



City of Alexandria, VA

What is Livability?

Livable communities have diverse features that satisfy the needs of people of all ages, incomes and abilities. Learn more about AARP's Livability Index at www.aarp.org/livabilityindex.

Above Average
67 - 100+



79



HEALTH
PREVENTION, ACCESS, AND QUALITY

73



NEIGHBORHOOD
ACCESS TO LIFE, WORK, AND PLAY

69



ENGAGEMENT
CIVIC AND SOCIAL INVOLVEMENT

Average
34 - 66



63



TRANSPORTATION
SAFE AND CONVENIENT OPTIONS

53



HOUSING
AFFORDABILITY AND ACCESS

43



OPPORTUNITY
INCLUSION AND POSSIBILITIES

39



ENVIRONMENT
CLEAN AIR AND WATER

Below Average
0 - 33








This community does not score below average in any of the seven Livability categories.






Learn how you can make your community more livable and raise your score, visit www.aarp.org/livabilityindex.
For policy research and analysis on livable communities, visit www.aarp.org/livablepolicy.
For general resources on livable communities, including AARP's Network of Age-Friendly Communities, visit www.aarp.org/livable.



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.

Attribute Measure		Median US Neighborhood	Value
 Housing accessibility Basic passage	Percentage of housing units with extra-wide doors or hallways, floors with no steps between rooms, and an entry-level bedroom and bathroom: measured at the metro area scale, higher values are better.	2.6%	1.2%
 Housing options Availability of multi-family housing	Percentage of housing units that are not single-family, detached homes: measured at the neighborhood scale, higher values are better.	18.8%	80.2%
 Housing affordability Housing costs	Monthly housing costs: measured at the neighborhood scale, lower values are better. Monthly costs are capped at \$4,000.	\$999	\$1,846
 Housing affordability Housing cost burden	Percentage of income devoted to monthly housing costs: measured at the neighborhood scale, lower values are better.	18.4%	20.9%
 Housing affordability Availability of subsidized housing	Number of subsidized housing units per 10,000 people in a county: measured at the county scale, higher values are better.	124	238

Policies

Housing accessibility State and local inclusive design laws	Policy in Place	
Housing affordability State and local housing trust funds	Policy in Place	
Housing options State manufactured housing protections	No Policy	
Housing affordability State foreclosure prevention and protection	No Policy	
Commitment to livability State and local plans to create age-friendly communities	Policy in Place	



What makes a neighborhood truly livable? Two important qualities are access and convenience. Compact neighborhoods make it easier for residents to reach the things they need most, from jobs to grocery stores to libraries. Nearby parks and places to buy healthy food help people make smart choices, and diverse, walkable neighborhoods with shops, restaurants, and movie theatres make local life interesting. Additionally, neighborhoods served by good access to more distant destinations via transit or automobile help residents connect to jobs, health care, and services throughout the greater community.

Attribute Measure		Median US Neighborhood	Value
● Proximity to destinations Access to grocery stores and farmers' markets	Number of grocery stores and farmers' markets within a half-mile: measured at the neighborhood scale, higher values are better.	0.0	3.2
● Proximity to destinations Access to parks	Number of parks within a half-mile: measured at the neighborhood scale, higher values are better.	0.0	2.1
● Proximity to destinations Access to libraries	Number of libraries located within a half-mile: measured at the neighborhood scale, higher values are better.	0.0	0.3
● Proximity to destinations Access to jobs by transit	Number of jobs accessible within a 45-minute transit commute: measured at the neighborhood scale, higher values are better.	0	23,605
● Proximity to destinations Access to jobs by auto	Number of jobs accessible within a 45-minute automobile commute: measured at the neighborhood scale, higher values are better.	55,312	316,730
● Mixed-use neighborhoods Diversity of destinations	Mix of jobs within a mile: measured at the neighborhood scale, higher values are better.	0.81	0.85
● Compact neighborhoods Activity density	Combined number of jobs and people per square mile: measured at the neighborhood scale, higher values are better.	3,567	22,832
● Personal safety Crime rate	Combined violent and property crimes per 10,000 people: measured at the county scale, lower values are better.	304	258
● Neighborhood quality Vacancy rate	Percentage of vacant housing units: measured at the neighborhood scale, lower values are better.	8.8%	9.8%

Policies

Mixed-use neighborhoods
State and local TOD programs

Policy in Place

Commitment to livability
State and local plans to create age-friendly communities

Policy in Place



How easily and safely we're able to get from one place to another has a major effect on our quality of life. Livable communities provide their residents with transportation options that connect people to social activities, economic opportunities, and medical care, and offer convenient, healthy, accessible, and low-cost alternatives to driving.





