

Pittsburgh Poverty Assessment 2022
Prepared for: Pittsburgh Community Services, Inc
Research completed by The Forbes Funds
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Intro/Executive Summary

In May 2021, the Allegheny County Department of Human Services (ACDHS) updated their Community Needs Index (CNI) to identify where higher levels of need and greater risk of economic decline could be found in Allegheny County.¹ By identifying community needs at the census tract level, the ACDHS revealed a diversity of local conditions and factors commonly overlooked by more general assessments and discovered more concrete opportunities for local nonprofit intervention in precarious contexts.

This report provides an initial analysis of local conditions with the greatest potential for generating needs and opportunities for members of Black Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) communities within the city limits of Pittsburgh, PA, rather than Allegheny County at large. The conditions identified in ACDHS's prior analyses of Allegheny can be categorized according to the Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) identified by U. S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (ODPHP) and the World Health Organization (WHO)². The ODPHP defines SDOH as, "the conditions in the environments where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks."³

The Social Determinants of Health (SDoH) metrics go beyond considerations of economic and financial stability to include factors of education, healthcare, built environments, and social/community contexts in assessing opportunities and risks presented to members of a local community. These metrics are understood within this report as follows:

This report extends findings from ACDH to provide clarity on the needs and opportunities of individual Pittsburgh neighborhoods. Where the ACDH approached issues of the SDOH from the census tract level, this report offers a particular understanding of opportunities for nonprofit intervention in Pittsburgh's neighborhoods. The report identified the following trends across Pittsburgh's neighborhoods.

Overview of Pittsburgh

Pittsburgh is home to **301,286** residents across **137** communities. Within the full city, there are 140,496 households, of which 27,387 (approximately 20%) are below the federal poverty level; this represents an average of 8% higher than other US-based cities. Recently publicized data from 2021 shows this statistic increasing at a rate of 5% over two years. This equates to over 55,000 people living in poverty within the city of Pittsburgh. Of particular importance is the rate of poverty for persons of color compared to white counterparts.

In Pittsburgh, poverty rates for populations of color increased significantly to the effect that some households in Pittsburgh are more than double the national average poverty rate. The most economically vulnerable areas of the city also possess the fewest transportation opportunities (vehicles available per occupied housing unit) and highest rates of vacant housing units.

The racial makeup of Pittsburgh's urban neighborhoods is 66.8% White, 23% Black, 5.84%

¹ "Community Need Index." Allegheny Analytics. May 13, 2021.

<https://analytics.alleghenycounty.us/2021/05/13/allegheny-county-community-need-index/>.

² World Health Organization. (2010). A Conceptual Framework for Action on the Social Determinants of Health. Retrieved from https://www.who.int/sdhconference/resources/ConceptualframeworkforactiononSDH_eng.pdf.

³ Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. 2022. "Social Determinants of Health." Health.gov. 2022. <https://health.gov/healthypeople/priority-areas/social-determinants-health>.



Asian or Pacific islander, 0.2% Native American Indian, 7.7% Other races, including two or more races. Following city-wide racial demographics, 68% of Pittsburgh's neighborhoods possess majority white populations, while 23% of neighborhoods are majority Black. In total, this means that there are 17 neighborhoods in Pittsburgh with majority populations of people of color.

Although white populations make up most residents dwelling within Pittsburgh neighborhoods, roughly 76% of majority BIPOC neighborhoods are forced to cope with high or extreme levels of poverty, possessing overall poverty rates that range between 30-39% and extreme poverty defined as 40% or more.⁴ In both cases, these neighborhoods these levels of poverty present opportunities and challenges for nonprofit interventions at the local level, offering neighborhood groups tools for facilitating positive and constructive change throughout their communities.

