



## MEASURING COMMUNITIES

Mapping Progress for Military & Veteran Families

# Arkansas Congressional District 1

Total Population

**719,048**

The Military Family Research Institute (MFRI) at Purdue University collaborated with a Purdue University Masters of Public Health student intern to provide a public health-focused snapshot of the veteran, military and civilian population within each congressional district. Data was collected from multiple sources including MFRI's Measuring Communities online data portal. The provided data will help inform district leaders of the characteristics, health and accessibility of constituents residing in their districts and support legislative initiatives.

To view congressional districts, visit [www.govtrack.us/congress/members/map](http://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/map)

**48,158**

### Veterans

6.7% of total population

According to the Census Bureau, "veterans are men and women who have served (even for a short time), but are not currently serving, on active duty in the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or the Coast Guard, or who served in the U.S. Merchant Marine during World War II. People who served in the National Guard or Reserves are classified as veterans only if they were ever called or ordered to active duty, not counting the 4-6 months for initial training or yearly summer camps."

**3,579**

### Military Members

.5% of total population

Active Duty and Selected Reserve 2019

### Veteran Population by Gender

Gender	District	State	National
Male	92.4%	92.1%	91.0%
Female	7.6%	7.9%	9.0%



Congressional District 1 has **282,414** total households, **43,638** or **15.4%** of those are veteran households.

**15,903**

### Veteran Dependents

Number of estimated dependents under 18 years old who rely on the financial support of the veteran in their household.

**5,163**

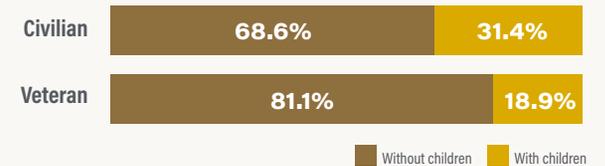
### Military Dependents

Number of spouses, children under 18, and others who rely on service member for more than half of their financial support (based on DEERS enrollment of Active Duty and Selected Reserve in 2018).

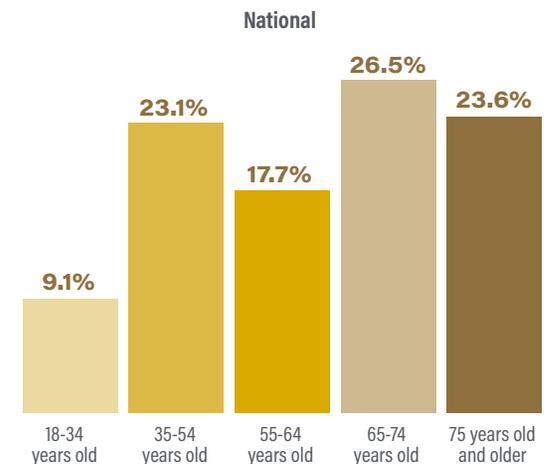
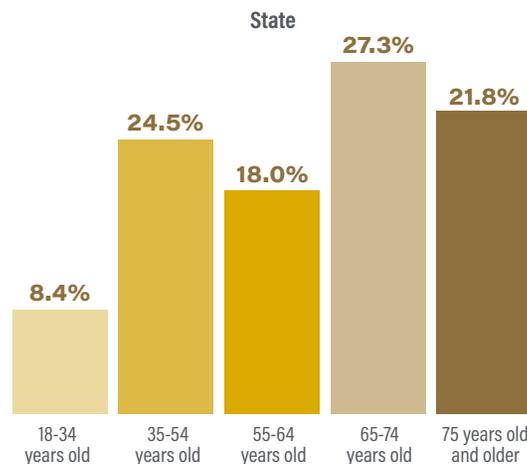
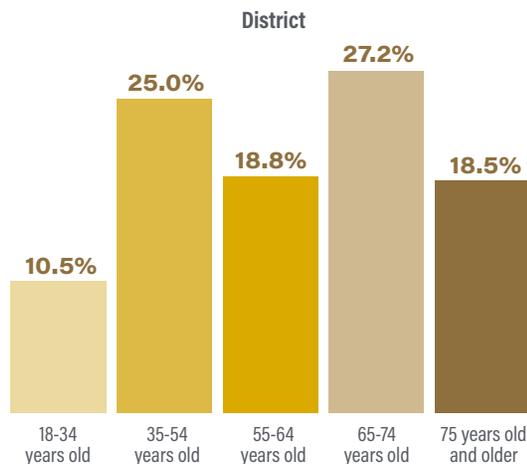
### Disability

Civilians	20.2%
Veterans	23.1%

### Households and Children



### Veteran Population by Age



### FIND OUT MORE ONLINE



[www.measuringcommunities.org](http://www.measuringcommunities.org)



[mcinfo@purdue.edu](mailto:mcinfo@purdue.edu)



[MFRIPurdue](https://twitter.com/MFRIPurdue)



