

POSTAL BANKING: HOW THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE CAN PARTNER ON PUBLIC OPTIONS

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INTRODUCTION

In March 2020, the United States Congress passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act to respond to the growing economic turmoil of the COVID-19 pandemic. Along with several interventions including supports to small businesses and expanded unemployment benefits, the CARES Act sent \$1,200 stimulus payments to eligible adults. Unfortunately, many people’s payments were delayed and relief was undermined by uneven access within the United States’ profit-driven banking industry. Approximately 20 million people received paper checks by mail instead of direct deposit,⁷ perhaps indicating their limited access to a bank account for receiving money or at least not having their deposit information on file with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Those who received checks by mail waited weeks or months for relief and then relied on local banks or higher-cost check cashers to cash their checks. Others received much less money than anticipated when banks and debt collectors directly garnished their checks to pay outstanding obligations.⁸ While some loopholes were closed and stopgaps were attempted, these issues have recurred with subsequent stimulus payment disbursements.⁹

In absence of easy ways to send cash, free bank accounts, and public banking options, many people have struggled to survive financially during a global public health crisis and one of the worst economic recessions of the century.¹⁰ Those least able to afford it—disproportionately Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) and poor White people—were the most impacted, having to wait the longest for relief. Compared to White adults, Black and Latino adults were significantly less likely to have received their relief nearly two months after the government began sending payments.¹¹ Only 60% of adults with incomes at or below the federal poverty level had received their payments during this same time frame, compared to 73% to 85% of eligible adults with higher incomes.

Postal banking is a public option for expanding access to free, no-fee bank accounts that can be used to receive money, make payments, and withdraw cash.¹² Postal banking is popular in countries around the world and, in the US, the United States Postal Service’s (USPS) 30,000+ retail locations are located in communities that are now “banking deserts” after one in seven bank branches has closed since 2008.¹³ Given this, advocates contend that the USPS is well-positioned to offer basic retail financial services to the 20 million people who received stimulus checks by mail and the 33 million people that banks routinely exclude each year by charging high costs and fees.¹⁴

With the rationale for postal banking already well-established,¹⁵ policy attention is focusing on how to implement public banking. Questions about implementation seek to understand ways of designing postal banking that deliver the maximum benefits to communities already underserved by traditional private banks. For example, while the private industry’s large banks are unable or unwilling to serve local communities, what roles can smaller community banks and credit unions play in partnering on public options? How are post office retail locations positioned for partnering on public options relative to community banks and credit unions? Are post office retail locations, community bank branches, and credit union branches similarly available in poor White communities and Black, Indigenous, and communities of color (BIPOC),¹⁶ and are they available in rural and urban communities? Or, do post office retail locations serve unique or distinct communities? The findings in this brief report address these questions for understanding how to implement postal banking in ways that advance racial and economic equity within financial services. In these ways, postal banking can ensure that everyone has access to safe and affordable financial services, and a public option can be established for easily sending relief when the next crisis arises.

KEY FINDINGS

- **Communities with post office retail locations tend to be underserved by other banks, including by smaller community banks with less than \$10 billion in assets and credit unions.** Sixty-nine percent of census tracts with a post office retail location do not have a community bank branch, or 14,938 census tracts representing 60 million people. Seventy-five percent of tracts with a post office retail location do not have a credit union branch.
- **Some states could especially benefit from postal banking,** where 80% or 90% of census tracts that have a post office retail location do not have a community bank branch. For example, 90% of Arizona census tracts, 94% of California census tracts, and 87% of Idaho census tracts with a post office retail location do not have a community bank branch.
- **Both rural and urban communities could benefit from postal banking in terms of proximity to financial services that USPS retail locations could offer.** In states like Nebraska and West Virginia, about half of tracts with a post office retail location but without a community bank branch are located in metro urban areas, whereas half of these tracts are located in non-metro rural areas in states like Montana and Vermont.
- **Postal banking in some states could offer comparatively greater benefits to Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC)** given that they often reside in census tracts with a post office retail location but without a community bank branch. For example, among these tracts in Alaska, the average American Indian / Alaska Native (AIAN) population is 26%, compared to only 13% among tracts with a post office retail location and a community bank branch.
- **In some states, postal banking may benefit BIPOC living in rural communities.** In Alabama, 11% of tracts with a post office retail location but without a community bank branch are located in non-metro rural areas. The average Black population is 39% among these tracts—higher than the state’s average Black population of 27% and higher than the average Black population of 25% among comparable tracts in metro urban areas. Taken together, these data indicate the potential for postal banking to distinctively benefit the state’s rural Black communities.
- **Postal banking through USPS retail locations could uniquely serve communities that larger private banks have ignored and that smaller community banks have struggled to reach.** While community banks can play a role in partnering on public options, efforts to bank unbanked and underbanked households in the US will prove limited in their effectiveness if they rely solely on the presence of private sector bank branches, even community banks. Policy solutions will require both scale and affordability, precisely the attributes that the traditional banking sector has trended away from in recent decades.

These key findings, along with additional data points described in this report, offer a response to questions raised by the sustained policy interest in postal banking. For example, in July 2017, Rep. Richmond (D-LA) introduced H.R. 3617, the Providing Opportunities for Savings, Transactions, and Lending (POSTAL) Act, for authorizing the USPS to provide basic financial services.¹⁷ In March 2020, Senator Brown (D-OH) introduced S.3571, the Banking for All Act, to establish free, high-interest bank accounts at the Federal Reserve known as “FedAccounts” for people and small businesses.¹⁸ This legislation would allow the Federal Reserve to partner with post offices and community banks for offering the accounts. In September 2020, Senators Gillibrand (D-NY) and Sanders (D-VT) reintroduced S.4614, Postal Banking

Act, which would enable the USPS to provide low-cost, small dollar loans, remittance services, and other basic financial services.¹⁹ In April 2021, Senators Gillibrand (D-NY), Kaptur (D-OH), Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY), and Pascrell (D-NJ) called on Congress to appropriate \$6 million to support a postal banking pilot program and evaluate this possibility.²⁰ The postal banking pilot program has never been implemented despite being introduced into appropriations bills several times and even being included in the American Postal Workers Union’s (APWU) 2016 collective bargaining agreement.²¹ Continued research will be needed in order to address questions about implementation that are raised by this sustained policy interest in postal banking, and interest in public banking options more generally.

BACKGROUND

The case for postal banking and other public banking options has been made clear by the private banking industry's limitations, which have been especially noticeable during the COVID-19 pandemic.²² Private banks assumed prominent roles in the delivery of publicly-funded CARES Act relief such as by depositing and cashing stimulus checks; however, banks simultaneously undermined public interests by divesting from communities and profiting from their customers' hardships. For example, banks continued their profit-driven business models during the pandemic and accelerated the trend of shuttering branches in communities in order to save money. Many communities lost significant numbers of branches without clear pathways for replacing these banking options in the future. Prior to the pandemic, reports projected that branches would decline by 20% between 2010 and 2020 and save the industry an estimated \$3.2 billion per year just in real estate costs.²³ There was a net decline of approximately 3% of bank branches between 2019 and 2020 alone, with some markets like Anchorage, Birmingham, Charleston, and Phoenix losing 5% to 15% of their branches in the past year.²⁴ Branch losses in some states' rural communities reached 50% to 100%.²⁵

Branch closures compel people to rely more heavily on financial technologies like online and mobile banking for accessing their accounts. However, these options are inadequate for people whose internet services through a computer or cell phone are unavailable, intermittent, or unreliable, or who cannot afford these expensive services to begin with. Rural communities and Black, Indigenous, and communities of color have comparatively lower rates of broadband internet and cell phone services that are needed for online and mobile banking.²⁶ Without a nearby branch or Automated Teller Machine (ATM), or, where the only ATMs available charge as much as \$7.50 to withdraw cash,²⁷ people can lose access to their money when their phone or internet service is disrupted or disconnected. Approximately 23% of all households and 41% of Black households have their phone services disconnected each year when they cannot afford to pay their bills, sometimes accumulating debt from these utilities that worsens their financial hardship.²⁸ Moreover, the individual use of online or mobile banking does not replace the local investments that a community receives from banks with a sustained branch presence.

Banks' branch presence within communities is an indicator of access to credit and local economic investment, even while banks receive accurate criticisms for contemporary redlining, overcharging customers, and financing environmentally-harmful development projects.²⁹ Bank branch closures are

meaningful in everyday lives because they leave people with fewer options for cashing checks and accessing credit, and they leave communities with fewer possibilities for securing economic development and small business lending investments. For example, growing up on Native tribal reservations with limited access to bank branches is equivalent to a 20 percentage point lower likelihood of having a credit report, a 10 percentage point lower credit score, and a loss in annual earnings of \$6,000.³⁰ Research findings also indicate that small business and mortgage lending are associated with bank branch presence.³¹ Small business loan originations fall by over \$450,000 annually after a branch closes, and this affect persists for about six years.³² Thus, bank branch closings have the potential to affect entire communities for years.

Meanwhile, the private banking industry has continued to report record profits during the pandemic by charging high costs and fees. Banks insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) reported an increased net income of 9% from the preceding year, or \$60 billion in the fourth quarter of 2020.³³ Banks collected over \$30 billion in overdraft fees during 2020,³⁴ nearly tripling the \$11 billion they collected in 2019.³⁵ Bank account overdraft fees are an example of the type of debt that banks could garnish from their customers' stimulus checks for repayment.³⁶ These fees represent an interest rate that is equivalent to a payday loan, are a major source of banks' revenue, and are disproportionately paid by account holders who are poor White and Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC).³⁷ In fact, high and unpredictable costs and fees, along with trust and privacy concerns, are some of the main reasons that people cite for not having a bank account.³⁸ Banks charge disproportionately higher costs and fees to their BIPOC customers, with average account costs and fees being \$190 higher for Blacks and \$262 higher for Latinos compared to those for Whites.³⁹

POSTAL BANKING: RETAIL LOCATIONS IN COMMUNITIES UNDERSERVED BY BANKS AND CREDIT UNIONS

The United States Postal Service (USPS) can offer safe and affordable financial services to people within their communities and ensure that communities have banking options even when branches close.⁴⁰ Once a robust part of the USPS, nearly 4 million customers had \$3.4 billion saved in accounts at the height of postal banking in 1947.⁴¹ While postal banking officially ended in 1967, the USPS continues to deliver some financial services by processing \$21 billion in money orders every year.⁴² Postal banking has several desirable features that insulate it against the limitations of

the private banking industry. For example, post office retail locations are generally stable. In other words, their locations are not as determined by the for-profit business models that drive banks' decisions to open or close branches. Post office retail locations are also prevalent in communities across the country, suggesting that many people could visit their local post office to receive money or make payments.