Attribute Measure		Median US Neighborhood	Value
Convenient transportation options Frequency of local transit service	Total number of buses and trains per hour in both directions for all stops within a quarter-mile: measured at the neighborhood scale, higher values are better.	0	75
Convenient transportation options Walk trips	Estimated walk trips per household per day: measured at the neighborhood scale, higher values are better.	0.73	1.06
Convenient transportation options Congestion	Estimated total hours that the average commuter spends in traffic each year: measured at the metro area scale, lower values are better.	17.4	38.9
Transportation costs Household transportation costs	Estimated household transportation costs: measured at the neighborhood scale, lower values are better.	\$10,791	\$9,797
Safe streets Speed limits	Average speed limit (MPH) on streets and highways: measured at the neighborhood scale, lower values are better.	28.0	29.4
Safe streets Crash rate	Annual average number of fatal crashes per 100,000 people: measured at the neighborhood scale, lower values are better.	7.6	4.5
Accessible system design ADA-accessible stations and vehicles	Percentage of transit stations and vehicles that are ADA-accessible: measured at the metro area scale, higher values are better.	81.7%	90.0%

Policies

Safe streets State and local Complete Streets policies	Policy in Place	
Convenient transportation options State human services transportation coordination	No Policy	
Convenient transportation options State volunteer driver policies	No Policy	
Commitment to livability State and local plans to create age-friendly communities	Policy in Place	



Good communities maintain a clean environment for their residents. Great communities enact policies to improve and protect the environment for generations to come. The Livability Index looks at air and water quality. It measures communities' actions to create resilience plans to prepare for emergencies and natural disasters, and it awards points to states that have policies promoting energy efficiency and that protect consumers from having their utilities cut off during extreme weather events.

Attribute Measure		Median US Neighborhood	Value
 Water quality Drinking water quality	Percentage of the population getting water from public water systems with at least one health-based violation during the past year: measured at the county scale, lower values are better.	0.50%	4.94%
 Air quality Regional air quality	Number of days per year when regional air quality is unhealthy for sensitive populations: measured at the county scale, lower values are better.	8.0	8.0
 Air quality Near-roadway pollution	Percentage of the population living within 200 meters of a high-traffic road where more than 25,000 vehicles pass per day: measured at the neighborhood scale, lower values are better.	0.00%	21.97%
 Air quality Local industrial pollution	Toxicity of airborne chemicals released from nearby industrial facilities: measured at the neighborhood scale from 0 to 311,000, lower values are better.	0.00	0.00

Policies

Resilience State utility disconnection policies	No Policy	<input type="radio"/>
Resilience Local hazard mitigation plans	Policy in Place	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Energy efficiency State energy efficiency scorecard	No Policy	<input type="radio"/>
Commitment to livability State and local plans to create age-friendly communities	Policy in Place	<input checked="" type="radio"/>



Community conditions influence health behaviors. Healthy communities have comprehensive smoke-free air laws, offer easy access to exercise opportunities, and have high-quality health care available. Because health is so deeply related to quality of life, many other categories of livability in this Index include metrics related to health. For example, access to healthy foods, jobs and education, number of walk trips, lower speed limits, social engagement measures, and air and water pollution are all related to health. Where you live matters.