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Military Family Research Institute  
Center for Regional Development



# Arkansas Congressional District 1 Health and Well-Being

## Poverty, Insurance Coverage and Unemployment

	District	State	National
Civilian Poverty Rate	<b>18.3%</b>	<b>16.2%</b>	<b>11.8%</b>
Veteran Poverty Rate	<b>9.0%</b>	<b>8.9%</b>	<b>6.7%</b>
Child Poverty Rate (18 and younger)	<b>27.3%</b>	<b>24.7%</b>	<b>18.0%</b>
Veteran Uninsured	<b>3.7%</b>	<b>3.8%</b>	<b>3.2%</b>
Unemployment (Feb. 2020)	<b>4.5%</b>	<b>3.5%</b>	<b>3.5%</b>
Unemployment (May 2020)	<b>9.7%</b>	<b>9.5%</b>	<b>13.3%</b>

Those uninsured face greater barriers to care. In light of COVID-19, those living in poverty and whom are uninsured may be at a greater risk of exposure and complications from the virus.

Due to COVID-19 and the nature of the virus, unemployment rates have sharply increased between February and May of 2020. These rates may continue to be impacted over the coming months, and should be further monitored throughout the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Households on SNAP benefits



### Food Desert

	Percentage	Number
Low income civilian population living a mile or more from a supermarket	<b>23.8%</b>	<b>172,704</b>

### Households with Food Insecurity and Access



The standard definition of a food desert is defined as a low-income census tract with a substantial share of residents with low levels of access to retail outlets selling healthy and affordable foods. Low-access areas have at least 500 persons and/or at least 33 percent of the population lives more than one mile from a supermarket or large grocery store. Residents with a lack of access to adequate food sources have been shown to have poorer health outcomes. Living in a food desert creates a health disparity among residents that impacts quality-of-life and overall health.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) provides nutrition benefits to supplement the food budget of needy families so they can purchase healthy foods and move towards self-sufficiency.

## References

- AARP Livability Index - Great Neighborhoods for All Ages. (n.d.). Retrieved July 9, 2020, from <https://livabilityindex.aarp.org/>
- Explore Census Data. (n.d.). Retrieved July 9, 2020, from <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/>
- Measuring Communities. (n.d.). Retrieved July 9, 2020, from <https://measuringcommunities.org/>
- Purdue Center for Regional Development. (n.d.). Retrieved July 9, 2020, from <https://www.pcrd.purdue.edu/signature-programs/digital-divide-index.php>
- USDA ERS - Food Access Research Atlas. (n.d.). Retrieved July 9, 2020, from <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-access-research-atlas/>
- USDA ERS - Rural-Urban Continuum Codes. (n.d.). Retrieved July 9, 2020, from <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/rural-urban-continuum-codes.aspx>

## Rural-Urban Continuum

According to the Rural-Urban Continuum, the counties of Arkansas, Baxter, Chicot, Clay, Cleburne, Cross, Desha, Fulton, Greene, Independence, Izard, Jackson, Lawrence, Lee, Mississippi, Monroe, Phillips, Prairie, Randolph, Searcy, Sharp, St. Francis, Stone, and Woodruff in Congressional District 1 are defined as rural.

Codes are determined on a 1 to 9 scale, 1 being the least rural and 9 being the most rural. Rural areas often have a higher poverty rate when comparing to their urban counterparts. Poverty in rural areas may contribute to poor housing conditions and health among residents.

## Digital Divide Index Range

District	State
<b>22.27-57.32</b>	<b>11.07-57.32</b>

In Congressional District 1, areas of concern include the counties of Arkansas, Baxter, Chicot, Clay, Cleburne, Cross, Desha, Fulton, Greene, Izard, Jackson, Lawrence, Lee, Lincoln, Mississippi, Monroe, Phillips, Poinsett, Prairie, Randolph, St. Francis, Searcy, Sharp, Stone, and Woodruff. The digital divide index is a value ranging from 0 to 100, 100 indicating the highest digital divide. A higher digital divide score is associated with limited broadband infrastructure, digital literacy, and exposure to technology benefits. In areas with higher digital divide scores, individuals may face barriers that limit their ability to obtain health information, stay informed, access online education, or secure employment options.

According to the Purdue Center for Regional Development, a digital divide score of 30 and above presents significant socioeconomic, broadband infrastructure, and adoption challenges that may limit motivation, skills, and usage of technology.

