

# WHERE IS OPPORTUNITY IN AMERICA?

COUNTY CLUSTER ANALYSIS





For the first time, counties can see how their opportunity scores compare not only with other counties in their state, but also with other counties across the country that have similar demographics.



New in the 2018 Index

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# Clustering Methodology

**The county most like yours probably isn't next door.**


How do you track with these similar communities? And what can you do that is likely to change your score? PwC answered these questions by creating 50 groupings of American counties based on their economy, education, community and health characteristics from the Opportunity Index, as well as groupings based on demographics.

Calculating groupings of American counties entails three steps:

1. Process the county-level index and demographics data, including treating missing values and standardizing variables.
2. Choose the optimum number of clusters or peer-groups of counties (50 in this case).
3. Run a clustering algorithm to obtain 50 clusters where each cluster has unique economy, education, community, health and demographics characteristics.

## **About PwC**

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Together, we hope these new analyses inspire counties to reach out to and learn from each other, sharing lessons learned about creating opportunities for all their residents, including groups that have long-faced systematic roadblocks

to opportunity – those whose family financial prospects might not automatically rise when the country economy improves; those whom might not be able to find jobs even when the country is at full employment.

**Every county, no matter what its demographics are, and no matter what its current levels of opportunity are, can improve.**

We hope that the Opportunity Index can help us all in our journey to become a land of opportunity for all our residents.



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