

# Southeastern Wisconsin **Regional Planning Commission**



## **Economically Distressed Areas**

June 13, 2023

# ●●●●● Defining Economic Distress

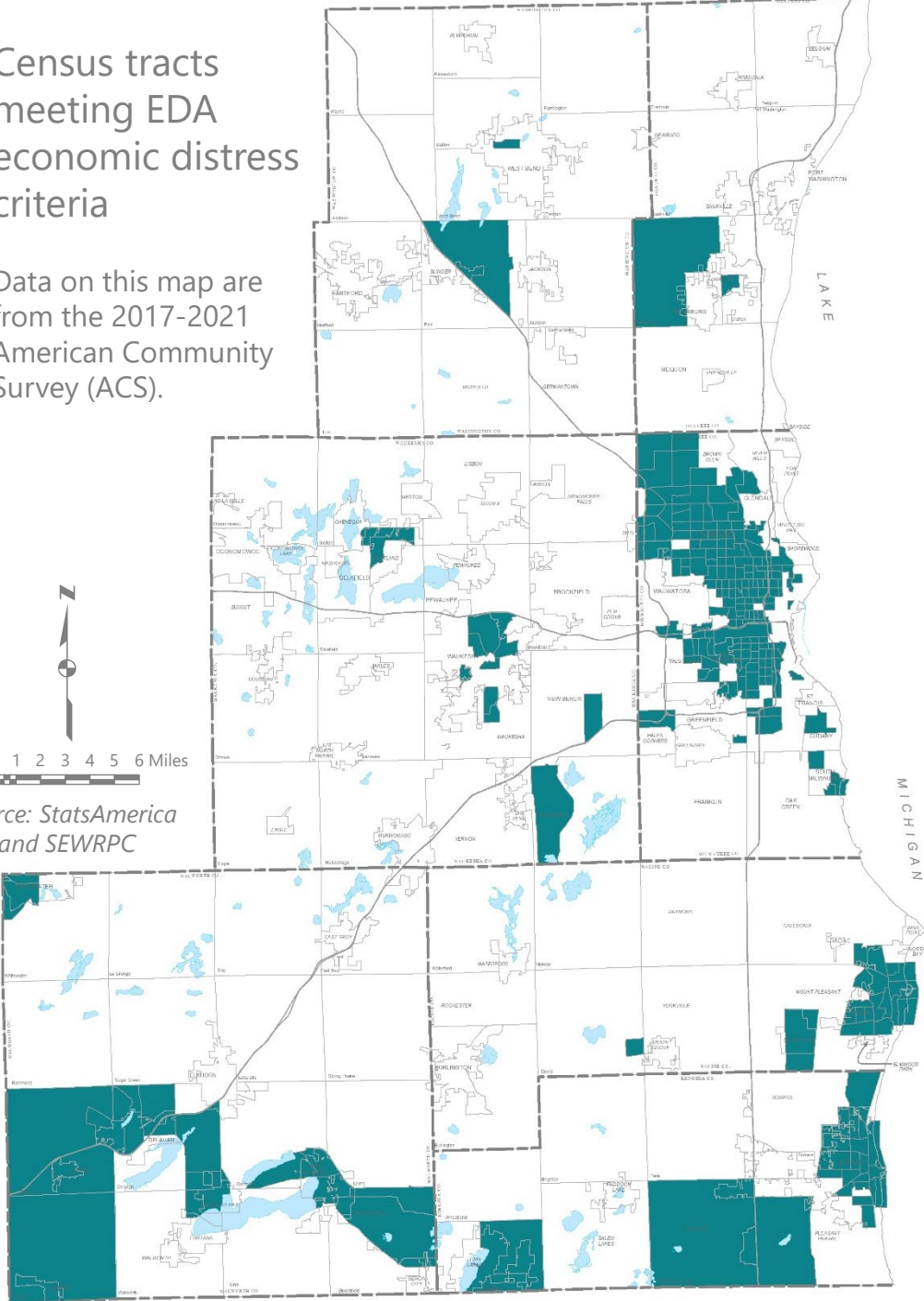
- Certain U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) grants are intended to increase job opportunities and incomes in counties with census tracts that meet EDA's "economic distress" criteria
  1. Unemployment rate at least 1% over U.S. average, and/or
  2. Per capita income 80% or less than U.S. average
- Specifically targeted by EDA's Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance programs
  - Funding for infrastructure projects, revolving loan funds, and business assistance programs
- An updated Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) ensures that county and local governments with economically distressed areas remain eligible for EDA grants
  - SEWRPC and M7 prepared the most recent CEDS in 2021