## AARP Livability Index Range

District	State
<b>36-53</b>	<b>36-53</b>

In Congressional District 1, the counties of Baxter, Chicot, Clay, Cleburne, Craighead, Crittenden, Cross, Desha, Fulton, Greene, Independence, Izard, Jackson, Lawrence, Lee, Lincoln, Lonoke, Mississippi, Monroe, Phillips, Poinsett, Prairie, Randolph, St. Francis, Searcy, Sharp, Stone, and Woodruff all have livability scores that are below average. This indicates that these counties have scored lower on one or more of the measures that are used to assess community livability. The AARP Livability Index takes a holistic approach measuring housing, neighborhood, transportation, environment, health, engagement, and opportunity. Each metric is scored on a measure of 0 to 100, 0 being the lowest and 100 being the highest. Because health is deeply related to quality of life, higher livability scores are associated with healthier communities due to an increased access to health-related resources and quality healthcare.

According to the AARP Livability Index, an average community livability score is 50, an above-average score is over 50, and a below-average score is below 50.



# MEASURING COMMUNITIES

Mapping Progress for Military & Veteran Families

# Arkansas Congressional District 2

Total Population  
**767,662**

The Military Family Research Institute (MFRI) at Purdue University collaborated with a Purdue University Masters of Public Health student intern to provide a public health-focused snapshot of the veteran, military and civilian population within each congressional district. Data was collected from multiple sources including MFRI's Measuring Communities online data portal. The provided data will help inform district leaders of the characteristics, health and accessibility of constituents residing in their districts and support legislative initiatives. To view congressional districts, visit [www.govtrack.us/congress/members/map](http://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/map)

**52,980**

## Veterans

6.9% of total population

According to the Census Bureau, "veterans are men and women who have served (even for a short time), but are not currently serving, on active duty in the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or the Coast Guard, or who served in the U.S. Merchant Marine during World War II. People who served in the National Guard or Reserves are classified as veterans only if they were ever called or ordered to active duty, not counting the 4-6 months for initial training or yearly summer camps."

**6,768**

## Military Members

0.9% of total population

Active Duty and Selected Reserve 2019

## Veteran Population by Gender

Gender	District	State	National
Male	90.6%	92.1%	91.0%
Female	9.4%	7.9%	9.0%



Congressional District 2 has **292,828** total households, **48,543** or **16.6%** of those are veteran households.

**20,037**

## Veteran Dependents

Number of estimated dependents under 18 years old who rely on the financial support of the veteran in their household.

**7,933**

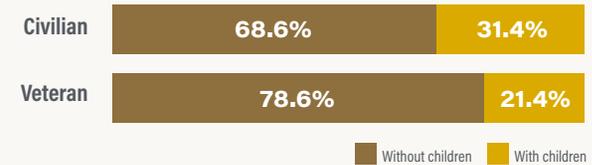
## Military Dependents

Number of spouses, children under 18, and others who rely on service member for more than half of their financial support (based on DEERS enrollment of Active Duty and Selected Reserve in 2018).

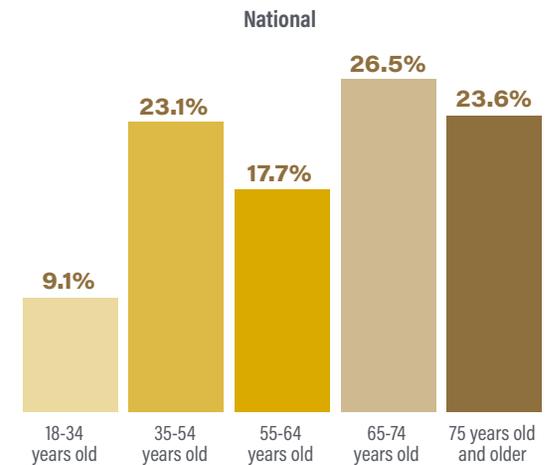
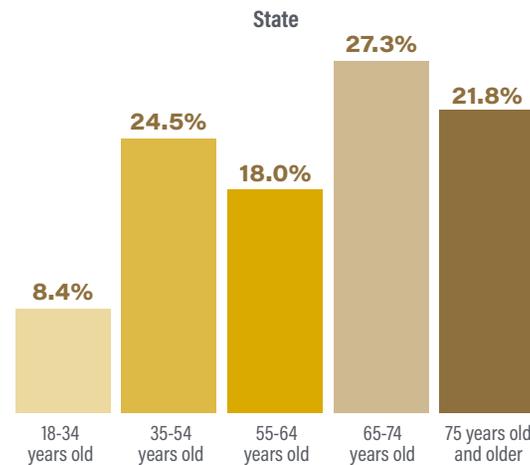
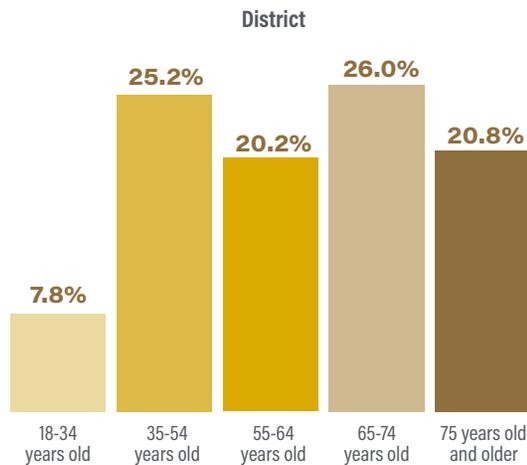
## Disability

