

# Concentrated Disadvantage by State

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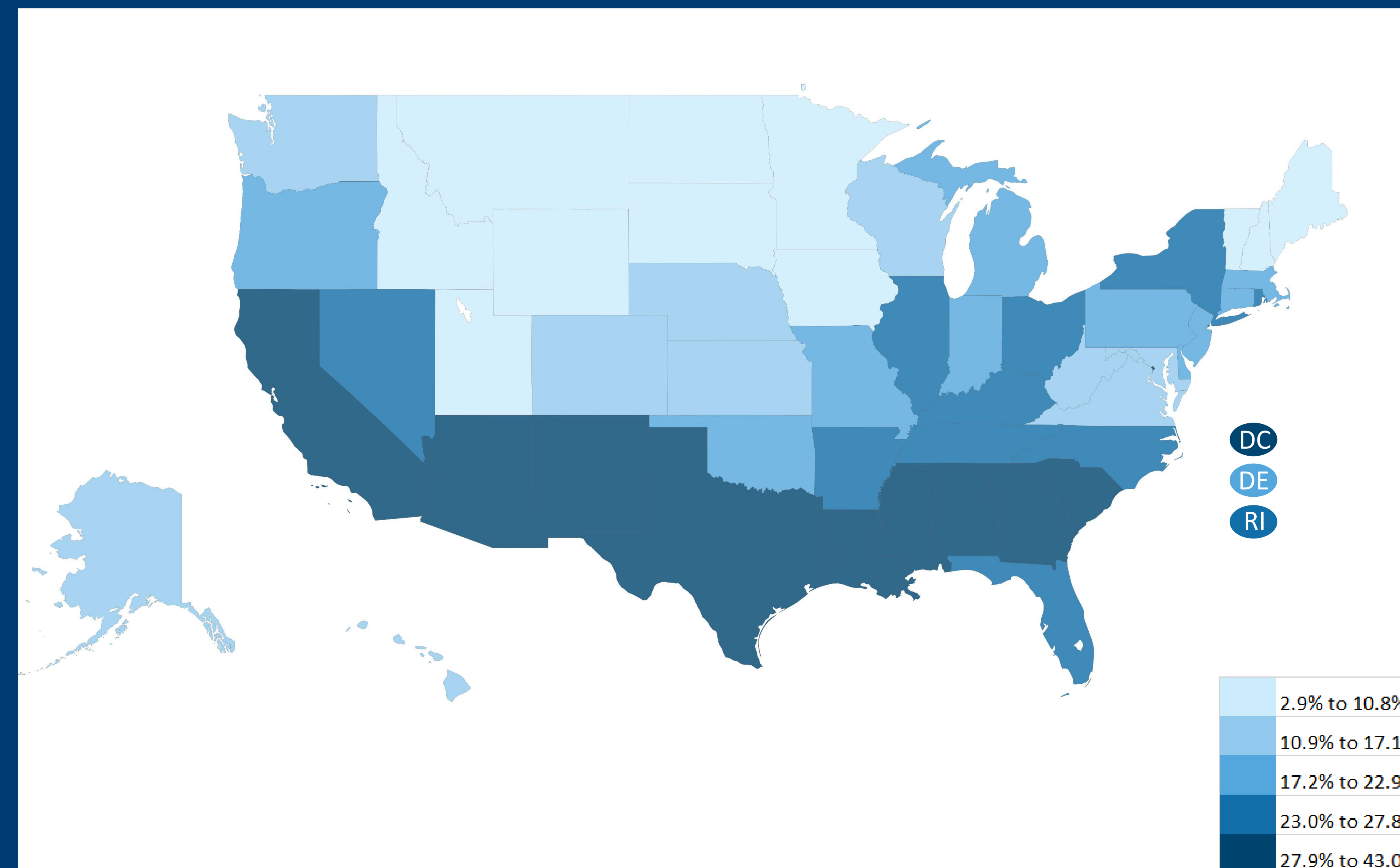
## Background

- Concentrated disadvantage (CD) is a Life Course indicator that provides a measure of community well-being
- CD is included in *America's Health Rankings Health of Women and Children* reports in the Community & Environment category
- Defined as proportion of households located in census tracts with a high level of CD, calculated using 5 census variables
- CD is a better predictor of poor health outcomes than individual measures, such as income, education or employment
- Higher CD is associated with greater risk of low social capital, infant mortality, preterm birth, low birthweight, maltreatment of children, and teen pregnancy
- CD has only been presented by census tract and has not been aggregated to the state level
- We explore how concentrated disadvantage varies geographically by state

## Methodology

- Concentrated disadvantage (CD) was calculated from 2012-2016 American Community Survey data using methods published by AMCHP
- 5 Census variables were used in the calculation:
  - Percent of individuals below the poverty line
  - Percent of individuals on public assistance
  - Percent female-headed households
  - Percent unemployed
  - Percent less than age 18
- Census tracts that fell in the highest 75% of values were categorized as high CD
- Data were aggregated to the state level by summing the population of the census tracts labeled as disadvantaged and dividing by the population of all census tracts for each state
- Census tracts for which all data were not available were excluded from the calculation
- All statistical analyses were performed using STATA v14.2.

Percentage of households located in census tracts with a high level of concentrated disadvantage



## Results

- CD ranges from 2.9% in Vermont to 43.0% in Mississippi
- 23.8% of households in U.S. are in an area of high CD
- New England, West North Central, and the majority of Mountain states have the lowest percentage of households located in areas of high CD
- Southern states, as well as New Mexico, Arizona, Texas and California have the largest percentage of households located in areas of high CD

## Conclusions

- Large differences exist in the percentage of households located in census tracts with high CD by state
- State level view is a useful tool to track changes over time, to provide a relative comparison to other states and the nation, and to evaluate public health programs and their effect on the entire state
- Limitations include effect of potential modifiers such as age, race/ethnicity, gender, and varying density of metropolitan inner-cities by state

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### Disclosure

Arundel Metrics receives funding from United Health Foundation to produce America's Health Rankings. Arundel Metrics ([arundelmetrics.com](http://arundelmetrics.com)) is a small, data-driven consulting firm specializing in public health measurement and index generation.