# Economically Distressed Areas in Southeastern Wisconsin

Census tracts meeting EDA economic distress criteria

Note: Data on this map are from the 2017-2021 American Community Survey (ACS).

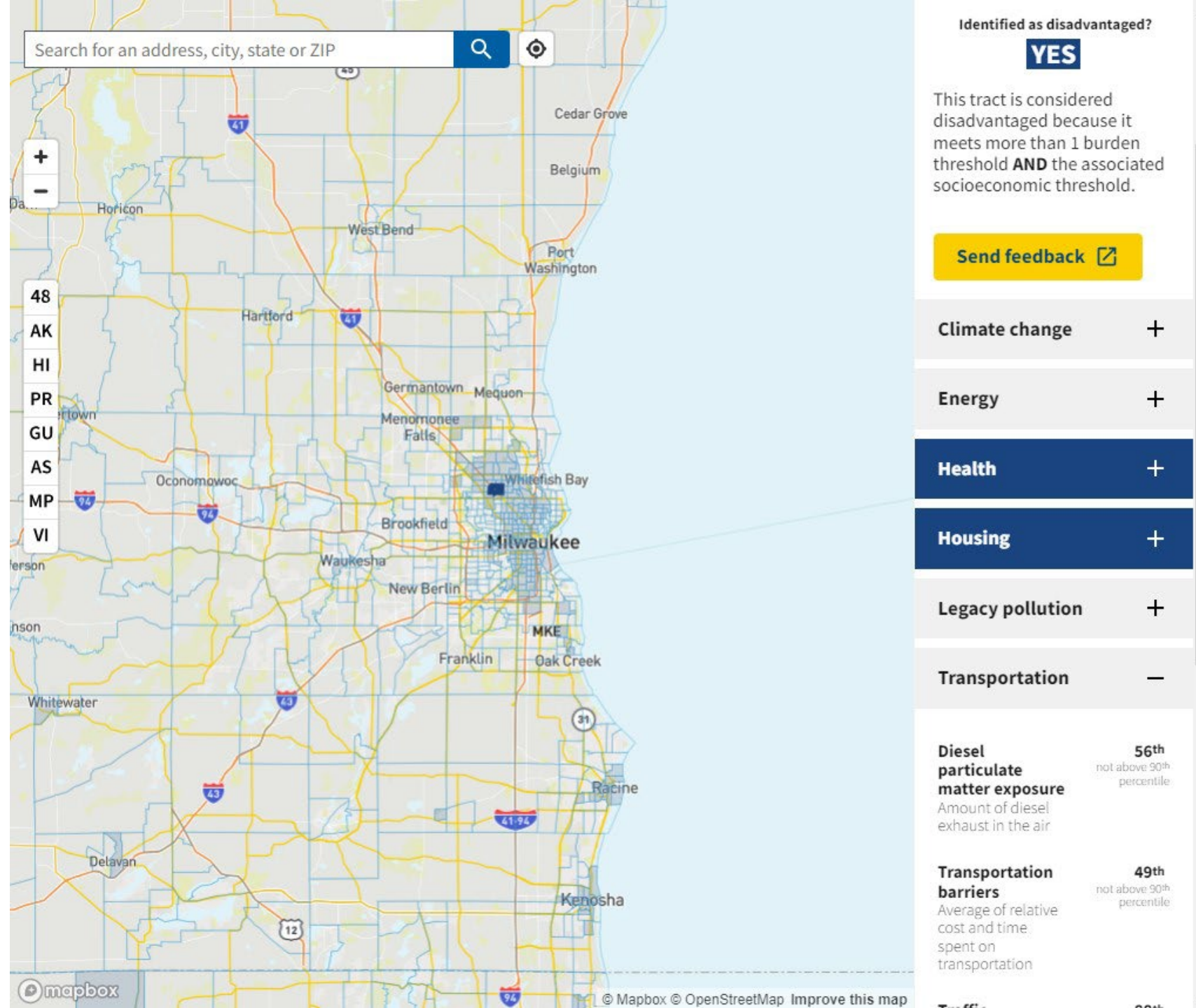


Source: StatsAmerica and SEWRPC

| County        | Distressed Tracts |
|---------------|-------------------|
| Kenosha       | 23                |
| Milwaukee     | 170               |
| Ozaukee       | 2                 |
| Racine        | 17                |