Attribute Measure		Median US Neighborhood	Value
● Healthy behaviors Smoking prevalence	Estimated smoking rate: measured at the county scale, lower values are better.	20.3%	13.6%
● Healthy behaviors Obesity prevalence	Estimated obesity rate: measured at the county scale, lower values are better.	27.8%	20.6%
● Healthy behaviors Access to exercise opportunities	Percentage of people who live within a half-mile of parks and within 1 mile of recreational facilities (3 miles for rural areas): measured at the county scale, higher values are better.	83.2%	100.0%
● Access to health care Health care professional shortage areas	Severity of clinician shortage: measured at the health professional shortage area scale from 0 to 25, lower values are better. Read more about Health .	0	0
● Quality of health care Preventable hospitalization rate	Number of hospital admissions for conditions that could be effectively treated through outpatient care per 1,000 patients: measured at the hospital service area scale, lower values are better.	62.1	48.1
● Quality of health care Patient satisfaction	Percentage of patients who give area hospitals a rating of 9 or 10, with 10 indicating the highest level of satisfaction: measured at the hospital service area scale, higher values are better.	67.3%	64.5%

Policies

Healthy behaviors State and local smoke-free laws	No Policy	<input type="radio"/>
Commitment to livability State and local plans to create age-friendly communities	Policy in Place	<input checked="" type="radio"/>



A livable community fosters interaction among residents. From social engagement to civic action to Internet access, residents' individual opportunities to connect and feel welcomed help lessen social isolation and strengthen the greater community. The Index explores and examines the different ways in which residents engage with and support their communities, and how they impact livability as a whole.

Attribute Measure		Median US Neighborhood	Value
Internet access Broadband cost and speed	Percentage of residents who have access to three or more wireline Internet service providers, and two or more providers that offer advertised maximum download speeds of 50 megabits per second: measured at the neighborhood scale, higher values are better.	0.0%	9.8%
Civic engagement Opportunity for civic involvement	Number of civic, social, religious, political, and business organizations per 10,000 people: measured at the county scale, higher values are better.	7.3	23.1
Civic engagement Voting rate	Percentage of people ages 18 years or older who voted in the last presidential election: measured at the county scale, higher values are better. Voting rates are bounded at 30% and 85%.	55.6%	63.6%
Social engagement Social involvement index	Extent to which residents eat dinner with household members, see or hear from friends and family, talk with neighbors, and do favors for neighbors: measured at the metro area scale from 0 to 2, higher values are better.	0.98	0.89
Social engagement Cultural, arts, and entertainment institutions	Number of performing arts companies, museums, concert venues, sports stadiums, and movie theaters per 10,000 people: measured at the county scale, higher values are better.	0.6	1.1

Policies

Internet Access State barriers to community broadband	No Policy	<input type="radio"/>
Civic engagement Early, absentee, or mail-in state voting laws	No Policy	<input type="radio"/>
Equal rights Local human rights commissions	Policy in Place	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Equal rights Local LGBT anti-discrimination laws	Policy in Place	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Commitment to livability State and local plans to create age-friendly communities	Policy in Place	<input checked="" type="radio"/>



America was built on opportunity—and our nation's many thriving communities are no different. The degree to which a community embraces diversity and offers opportunities to residents of all ages and backgrounds is important to overall livability. Backed by a strong regional economy and fiscally healthy local governments, welcoming communities provide residents an equal chance to earn a living wage and improve their well-being, from jobs to education.

Attribute Measure		Median US Neighborhood	Value
Equal opportunity Income inequality	Gini coefficient (the gap between rich and poor): measured at the county scale from 0 to 1, lower values are better.	0.46	0.45
Economic opportunity Jobs per worker	Number of jobs per person in the workforce: measured at the metro area scale, higher values are better. Jobs are capped at 1.0 job per person.	0.75	0.72
Education High school graduation rate	Adjusted 4-year high school cohort graduation rate: measured at the school district scale, higher values are better.	81.3%	70.1%
Multi-generational communities Age diversity	Age-group diversity of local population compared to the national population: measured at the neighborhood scale from 0 to 1, higher values are better.	0.87	0.79

Policies

Local fiscal health Local government creditworthiness	Policy in Place	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Economic opportunity State minimum wage increase	No Policy	<input type="radio"/>
Equal opportunity State expansion of the Family and Medical Leave Act	No Policy	<input type="radio"/>
Commitment to livability State and local plans to create age-friendly communities	Policy in Place	<input checked="" type="radio"/>