Existing research on people's banking activities implies a reliance on or preference for the local banking options that the USPS could provide. People have generally conducted their banking activities at branches within two to five miles of where they live,⁴³ even as federal policy has allowed banking markets to shift from local to national over the years.⁴⁴ These averages mask wider variations in the distances that people living in underserved communities regularly travel for banking, such as residents of Native tribal reservations who travel 8 to 88 miles to the nearest bank branch.⁴⁵ However, distances will likely increase in the future for many people as banks close their branches in favor of serving larger and more profitable markets. For example, among households that have a bank account, 86% go in person to a branch at least once per year and interact with a teller for making transactions.⁴⁶ Thirty-five percent visit the branch more than 10 times during this same time frame. Going in person to a branch remains a primary or important banking option, even among households that use online and mobile banking. Eighty-one percent of households that use mobile banking as their primary and preferred method of banking visit a branch at least once per year.

This brief report considers how postal banking can be implemented to benefit underserved communities, particularly in relation to community banks and credit unions that have prided themselves on their local services and investments. The data and findings presented in the following sections describe the availability of post office retail locations, community banks, and credit unions in places historically underserved by these financial services and their availabilities in rural and urban communities. Community banks are defined as institutions that have equal or less than \$10 billion in assets, a criterion that applies to nearly all credit unions.^{47 48} Please see Appendix A for detailed methodological notes. We consider

the presence or absence of community bank branches relative to post office retail locations in particular, given their special considerations within proposed postal banking legislation. Taken together, these findings are consistent with prior work on public banking⁴⁹ and suggest that postal banking through USPS retail locations could uniquely serve communities that larger private banks have ignored and that smaller community banks and credit unions have struggled to reach.

POST OFFICE RETAIL LOCATIONS ARE AVAILABLE IN MANY COMMUNITIES

Thirty percent of communities have a post office retail location (see Table 1). There are 29,557 post office retail locations in the data that represent 87 million⁵⁰ people across 21,649 census tracts, making these locations more prevalent than community banks with equal or less than \$10 billion in assets or than credit unions. Only 16% of census tracts have a community bank branch, or 11,689 tracts representing 47 million people. Only 21% of tracts have a credit union branch—a number that has likely declined since the data were collected in 2014 given the shrinking number of credit unions.⁵¹ Credit unions' not-for-profit and member-owned model means that the presence of branches in communities could have overestimated their reach, such as when local residents do not meet credit unions' membership requirements. Credit unions tend to serve a defined membership, such as a credit union for teachers or a credit union serving employees of an airline company.

Communities with a post office retail location have slightly higher percentages of American Indian / Alaska Native and non-Latino White populations, and these tracts are located across rural and urban geographies (see Table 2). For example, the average American Indian / Alaska Native population is 1% among census tracts with a post office retail location, compared to .7% among tracts without a retail location. Among census tracts with a post office retail location, 62% are in metro urban communities and 14% are in non-metro rural communities. Comparatively, these percentages are 92 % and 2% among tracts without a post office retail location. See Appendix B for state-level estimates of census tracts with post office retail locations and other financial services.

TABLE 1: PERCENTAGES OF CENSUS TRACTS WITH POST OFFICE RETAIL LOCATIONS AND OTHER FINANCIAL SERVICES (N = 73,057)

% WITH A POST OFFICE RETAIL LOCATION	% WITH A COMMUNITY BANK BRANCH	% WITHOUT A COMMUNITY BANK BRANCH	% WITHOUT A CREDIT UNION BRANCH	% WITHOUT ANY BANK OR CREDIT UNION BRANCH
30	16	84	79	42

Notes: There are 31,150 post office retail locations. These data include 29,557 or 95% of all locations. Banks, credit unions, and their branches were identified as community banks or credit unions when their reported asset holdings were equal to or less than \$10 billion in the 2014 FDIC summary of deposits and 2014 NCUA call reports.

POST OFFICES ARE UNIQUELY LOCATED RELATIVE TO COMMUNITY BANKS

Post office retail locations appear to uniquely serve communities compared to other financial services, including community banks and credit unions with assets equal to or less than \$10 billion (see Table 2). Among census tracts with a post office retail location, 69% lack a community bank branch for serving local banking needs. In other words, nearly 60 million people reside in communities that have a post office retail location, but do not have a community bank branch. Seventy-five percent lack a community credit union branch. Nearly 65 million people reside in comparable tracts without a credit union branch.

There are no banking options at all for a sizeable percentage of communities with a post office retail location—24% of census tracts representing 21 million people. While this percentage is relatively higher among tracts without a post office retail location, the data indicate that postal banking through the USPS has the potential to meaningfully reach a substantial number of communities that are underserved by other financial services. See Appendices C, D, and E for state-level estimates of census tracts with and without a post office retail location, by other financial services, and with and without a community bank and credit union branches.

TABLE 2: PERCENTAGES OF POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS, RURAL-URBAN GEOGRAPHY, AND OTHER FINANCIAL SERVICES BY CENSUS TRACTS WITH AND WITHOUT A POST OFFICE RETAIL LOCATION (N = 73,057)

	% WITH A POST OFFICE RETAIL LOCATION	% WITHOUT A POST OFFICE RETAIL LOCATION
	N = 21, 649	N = 51,407
AVERAGE POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS		
AMERICAN INDIAN / ALASKA NATIVE	1	0.7
ASIAN / NATIVE HAWAIIAN / PACIFIC ISLANDER	3	6
BLACK	9	15
LATINO	10	18
NON-LATINO WHITE	82	69
FAMILIES WITH INCOMES AT OR BELOW THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL	12	13
RURAL-URBAN GEOGRAPHY		
METRO URBAN	62	92
NON-METRO SUBURBAN	24	6
NON-METRO RURAL	14	2
OTHER FINANCIAL SERVICES		
WITH A COMMUNITY BANK BRANCH	31	10
WITHOUT A COMMUNITY BANK BRANCH	69	90
WITHOUT A CREDIT UNION BRANCH	75	81
WITHOUT ANY BANK OR CREDIT UNION BRANCH	24	50

Notes: Rural-urban geography used the US Department of Agriculture rural-urban continuum code classifications.

COMMUNITIES UNDERSERVED BY BANKS HAVE POST OFFICE RETAIL LOCATIONS

In further considering how postal banking could uniquely serve communities, percentages for population demographics and rural-urban geography suggest that post office retail locations remain available in communities historically underserved by banks and credit unions (see Table 3). For example, the average Black population is 11% among census tracts with a post office retail location yet lacking a community bank branch; meanwhile, this percentage is 6% among comparable tracts that have a community bank branch. When communities with a higher percentage of Black residents do not have banks or credit unions, postal banking may provide an option for financial services.

Census tracts with a post office retail location but without a community bank branch are disproportionately located in metro urban areas—72% compared to 19% in non-metro suburban areas and 9% in non-metro rural areas. This makes intuitive sense as large banks tend to concentrate their branches in major metropolitan areas where census tracts are more numerous, while smaller community banks often locate in non-metropolitan areas. Though, from this vantage point, non-metro rural areas appear to benefit from postal banking given that a notable percentage of tracts without any bank or credit union branch (12%) is in non-metro rural areas. Percentages are similar for tracts with a post office retail location but without a credit union branch—60% in metro urban areas, 24% in non-metro suburban areas, and 16% in non-metro rural areas.

TABLE 3: PERCENTAGES OF POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS AND RURAL-URBAN GEOGRAPHY, AMONG CENSUS TRACTS WITH A POST OFFICE RETAIL LOCATION BY OTHER FINANCIAL SERVICES (N = 21,649)

	% WITH A COMMUNITY BANK BRANCH	% WITHOUT A COMMUNITY BANK BRANCH	% WITHOUT A CREDIT UNION BRANCH	% WITHOUT ANY BANK OR CREDIT UNION BRANCH
	31	69	75	24
AVERAGE POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS				
AMERICAN INDIAN / ALASKA NATIVE	1	1	1	2
ASIAN / NATIVE HAWAIIAN / PACIFIC ISLANDER	0.9	3	2	2
BLACK	6	11	9	11
LATINO	7	12	10	12
NON-LATINO WHITE	88	79	78	79
FAMILIES WITH INCOMES AT OR BELOW THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL	11	12	12	13
RURAL-URBAN GEOGRAPHY				
METRO URBAN	42	72	60	64
NON-METRO SUBURBAN	32	19	24	24
NON-METRO RURAL	26	9	16	12

TABLE 4: PERCENTAGES OF POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS AND OTHER FINANCIAL SERVICES, AMONG CENSUS TRACTS WITH A POST OFFICE RETAIL LOCATION BY RURAL-URBAN GEOGRAPHY (N = 21,649)

	METRO URBAN	NON-METRO SUBURBAN	NON-METRO RURAL
	62	24	14
AVERAGE POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS			
AMERICAN INDIAN / ALASKA NATIVE	0.7	2	3
ASIAN / NATIVE HAWAIIAN / PACIFIC ISLANDER	4	0.8	0.6
BLACK	11	7	6
LATINO	12	7	6
NON-LATINO WHITE	79	86	87
FAMILIES WITH INCOMES AT OR BELOW THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL	11	13	13
OTHER FINANCIAL SERVICES			
WITH A COMMUNITY BANK BRANCH	21	43	56
WITHOUT A COMMUNITY BANK BRANCH	79	57	44
WITHOUT A CREDIT UNION BRANCH	72	79	81
WITHOUT ANY BANK OR CREDIT UNION BRANCH	24	24	20

RURAL AND URBAN COMMUNITIES BENEFIT FROM POST OFFICE RETAIL LOCATIONS

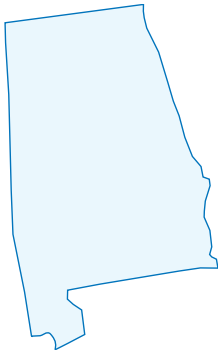
Another way of understanding these data are to review the percentages of census tracts with post office retail locations and across rural and urban geographies (see Table 4). This perspective offers another vantage point into the availability of post office retail locations and community bank branches. Among census tracts with a post office retail location and in a metro urban area, 79% lacks a community bank branch. For tracts in non-metro suburban and non-metro rural areas, these percentages are 57% and 44%, respectively. In other words, nearly half of these census tracts in non-metro rural areas do not have a community bank branch for serving local needs.

