



Safe Streets and Roads for All Calculating Percentage of Population in Underserved Communities

The Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) defines an Underserved Community using the Office of Management and Budget's Interim Guidance for the [Justice40 Initiative](#)¹ and the Historically Disadvantaged Community designation, which includes:

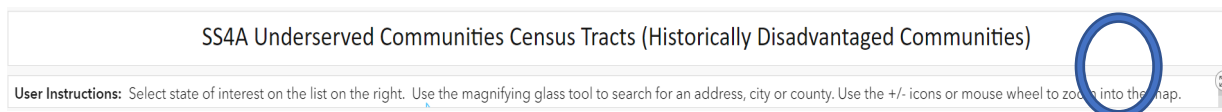
- U.S. Census tracts identified in [this table](#)² and [corresponding map tool](#)³ that visualizes the table; or
- Any Tribal land; or
- Any territory or possession of the United States.

All SS4A applicants must include data on the total population of the jurisdiction(s) covered by the application, as well as the percent of the population in Underserved Communities Census Tracts.

This document provides instructions on how to use the Underserved Communities map tool to obtain the necessary data and calculate the Jurisdiction Population # and Percentage of Population in Underserved Communities for an SS4A grant application. This document uses an example of **Washington County, Maryland** for collecting and calculating the data.

Locating Region of Interest on Mapping Tool

1. Visit the [SS4A Underserved Communities Census Tracts tool website](#).⁴ Users can expand the size of the User Instructions by clicking on the four-arrow expansion icon right on the top right of the second box below the title.



2. You may select the state of interest on the right to help zoom in closer to your area of interest, but it is not necessary. In the map, select the  magnifying glass icon to search region. In this example, we type "Washington County, MD, USA."
3. The map will zoom to the general area and shows the county outline in red. Note that the map selections are by individual Census tracts, rather than by city or county boundaries. Yellow regions indicate Census tracts of historically disadvantaged areas.

¹ <https://www.transportation.gov/equity-Justice40>

² <https://datahub.transportation.gov/stories/s/tsyd-k6ij>

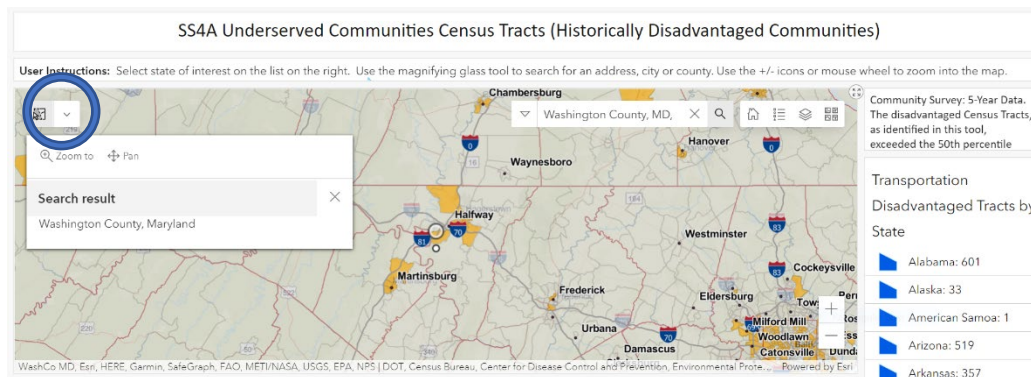
³ <https://usdot.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/99f9268777ff4218867ceedfabe58a3a>

⁴ <https://usdot.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/99f9268777ff4218867ceedfabe58a3a>