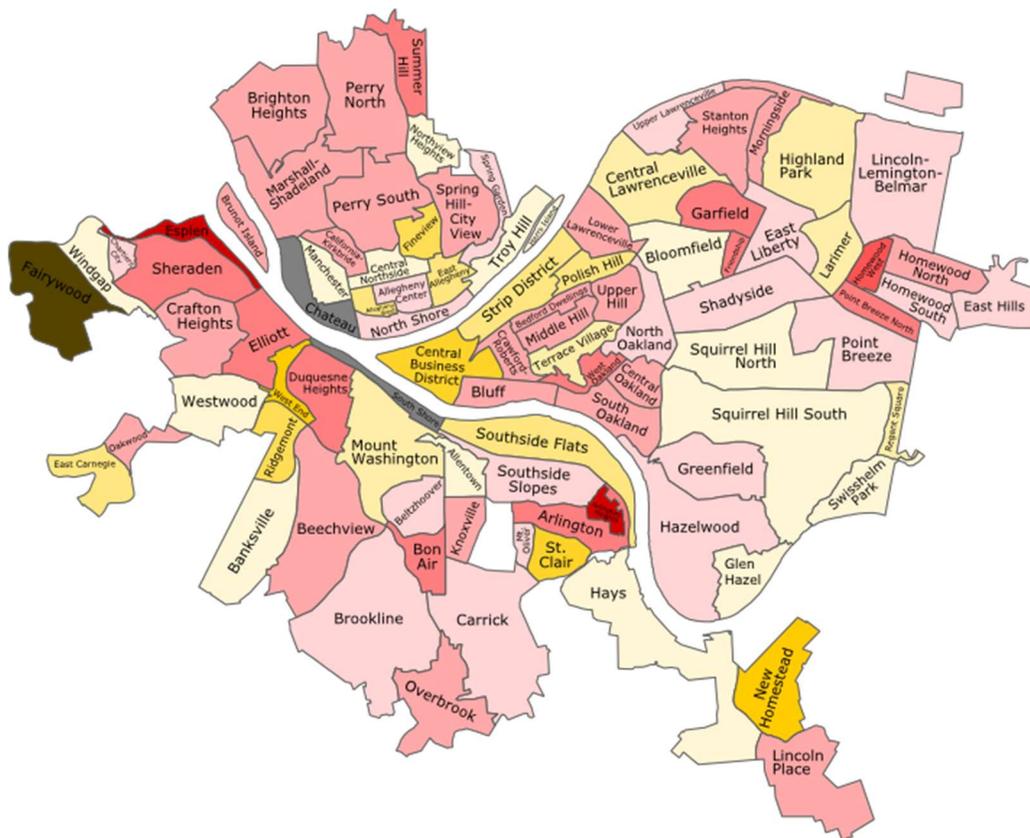
Across Pittsburgh neighborhoods, there are 23 communities with a majority population of people of color. These neighborhoods include:

1. Northview Heights
2. Crawford Roberts
3. East Hills
4. Perry North
5. Perry South
6. Beltzhoover
7. Marshall Shadeland
8. Fineview
9. Lincoln-Lemington
10. Homewood South, North, Middle and West
11. Garfield
12. Manchester
13. Larimer
14. Bedford Dwellings
15. Terrace Village
16. Upper Hill
17. East Liberty
18. California Kirkbride
19. Glen Hazel

This report will detail social and economic challenges within these areas according to known Social Determinants of Health (SDoH).

⁴ Project, The Pittsburgh Neighborhood. 2019. "Residential Segregation by Race and Income in Pittsburgh Neighborhoods: A Data Brief." *The Pittsburgh Neighborhood Project*. February 14, 2019. <https://pittsburghneighborhoodproject.blog/2019/02/14/residential-segregation-by-race-and-income-in-pittsburgh-neighborhoods-a-data-brief/>.





Key Findings

The Forbes Funds is uniquely positioned to facilitate local interventions in areas of Pittsburgh that are often neglected in the broader solutions proposed by State and Federal level institutions. This study has found the following by attending to the particularity of vulnerable areas within the city limits of Pittsburgh, itself:

1. The vulnerabilities of local communities are best understood in terms of the specific conditions of daily life experienced by the community members living, working, and playing together within that area.
2. The specific conditions of daily life for members of a given community are best understood in terms of Social Determinants of Health (SDoH) metrics as defined in the research conducted by World Health Organization (WHO) and the Allegheny County Department of Human Services.
3. The SDoH Metrics are not only representative of the necessary conditions for healthy communities, they also provide a guide for how nonprofits can offer support for the most vulnerable areas of Pittsburgh.
4. By supporting Pittsburgh neighborhoods that scored lower on the SDoH metrics, Pittsburgh-based nonprofits will be able to improve the city as a whole and facilitate healthier relationships among the individuals and institutions that call it home.



Social Determinants of Health

Social determinants of health are social & environmental conditions of the places people live, work, play, and worship. Currently, these social determinants can be grouped into one of five identified domains: (1) economic stability/precarity, (2) health care access & quality, (3) social & community context, (4) education access & quality, and (5) neighborhood & built environment. Known social determinants of health directly impact physical health. These social determinants also contribute to health disparities and inequalities.⁵ The focus on SDoH centers on taking action to improve the communities and places where folks live, work, and play.

In the following sections, this work explores each of the five SDoH domains to better understand Pittsburgh communities.

1. Economic Stability/Precairity

In the United States, 1 in 10 people live in poverty,⁶ and many people can't afford things like healthy foods, health care, and housing. Employment programs, career counseling, and high-quality childcare opportunities can help more people find and keep jobs. In addition, policies to help people pay for food, housing, health care, and education can reduce poverty and improve health and well-being.

Poverty & Poverty Guidelines 2022

For Pennsylvania, income guidelines for 2022 are as follows:

Household Size	100%	150%	200%
1	\$13,590	\$20,385	\$27,180
2	\$18,310	\$27,465	\$36,620
3	\$23,030	\$34,545	\$46,060
4	\$27,750	\$41,625	\$55,500
5	\$32,470	\$48,705	\$64,940
6	\$37,190	\$55,785	\$74,380
7	\$41,910	\$62,865	\$93,260

⁵ Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. 2022. "Social Determinants of Health." Health.gov. 2022. <https://health.gov/healthypeople/priority-areas/social-determinants-health>. Also see "Single Mother Statistics — Single Mother Guide." 2021. Single Mother Guide. May 17, 2021. <https://singlemotherguide.com/single-mother-statistics/>.