Given differences across states, some rural and urban areas may experience comparatively greater benefits to postal banking. For example, in states like Nebraska and West Virginia, about half of tracts with a post office retail location

but without a community bank branch are located in metro urban areas. In states like Montana and Vermont, half of these tracts are located in non-metro rural areas. See Appendices F, G, H and I for state-level estimates of census tracts with post office retail locations and within rural-urban communities.

POSTAL BANKING: STATE PROFILES OF RETAIL LOCATIONS

We further explore postal banking using several states as case studies, given variations in post office retail locations by communities' population racial demographics, rural and urban geographies, and the presence or absence of community bank branches. State profiles help to understand ways of designing postal banking that deliver the maximum benefits to communities already underserved by traditional private banks, including community banks. Moreover, these profiles reveal the different and more nuanced ways that states and their residents might benefit from postal banking that can be hidden by national averages.



ALABAMA

Alabama is a Southern state whose borders cover about 52,000 square miles and the state has a population density that averages 99 residents per square mile. Seven percent of Alabama’s 1,181 census tracts are in non-metro rural areas and 73% are in metro urban areas. Alabama’s largest cities include Birmingham, Montgomery, and Mobile—metropolitan areas that lost between 3% and 12% of their bank branches

since 2017.⁵² Some of Alabama’s rural communities lost between 1 and 8 bank branches during 2008 and 2016, with some rural areas becoming new banking deserts with branches over 10 miles away.⁵³ Since 2017, some rural areas have lost 50% of their bank branches. Approximately 27% of Alabama’s population is Black, and rural branch closures disproportionately affect rural counties where some populations are upwards of 85% Black.⁵⁴ The state’s poverty rate is 16%.

Census tracts with a post office retail location are frequently located in metro urban areas, making up 60% of these tracts (see Table 5). With 14% of tracts with a post office retail location being located in non-metro rural areas (compared to only 2% without a post office retail location), it appears that tracts in rural areas could especially benefit from the availability of postal banking.

Population racial demographics and average poverty rates of tracts with and without a post office retail location appear similar, and thus suggest similar benefits across racial

TABLE 5: PERCENTAGES OF ALABAMA’S POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS, RURAL-URBAN GEOGRAPHY, AND OTHER FINANCIAL SERVICES BY CENSUS TRACTS WITH AND WITHOUT A POST OFFICE RETAIL LOCATION (N = 1,181)

	% WITH A POST OFFICE RETAIL LOCATION	% WITHOUT A POST OFFICE RETAIL LOCATION
	39	61
AVERAGE POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS		
AMERICAN INDIAN / ALASKA NATIVE	0.6	0.4
ASIAN / NATIVE HAWAIIAN / PACIFIC ISLANDER	0.8	1
BLACK	27	34
LATINO	3	4
NON-LATINO WHITE	69	61
FAMILIES WITH INCOMES AT OR BELOW THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL	17	17
RURAL-URBAN GEOGRAPHY		
METRO URBAN	60	81
NON-METRO SUBURBAN	26	17
NON-METRO RURAL	14	2
OTHER FINANCIAL SERVICES		
WITH A COMMUNITY BANK BRANCH	32	13
WITHOUT A COMMUNITY BANK BRANCH	68	87
WITHOUT A CREDIT UNION BRANCH	73	74
WITHOUT ANY BANK OR CREDIT UNION BRANCH	27	48

Notes: Rural-urban geography used the US Department of Agriculture and Office of Management and Budget rural-urban continuum code classifications. Banks and their branches were identified as community banks when their reported asset holdings were equal to or less than \$10 billion in the 2014 FDIC summary of deposits.

TABLE 6: AVERAGE DISTANCES TO THE NEAREST FINANCIAL SERVICES BY CENSUS TRACTS WITHIN THE BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA METROPOLITAN AREA AND IN OTHER NON-METRO SUBURBAN AND URBAN AREAS (N = 1,181)

	AVERAGE DISTANCE IN MILES		
	WITHIN BIRMINGHAM METROPOLITAN AREA	WITHIN METRO URBAN AREAS	WITHIN NON-METRO SUBURBAN AND URBAN AREAS
	N = 262	N = 861	N = 320
OTHER FINANCIAL SERVICES			
DISTANCE TO THE NEAREST BANK BRANCH	1.67	1.94	3.4
DISTANCE TO THE NEAREST CREDIT UNION BRANCH	3.33	3.32	8.56

Notes: Distances in miles are calculated using census tract centroids as starting points and assumes travel on available roadways.

TABLE 7: AVERAGE DISTANCES TO THE NEAREST FINANCIAL SERVICES BY ALABAMA CENSUS TRACTS WITH AND WITHOUT POST OFFICE RETAIL LOCATIONS AND COMMUNITY BANK BRANCHES (N = 1,181)

	AVERAGE DISTANCE IN MILES			
	WITH A POST OFFICE RETAIL LOCATION	WITHOUT A POST OFFICE RETAIL LOCATION	WITH A POST OFFICE RETAIL LOCATION & WITH A COMMUNITY BANK BRANCH	WITH A POST OFFICE RETAIL LOCATION & WITHOUT A COMMUNITY BANK BRANCH
	N = 462	N = 719	N = 146	N = 316
OTHER FINANCIAL SERVICES				
DISTANCE TO THE NEAREST BANK BRANCH	3.04	1.89	2.09	3.47
DISTANCE TO THE NEAREST CREDIT UNION BRANCH	7.83	2.76	9.7	6.96

Notes: Distances in miles are calculated using census tract centroids as starting points and assumes travel on available roadways.

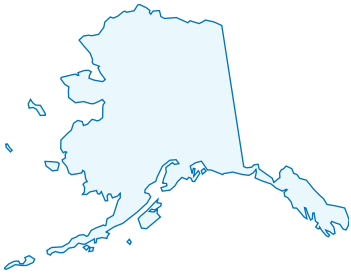
and economic indicators to the availability postal banking (see Table 5). However, differences emerge when exploring concentrations of race and poverty—which indicate postal banking’s potential to uniquely serve racially and economically marginalized groups relative to community banks. For example, among tracts with average percent Black population in the highest quartile, 32% have a post office retail location and 78% have a post office retail location without a community bank branch (data not shown).

Residents of census tracts without a post office retail location may need to travel somewhat farther distances in order to reach the nearest banking options (see Table 6). Within Birmingham, the state’s largest city, residents travel on average just over a mile-and-a-half or three miles to the nearest bank or credit union branch. These distances are farther for residents of tracts in non-metro suburban and rural areas.

While the distances are somewhat similar for tracts with a post office retail location but without a community

bank branch (see Table 7), the distances lengthen when investigating tracts’ concentrations of race and poverty. Among tracts with the highest average percent Black population, the average distance is 4.27 miles to the nearest bank branch when there is a post office retail location but no community bank branch (data not shown). These distances double when tracts are located in non-metro suburban and rural areas.

Across rural and urban geographies, distances to the nearest bank branch are consistently farther when tracts have a post office retail location but lack a community bank branch. While this makes sense intuitively, the data suggest that Alabama communities could be distinctively served by banking options from a post office retail location, including in urban and rural areas alike and in communities with high percentages of Black residents. Given similarities in the trends across states, these findings often hold true in the data as demonstrated in subsequent state profiles.



ALASKA

Alaska is the US state with the largest land area, extending nearly 700,000 square miles, and the lowest population density averaging 1.28 residents per square mile. Thirty-eight percent of Alaska’s 167 census tracts are in non-metro rural areas and 58% are in metro urban areas. Since 2017, communities in Anchorage metropolitan area lost between 8 and 12% of their bank branches. Though, Alaska is a large

state where many residents live in rural and remote areas and some rural communities lost up to 50% of their branches since 2017.⁵⁵ Taken together, 18% of Alaska’s population is American Indian or Alaska Native (AIAN), which is one of the highest rates of AIAN population of any state recorded by the US Census Bureau.⁵⁶ The state’s poverty rate is 10%.

Nearly half—49%—of Alaska’s census tracts have a post office retail location (see Table 8). Among tracts with a post office retail location, there is an average AIAN population of 25%—approximately two-and-a-half times the average AIAN population among tracts without a post office retail location. Sixty-one percent of these tracts are located in non-metro rural areas. Most of Alaska’s tracts that have a post office retail location—87%—do not have a community bank branch.