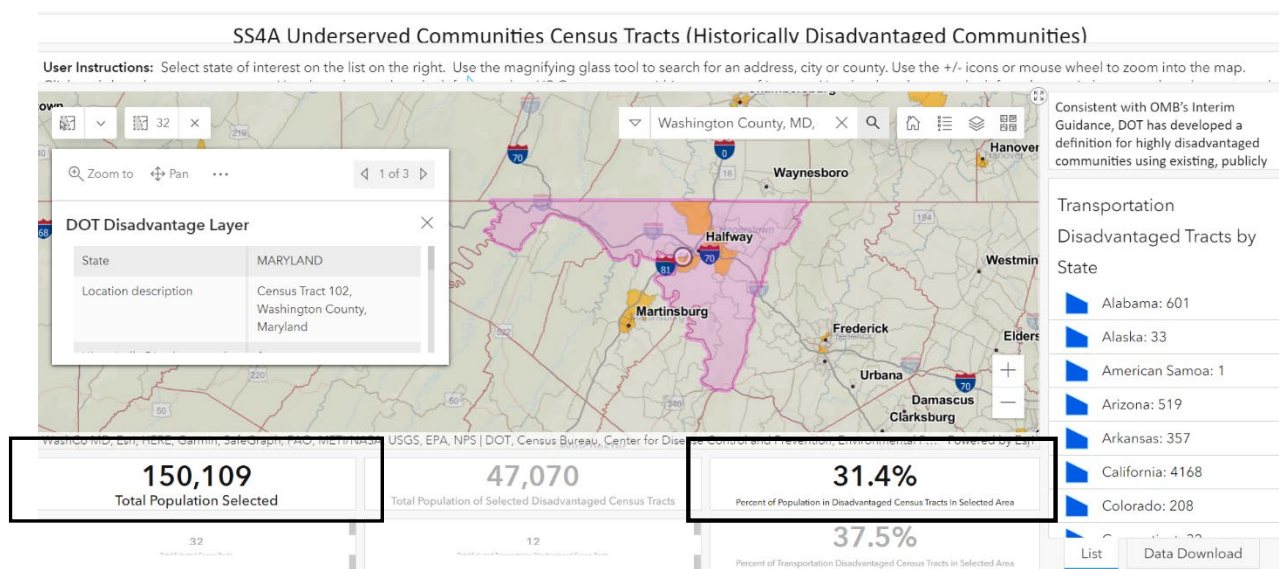
For more information on the Safe Streets and Roads for All program, please see <https://www.transportation.gov/grants/SS4A>.

Extracting Jurisdiction Population # and Percentage of Population in Underserved Communities

- Click the  on the top left of the map to access a dropdown list of tools. Select the rectangle or lasso tool to draw boundaries around the area of interest. Drawing the boundary within the project area outline may help to avoid unintentionally selecting additional Census tracts. **Note:** the boundaries of the area that you select may cut through a portion of a Census tract. Because the tool uses Census tracts as the unit of measurement, in this case, the tool will select the entire tract, including the portion beyond your intended boundary.



- Record the **Total Population Selected** for Jurisdiction Population # and the **Percent of Population in Disadvantaged Census Tracts in Selected Area** for Percent of Population in Underserved Communities (%).
 - In this example the total population is 150,109, total population of Underserved Communities Census Tracts is 47,070, equaling 31.4% of the population.

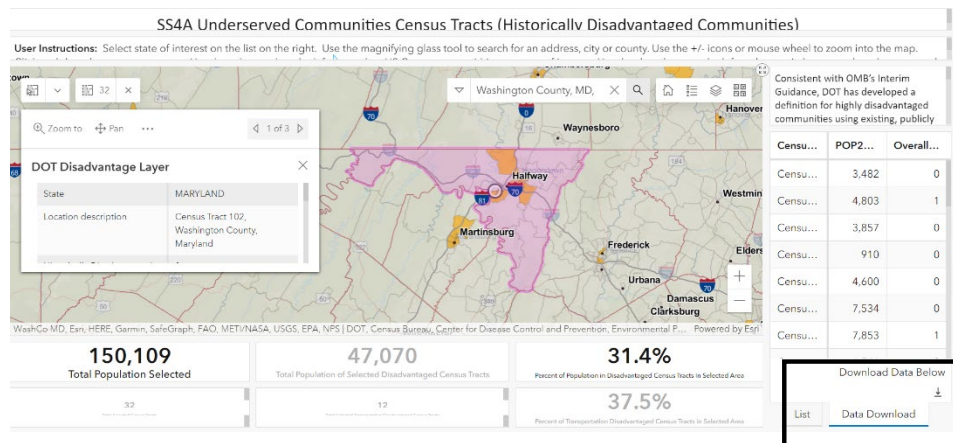


For more information on the Safe Streets and Roads for All program, please see <https://www.transportation.gov/grants/SS4A>.

Note: For joint applicants, repeat these steps for each area and then add up the values (not the percentages) for **Total Population Selected** and **Total Population in Underserved Communities Census Tracts**. Use these two numbers to calculate the **Overall Percentage of Population in Underserved Communities**.

Downloading the Data

Alternatively, applicants can download the data to obtain findings from regions of interest. Click on the “Data Download” tab on the bottom of the screen. Then click on the down arrow to download the selected population data.



- The tool will download a .csv file that you can open in Microsoft Excel. There are three columns – Census Tract, sum_pop2019 (population using ACS 2019 data), and sum_overalldis (indicating 0 = No, 1 = Yes Historically Disadvantaged communities within Census tract).