⁶ Semega, J., Kollar, M., Creamer, J., Mohanty, A. (2019). Income and Poverty in the United States. Retrieved from <https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2019/demo/p60-266.pdf>



Across Pittsburgh, there are 140,496 households; there are 55,113 households who meet the federal poverty income limits (approximately 40%). In consideration of households who qualify at 200% below federal poverty level, nearly 60% of all Pittsburgh citizens qualify.

Roughly 76% of BIPOC neighborhoods exhibit high or extreme rates of poverty ranging between 30-39% and extreme poverty defined as 40% or more.⁷ The rates of poverty can be explained in terms of lack of transportation, healthcare access and access to dietary options, employment that offers a living-wage, and (as can be guessed) systemic/structural forms of environmental racism in both urban planning and policy proposals. Further, while it is true that costs for housing and transportation remain consistent across Pittsburgh's major neighborhoods, the percentage of household income spent on housing and transportation remains higher in neighborhoods with majority BIPOC populations.

While unemployment rates for Pittsburgh and the nation have been on a steady decline, the **median income** for black & brown residents in the 23 Pittsburgh neighborhoods surveyed were found to be anywhere from **\$11,100 thousand to \$25,000 less** than their white counterparts, with Latinx and Asian populations earning nearly \$8,000 more than Black households.⁸ While both white and BIPOC populations living in Pittsburgh's most vulnerable communities have seen unemployment decrease since 2020, rates of unemployment for Black neighborhoods are nearly triple those of others with unemployment of Black populations at 16%, White and Latinx residents around 6%, and Asian populations at 3%.⁹

Single Parent Households

Approximately 80% of American households are headed by a single mother, with nearly 1/3 of those households living in poverty. We know that nationally, 2/3 of single mothers are working outside of the home. Yet, only one-half (1/2) of those working indicate that they have a full-time role. Amongst the full population, approximately 29% of single mothers were jobless for 2021. Approximately 23% received some unemployment benefits.

National data also indicates that the earning potential of single mothers is significantly lower compared to men: single mothers make approximately \$0.82 cents to a \$1.00 for the same job as men.

Wage disparities are higher if the woman is a person of color. Black and brown females earn about \$0.64 to every \$1.00 earned by men; Hispanic and Latina women earn only \$0.56 on the dollar.

Single mothers earn income well below that of married mother. The median national income for families led by a single mother in 2020 was \$49,214 while the median income for married households was \$101,517.ⁱ The table below provides the percentage of single-family households

⁷ Project, The Pittsburgh Neighborhood. 2019. "Residential Segregation by Race and Income in Pittsburgh Neighborhoods: A Data Brief." The Pittsburgh Neighborhood Project. February 14, 2019. From <https://pittsburghneighborhoodproject.blog/2019/02/14/residential-segregation-by-race-and-income-in-pittsburgh-neighborhoods-a-data-brief/>.

⁸ "Let's Talk about RACE: Data Page." n.d. *PublicSource*. Accessed September 28, 2022. From <https://projects.publicsource.org/pittsburgh-race/data.html>.

⁹ Ibid



across the largely POC Pittsburgh neighborhoods.

Neighborhood	No. Of total households	Percentage of single parent households
Bedford Dwellings	758	29%
Beltzhoover	817	21%
California-Kirkbride	259	19%
Crawford Roberts	1,002	19%
East Hills	1,257	23%
East Liberty	3,299	7%
Fineview	563	15%
Garfield	1,653	11%
Glen Hazel	237	3%
Homewood North	1,182	15%
Homewood South	986	9%
Homewood West	411	14%
Larimer	651	15%
Lincoln-Lemington	1,691	23%
Manchester	1,207	11%
Marshall-Shadeland	1,941	11%
Middle Hill	848	27%
Northview Heights	507	35%
Perry North	1,686	7%
Perry South	1,777	13%
Terrace Village	1,089	22%
Upper Hill	843	19%

Similar to single parent households, households that have someone with a disability residing are statistically more likely to be poor since income may be constrained by the type and quantity of work the individual can do. In the Pittsburgh region, 27% of working age adults (ages 20 to 64) with a disability are poor.

Young veterans with disabilities also are at high risk of poverty. In 2012, about 1 in 5 veterans with a disability (ages 18 to 34) was poor, compared with fewer than 1 in 10 veterans aged 55 and older who have a disability.¹⁰ As of 2018, the Census Bureau's American Community

¹⁰ De Vita, Carol, and Maura Farrell. 2014. "Poverty and income insecurity in the Pittsburgh metropolitan area." https://pittsburghfoundation.org/sites/default/files/2016-09/Poverty%20and%20Income%20Insecurity%20In%20Pgh%20Metro%205-18-16_0.pdf.