The distances that Alaska’s residents travel to the nearest financial services vary widely (see Tables 9 and 10). In the Anchorage metropolitan area, which is the most densely populated area of the state, residents travel an average 2 miles to the nearest bank. Outside of Anchorage, this average distance is 153. Given that census tracts’ average AIAN

TABLE 8: PERCENTAGES OF ALASKA’S POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS, RURAL-URBAN GEOGRAPHY, AND OTHER FINANCIAL SERVICES BY CENSUS TRACTS WITH AND WITHOUT A POST OFFICE RETAIL LOCATION (N = 167)

	% WITH A POST OFFICE RETAIL LOCATION	% WITHOUT A POST OFFICE RETAIL LOCATION
	49	51
AVERAGE POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS		
AMERICAN INDIAN / ALASKA NATIVE	25	10
ASIAN / NATIVE HAWAIIAN / PACIFIC ISLANDER	5	7
BLACK	2	4
LATINO	5	6
NON-LATINO WHITE	59	70
FAMILIES WITH INCOMES AT OR BELOW THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL	9	7
RURAL-URBAN GEOGRAPHY		
METRO URBAN	33	82
NON-METRO SUBURBAN	5	2
NON-METRO RURAL	61	15
OTHER FINANCIAL SERVICES		
WITH A COMMUNITY BANK BRANCH	12	8
WITHOUT A COMMUNITY BANK BRANCH	87	92
WITHOUT A CREDIT UNION BRANCH	71	71
WITHOUT ANY BANK OR CREDIT UNION BRANCH	44	58

TABLE 9: AVERAGE DISTANCES TO THE NEAREST FINANCIAL SERVICES BY CENSUS TRACTS WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THE ANCHORAGE, ALASKA METROPOLITAN AREA (N = 167)

	AVERAGE DISTANCE IN MILES		
	WITHIN ANCHORAGE METROPOLITAN AREA	WITHIN METRO URBAN AREAS	WITHIN NON-METRO SUBURBAN AND URBAN AREAS
	N = 55	N = 99	N = 69
OTHER FINANCIAL SERVICES			
DISTANCE TO THE NEAREST BANK BRANCH	2	6.77	257.5
DISTANCE TO THE NEAREST CREDIT UNION BRANCH	1.92	9.03	432.05

Notes: Distances in miles are calculated using census tract centroids as starting points and assumes travel on available roadways.

TABLE 10: AVERAGE DISTANCES TO THE NEAREST FINANCIAL SERVICES BY ALASKA CENSUS TRACTS WITH AND WITHOUT POST OFFICE RETAIL LOCATIONS AND COMMUNITY BANK BRANCHES (N = 167)

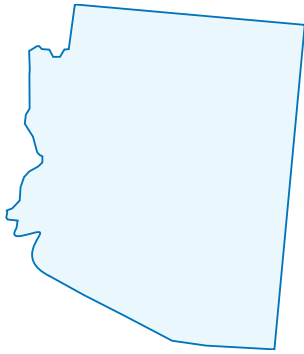
	AVERAGE DISTANCE IN MILES			
	WITH A POST OFFICE RETAIL LOCATION	WITHOUT A POST OFFICE RETAIL LOCATION	WITH A POST OFFICE RETAIL LOCATION & WITH A COMMUNITY BANK BRANCH	WITH A POST OFFICE RETAIL LOCATION & WITHOUT A COMMUNITY BANK BRANCH
	N = 83	N = 84	N = 10	N = 72
OTHER FINANCIAL SERVICES				
DISTANCE TO THE NEAREST BANK BRANCH	210.39	2.89	13.93	234.57
DISTANCE TO THE NEAREST CREDIT UNION BRANCH	329.93	8.86	27.3	362.35

Notes: Distances in miles are calculated using census tract centroids as starting points and assumes travel on available roadways.

population is three times higher outside of the Anchorage metropolitan area, these data indicate that AIAN residents living in the state’s rural areas can travel significant distances in order to use or find financial services.

For many Alaskan communities, postal banking could offer financial services in closer proximity to where rural residents live. For tracts with a post office retail location, the average distances residents travel to use or find financial services are substantial: 210 miles to the nearest bank branch and

330 miles to the nearest credit union branch (see Table 10). Residents of communities with a post office retail location and without a community bank branch travel even farther. These distances depend in part on where residents live within census tracts in relation to their travel, such as living in a direction that is closer to or farther away from the nearest financial services. Though, it appears that many of Alaska’s rural residents and AIAN in particular do not live in close proximity to safe and affordable financial services, including in absence of postal banking.



ARIZONA

As a Southwestern state, Arizona’s borders cover 113,990 square miles with a population density of 57 people per square mile. Ninety-four percent of the state’s census tracts are located in metro urban areas, and the remainder are divided among non-metro suburban and rural areas. After the Great

Recession, the Phoenix metropolitan area—the state’s largest urban area—lost approximately 7% of its bank branches.⁵⁷ Phoenix has lost an additional 8% of branches since 2017 and Arizona’s rural areas lost 20% of their branches.⁵⁸ These changes may have disproportionately impacted the state’s American Indian / Alaska Native (AIAN) and Latino populations, given their sizable percentages of the population—5% and 32%, respectively.⁵⁹ The poverty rate is 14%.

Fifteen percent of Arizona’s census tracts have a post office retail location (see Table 11). Among tracts with a post office retail location, there is an average AIAN population of 11%—approximately twice the state average and the average AIAN population among tracts without a post office retail location. Seventy-seven percent of these tracts are located in metro urban areas. Most of Arizona’s tracts that have a post office retail location—90%—do not have a community bank branch.

Among tracts with the highest average percent Latino population, 90% have a post office retail location without a

TABLE 11: PERCENTAGES OF ARIZONA’S POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS, RURAL-URBAN GEOGRAPHY, AND OTHER FINANCIAL SERVICES BY CENSUS TRACTS WITH AND WITHOUT A POST OFFICE RETAIL LOCATION (N = 1,527)

	% WITH A POST OFFICE RETAIL LOCATION	% WITHOUT A POST OFFICE RETAIL LOCATION
	15	85
AVERAGE POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS		
AMERICAN INDIAN / ALASKA NATIVE	11	4
ASIAN / NATIVE HAWAIIAN / PACIFIC ISLANDER	2	4
BLACK	3	4
LATINO	28	29
NON-LATINO WHITE	76	79
FAMILIES WITH INCOMES AT OR BELOW THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL	17	14
RURAL-URBAN GEOGRAPHY		
METRO URBAN	77	97
NON-METRO SUBURBAN	19	3
NON-METRO RURAL	4	0.3
OTHER FINANCIAL SERVICES		
WITH A COMMUNITY BANK BRANCH	10	5
WITHOUT A COMMUNITY BANK BRANCH	90	95
WITHOUT A CREDIT UNION BRANCH	79	86
WITHOUT ANY BANK OR CREDIT UNION BRANCH	44	53

TABLE 12: AVERAGE DISTANCES TO THE NEAREST FINANCIAL SERVICES BY CENSUS TRACTS WITHIN THE PHOENIX, ARIZONA METROPOLITAN AREA AND IN OTHER NON-METRO SUBURBAN AND URBAN AREAS (N = 1,527)

	AVERAGE DISTANCE IN MILES		
	WITHIN PHOENIX METROPOLITAN AREA	WITHIN METRO URBAN AREAS	WITHIN NON-METRO SUBURBAN AND URBAN AREAS
	N = 989	N = 1,432	N = 95
OTHER FINANCIAL SERVICES			
DISTANCE TO THE NEAREST BANK BRANCH	1.18	2	18.98
DISTANCE TO THE NEAREST CREDIT UNION BRANCH	2.34	4.19	44.18

Notes: Distances in miles are calculated using census tract centroids as starting points and assumes travel on available roadways.

TABLE 13: AVERAGE DISTANCES TO THE NEAREST FINANCIAL SERVICES BY ARIZONA CENSUS TRACTS WITH AND WITHOUT POST OFFICE RETAIL LOCATIONS AND COMMUNITY BANK BRANCHES (N = 1,527)

	AVERAGE DISTANCE IN MILES			
	WITH A POST OFFICE RETAIL LOCATION	WITHOUT A POST OFFICE RETAIL LOCATION	WITH A POST OFFICE RETAIL LOCATION & WITH A COMMUNITY BANK BRANCH	WITH A POST OFFICE RETAIL LOCATION & WITHOUT A COMMUNITY BANK BRANCH
	N = 228	N = 1,299	N = 23	N = 204
OTHER FINANCIAL SERVICES				
DISTANCE TO THE NEAREST BANK BRANCH	8.28	2.13	2.65	8.92
DISTANCE TO THE NEAREST CREDIT UNION BRANCH	17.72	4.72	16.61	17.85

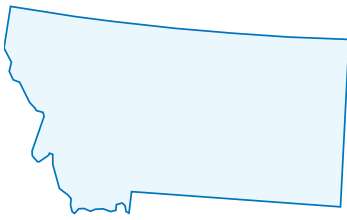
Notes: Distances in miles are calculated using census tract centroids as starting points and assumes travel on available roadways.

community bank branch (data not shown). A slightly higher percentage of these tracts in the Phoenix metropolitan area (96%) have a post office retail location without a community bank branch when compared non-Phoenix metropolitan area tracts (85%) and non-metro suburban and rural tracts (78%). For those with the highest average percent AIAN population, 93% have a post office retail location without a community bank branch.

The distances that Arizona’s residents travel to the nearest financial services vary widely (see Tables 12 and 13). In Phoenix and other metropolitan areas, residents travel an average 1 to 2 miles to the nearest bank branch. However, outside of these metro urban areas, this average distance is 19 miles. Given that census tracts’ average AIAN and Latino

populations are higher outside of metropolitan areas,⁶⁰ these data indicate that AIAN and Latino residents living in the state’s rural areas can travel comparatively greater distances in order to use or find financial services.

Among tracts with the highest average percent Latino population, the average distance is 4.31 miles to the nearest bank branch when there is a post office retail location but no community bank branch (data not shown). This distance is only slightly greater when tracts are located in non-metro suburban and rural areas, suggesting Arizona’s greater geographic parity than some states between the distributions of post office retail locations, bank branches, and community bank branches.



MONTANA

Montana is located in the Western United States, and its state borders cover 147,040 square miles with a population density of 7 people per square mile. Thirty percent of the state’s census tracts are located in metro urban areas, 32% are located in non-metro suburban areas, and 38% are located

in non-metro rural areas. Billings is the state’s largest metropolitan area, which has lost 20% of its bank branches since 2017.⁶¹ Several of Montana’s rural communities have lost 50% of their bank branches in this same time frame. A majority of Montana’s population is White (89%); though, nearly 7% of the population identifies as American Indian / Alaska Native (AIAN) and 4% identifies as Latino.⁶² The state poverty rate is 13%.

Fifty-eight percent of Montana’s census tracts have a post office retail location—among the highest percentages of all states (see Table 14). Among tracts with a post office retail location, there is an average AIAN population of 10%—more than the state average and approximately twice the average AIAN population among tracts without a post office retail location. Fifty-four percent of these tracts are located in non-metro rural areas. Nearly half (47%) of Montana’s tracts that have a post office retail location do not have a community bank branch.

