

# Community Explorer

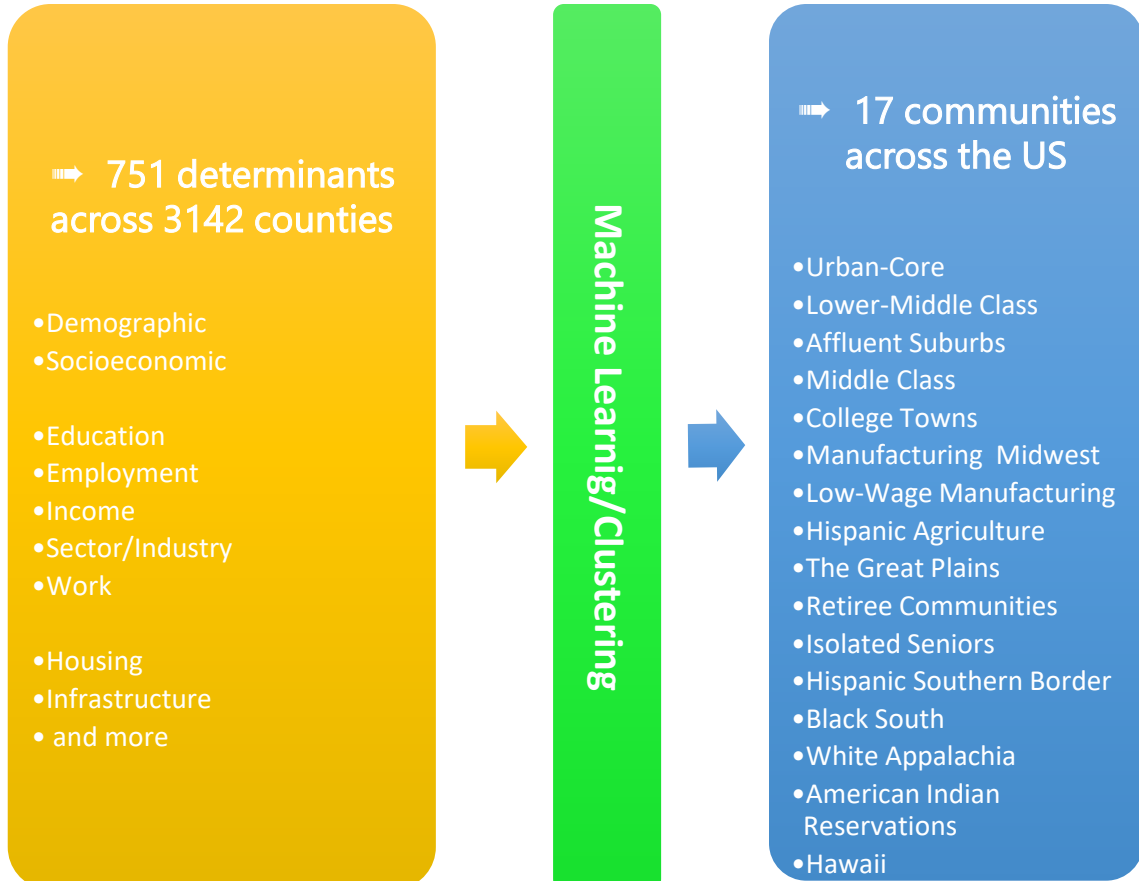
*Bringing Populations' Diversity into Policy Discussions*  
*Research Brief*

Racial and socioeconomic equity matter when designing policies and assessing their impact. Yet, most existing data-driven studies employ a narrow definition of diversity as standard analytical tools can only include a few dimensions, such as age, gender, and race and ethnicity, at a time. Furthermore, the policy discussions and recommendations use the state or the nation as the level of reference for any benchmarking.

As an alternative, the [Community Explorer](#) provides an in-depth description of counties' populations and a refined benchmark at the county level that accounts for the populations' core characteristics. In other words, it helps gain a granular understanding of the communities' characteristics required for tailored policies while allowing the scalability of such a community-based approach.

