HOW IT WORKS

(plus some definitions of key terms)
OVERALL SCORE (a.k.a. LIVABILITY SCORE)
WHAT’S A GOOD SCORE?

The highest-scoring neighborhood in the U.S. has an overall score of...
WHAT’S A GOOD SCORE?

The highest-scoring neighborhood in the U.S. has an overall score of 78.
CATEGORIES and CATEGORY SCORES
WHAT’S A GOOD SCORE?

In each category, the highest-scoring neighborhood gets a 100.

What’s downtown Portland’s transportation score?
HOUSING
Affordability and access

They say home is where the heart is—and the same holds true for the Livability Index. Housing is a central component of livability. Deciding where to live influences many of the topics the Index covers. We spend more time in our homes than anywhere else, so housing costs, choices, and accessibility are critical. Great communities provide housing opportunities for people of all ages, incomes, and abilities, allowing everyone to live in a quality neighborhood regardless of their circumstances.

How does my community compare to neighborhoods across the country?

- TOP THIRD
- MIDDLE THIRD
- BOTTOM THIRD

- Housing accessibility
  **BASIC PASSAGE**: 3.1% of units have basic passage
  Median US neighborhood: 2.6%

- Housing options
  **AVAILABILITY OF MULTI-FAMILY HOUSING**: 36.9% of units are multi-family
  Median US neighborhood: 19.9%

- Housing affordability
  **HOUSING COSTS**: $1,281 per month
  Median US neighborhood: $999

- Housing affordability
  **HOUSING COST BURDEN**: 24.4% of income spent on housing
  Median US neighborhood: 13.4%
They say home is where the heart is—and the same holds true for the Livability Index. Housing is a central component of livability. Deciding where to live influences many of the topics the index covers. We spend more time in our homes than anywhere else, so housing costs, choices, and accessibility are critical. Great communities provide housing opportunities for people of all ages, incomes, and abilities, allowing everyone to live in a quality neighborhood regardless of their circumstances.

**HOUSING**

**Affordability and access**

- **Housing accessibility**
  - **State and Local Inclusive Design Laws**
  - **State Manufactured Housing Protections**
  - **Commitment to Livability**
  - **State and Local Plans to Create Age-Friendly Communities**

- **Housing affordability**
  - **State and Local Housing Trust Funds**
  - **State Foreclosure Prevention and Protection**

- **Housing options**
  - **No Policy**

- **No Policy**
### Population Characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Total Score</th>
<th>APPLY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Population</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% African American</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Asian</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Hispanic</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Age 50+</td>
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<tr>
<td>% Age 65+</td>
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</table>

### Environment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Total Score</th>
<th>APPLY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Environment Score</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Regional Air Pollution</td>
<td></td>
<td>APPLY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Pollution</td>
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<td>APPLY</td>
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</table>

### Health

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health Score</td>
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<td>APPLY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoking Rates</td>
<td></td>
<td>APPLY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obesity Rates</td>
<td></td>
<td>APPLY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to Exercise Opportunities</td>
<td></td>
<td>APPLY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Professional Shortage Areas</td>
<td></td>
<td>APPLY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life Expectancy (Years)</td>
<td></td>
<td>APPLY</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Engagement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Total Score</th>
<th>APPLY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Engagement Score</td>
<td></td>
<td>APPLY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voting Rates</td>
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<td>APPLY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer Rates</td>
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<td>APPLY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broadband Cost and Speed</td>
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<td>APPLY</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Map Layers

- **60** Inclusion: Access to community services
- **65** Neighborhood: Access to life, work, and play
- **78** Transportation: Safe and convenient options
- **27** Environment: Clean air and water
- **72** Health: Prevention, access, and quality
- **78** Engagement: Civic and social involvement
- **44** Opportunity: Inclusion and possibilities
Livability Score 61

Customize this Score

Category Score

Housing: 60
Affordability and access

Neighborhood: 65
Access to life, work, and play

Transportation: 78
Safe and convenient options

Environment: 27
Clean air and water

Library: 6

HOW IT ALL COMES TOGETHER

My community has good transportation options, but also some traffic congestion.

Bonus points for 2 policies

My community does well on health, environment, and neighborhoods; not so well on housing, opportunity, and engagement.

Avg. speed limit: 27 MPH

My community gets a 64 for its speed limit (behind the scenes)

National avg.: 30 MPH

My community’s average score for transportation metrics is 70 (behind the scenes)

Transportation score: 72

OVERALL SCORE: 65
TOUGH DECISIONS

(and what they mean for other efforts to use data to measure and communicate issues related to livability)
• Research review
• Expert advisors
• Quantitative data

• Livability survey
• Customizable
THE BEST DATA

DATA FOR ALL
COMPELLING

RICH
- One livability score
- Simple policies
- User-friendly website

- 7 category scores, 40 metrics
- Map overlays
- Compare tool
HIGHEST-SCORING COMMUNITIES

(and how our decisions shaped the results)
Upper West Side, Manhattan, NY
Downtown Crossing, Boston, MA
SOMA, San Francisco, CA
Washburn, La Crosse, WI
Downtown, Sioux Falls, SD
Southside, Virginia, MN
Downtown, Bismarck, ND
Downtown, Seattle, WA
Downtown, Los Alamos, NM
• Lack of an “upper limit” on many metrics favors downtowns
• The Upper Midwest does well on Health and Engagement
• University towns offer a mix of small town and big city benefits
• A lot of people feel like affordability and weather don’t influence scores enough