| Walworth      | 11                |
| Washington    | 2                 |
| Waukesha      | 9                 |
| <b>Region</b> | <b>234</b>        |

# Justice40 Initiative

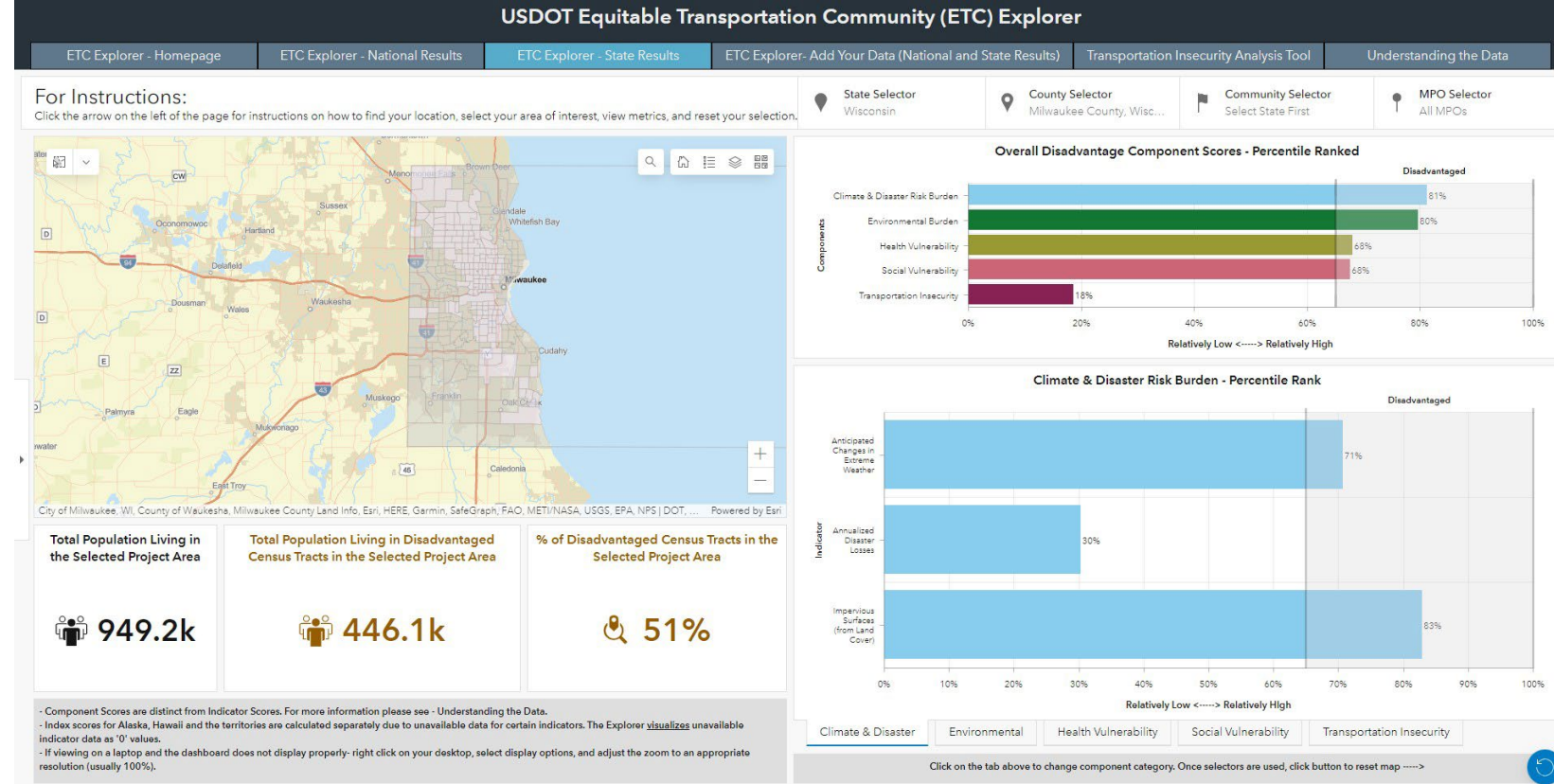
- Federal Government goal that 40% of benefits of certain Federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities
- Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST, [link](#))
  - Highlights census tracts that are disadvantaged based on thresholds for eight categories of burden