Civilians	16.6%
Veterans	31.0%

## Households and Children



## Veteran Population by Age



## FIND OUT MORE ONLINE



[www.measuringcommunities.org](http://www.measuringcommunities.org)



[mcinfo@purdue.edu](mailto:mcinfo@purdue.edu)



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Center for Regional Development



# Arkansas Congressional District 2 Health and Well-Being

## Poverty, Insurance Coverage and Unemployment

	District	State	National
Civilian Poverty Rate	<b>14.6%</b>	<b>16.2%</b>	<b>11.8%</b>
Veteran Poverty Rate	<b>8.7%</b>	<b>8.9%</b>	<b>6.7%</b>
Child Poverty Rate (18 and younger)	<b>23.6%</b>	<b>24.7%</b>	<b>18.0%</b>
Veteran Uninsured	<b>2.6%</b>	<b>3.8%</b>	<b>3.2%</b>
Unemployment (Feb. 2020)	<b>3.8%</b>	<b>3.5%</b>	<b>3.5%</b>
Unemployment (May 2020)	<b>10.2%</b>	<b>9.5%</b>	<b>13.3%</b>

Those uninsured face greater barriers to care. In light of COVID-19, those living in poverty and whom are uninsured may be at a greater risk of exposure and complications from the virus.

Due to COVID-19 and the nature of the virus, unemployment rates have sharply increased between February and May of 2020. These rates may continue to be impacted over the coming months, and should be further monitored throughout the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Households on SNAP benefits



## Food Desert

	Percentage	Number
Low income civilian population living a mile or more from a supermarket	<b>26.6%</b>	<b>199,364</b>

## Households with Food Insecurity and Access



Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) provides nutrition benefits to supplement the food budget of needy families so they can purchase healthy foods and move towards self-sufficiency.

The standard definition of a food desert is defined as a low-income census tract with a substantial share of residents with low levels of access to retail outlets selling healthy and affordable foods. Low-access areas have at least 500 persons and/or at least 33 percent of the population lives more than one mile from a supermarket or large grocery store. Residents with a lack of access to adequate food sources have been shown to have poorer health outcomes. Living in a food desert creates a health disparity among residents that impacts quality-of-life and overall health.

## References

- AARP Livability Index - Great Neighborhoods for All Ages. (n.d.). Retrieved July 9, 2020, from <https://livabilityindex.aarp.org/>
- Explore Census Data. (n.d.). Retrieved July 9, 2020, from <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/>
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- USDA ERS - Food Access Research Atlas. (n.d.). Retrieved July 9, 2020, from <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-access-research-atlas/>
- USDA ERS - Rural-Urban Continuum Codes. (n.d.). Retrieved July 9, 2020, from <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/rural-urban-continuum-codes.aspx>

## Rural-Urban Continuum

According to the Rural-Urban Continuum, the counties of Conway, Van Buren, and White in Congressional District 2 are defined as rural.

Codes are determined on a 1 to 9 scale, 1 being the least rural and 9 being the most rural. Rural areas often have a higher poverty rate when comparing to their urban counterparts. Poverty in rural areas may contribute to poor housing conditions and health among residents.

## Digital Divide Index Range

District	State
<b>17.76-46.75</b>	<b>11.07-57.32</b>

In Congressional District 2, areas of concern include the counties of Conway, Perry, Vanburen, and White. The digital divide index is a value ranging from 0 to 100, 100 indicating the highest digital divide. A higher digital divide score is associated with limited broadband infrastructure, digital literacy, and exposure to technology benefits. In areas with higher digital divide scores, individuals may face barriers that limit their ability to obtain health information, stay informed, access online education, or secure employment options.

According to the Purdue Center for Regional Development, a digital divide score of 30 and above presents significant socioeconomic, broadband infrastructure, and adoption challenges that may limit motivation, skills, and usage of technology.

## AARP Livability Index Range

District	State
<b>43-50</b>	<b>36-53</b>

In Congressional District 2, the counties of Conway, Faulkner, Perry, Saline, Van Buren, and White have livability scores that are below average. This indicates that these counties have scored lower on one or more of the measures that are used to assess community livability. The AARP Livability Index takes a holistic approach measuring housing, neighborhood, transportation, environment, health, engagement, and opportunity. Each metric is scored on a measure of 0 to 100, 0 being the lowest and 100 being the highest. Because health is deeply related to quality of life, higher livability scores are associated with healthier communities due to an increased access to health-related resources and quality healthcare.

According to the AARP Livability Index, an average community livability score is 50, an above-average score is over 50, and a below-average score is below 50.