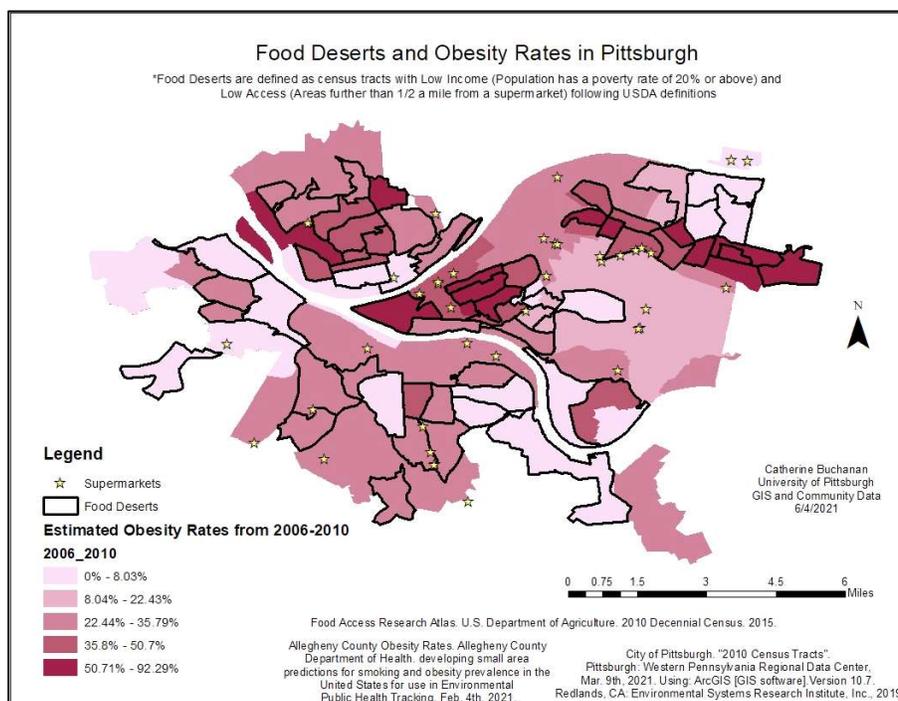
Survey (ACS) estimates that 24,118, or 16% of veterans living in the Pittsburgh MSA, have a military service-connected disability rating. Of which nearly 6,700 veteran residents have a disability rate of 70% or higher.¹¹

Access to Food & Food Desserts

According to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), an area must meet two criteria in order to be labeled a food desert. First, the area must lack access to healthy food sources or those that meet the dietary needs of local populations, meaning that there is no supermarket within a 0.5 mile radius of the census tract. Second, populations in the area must also lack the financial resources and income necessary for purchasing quality goods. Areas that lack income are defined by the USDA as census tracts with poverty rates of 20% or above. A 2013 study found that Pittsburgh leads the nation in food deserts, with approximately 47% of the urban population (145,245 people) experiencing low access to quality dietary options.¹²

The Greater Pittsburgh area, likewise, remains second in the nation for the number of areas impacted by low access to food, with 18% of residents (422,513 people) in the metropolitan area residing in food deserts.

While many populations reside in a food desert, the most vulnerable populations are forced to rely on high-calorie, nutrient poor, processed foods from corner stores within walking distance of their homes. As such, the majority of BIPOC neighborhoods also possess the highest rates of obesity, heart disease, and diabetes, making Pittsburgh metro area the 4th highest (29.3%) in obesity rates among United States metro areas.



2. Educational Access & Quality

People with higher levels of education are more likely to be healthier and live longer. Metrics in this section focus on the quality of educational opportunities for children, adolescents, and adults — and on assisting them throughout their educational journeys. Interventions to help all learners

¹¹ U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs assign a disability rating to veterans who have service-related injuries. These disability ratings (expressed as a percentage) show how much the veteran's disability decreases their overall health and ability to function. <https://ucsur.pitt.edu/perspectives.php?b=20191130768737>

¹² Harvest, Just. n.d. "A Menu for Food Justice: Strategies for Improving Access to Healthy Foods in Allegheny County." *Just Harvest*. Accessed September 28, 2022. https://justharvest.org/jh_publication/a-menu-for-food-justice-strategies-for-improving-access-to-healthy-foods-in-allegheny-county/.



do well in school and helping families pay for college or other secondary education can have long-term health benefits. Increased educational opportunities have a direct correlation to overall health & wellness.

Student Graduation Rates

According to a 2012 study conducted by the Pittsburgh Foundation and the Urban Institute, 24.1% of individuals living in the Pittsburgh metropolitan area are 25 or older and have less than a high school diploma. This is especially striking when compared to individuals 25 or older with a Bachelor's degree who live in poverty (roughly 3.8%).¹³ This is significant considering that Pittsburgh was home to four school districts with the highest poverty rates in 2013, finding that 51% of students in between the ages of preschool and 12th grade were eligible for federal programs that regularly provide free and reduced cost lunches.