# U.S. Department of Transportation

## ➤ Equitable Transportation Community (ETC) Explorer ([link](#))

- Provides deeper insights into how areas are experiencing disadvantage related to transportation investment



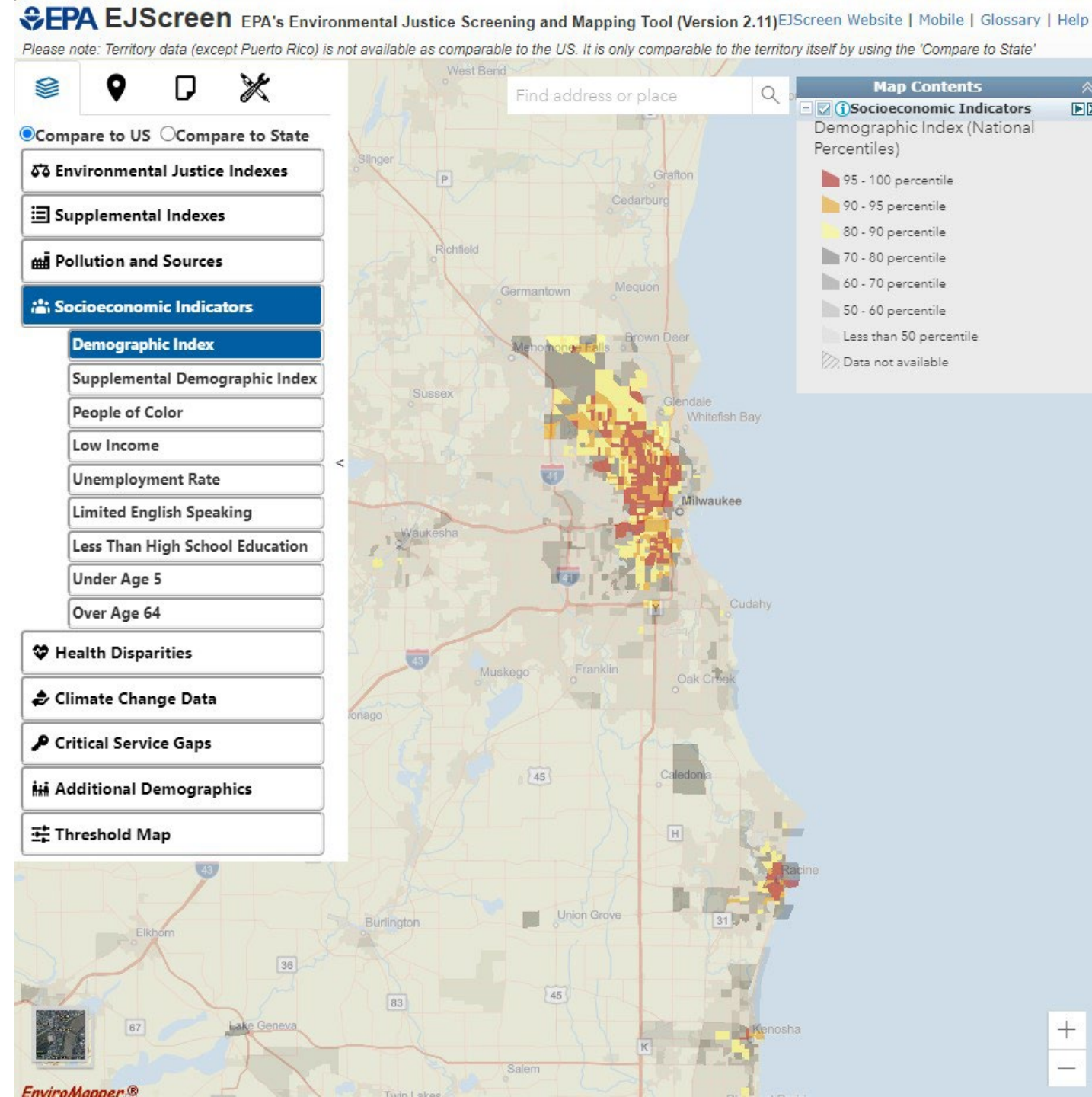
## ➤ Areas of Persistent Poverty & Historically Disadvantaged Communities ([link](#))