# MEASURING COMMUNITIES

Mapping Progress for Military & Veteran Families

# Arkansas Congressional District 3

Total Population  
**829,149**

The Military Family Research Institute (MFRI) at Purdue University collaborated with a Purdue University Masters of Public Health student intern to provide a public health-focused snapshot of the veteran, military and civilian population within each congressional district. Data was collected from multiple sources including MFRI's Measuring Communities online data portal. The provided data will help inform district leaders of the characteristics, health and accessibility of constituents residing in their districts and support legislative initiatives. To view congressional districts, visit [www.govtrack.us/congress/members/map](http://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/map)

**48,910**

## Veterans

**5.9% of total population**  
According to the Census Bureau, "veterans are men and women who have served (even for a short time), but are not currently serving, on active duty in the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or the Coast Guard, or who served in the U.S. Merchant Marine during World War II. People who served in the National Guard or Reserves are classified as veterans only if they were ever called or ordered to active duty, not counting the 4-6 months for initial training or yearly summer camps."

**3,535**

## Military Members

**0.4% of total population**  
Active Duty and Selected Reserve 2019

### Veteran Population by Gender

Gender	District	State	National
Male	<b>91.4%</b>	<b>92.1%</b>	<b>91.0%</b>
Female	<b>8.6%</b>	<b>7.9%</b>	<b>9.0%</b>



Congressional District 3 has **300,322** total households, **46,594** or **15.5%** of those are veteran households.

**17,632**

## Veteran Dependents

Number of estimated dependents under 18 years old who rely on the financial support of the veteran in their household.

**4,049**

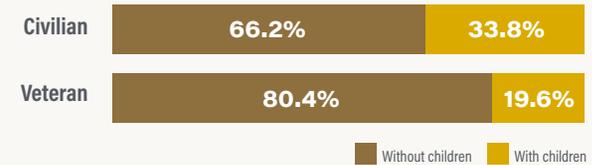
## Military Dependents

Number of spouses, children under 18, and others who rely on service member for more than half of their financial support (based on DEERS enrollment of Active Duty and Selected Reserve in 2018).

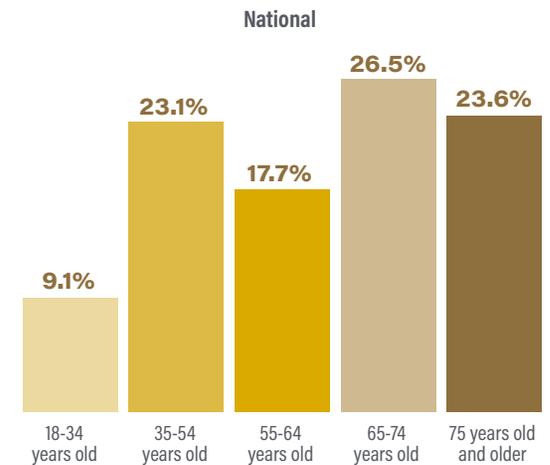
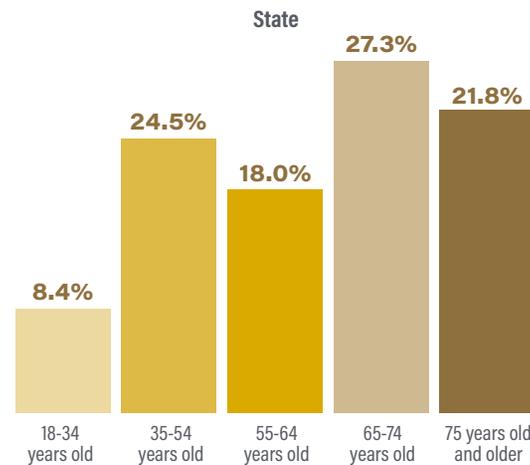
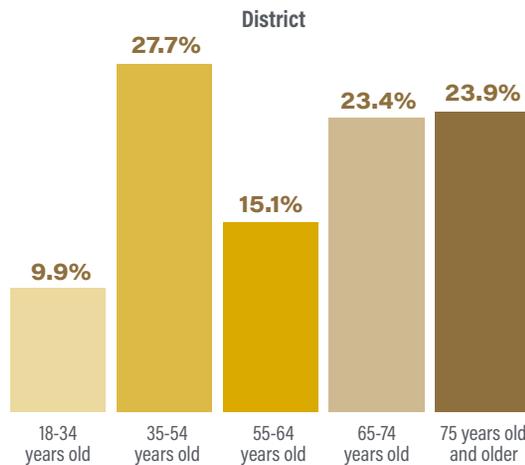
### Disability

Civilians	<b>13.9%</b>
Veterans	<b>19.5%</b>

### Households and Children



### Veteran Population by Age



## FIND OUT MORE ONLINE



[www.measuringcommunities.org](http://www.measuringcommunities.org)