While Pittsburgh Public Schools (PPS) have reported lower suspension rates, higher populations of students reaching 3rd-grade reading levels, and higher rates of college completion than the national average, it must be noted that BIPOC students were often in the losing share of these benefits. While rates of suspensions declined, students of color were found to be five times more likely to be suspended than white students. This is unsettling considering that Black and brown students make up 53% of student populations, yet account for 75% of students who have been suspended at least once. Likewise, while the percentage of black and brown students who have achieved 3rd-grade reading levels was nearly 30%.¹⁴

According to a report from the City of Pittsburgh, childcare costs more than rent in all fifty states, and more than college in a majority of states. In 2014, the statewide average cost of childcare for a 4-year-old topped out at \$8,727. This average cost amounts to nearly 10% of the median income in the city of Pittsburgh, and nearly half of a minimum wage earner's yearly pay.¹⁵

Early Childhood Education Access

The significance of these costs is heightened when we realize that a child's brain undergoes a rapid period of growth and development during their first five years of life. In these early years, a child's genetics and personal experiences will come together to either support or hinder their physical, cognitive, social, and emotional development.

An expanding body of research demonstrates the myriad benefits that children with access to high-quality, inclusive programming stand to gain: children who attended Pre-K programs do better in school and are less likely to require special education services or to have to repeat a

¹³ De Vita, Carol, And Maura Farrell. 2014. "Poverty and income insecurity in the Pittsburgh metropolitan area." https://pittsburghfoundation.org/sites/default/files/2016-09/poverty%20and%20income%20insecurity%20in%20pgh%20metro%205-18-16_0.pdf.

¹⁴ Niederberger, Mary. 2018. "Successes in Pittsburgh Schools Aren't Shared Equally by Black and White Students, A+ Schools Report Concludes." *PublicSource*. November 12, 2018. <https://www.publicsource.org/successes-in-pittsburgh-schools-arent-shared-equally-by-black-and-white-students-a-schools-report-concludes/>.

Hstockton. 2018. "Hamlet Hopes to Shrink Racial Achievement Gap in Pittsburgh Schools. New Test Scores Show a Long Way to Go." *PublicSource*. September 24, 2018. <https://www.publicsource.org/hamlet-hopes-to-shrink-racial-achievement-gap-in-pittsburgh-schools-new-test-scores-show-a-long-way-to-go/>.

"Pittsburgh Home to Four School Districts with Highest Poverty Rates." 2015. 90.5 WESA. January 26, 2015. <https://www.wesa.fm/education/2015-01-26/pittsburgh-home-to-four-school-districts-with-highest-poverty-rates>.

¹⁵ Gould, E. & Cooke, T. (2015). High Quality Childcare is Out of Reach for Working Families. Economic Policy Institute. Child Care Aware (2014). Parents and the High Cost of Child Care 2014 Report



grade; they have lower rates of chronic health conditions later in life; they are less likely to become parents as teenagers; and they are more likely to graduate from college and maintain stable jobs and families. Although the benefits of early learning are well documented in scientific research, a child's ability to benefit from the system continues to be the exception rather than the norm because of lack of access to inclusive, high-quality Pre-K.¹⁶

There are an estimated 1,500 children in Pittsburgh without access to full day, high-quality, inclusive Pre-K programming. Over one-third (1/3) of Pittsburgh's children are living below the federal poverty line—a significant statistic given the well-documented impacts of poverty on early childhood development. Children growing up in poverty often suffer from “toxic stress,” which research indicates alters the architecture of young brains and permanently impacts future development. Socioeconomic status is also a factor in determining cognitive and verbal ability for children entering kindergarten; Research shows that 60-70% of the achievement gap between our nation's poorest and richest children is already evident by kindergarten.¹⁷

Across Pittsburgh Public Schools, 64% of student qualify as low-income. Post COVID 19 school closures, approximately 15,000 students likely need help to get on track with their grade level expectations. Within this group, the disparity between white and students of color is significant. Compared to the 42% of white students in need of extra support, 66% of student of colors need extra support.

In addition to enrollment and school success, A+ Schools, a Pittsburgh-based nonprofit organization whose mission is to remove any barriers to equity within schools, notes that students of color who have had a BIPOC teacher by third grade were 13% more likely to enroll in college.¹⁸

¹⁶ I. Shonkoff, J.P., Garner, A.S., Siegel, B.S., Dobbins, M.I., Earls, M.F., McGuinn, L., Wood, D.L. (2012). The Lifelong Effects of Early Childhood Adversity and Toxic Stress. *Pediatrics*. Also see Hirokazu Yoshikawa, Christina Weiland et al. (2013). Investing in Our Future: The Evidence Base on Preschool Education. See also: Robert Pianta (2009). The Effects of Preschool Education: What we know, how public policy is or is not aligned with the evidence base, and what we need to know. *Association for Psychological Science* 10.

¹⁷ Pre-K and Child Care in Pittsburgh: The Reality, the Opportunities and the Challenge. (2016). Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers. This report puts the number of 3 & 4 year olds not currently enrolled in Pre-K as between 1,130 and 1,530. For the purposes of this report we are using an estimate of 1,500 children. United States Census Bureau; American FactFinder. (2009-2014). Children Characteristics: Pittsburgh, PA. See also: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. (2012). U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey Office.