- Justice40 defines these areas/communities based on poverty levels and other factors for use in targeting certain grant program funding (e.g., RAISE grants)

# Environmental Protection Agency

## ➤ EJScreen ([link](#))

- Multiple environmental, socioeconomic, and EJ indicators/indices
- Used by EPA to screen for areas that may be candidates for additional consideration, analysis, or outreach as EPA develops programs, policies, and activities that may affect communities



# Housing and Urban Development

## ➤ Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

- Formula-based annual grants based on community needs such as population, poverty, housing overcrowding, and age of housing

## ➤ Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8)

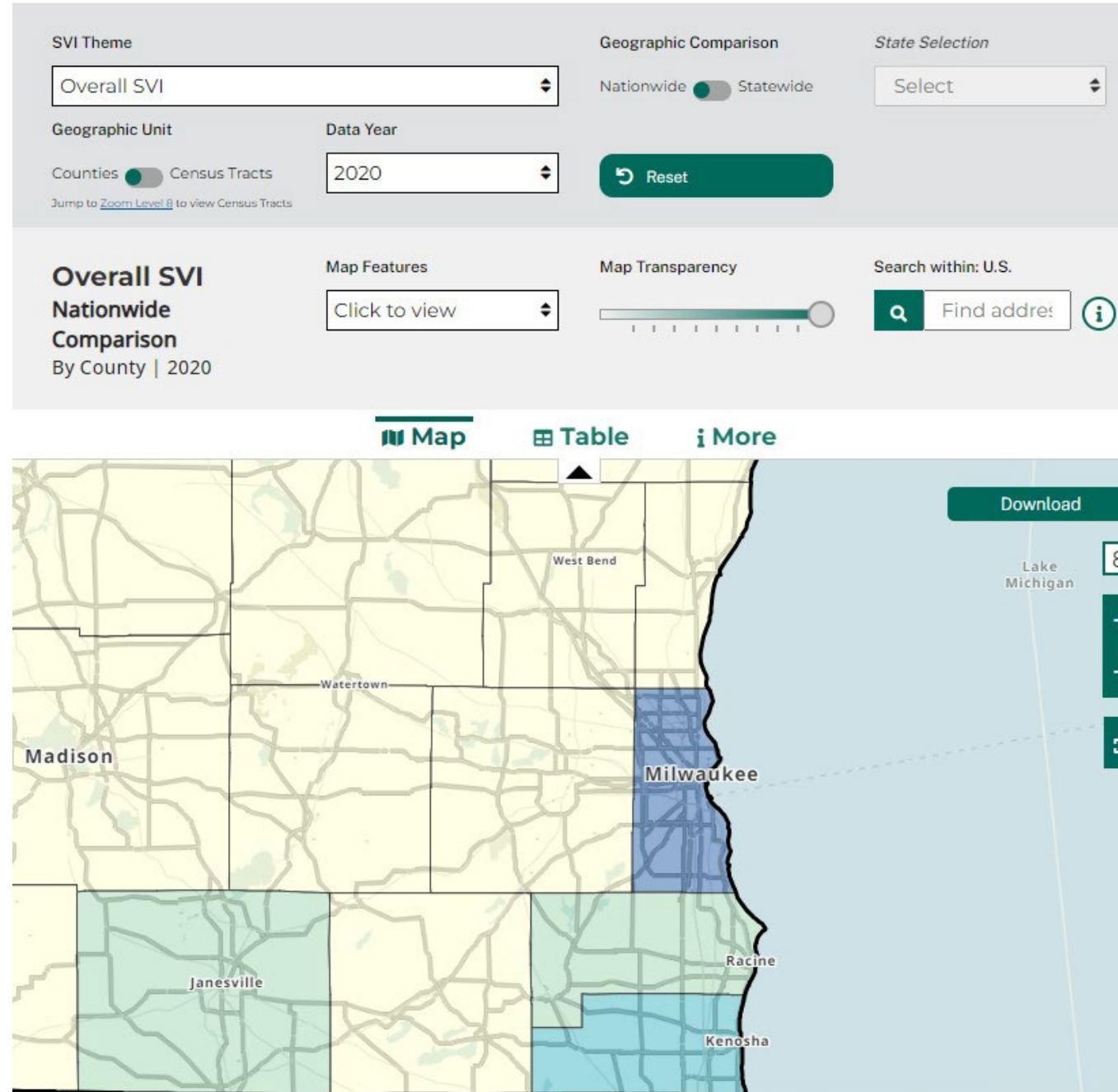
- Directed at assisting very low-income families, seniors, and people with disabilities to afford decent, safe, and sanitary housing in the private market

