

# Opportunity Zones Fact Sheet

There are 7,824 designated Opportunity Zones in the 50 states and District of Columbia, together home to 31.4 million Americans or 9.9% of the U.S. population.

Congress gave governors the authority to nominate up to 25 percent of their Low Income Community (LIC) Census Tracts, defined as tracts with a poverty rate of at least 20 percent or median family income (MFI) below 80 percent of the area benchmark, to become Opportunity Zones. Governors had discretion to incorporate their own additional criteria and development strategies in the selection process. Overall, governors selected zones that were higher-need than required by law and higher-need than average among the full universe of eligible LIC tracts.

## Key Data Points\*:

- **Poverty:** **28.7%** of the country's Opportunity Zones population lives in poverty, compared to 25.4% in all LICs and 15.1% nationwide.
- **Median Family Income:** the average MFI in Opportunity Zones is **\$42,400**, compared to \$45,900 in all LICs and \$67,900 across the United States.
- **Median Family Income Ratio\*\*:** in the average Opportunity Zone, the MFI ratio was **59%** of the relevant area benchmark compared to 63% across all LICs.
- **Prime Age Adults Not Working:** **36.5%** of adults ages 25 to 64 in Opportunity Zones are not employed, compared to 33.5% in all LICs and 27.6% across the entire country.
- **Educational Attainment:** **17.2%** of Opportunity Zone residents age 25 and over have a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to 18.6% in all LICs and 30.3% nationwide. **22.4%** of zone adults have not graduated high school, compared to 13.0% nationwide.
- **Demographics:** **56%** of Opportunity Zone residents are a non-white minority, compared to 55% of residents in all LIC tracts and 38% of all Americans.
- **Housing Vacancy:** **12.0%** of all homes in Opportunity Zones stand vacant, compared to 10.9% across all LICs and 8.2% across the country.
- **Average Life Expectancy\*\*\*:** The average life expectancy is **75** in Opportunity Zones, 76 in all LICs, and 79 across all non-Opportunity Zone tracts.

*\*Data is from the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey, 2012-2016 estimates, except where otherwise noted.*

*\*\*Based on latest available 2011-2015 American Community Survey data.*

*\*\*\*Based on latest 2010 to 2015 data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.*