Shonkoff, J.P., Garner, A.S., Siegel, B.S., Dobbins, M.I., Earls, M.F., McGuinn, L.,... Wood, D.L. (2012). The Lifelong Effects of Early Childhood Adversity and Toxic Stress. *Pediatrics*.
Lee, V.E., & Burkam, D.T. (2002). Inequality at the Starting Gate: Social Background Differences in Achievement as Children Begin School. *Economic Policy Institute*.

¹⁸ “2021 Executive Summary.” n.d. A+ Schools. Accessed September 28, 2022.
<https://www.ourschoolspittsburgh.org/2021-executive-summary>.



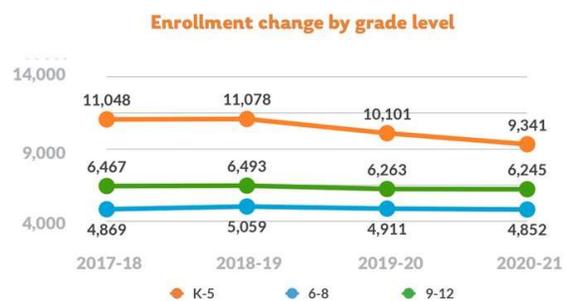
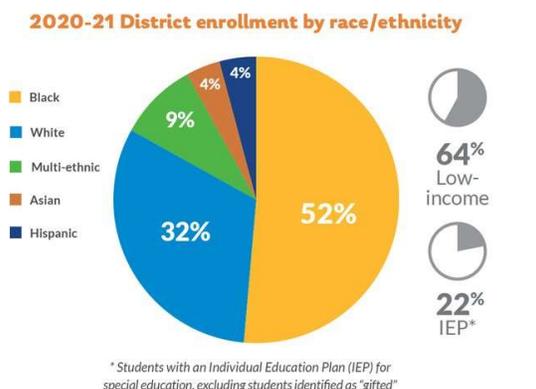


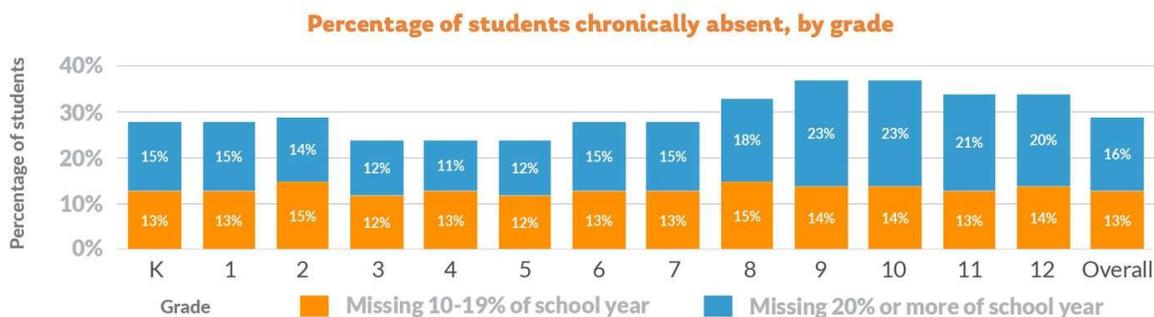
Chart from A+ Schools¹⁹

Access to Internet and Telehealth

Across the 19 Pittsburgh neighborhoods focused on in this report, 13 have reduced access defined here as less than 80% of community access to broadband internet. Recent research published in the American Journal of Public Health named broadband access a Social Determinant of Healthⁱⁱ. Across the United States, healthcare systems have transitioned to telehealth and virtual care. Patients without access to broadband are not able to use telehealth to its full capacity, reducing the impact of health-related challenges on persons. The following lists neighborhoods with significant broadband access challenges; these neighborhoods have less than an 80% access rate. Please note that these data metrics were last updated in 2020.

- Larimer: 57%
- Glen Hazel: 58%
- Homewood West: 59%
- Homewood North: 60%
- Homewood South: 63%
- East Hills: 68%
- Lincoln Lemington: 69%
- Crawford Roberts: 70%
- Manchester: 70%
- Bedford Hills: 73%
- Middle Hill: 74%
- Upper Hill: 75%
- Beltzhoover: 79%

Research also shows a direct correlation between chronic absenteeism (missing 10+ days of school year) and course failure. Chronic absenteeism is a complex problem linked to negative long-term effects.



¹⁹ Ibid

3. Social and Community Context

People’s relationships and interactions with family, friends, co-workers, and community members can impact their health and well-being. Positive relationships at home, at work, and in the community can help reduce these negative impacts.²⁰ Interventions to help people get the social and community support they need are critical for improving health and well-being. This includes trauma informed care approaches and access to mental health providers.

Goals for social and community context include improving youth and adult communication, including trust building between parents and youth; increasing access to voting and increasing the number of voters. Reducing the proportion of children with a parent or guardian who has been incarcerated. This domain also includes increasing health literacy, reducing bullying and eliminating food insecurity.