# Centers for Disease Control

## ➤ Social Vulnerability Index ([link](#))

- Databases to help emergency response planners and public health officials identify and map communities that will most likely need support before, during, and after a hazardous event

## CDC/ATSDR Social Vulnerability Index (SVI)



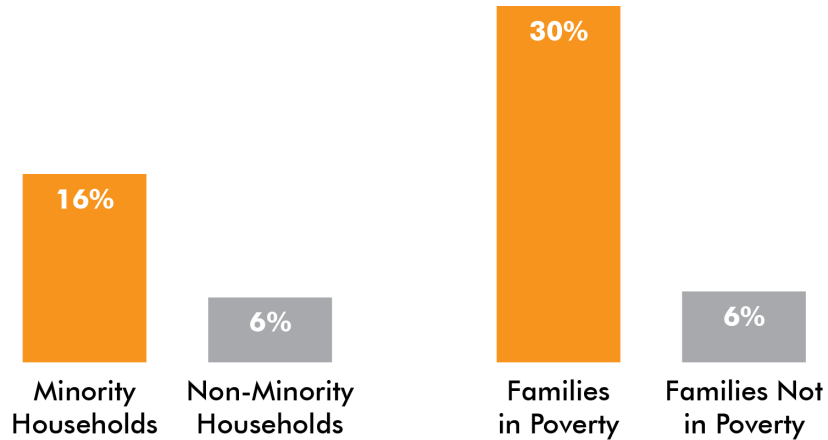


# VISION 2050 Equity Analyses

## ➤ Purpose:

- Are the benefits and impacts of the plan shared fairly and equitably?
- Does the plan serve to reduce significant, long-standing disparities between whites and people of color?

## Percent of Population with No Vehicle Available



About **4x** as many people of color, families in poverty, and people with disabilities would have **access to high-quality transit under VISION 2050** than under the fiscally constrained transportation system

## Population by Race and Ethnicity

1 DOT REPRESENTS 25 PEOPLE

- WHITE ALONE, NOT HISPANIC
- BLACK ALONE, NOT HISPANIC
- ASIAN ALONE, NOT HISPANIC
- SOME OTHER RACE ALONE, OR TWO OR MORE RACES NOT HISPANIC
- HISPANIC