TABLE 14: PERCENTAGES OF MONTANA’S POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS, RURAL-URBAN GEOGRAPHY, AND OTHER FINANCIAL SERVICES BY CENSUS TRACTS WITH AND WITHOUT A POST OFFICE RETAIL LOCATION (N = 271)

	% WITH A POST OFFICE RETAIL LOCATION	% WITHOUT A POST OFFICE RETAIL LOCATION
	58	42
AVERAGE POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS		
AMERICAN INDIAN / ALASKA NATIVE	10	4
ASIAN / NATIVE HAWAIIAN / PACIFIC ISLANDER	0.5	0.8
BLACK	0.3	0.6
LATINO	3	4
NON-LATINO WHITE	87	92
FAMILIES WITH INCOMES AT OR BELOW THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL	12	9
RURAL-URBAN GEOGRAPHY		
METRO URBAN	18	45
NON-METRO SUBURBAN	28	38
NON-METRO RURAL	54	17
OTHER FINANCIAL SERVICES		
WITH A COMMUNITY BANK BRANCH	53	21
WITHOUT A COMMUNITY BANK BRANCH	47	79
WITHOUT A CREDIT UNION BRANCH	66	70
WITHOUT ANY BANK OR CREDIT UNION BRANCH	18	50

TABLE 15: AVERAGE DISTANCES TO THE NEAREST FINANCIAL SERVICES BY CENSUS TRACTS WITHIN THE BILLINGS, MONTANA METROPOLITAN AREA AND IN OTHER NON-METRO SUBURBAN AND URBAN AREAS (N = 271)

	AVERAGE DISTANCE IN MILES		
	WITHIN BILLINGS METROPOLITAN AREA	WITHIN METRO URBAN AREAS	WITHIN NON-METRO SUBURBAN AND URBAN AREAS
	N = 34	N = 80	N = 191
OTHER FINANCIAL SERVICES			
DISTANCE TO THE NEAREST BANK BRANCH	1.33	1.65	7.39
DISTANCE TO THE NEAREST CREDIT UNION BRANCH	16.69	18.53	24.51

Notes: Distances in miles are calculated using census tract centroids as starting points and assumes travel on available roadways.

TABLE 16: AVERAGE DISTANCES TO THE NEAREST FINANCIAL SERVICES BY MONTANA CENSUS TRACTS WITH AND WITHOUT POST OFFICE RETAIL LOCATIONS AND COMMUNITY BANK BRANCHES (N = 271)

	AVERAGE DISTANCE IN MILES			
	WITH A POST OFFICE RETAIL LOCATION	WITHOUT A POST OFFICE RETAIL LOCATION	WITH A POST OFFICE RETAIL LOCATION & WITH A COMMUNITY BANK BRANCH	WITH A POST OFFICE RETAIL LOCATION & WITHOUT A COMMUNITY BANK BRANCH
	N = 156	N = 115	N = 82	N = 74
OTHER FINANCIAL SERVICES				
DISTANCE TO THE NEAREST BANK BRANCH	8.56	1.81	7.33	9.91
DISTANCE TO THE NEAREST CREDIT UNION BRANCH	36.69	3.83	43.69	28.92

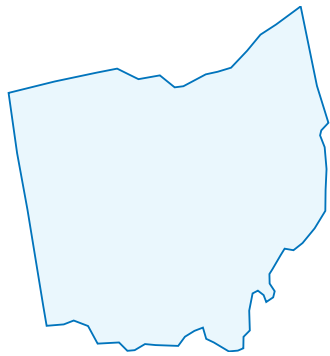
Notes: Distances in miles are calculated using census tract centroids as starting points and assumes travel on available roadways.

In Montana, 50% of tracts with the highest average percent AIAN population have a post office retail location without a community bank branch (data not shown). This percentage is substantially lower among tracts with the lowest average percent AIAN population, 36%, indicating that communities where more AIAN live may particularly benefit in terms of proximity to postal banking options. The average White population among Montana census tracts is 89%, indicating that White populations could consistently benefit from the proximity to postal banking options across rural, suburban, or urban areas.

The distances that Montana’s residents travel to the nearest financial services vary widely (see Tables 15 and 16). In Billings and other metropolitan areas, residents travel an average 1.33

to 1.65 miles to the nearest bank branch. However, outside of these metro urban areas, this average distance is 7.39 miles. The average distance to the nearest credit union is much farther—24.51 miles.

Among tracts with the highest average percent AIAN population, the average distance is 20.08 miles to the nearest bank branch when there is a post office retail location but no community bank branch (data not shown). These distances are respectively 2.54 and 41.10 when tracts have a community bank branch, suggesting that residents of Montana communities where other financial services are the farthest may benefit from proximity to postal banking options. When tracts with the highest average percent AIAN population are located in non-metro suburban and rural areas, these distances are slightly higher.



OHIO

As a Midwestern state, Ohio’s borders cover 44,825 square miles with a population density of 282 people per square mile. Eighty-one percent of the state’s census tracts are located in metro urban areas, 18% are located in non-metro

suburban areas, and 2% are located in non-metro rural areas. Columbus, the capitol city, is the state’s largest metropolitan area. Several Columbus communities became new banking deserts when branches closed after the Great Recession.⁶³ Since 2017 among places where bank branches closed, the Columbus metropolitan area lost 3% of its branches and rural areas lost between 5% and 24% of their branches.⁶⁴ A majority (82%) of Ohio’s population is White and 13% of the population identifies as Black.⁶⁵ The state’s poverty rate is 13%.

Twenty-nine percent of Ohio’s census tracts have a post office retail location (see Table 17). Among tracts with a post office retail location, there is an average White population of 89%—nearly consistent with the state average and higher than the average White population among tracts without a post office retail location. Sixty-one percent of these tracts are located in non-metro rural areas. Seventy-three percent of Ohio’s tracts that have a post office retail location do not have a community bank branch.

TABLE 17: PERCENTAGES OF OHIO’S POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS, RURAL-URBAN GEOGRAPHY, AND OTHER FINANCIAL SERVICES BY CENSUS TRACTS WITH AND WITHOUT A POST OFFICE RETAIL LOCATION (N = 2,952)

	% WITH A POST OFFICE RETAIL LOCATION	% WITHOUT A POST OFFICE RETAIL LOCATION
	29	71
AVERAGE POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS		
AMERICAN INDIAN / ALASKA NATIVE	0.2	0.2
ASIAN / NATIVE HAWAIIAN / PACIFIC ISLANDER	1	2
BLACK	7	20
LATINO	3	4
NON-LATINO WHITE	89	74
FAMILIES WITH INCOMES AT OR BELOW THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL	12	16
RURAL-URBAN GEOGRAPHY		
METRO URBAN	61	89
NON-METRO SUBURBAN	35	11
NON-METRO RURAL	4	0.5
OTHER FINANCIAL SERVICES		
WITH A COMMUNITY BANK BRANCH	27	7
WITHOUT A COMMUNITY BANK BRANCH	73	93
WITHOUT A CREDIT UNION BRANCH	75	80
WITHOUT ANY BANK OR CREDIT UNION BRANCH	24	49

TABLE 18: AVERAGE DISTANCES TO THE NEAREST FINANCIAL SERVICES BY CENSUS TRACTS WITHIN THE COLUMBUS, OHIO METROPOLITAN AREA AND IN OTHER NON-METRO SUBURBAN AND URBAN AREAS (N = 2,952)

	AVERAGE DISTANCE IN MILES		
	WITHIN COLUMBUS METROPOLITAN AREA	WITHIN METRO URBAN AREAS	WITHIN NON-METRO SUBURBAN AND URBAN AREAS
	N = 410	N = 2,383	N = 569
OTHER FINANCIAL SERVICES			
DISTANCE TO THE NEAREST BANK BRANCH	1.06	1.03	2.07
DISTANCE TO THE NEAREST CREDIT UNION BRANCH	2.57	2.01	4.82

Notes: Distances in miles are calculated using census tract centroids as starting points and assumes travel on available roadways.

TABLE 19: AVERAGE DISTANCES TO THE NEAREST FINANCIAL SERVICES BY OHIO CENSUS TRACTS WITH AND WITHOUT POST OFFICE RETAIL LOCATIONS AND COMMUNITY BANK BRANCHES (N = 2,952)

	AVERAGE DISTANCE IN MILES			
	WITH A POST OFFICE RETAIL LOCATION	WITHOUT A POST OFFICE RETAIL LOCATION	WITH A POST OFFICE RETAIL LOCATION & WITH A COMMUNITY BANK BRANCH	WITH A POST OFFICE RETAIL LOCATION & WITHOUT A COMMUNITY BANK BRANCH
	N = 2,085	N = 867	N = 232	N = 635
OTHER FINANCIAL SERVICES				
DISTANCE TO THE NEAREST BANK BRANCH	1.77	1	1.9	1.72
DISTANCE TO THE NEAREST CREDIT UNION BRANCH	4.56	1.72	6.43	3.88

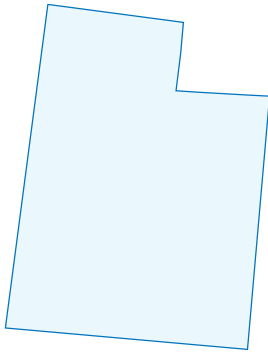
Notes: Distances in miles are calculated using census tract centroids as starting points and assumes travel on available roadways.

Among Ohio tracts with the highest average percentages of Black and poor populations, 96% have a post office retail location without a community bank branch (data not shown). This number is 66% for tracts with the highest average percentages of White and poor populations. These percentages are nearly unchanged for both racial groups even when the poverty rates are lowest. These data suggest that communities where Black residents live could receive comparatively greater benefits from postal banking options regardless of poverty status than communities where White residents live, to the extent that residents use these options for financial services.

The distances that Ohio’s residents travel to the nearest financial services vary slightly (see Tables 18 and 19). The average distance is about 1 mile across metropolitan and metro urban areas. Outside of metro urban areas, the average distance is twice as far—2 miles.

Among Ohio tracts with the highest average percent Black population, the average distance is .59 miles to the nearest bank branch when there is a post office retail location but no community bank branch (data not shown). This distance nearly equivalent to that of tracts that have a community bank branch. Moreover, these distances are consistent to those of tracts located in metro urban areas, perhaps indicating the extents to which Ohio’s Black residents live in the state’s urban areas.