Air Quality

Air quality and pollution are significant factors in the health of impoverished neighborhoods throughout the city of Pittsburgh. According to the United State Center for Disease Control, “[a]ir pollution can be harmful to heart health and may make it more likely that some people will have a heart attack or stroke.”²¹ Low air quality and pollution, when combined with mental stress, poor diets, and lack of educational resources have profound effects for more sensitive populations such as children, teens, and the elderly.

A 2021 report on the “State of the Air” conducted by the American Lung Association found that the city of Pittsburgh, as well as Allegheny County at large, was one of only 13 areas with failing grades for long-term and short-term exposure to fine particulate matter and ground-level ozone. What matters most about these scores, however, is that they were the *best they had ever been for the city* of Pittsburgh and have the potential to get even better if local community groups and nonprofit organizations are able to mobilize their capabilities to make a concerted effort in improving air quality.²²

Community wellness/violence

While the public health of Pittsburgh’s poorest neighborhoods is negatively impacted by widespread pollution and low air quality that may be nearly imperceptible to those having to live and cope with them, issues of safety, such as police and gun violence have profound effect on both mental stability of neighborhood residents and their levels of public trust in institutions. As of June 2022, the most frequent offenses include Larceny Theft at 24% (with 2,462 cases reported and 459 cleared, a rate of about 19%), Other Assaults at 15% (with 1,594 cases reported and 1,126 cleared, a rate of 71%), and Vandalism at 11% (with 925 cases reported and 225 cases cleared, a rate of 24%).²³

²⁰ Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. 2020. “Social and Community Context - Healthy People 2030 | Health.gov.” Health.gov. 2020. <https://health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/browse-objectives/social-and-community-context>.

²¹“Public Health Issues | Air | CDC.” 2022. Www.cdc.gov. April 12, 2022. https://www.cdc.gov/air/air_health.htm#:~:text=Air%20pollution%20can%20be%20harmful.

²² “American Lung Association State of the Air 2021.” n.d. Www.lung.org. <https://www.lung.org/research/sota>.

²³ “Workbook: Crime in the City of Pittsburgh.” 2021. Alleghenycounty.us. 2021.



According to the City of Pittsburgh’s crime statistics, a majority of criminal activities are committed within the Golden Triangle area in downtown Pittsburgh, as well as the Southside Flats, Brighton Heights, Carrick, East Liberty, Shadyside, Squirrel Hill South, and North and Central Oakland, reflecting poverty and homeless rates for the city as a whole.²⁴ While the rates of criminal activity have been steadily declining in recent years, rates of cases actually being cleared in these neighborhoods have also declined, indicating increased risk of both violent and nonviolent crimes within Pittsburgh’s most vulnerable neighborhoods.

A recent surge in gun-related crimes and homicides is continuing in the city. So far in 2022, there have been over 40 homicides, which is a 22% increase from 2021.²⁵

4. Healthcare Access & Quality:

Many people in the United States lack quality health care. This metric focuses on how health can be improved by helping people get timely, high-quality health care services and actively monitoring changes in public health. Interventions to increase access to health care professionals and improve communication — in person or remotely — can help more people get the care they need.

According to the U. S. Census Bureau, 10.5% of Pittsburgh city residents under the age of 65 currently live with physical and cognitive disabilities. While this statistic alone is not shocking, this statistic becomes more significant when considered alongside the current uninsured population of Pittsburgh, nearly 6.2%.²⁶ These statistics reflect rates of uninsured populations throughout Pennsylvania as a whole, nearly 12%, as well as across income levels and racial among BIPOC populations.²⁷

It is unsurprising, then, that “Pennsylvania falls below national averages in rankings of state population health” according to the United Health Care Foundation.²⁸ Rates of uninsured individuals likewise reflect the reality that Pennsylvania has rates of heart disease and drug related mortality rates that are above national averages. The CDC has also found that “Pennsylvania had one of the highest cancer incidence and death rates in the United States in 2012.”²⁹ These findings are especially concerning when understood alongside Pennsylvania’s unprecedented number of heroin, opioid, and substance abuse deaths, a statistic that increased by 20% in 2014, with almost 49% of these deaths resulting from opioid medications (25%) and non-

https://tableau.alleghenycounty.us/t/PublicSite/views/CJ_UCR_PGH_8-22-17_v3/Home_1?iframeSizedToWindow=true&%3Aembed=y&%3AshowAppBanner=false&%3Adisplay_count=no&%3AshowVizHome=no&%3Aorigin=viz_share_link

²⁴ Ibid

²⁵ Mayo, Bob. 2022. “Killing in Larimer Marks 40th Homicide so Far for 2022 in Pittsburgh.” WTAE. July 18, 2022. <https://www.wtae.com/article/killing-in-larimer-marks-40th-homicide-so-far-for-2022-in-pittsburgh/40644794#>.

²⁶ “U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts: Pittsburgh City, Pennsylvania.” n.d. *Census.gov*. From <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/pittsburghcitypennsylvania>.