## What Is the Community Explorer?

In the [Community Explorer](#), communities are groups of counties whose populations share core characteristics, regardless of their locations. The data dictate the number of communities, the characteristics that matter for each one, and their location. To sum up, the [Community Explorer](#) results from:



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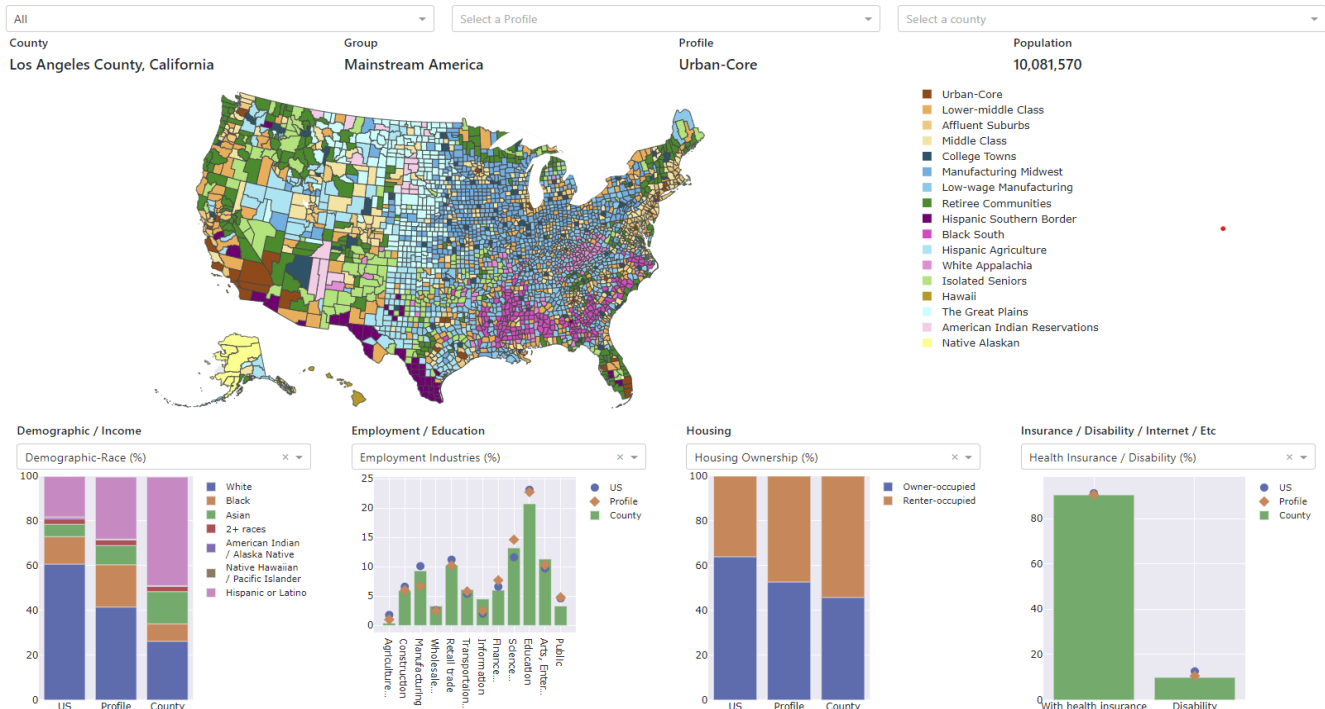
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### How To Use It

The [Community Explorer](#) is an interactive tool that brings the power of big data and machine learning to the equity-related policy discussions, via an easy-to-search, easy-to-use, and easy-to-download format:

#### Interactive Map for the 17 Population Profiles



### Why Use it?

Counties in each community of the [Community Explorer](#) have more in common than with the rest of the US or with the other profiles. As a result, the Community Explorer provides new insights for those interested in:

- identifying relationships between community profiles and social issues, such as diseases or policy initiatives;
- comparing the performance of counties within each profile that share the same characteristics and may not be neighbors;
- using an insightful benchmark that takes into account the specificities of a community;
- designing tailored yet scalable policies;
- discovering the US population landscape beyond the rural versus urban differentiation;
- ... and many more.