In rural Ohio, residents travel 1.84 miles to the nearest bank branch when living in tracts with the highest average percent poverty population that have a post office retail location without a community bank branch (data not shown). This distance is 2.97 miles for rural and poor tracts that have a post office retail location with a community bank branch. Given that Ohio’s rural population is predominantly White, these data suggest that poor White residents in rural communities may benefit in terms of proximity to postal banking options.



UTAH

Utah is a Western state that covers 84,899 square miles with a population density of 37 people per square mile. Eighty-nine percent of the state’s census tracts are located in metro urban areas, with the remainder evenly divided between non-metro suburban and rural areas. The capitol, Salt Lake City, is the

state’s largest metropolitan area. Several Utah communities became new banking deserts during and after the Great Recession, between 2008 and 2016.⁶⁶ Since 2017 among places where bank branches closed, the Salt Lake City metropolitan area lost 6% of its branches and rural areas lost 25% of their branches.⁶⁷ A majority (91%) of Utah’s population is White, about 2% identifies as American Indian / Alaska Native (AIAN), and about 2% identifies as Black.⁶⁸ Fourteen percent identify as Latino. The poverty rate for the state is 9%.

Twenty-three percent of Utah’s census tracts have a post office retail location (see Table 20). Among tracts with a post office retail location, there is an average White population of 89%—nearly consistent with the state average. Sixty-three percent of these tracts are located in metro urban areas and 23% are located in non-metro rural areas. Ninety percent of Utah’s tracts that have a post office retail location do not have a community bank branch—among the highest percentages across states. Though, Utah appears to have a higher credit

TABLE 20: PERCENTAGES OF UTAH’S POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS, RURAL-URBAN GEOGRAPHY, AND OTHER FINANCIAL SERVICES BY CENSUS TRACTS WITH AND WITHOUT A POST OFFICE RETAIL LOCATION (N = 588)

	% WITH A POST OFFICE RETAIL LOCATION	% WITHOUT A POST OFFICE RETAIL LOCATION
	23	77
AVERAGE POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS		
AMERICAN INDIAN / ALASKA NATIVE	2	1
ASIAN / NATIVE HAWAIIAN / PACIFIC ISLANDER	2	3
BLACK	0.9	1
LATINO	11	13
NON-LATINO WHITE	89	87
FAMILIES WITH INCOMES AT OR BELOW THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL	11	10
RURAL-URBAN GEOGRAPHY		
METRO URBAN	63	95
NON-METRO SUBURBAN	14	3
NON-METRO RURAL	23	2
OTHER FINANCIAL SERVICES		
WITH A COMMUNITY BANK BRANCH	10	6
WITHOUT A COMMUNITY BANK BRANCH	90	94
WITHOUT A CREDIT UNION BRANCH	43	61
WITHOUT ANY BANK OR CREDIT UNION BRANCH	18	41

TABLE 21: AVERAGE DISTANCES TO THE NEAREST FINANCIAL SERVICES BY CENSUS TRACTS WITHIN THE SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH METROPOLITAN AREA AND IN METRO AND NON-METRO SUBURBAN AND URBAN AREAS (N = 588)

	AVERAGE DISTANCE IN MILES		
	WITHIN SALT LAKE CITY METROPOLITAN AREA N = 223	WITHIN METRO URBAN AREAS N = 517	WITHIN NON-METRO SUBURBAN AND URBAN AREAS N = 71
OTHER FINANCIAL SERVICES			
DISTANCE TO THE NEAREST BANK BRANCH	0.89	1.27	5.31
DISTANCE TO THE NEAREST CREDIT UNION BRANCH	0.88	1.27	13.49

Notes: Distances in miles are calculated using census tract centroids as starting points and assumes travel on available roadways.

TABLE 22: AVERAGE DISTANCES TO THE NEAREST FINANCIAL SERVICES BY UTAH CENSUS TRACTS WITH AND WITHOUT POST OFFICE RETAIL LOCATIONS AND COMMUNITY BANK BRANCHES (N = 588)

	AVERAGE DISTANCE IN MILES			
	WITH A POST OFFICE RETAIL LOCATION N = 137	WITHOUT A POST OFFICE RETAIL LOCATION N = 451	WITH A POST OFFICE RETAIL LOCATION & WITH A COMMUNITY BANK BRANCH N = 14	WITH A POST OFFICE RETAIL LOCATION & WITHOUT A COMMUNITY BANK BRANCH N = 123
OTHER FINANCIAL SERVICES				
DISTANCE TO THE NEAREST BANK BRANCH	3.85	1.12	4.05	3.82
DISTANCE TO THE NEAREST CREDIT UNION BRANCH	7.15	1.41	19.9	5.7

Notes: Distances in miles are calculated using census tract centroids as starting points and assumes travel on available roadways.

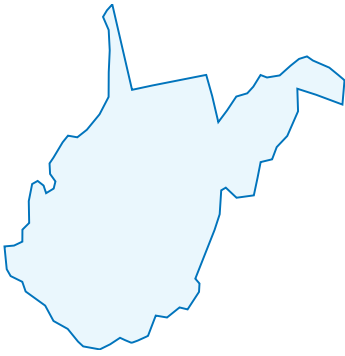
union branch presence than the national average, as 43% of tracts that have a post office retail location do not have a credit union branch.

In Utah’s non-metro suburban and urban areas, 84% of census tracts have a post office retail location without a community bank branch (data not shown). The largest population averages within these tracts include 1% AIAN, 9% Latino, and 92% Non-Latino White. The average poverty rate for these tracts is 14%.

Utah residents living in non-metro suburban and rural areas travel comparatively farther to the nearest financial services than their counterparts living in metro urban areas (see Tables 21 and 22). While average distance is around 1 mile across

metropolitan and metro urban areas, the average distance is 5.31 miles in non-metro suburban and rural areas.

Among Utah tracts with the highest average percent AIAN population, the average distance is 4.84 miles to the nearest bank branch when there is a post office retail location but no community bank branch (data not shown). This distance is nearly equivalent to that of tracts with a community bank branch, where the average distance is 4.37 miles. When tracts with post office retail locations but no community bank branch are in metro urban areas, the distance is 4.12. The distance is 6.05 miles among equivalent tracts located in non-metro suburban and rural areas.



WEST VIRGINIA

West Virginia is located in the Southeastern United States in the Appalachian Mountains, whose borders cover 24,230 square miles and with a population density of 77 residents per square mile. Sixty percent of West Virginia’s 484 census tracts are in metro urban areas, 25% are in non-metro suburban

areas, and 15% are in non-metro rural areas. Charleston is the state’s capitol city, and the largest city. Communities in the Charleston metropolitan area lost between 20% and 15% of their bank branches since 2017,⁶⁹ even after already having lost branches between 2008 and 2016.⁷⁰ Some rural areas have lost 30% of their bank branches since 2017. Approximately 94% of West Virginia’s population is White and 4% is Black.⁷¹ The poverty rate is 16%.

Sixty-four percent of West Virginia’s census tracts have a post office retail location (see Table 23). Among tracts with a post office retail location, there is an average White population of 94%—consistent with the state average. Fifty percent of these tracts are located in metro urban areas, 30% are located in non-metro suburban areas, and 20% are located in rural areas. Sixty-one percent of West Virginia’s tracts that have a post office retail location do not have a community bank branch.

In West Virginia’s tracts with the highest average percent population living in poverty, 68% have a post office retail

TABLE 23: PERCENTAGES OF WEST VIRGINIA’S POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS, RURAL-URBAN GEOGRAPHY, AND OTHER FINANCIAL SERVICES BY CENSUS TRACTS WITH AND WITHOUT A POST OFFICE RETAIL LOCATION (N = 484)

	% WITH A POST OFFICE RETAIL LOCATION	% WITHOUT A POST OFFICE RETAIL LOCATION
	64	36
AVERAGE POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS		
AMERICAN INDIAN / ALASKA NATIVE	0.2	0.2
ASIAN / NATIVE HAWAIIAN / PACIFIC ISLANDER	0.5	1
BLACK	3	5
LATINO	1	2
NON-LATINO WHITE	94	91
FAMILIES WITH INCOMES AT OR BELOW THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL	15	14
RURAL-URBAN GEOGRAPHY		
METRO URBAN	50	79
NON-METRO SUBURBAN	30	17
NON-METRO RURAL	20	4
OTHER FINANCIAL SERVICES		
WITH A COMMUNITY BANK BRANCH	39	25
WITHOUT A COMMUNITY BANK BRANCH	61	75
WITHOUT A CREDIT UNION BRANCH	78	72
WITHOUT ANY BANK OR CREDIT UNION BRANCH	30	45

TABLE 24: AVERAGE DISTANCES TO THE NEAREST FINANCIAL SERVICES BY CENSUS TRACTS WITHIN THE CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA METROPOLITAN AREA AND IN OTHER NON-METRO SUBURBAN AND URBAN AREAS (N = 484)

	AVERAGE DISTANCE IN MILES		
	WITHIN CHARLESTON METROPOLITAN AREA	WITHIN METRO URBAN AREAS	WITHIN NON-METRO SUBURBAN AND URBAN AREAS
	N = 78	N = 290	N = 194
OTHER FINANCIAL SERVICES			
DISTANCE TO THE NEAREST BANK BRANCH	1.92	1.76	3.02
DISTANCE TO THE NEAREST CREDIT UNION BRANCH	5.96	4.02	13.01

Notes: Distances in miles are calculated using census tract centroids as starting points and assumes travel on available roadways.