[mcinfo@purdue.edu](mailto:mcinfo@purdue.edu)



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[MFRIPurdue](https://www.facebook.com/MFRIPurdue)



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Center for Regional Development



# Arkansas Congressional District 3 Health and Well-Being

## Poverty, Insurance Coverage and Unemployment

	District	State	National
Civilian Poverty Rate	<b>14.6%</b>	<b>16.2%</b>	<b>11.8%</b>
Veteran Poverty Rate	<b>7.6%</b>	<b>8.9%</b>	<b>6.7%</b>
Child Poverty Rate (18 and younger)	<b>17.5%</b>	<b>24.7%</b>	<b>18.0%</b>
Veteran Uninsured	<b>4.3%</b>	<b>3.8%</b>	<b>3.2%</b>
Unemployment (Feb. 2020)	<b>3.1%</b>	<b>3.5%</b>	<b>3.5%</b>
Unemployment (May 2020)	<b>8.0%</b>	<b>9.5%</b>	<b>13.3%</b>

Those uninsured face greater barriers to care. In light of COVID-19, those living in poverty and whom are uninsured may be at a greater risk of exposure and complications from the virus.

Due to COVID-19 and the nature of the virus, unemployment rates have sharply increased between February and May of 2020. These rates may continue to be impacted over the coming months, and should be further monitored throughout the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Households on SNAP benefits



## Food Desert

	Percentage	Number
Low income civilian population living a mile or more from a supermarket	<b>18.0%</b>	<b>137,040</b>

## Households with Food Insecurity and Access



Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) provides nutrition benefits to supplement the food budget of needy families so they can purchase healthy foods and move towards self-sufficiency.

The standard definition of a food desert is defined as a low-income census tract with a substantial share of residents with low levels of access to retail outlets selling healthy and affordable foods. Low-access areas have at least 500 persons and/or at least 33 percent of the population lives more than one mile from a supermarket or large grocery store. Residents with a lack of access to adequate food sources have been shown to have poorer health outcomes. Living in a food desert creates a health disparity among residents that impacts quality-of-life and overall health.

## References

- AARP Livability Index - Great Neighborhoods for All Ages. (n.d.). Retrieved July 9, 2020, from <https://livabilityindex.aarp.org/>
- Explore Census Data. (n.d.). Retrieved July 9, 2020, from <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/>
- Measuring Communities. (n.d.). Retrieved July 9, 2020, from <https://measuringcommunities.org/>
- Purdue Center for Regional Development. (n.d.). Retrieved July 9, 2020, from <https://www.pcrd.purdue.edu/signature-programs/digital-divide-index.php>
- USDA ERS - Food Access Research Atlas. (n.d.). Retrieved July 9, 2020, from <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-access-research-atlas/>
- USDA ERS - Rural-Urban Continuum Codes. (n.d.). Retrieved July 9, 2020, from <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/rural-urban-continuum-codes.aspx>

## Rural-Urban Continuum

According to the Rural-Urban Continuum, the counties of Boone, Carroll, Marion, Newton, Pope, and Searcy in Congressional District 3 are defined as rural.

Codes are determined on a 1 to 9 scale, 1 being the least rural and 9 being the most rural. Rural areas often have a higher poverty rate when comparing to their urban counterparts. Poverty in rural areas may contribute to poor housing conditions and health among residents.

## Digital Divide Index Range

District	State
<b>11.07-46.86</b>	<b>11.07-57.32</b>

In Congressional District 3, areas of concern include the counties of Marion and Newton. The digital divide index is a value ranging from 0 to 100, 100 indicating the highest digital divide. A higher digital divide score is associated with limited broadband infrastructure, digital literacy, and exposure to technology benefits. In areas with higher digital divide scores, individuals may face barriers that limit their ability to obtain health information, stay informed, access online education, or secure employment options.

According to the Purdue Center for Regional Development, a digital divide score of 30 and above presents significant socioeconomic, broadband infrastructure, and adoption challenges that may limit motivation, skills, and usage of technology.

## AARP Livability Index Range

District	State
<b>43-52</b>	<b>36-53</b>

In Congressional District 3, the counties of Boone, Carroll, Crawford, Marion, Newton, Pope, and Sebastian have livability scores that are below average. This indicates that these counties have scored lower on one or more of the measures that are used to assess community livability. The AARP Livability Index takes a holistic approach measuring housing, neighborhood, transportation, environment, health, engagement, and opportunity. Each metric is scored on a measure of 0 to 100, 0 being the lowest and 100 being the highest. Because health is deeply related to quality of life, higher livability scores are associated with healthier communities due to an increased access to health-related resources and quality healthcare.

According to the AARP Livability Index, an average community livability score is 50, an above-average score is over 50, and a below-average score is below 50.