²⁷ “Percent without Health Insurance Data for Pennsylvania - Health Insurance on the Open Data Network.” n.d. from

https://www.opendatanetwork.com/entity/0400000US42/Pennsylvania/health.health_insurance.pctui?year=2014&age=18%20to%2064&race=All%20races&sex=Both%20sexes&income=All%20income%20levels.

²⁸ 2016. “The Pennsylvania Health Care Landscape.” The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. April 25, 2016. <https://www.kff.org/health-reform/fact-sheet/the-pennsylvania-health-care-landscape/>.

²⁹ “The Pennsylvania Health Care Landscape.” *The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation*. April 25, 2016. <https://www.kff.org/health-reform/fact-sheet/the-pennsylvania-health-care-landscape/>.



legal drugs (24%).

Significant racial disparities in health persist within the city of Pittsburgh with “one quarter of Black (27%) and Hispanic (23%) residents report being in fair or poor general health compared to 16% of those who identify themselves as White” according to the Kaiser Family Foundation. These same populations are more likely to report not having any usual source of preventative or emergency care.

5. Neighborhood & Built Environment:

Many people in the United States live in neighborhoods with high rates of violence, unsafe air or water, and other health and safety risks. Racial/ethnic minorities and people with low incomes are more likely to live in places with these risks. In addition, some people are exposed to things at work that can harm their health, like secondhand smoke or loud noises. Interventions and policy changes at the local, state, and federal level can help reduce these health and safety risks and promote health.

Walkability scores indicate how easy it is for city residents to accomplish daily tasks on foot, without the use of a car or other vehicle. The city of Pittsburgh has an average walkability score of 62 among **305,704** residents.³⁰ This means that a majority of residents found Pittsburgh to be walkable with good systems for public transportation. Pittsburgh, however, was only found to be somewhat bikeable and unnavigable among those with physical disabilities, indicating a lack of attention to public health and physical mobility in infrastructure spending.

The most walkable neighborhoods in Pittsburgh correlated with high levels of public activity and included the neighborhoods of Downtown, Southside Flats, and Friendship.

Walkable neighborhoods are found to reflect the health, safety, and mobility needs of resident populations and create spaces in which communities can come together to recognize the value of shared history and culture. Likewise, walkable neighborhoods contribute to lower rates of pollution and increased rates of air quality that provide a strong foundation for community health.

Bedford Dwellings Neighborhood, Pittsburgh	16
Beltzhoover Neighborhood, Pittsburgh	15.1
California-Kirkbride Neighborhood, Pittsburgh	17.3
Crawford-Roberts Neighborhood, Pittsburgh	17.3
East Hills Neighborhood, Pittsburgh	13.3
East Liberty Neighborhood, Pittsburgh	15.7
Fineview Neighborhood, Pittsburgh	13.7
Garfield Neighborhood, Pittsburgh	16
Glen Hazel Neighborhood, Pittsburgh	11.7
Homewood North Neighborhood, Pittsburgh	13.5
Homewood South Neighborhood, Pittsburgh	16.1
Homewood West Neighborhood, Pittsburgh	16.6
Larimer Neighborhood, Pittsburgh	18.1

³⁰ “Pittsburgh Neighborhoods on Walk Score.” n.d. Walk Score. Accessed September 28, 2022. <https://www.walkscore.com/PA/Pittsburgh>.



Lincoln-Lemington-Belmar Neighborhood, Pittsburgh	13.2
Manchester Neighborhood, Pittsburgh	17.1
Marshall-Shadeland Neighborhood, Pittsburgh	13.3
Middle Hill Neighborhood, Pittsburgh	16
Northview Heights Neighborhood, Pittsburgh	10.2
Perry North Neighborhood, Pittsburgh	12.7
Perry South Neighborhood, Pittsburgh	14.2
Terrace Village Neighborhood, Pittsburgh	14.5
Upper Hill Neighborhood, Pittsburgh	15

Sources: EPA 2019

FINDINGS:

Poverty and poor health outcomes are intrinsically linked. Each year, millions of people across the world are pushed into poverty due to the costs of healthcare. Inequalities create disparities in health and overall wellbeing. Stabilizing access to housing, health foods, and safe neighborhoods is a key area of impact affecting poverty and health.

Upon reviewing the research detailed above, The Forbes Funds found that each neighborhood has a number of nonprofit organizations. In particular neighborhoods there exist numerous nonprofit organizations. Further pursuing collaboration among these organizations to partner with peer organizations to reduce duplication and maximize impact.

Across the locations where multiple nonprofit organizations are housed, it would be beneficial to explore the collaborative capacity of these groups to serve the community.

Neighborhood	No. of Nonprofit Organizations
Beltzhoover	3
California-Kirkbride	1
East Hills	16
East Liberty	9
Garfield	9
Glen Hazel	5
Homewood North	16
Homewood South	9
Homewood West	13
Larimer	7
Lincoln-Lemington-Belmar	14
Manchester	2
Marshall-Shadeland	8
Middle Hill	11
Northview Heights	5
Perry North	7
Perry South	6



Terrace Village	17
Upper Hill	17