TABLE 25: AVERAGE DISTANCES TO THE NEAREST FINANCIAL SERVICES BY WEST VIRGINIA CENSUS TRACTS WITH AND WITHOUT POST OFFICE RETAIL LOCATIONS AND COMMUNITY BANK BRANCHES (N = 484)

	AVERAGE DISTANCE IN MILES			
	WITH A POST OFFICE RETAIL LOCATION	WITHOUT A POST OFFICE RETAIL LOCATION	WITH A POST OFFICE RETAIL LOCATION & WITH A COMMUNITY BANK BRANCH	WITH A POST OFFICE RETAIL LOCATION & WITHOUT A COMMUNITY BANK BRANCH
	N = 311	N = 173	N = 120	N = 191
OTHER FINANCIAL SERVICES				
DISTANCE TO THE NEAREST BANK BRANCH	2.76	1.39	2.37	3
DISTANCE TO THE NEAREST CREDIT UNION BRANCH	10.21	2.97	13.13	8.37

Notes: Distances in miles are calculated using census tract centroids as starting points and assumes travel on available roadways.

location without a community bank branch (data not shown). These percentages are similar for tracts located in metro urban (63%) and non-metro rural areas (71%), suggesting that West Virginia’s poorest communities may benefit in terms of proximity to postal banking options regardless of their geography.

West Virginia residents living in non-metro suburban and rural areas travel twice as far to the nearest financial services than their counterparts living in metro urban areas (see Tables 21 and 22). While average distance is 1.76 miles across metro urban areas, the average distance is 3.02 miles in combined non-metro suburban and rural areas.

Among West Virginia tracts with the highest average percent population living in poverty, the average distance is 3.02 miles

to the nearest bank branch when there is a post office retail location but no community bank branch (data not shown). This comparable distance is 2.44 miles among tracts with the lowest average percent population in poverty. In other words, these data suggest that residents of communities experiencing relatively higher concentrated poverty currently travel a half mile farther for financial services in absence of postal banking options when compared to those living in more affluent communities. The differences in poverty rates are not negligible: the average poverty rate among tracts in the lowest quartile is 5% compared to an average 27% for tracts in the highest quartile. Even traveling what appears to be a short or negligible distance can be a challenge in the context of high poverty, and the importance of having more proximally convenient banking options should not be underestimated.

CONCLUSION

As policymakers contemplate building back better from the coronavirus pandemic, ensuring all people in the United States can access essential financial services must be a top priority. Every person and community needs access to basic financial services to receive money, deposit earnings, save, and pay bills. Yet, as this report demonstrates, nearly 60 million people live in census tracts where there is a post office but not a single bank branch. In these communities, many people turn to currency exchanges, check cashers, and other alternative finance providers, which result in extractive fees. Many underbanked and unbanked households spend up to 10% of their incomes to cash checks and pay bills, more than their annual spending on food.⁷² As a result, the alternative financial services industry generates almost \$100 billion annually,⁷³ money that could have been saved, invested, or spent locally within a community.

There have been many well-intentioned market-based efforts to expand access to safe and affordable financial services. One of the most notable is Bank-On, an effort led by major banking systems to offer low-cost bank accounts with no overdraft fees and robust bill payment systems. However, these programs work in communities where participating banks already operate, and banking deregulation has allowed these banks to grow bigger in asset size and shrink their service footprints by closing branches. The consequences of relying on or deferring to market-based solutions were laid bare during the pandemic with each stimulus payment and new round of Paycheck Protection Program loans. As such, there is a strong case for public options for banking to fill existing gaps.

One of the many solid proposals for a public option includes Senator Sherrod Brown's (D-OH) Banking for All Act. The legislation creates digital wallets (bank accounts) called FedAccounts and would be available for free at postal office retail locations and all Federal Reserve member banks. These accounts would enable an account holder to deposit funds, save, pay bills, withdraw cash, set up automatic bill payments, and access mobile banking. The FedAccounts would include ATM and debit card functionality, and balances would earn interest paid by the Federal Reserve. The proposal is simple and elegant. It embeds a free public option for retail banking within operating post offices, banks, and credit unions, taking advantage of economies of scale. Further, the proposal calls for the Federal Reserve to reimburse postal offices and participating banks and credit unions for all reasonable operational costs associated with providing FedAccounts. The Federal Reserve also assumes responsibility for developing online banking, security, and providing customer service.

The Banking for All Act can reach millions of people without access to safe and affordable financial services for the following reasons. First, in census tracts with a post office but no bank branch, people can open an account at their local post office. In these tracts, the postal bank would be the only access point for banking services. Second, free FedAccounts through the post office would be available to people who choose not to open accounts at banks because of high costs and fees. In census tracts with post office retail locations and community banks or credit unions, people will have multiple routes to open free FedAccounts. And finally, in census tracts without a post office branch but with bank branches or credit unions, people would have a public option for banking embedded within a private bank. Having side-by-side options of a FedAccount and a bank account offered by a private bank might force banks to lower fees. There is one caveat, though: as currently proposed, no overdraft coverage would be provided with FedAccounts.

There are other considerations connected to the Banking for All Act that are worth flagging. First, the Federal Reserve will have to invest in building the internal infrastructure to create the digital FedAccounts. The total cost of expanding its operational scope has not yet been quantified. Second, the lack of overdraft protections and small loans through FedAccounts is a limiting factor. Many potential users of the FedAccounts will likely still need access to payday loans and other usury loan providers to cover shortfalls between pay periods. And third, there are legitimate concerns that enabling FedAccounts at post offices might disrupt the banking industry. More specifically, banking experts worry that more people (in addition to the underbanked and underbanked) will choose the free FedAccounts if given a choice. While this concern is valid, the crowding out private, for-profit banking will not be an issue in communities without any banks. Private banks would have to open new branches in communities they have underserved or divested in order for FedAccounts to disrupt private banking.

Finally, serving underbanked and unbanked communities with the full suite of necessary safe and affordable financial services requires different public banking options at the state and local levels to finance affordable housing, green infrastructure, and small and medium-sized enterprises in BIPOC and disinvested communities. As these public banking proposals make their way through Congress and state and local legislatures, the Banking for All Act can be a groundbreaking first step towards equity in banking.

APPENDIX A: METHODOLOGY NOTES

There are 73,057 census tracts identified by the U.S. Census Bureau. These data represent 73,056 of all census tracts.

Data for bank and credit union branch locations were retrieved from 2014 Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) summary of deposits and the 2014 National Credit Union Administration (NCUA) call reports. Demographic data were used from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2010-2014 American Community Survey (ACS) at the census tract level, and included percent population racial demographics and the percent population of families below the federal poverty line.

These data likely overestimated bank and credit union branch locations within census tracts, given the well-documented trends of industry consolidation and branch closures since 2014 when FDIC and NCUA data were collected. In other words, there is likely a higher percentage of census tracts in 2021 without bank or credit union branches or with post office retail locations that do not have any bank or credit union branch.

Banks and their branches were identified as community banks from the 2014 FDIC summary of deposits when their headquarters' reported asset holdings were equal to or less than \$10 billion. Sixteen percent of census tracts had bank branches that met this criteria. However, as described below, this is a tract-level measure of the extent to which census tracts had assets equal to or less than \$10 billion when bank branches were present. Distance to the nearest community bank branch—as opposed to bank branches more generally—was not available within these data.

Given that nearly all credit unions have assets equal to or less than \$10 billion, community credit union branches were not separately identified. Distance to the nearest community credit union branch—as opposed to credit union branches more generally—was not available within these data.

A limitation of the existing data is that bank and credit union assets were measured at the census tract level. Bank and credit union assets were provided for institutions' headquarters, duplicated across branches, and then summed within census tracts. Seventy percent of census tracts did not have any bank branch at all or had only one branch, and therefore were unaffected by this limitation. Thirty percent of census tracts had two or more bank branches and 2% of tracts had two or more credit union branches. When there was more than one bank or credit union branch per census tract, the assets of these branches' headquarters were summed together, which could have affected the ability to distinguish the presence of branches whose banks had equal or less than

\$10 billion in assets. Among tracts with at least one bank branch, the average number of branches was 2, with a range from 1 to 63. Among tracts with at least one bank branch, 75% had 3 or fewer branches. One percent of tracts had more than 10 branches, likely representing cities' central business or financial districts. For example, census tracts with greater than 10 bank branches were consistently located in metro urban areas. Examples include tracts in Chicago, New York City, and Miami, which are also areas where community banks tend to be less prevalent. <https://www.bankingstrategist.com/community-banks-number-by-state-and-asset-size>

We conducted sensitivity tests to address this limitation. As a first sensitivity test, we compared average bank and credit union assets for tracts by the numbers of their respective branches. The average asset amounts for tracts with one compared to two and three branches resulted in similar classifications. As a second sensitivity test, we divided assets by the number of branches per census tract, which also yielded substantively similar results. Though, dividing summed assets by the number of branches per census tract does not necessarily isolate branches of banks or credit unions with equal or less than \$10 billion. For example, different larger banks could have branches within the same tract and dividing by the number of branches—equally distributing a larger amount of assets across several banks' branches—could inaccurately identify ineligible branches as "community" branches. Alternately, given that the data do not distinguish between separate branches of the same bank, assets for a single bank could have been summed together multiple times depending on the presence and number of branches in the same tract. As such, assets at the census tract level likely provided an indication of larger banks' branch presence. Future research must gather additional data to more precisely address questions regarding the availability of community bank and credit union branches based on assets or capitalization relative to institutions of other sizes.

Based on more recent FDIC summary of deposits data from June 30, 2020, there were 85,050 bank branches and 42% were identified as community bank branches whose institutions reported assets equal to or less than \$10 billion. According to a recent FDIC report, there are 4,750 community banks in the United States with approximately 29,000 branches, defined as those providing retail banking services within their local communities and total assets indexed to \$1.65 billion in 2019 dollars (which was a different metric than used in this report to identify community banks). According to the FDIC, the number of community banks declined by 30% between 2011

and 2019. More information is available at: <https://www.fdic.gov/resources/community-banking/report/2020/2020-cbi-study-full.pdf>

There are 31,150 post office retail locations. These data included 29,557 or 95% of all post office retail locations. Fifteen hundred post office retail locations did not have street addresses that could be batch processed using ESRI ArcGIS, and therefore were recorded as missing in the current analysis. Missing included 59 post office retail locations in Alaska and 59 in Pennsylvania, as examples of states with larger numbers of unmatched or missing retail locations. As such, the numbers of post office retail locations in some states were slightly underestimated. One hundred twenty five post office retail locations in Puerto Rico could not be matched with census tracts for other financial services and population demographic data. This was due to the limitations of other data that exclude Puerto Rico.