# MEASURING COMMUNITIES

Mapping Progress for Military & Veteran Families

# Arkansas Congressional District 4

Total Population  
**701,945**

The Military Family Research Institute (MFRI) at Purdue University collaborated with a Purdue University Masters of Public Health student intern to provide a public health-focused snapshot of the veteran, military and civilian population within each congressional district. Data was collected from multiple sources including MFRI's Measuring Communities online data portal. The provided data will help inform district leaders of the characteristics, health and accessibility of constituents residing in their districts and support legislative initiatives. To view congressional districts, visit [www.govtrack.us/congress/members/map](http://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/map)

**48,844**

## Veterans

7% of total population

According to the Census Bureau, "veterans are men and women who have served (even for a short time), but are not currently serving, on active duty in the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or the Coast Guard, or who served in the U.S. Merchant Marine during World War II. People who served in the National Guard or Reserves are classified as veterans only if they were ever called or ordered to active duty, not counting the 4-6 months for initial training or yearly summer camps."

**2,535**

## Military Members

0.4% of total population

Active Duty and Selected Reserve 2019

## Veteran Population by Gender

Gender	District	State	National
Male	92.4%	92.1%	91.0%
Female	7.6%	7.9%	9.0%



Congressional District 4 has **276,617** total households, **45,317** or **16.4%** of those are veteran households.

**14,894**

## Veteran Dependents

Number of estimated dependents under 18 years old who rely on the financial support of the veteran in their household.

**2,460**

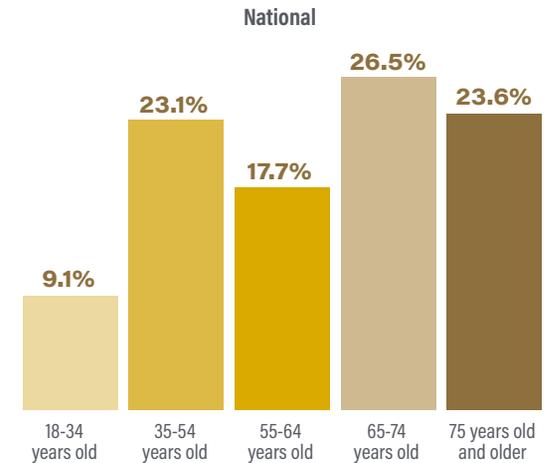
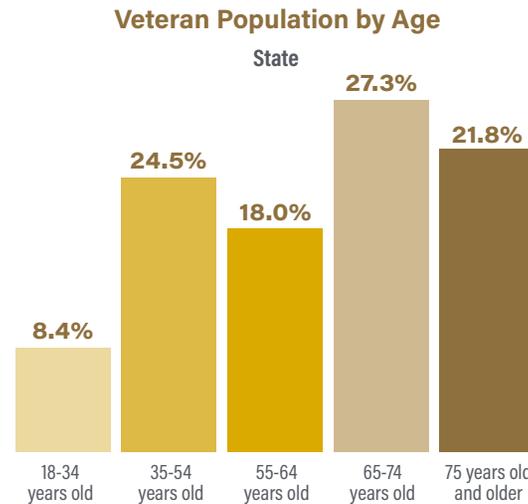
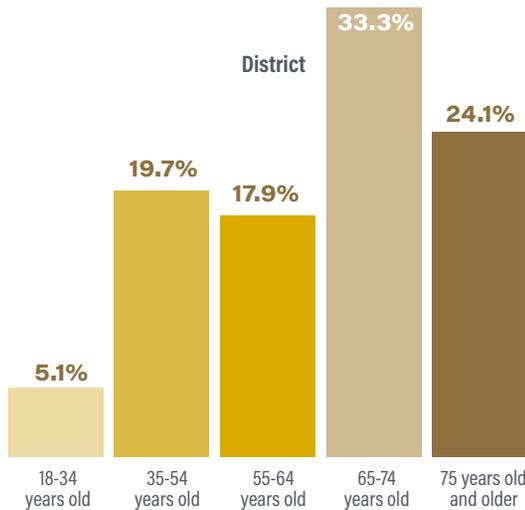
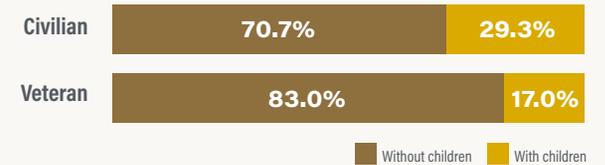
## Military Dependents

Number of spouses, children under 18, and others who rely on service member for more than half of their financial support (based on DEERS enrollment of Active Duty and Selected Reserve in 2018).

