a percentage of total number of individuals 25 years or older in the county subdivision.	U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2020.
Households with Broadband	Households with broadband as a percentage of total households.	U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2020.
Grand List Value (Change)	Percent change in total taxable property value (grand list) from 2011 to 2021.	Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development, 2022
Housing Cost Burdened Homeowners	Households that spend more than 30% of their incomes on housing-related expenses as a proportion of total households.	U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2019
Per Capita Income (Change)	Average per capita income change from 2010 to 2020.	U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2020.
Individuals above 150% FPL	Number of individuals with incomes over 150% FPL as a percentage of the total number of individuals in the county subdivision.	U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2020.
Labor Force Participation Rate (Change)	Change in the percentage of the population 20 to 64 years that participates in the labor force from 2000 to 2020.	U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2020.