## Disability

Civilians	20.8%
Veterans	23.6%

## Households and Children



## FIND OUT MORE ONLINE



[www.measuringcommunities.org](http://www.measuringcommunities.org)



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Military Family Research Institute  
Center for Regional Development



# Arkansas Congressional District 4 Health and Well-Being

## Poverty, Insurance Coverage and Unemployment

	District	State	National
Civilian Poverty Rate	<b>17.8%</b>	<b>16.2%</b>	<b>11.8%</b>
Veteran Poverty Rate	<b>10.3%</b>	<b>8.9%</b>	<b>6.7%</b>
Child Poverty Rate (18 and younger)	<b>32.4%</b>	<b>24.7%</b>	<b>18.0%</b>
Veteran Uninsured	<b>4.6%</b>	<b>3.8%</b>	<b>3.2%</b>
Unemployment (Feb. 2020)	<b>4.7%</b>	<b>3.5%</b>	<b>3.5%</b>
Unemployment (May 2020)	<b>9.9%</b>	<b>9.5%</b>	<b>13.3%</b>

Those uninsured face greater barriers to care. In light of COVID-19, those living in poverty and whom are uninsured may be at a greater risk of exposure and complications from the virus.

Due to COVID-19 and the nature of the virus, unemployment rates have sharply increased between February and May of 2020. These rates may continue to be impacted over the coming months, and should be further monitored throughout the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic.

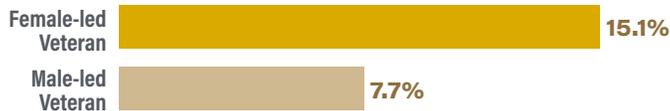
### Households on SNAP benefits



### Food Desert

	Percentage	Number
Low income civilian population living a mile or more from a supermarket	<b>26.3%</b>	<b>189,662</b>

### Households with Food Insecurity and Access



The standard definition of a food desert is defined as a low-income census tract with a substantial share of residents with low levels of access to retail outlets selling healthy and affordable foods. Low-access areas have at least 500 persons and/or at least 33 percent of the population lives more than one mile from a supermarket or large grocery store. Residents with a lack of access to adequate food sources have been shown to have poorer health outcomes. Living in a food desert creates a health disparity among residents that impacts quality-of-life and overall health.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) provides nutrition benefits to supplement the food budget of needy families so they can purchase healthy foods and move towards self-sufficiency.

## References

- AARP Livability Index - Great Neighborhoods for All Ages. (n.d.). Retrieved July 9, 2020, from <https://livabilityindex.aarp.org/>
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- USDA ERS - Food Access Research Atlas. (n.d.). Retrieved July 9, 2020, from <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-access-research-atlas/>
- USDA ERS - Rural-Urban Continuum Codes. (n.d.). Retrieved July 9, 2020, from <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/rural-urban-continuum-codes.aspx>

## Rural-Urban Continuum

According to the Rural-Urban Continuum, the counties of Ashley, Bradley, Calhoun, Clark, Columbia, Dallas, Drew, Franklin, Hempstead, Hot Spring, Howard, Johnson, Lafayette, Logan, Montgomery, Nevada, Newton, Ouachita, Pike, Polk, Scott, Sevier, Union, and Yell in Congressional District 4 are defined as rural.

Codes are determined on a 1 to 9 scale, 1 being the least rural and 9 being the most rural. Rural areas often have a higher poverty rate when comparing to their urban counterparts. Poverty in rural areas may contribute to poor housing conditions and health among residents.

## Digital Divide Index Range

District	State
<b>23.52-52.93</b>	<b>11.07-57.32</b>

In Congressional District 4, areas of concern include the counties of Ashley, Bradley, Calhoun, Columbia, Dallas, Drew, Franklin, Garland, Grant, Hempstead, Hot Spring, Howard, Jefferson, Johnson, Lafayette, Little River, Logan, Madison, Montgomery, Nevada, Newton, Ouachita, Pike, Polk, Scott, Sevier, and Union. The digital divide index is a value ranging from 0 to 100, 100 indicating the highest digital divide. A higher digital divide score is associated with limited broadband infrastructure, digital literacy, and exposure to technology benefits. In areas with higher digital divide scores, individuals may face barriers that limit their ability to obtain health information, stay informed, access online education, or secure employment options.

According to the Purdue Center for Regional Development, a digital divide score of 30 and above presents significant socioeconomic, broadband infrastructure, and adoption challenges that may limit motivation, skills, and usage of technology.

## AARP Livability Index Range

District	State
<b>37-48</b>	<b>36-53</b>

In Congressional District 4, all counties have livability scores that are below average. This indicates that these counties have scored lower on one or more of the measures used to assess community livability. The AARP Livability Index takes a holistic approach measuring housing, neighborhood, transportation, environment, health, engagement, and opportunity. Each metric is scored on a measure of 0 to 100, 0 being the lowest and 100 being the highest. Because health is deeply related to quality of life, higher livability scores are associated with healthier communities due to an increased access to health-related resources and quality healthcare.

According to the AARP Livability Index, an average community livability score is 50, an above-average score is over 50, and a below-average score is below 50.