Rural-urban geography used the 2013 US Department of Agriculture and Office of Management and Budget rural-urban continuum code classifications. Census tracts were identified as being located within metro urban counties when counties were defined as being in metro areas with 1 million population or more, 250,000 to 1 million population, or counties in metro areas that had fewer than 250,000 population. Census tracts

were identified as being located within non-metro suburban counties when counties were defined as having a population of 20,000 or more adjacent or not adjacent to a metro area, or had a population of 2,500 to 19,999 adjacent to a metro area. Census tracts were identified as being located within non-metro rural counties when counties had a population of 2,500 to 19,999 not adjacent to a metro area, less than 2,500 population adjacent to a metro area, or less than 2,500 urban population not adjacent to a metro area. Given that census tracts are population normed, a large percentage of census tracts were located in metro areas because more tract boundaries were needed for representing higher and more densely populated areas. More information is available at: <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/rural-urban-continuum-codes/> and <http://rtc.ruralinstitute.umn.edu/resources/defining-rural/>

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3 University of Kansas Institute for Policy and Social Research

4 Economic Security Project

5 Open Society Foundations

6 University of Chicago Inclusive Economies Lab

7 Americans for Financial Reform, Take On Wall Street

8 American Postal Workers Union

APPENDIX B: STATE-LEVEL ESTIMATES OF CENSUS TRACTS (N = 73,057)

	# OF CENSUS TRACTS	% WITH A POST OFFICE RETAIL LOCATION	% WITH A COMMUNITY BANK BRANCH	% WITHOUT A COMMUNITY BANK BRANCH	% WITHOUT A CREDIT UNION BRANCH	% WITHOUT ANY BANK OR CREDIT UNION BRANCH
ALABAMA	1,181	39	20	80	74	60
ALASKA	168	49	10	90	71	49
ARIZONA	1,527	15	6	94	85	49
ARKANSAS	686	53	31	69	85	71
CALIFORNIA	8,057	17	4	96	85	42
COLORADO	1,249	24	16	84	79	58
CONNECTICUT	833	31	11	89	75	63
DELAWARE	218	25	9	91	76	57
FLORIDA	4,245	16	7	93	83	55
GEORGIA	1,969	30	17	83	83	55
HAWAII	351	23	9	91	74	42
IDAHO	298	48	10	90	60	73
ILLINOIS	3,123	28	27	73	83	65
INDIANA	1,511	36	23	77	73	65
IOWA	825	55	52	48	75	80
KANSAS	770	41	50	50	77	75
KENTUCKY	1,115	42	29	71	86	61
LOUISIANA	1,148	33	22	78	74	61
MAINE	358	68	9	91	61	65
MARYLAND	1,406	25	32	68	84	52
MASSACHUSETTS	1,478	33	20	80	75	65
MICHIGAN	2,813	26	12	88	74	57
MINNESOTA	1,338	39	34	66	78	64
MISSISSIPPI	664	46	25	75	79	67
MISSOURI	1,393	41	34	66	82	69
MONTANA	271	58	39	61	68	69
NEBRASKA	532	43	47	53	80	78
NEVADA	687	15	6	94	87	46
NEW HAMPSHIRE	295	54	18	82	75	68
NEW JERSEY	2,010	31	10	90	85	65
NEW MEXICO	499	34	14	86	79	52
NEW YORK	4,926	27	8	92	84	50
NORTH CAROLINA	2,195	31	10	90	78	53
NORTH DAKOTA	205	63	60	40	58	84
OHIO	2,952	29	13	87	79	58
OKLAHOMA	1,046	36	35	65	82	65
OREGON	834	30	6	94	75	60
PENNSYLVANIA	3,218	39	16	84	76	63
RHODE ISLAND	244	27	13	87	75	64
SOUTH CAROLINA	1,103	31	17	83	79	53
SOUTH DAKOTA	225	62	50	50	67	85
TENNESSEE	1,497	32	20	80	78	57
TEXAS	5,265	24	19	81	78	59
UTAH	588	23	7	93	57	64
VERMONT	184	81	23	77	69	64
VIRGINIA	1,907	31	13	87	79	57
WASHINGTON	1,458	26	8	92	75	52
WASHINGTON, DC	179	20	3	97	73	50
WEST VIRGINIA	484	64	34	66	76	65
WISCONSIN	1,409	38	30	70	70	70
WYOMING	132	52	33	67	65	72

APPENDIX C: STATE-LEVEL ESTIMATES OF CENSUS TRACTS WITH A POST OFFICE LOCATION (N = 21,649)

	# OF CENSUS TRACTS WITH A POST OFFICE RETAIL LOCATION	% WITH A COMMUNITY BANK BRANCH	% WITHOUT A COMMUNITY BANK BRANCH	% WITHOUT A CREDIT UNION BRANCH	% WITHOUT ANY BANK OR CREDIT UNION BRANCH	% WITHOUT ANY BANK OR CREDIT UNION BRANCH
ALABAMA	462	32	68	73	27	60
ALASKA	83	12	88	71	44	49
ARIZONA	229	10	90	79	44	49
ARKANSAS	363	38	62	88	22	71
CALIFORNIA	1,347	6	94	75	34	42
COLORADO	296	35	65	71	24	58
CONNECTICUT	258	18	82	73	22	63
DELAWARE	55	15	85	62	24	57
FLORIDA	679	13	87	75	27	55
GEORGIA	599	29	71	78	30	55
HAWAII	80	7	93	41	23	42
IDAHO	142	13	87	58	19	73
ILLINOIS	867	52	48	80	14	65
INDIANA	550	37	63	77	23	65
IOWA	450	74	26	84	5	80
KANSAS	319	78	22	77	7	75
KENTUCKY	473	45	55	87	28	61
LOUISIANA	380	38	62	72	22	61
MAINE	242	35	65	64	34	65
MARYLAND	356	14	86	78	30	52
MASSACHUSETTS	495	28	72	67	16	65
MICHIGAN	718	29	71	64	22	57
MINNESOTA	525	62	38	74	11	64
MISSISSIPPI	308	34	66	78	19	67
MISSOURI	573	54	46	88	18	69
MONTANA	157	53	47	66	18	69
NEBRASKA	229	73	27	84	4	78
NEVADA	101	13	87	76	31	46
NEW HAMPSHIRE	159	22	78	81	26	68
NEW JERSEY	622	14	86	83	16	65
NEW MEXICO	171	19	81	76	37	52
NEW YORK	1,317	17	83	75	27	50
NORTH CAROLINA	674	13	87	73	33	53
NORTH DAKOTA	130	72	28	53	10	84
OHIO	867	27	73	75	24	58
OKLAHOMA	381	59	41	89	20	65
OREGON	252	12	88	66	26	60
PENNSYLVANIA	1,253	24	76	74	22	63
RHODE ISLAND	65	15	85	65	28	64
SOUTH CAROLINA	337	27	73	75	33	53
SOUTH DAKOTA	139	58	42	73	10	85
TENNESSEE	483	35	65	74	28	57
TEXAS	1,275	39	61	75	23	59
UTAH	135	10	90	43	18	64
VERMONT	149	25	75	70	35	64
VIRGINIA	590	19	81	73	28	57
WASHINGTON	383	11	89	68	31	52
WASHINGTON, DC	35	3	97	51	14	50
WEST VIRGINIA	311	39	61	78	30	65
WISCONSIN	535	47	53	69	12	70
WYOMING	69	38	62	67	17	72

APPENDIX D: STATE-LEVEL ESTIMATES OF CENSUS TRACTS WITH PERCENT AVERAGE POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS, BY THE PRESENCE OF A POST OFFICE RETAIL LOCATION (N = 21,649)

	WITH A POST OFFICE RETAIL LOCATION						WITHOUT A POST OFFICE RETAIL LOCATION					
	% AMERICAN INDIAN / ALASKA NATIVE	% ASIAN / NATIVE HAWAIIAN / PACIFIC ISLANDER	% BLACK	% LATINO	% NON-LATINO WHITE	% FAMILY POVERTY	% AMERICAN INDIAN / ALASKA NATIVE	% ASIAN / NATIVE HAWAIIAN / PACIFIC ISLANDER	% BLACK	% LATINO	% NON-LATINO WHITE	% FAMILY POVERTY
ALABAMA	0.7	0.8	27	3	69	17	0.4	1	34	4	61	17
ALASKA	25	5	2	5	59	9	10	7	4	6	70	7
ARIZONA	11	2	3	28	76	17	4	3	4	29	79	14
ARKANSAS	0.6	0.9	15	5	80	16	0.6	2	23	7	71	16
CALIFORNIA	1.2	10	5	33	69	14	0.7	14	6	38	61	13
COLORADO	1.4	2	2	20	87	11	0.9	3	4	21	83	9
CONNECTICUT	0.2	3	6	10	84	7	0.2	4	13	18	73	10
DELAWARE	0.7	2	17	7	76	9	0.3	3	22	9	67	9
FLORIDA	0.3	2	15	18	78	15	0.3	2	16	21	76	13
GEORGIA	0.3	2	29	7	64	17	0.2	4	33	9	57	16
HAWAII	0.4	40	2	10	31	9	0.2	44	2	8	23	7
IDAHO	2	1	0.5	11	92	12	2	2	1	12	91	12
ILLINOIS	0.2	2	8	8	85	10	0.2	5	21	18	65	14
INDIANA	0.2	0.7	4	4	92	11	0.3	2	15	8	76	16
IOWA	0.3	0.9	1	4	96	8	0.4	3	6	7	86	11
KANSAS	1	1	3	7	91	9	0.8	3	10	14	78	12
KENTUCKY	0.2	0.7	4	2	92	17	0.2	2	11	4	83	15
LOUISIANA	0.8	0.9	30	3	65	17	0.5	2	39	5	53	18
MAINE	0.7	0.6	0.5	1	96	10	1	2	2	2	87	11
MARYLAND	0.3	4	20	6	71	7	0.3	6	35	9	52	8
MASSACHUSETTS	0.2	4	4	7	87	7	0.2	6	9	13	74	11
MICHIGAN	0.8	1	7	4	88	12	0.5	3	21	5	69	15
MINNESOTA	2	2	2	4	91	8	0.8	6	8	6	80	9
MISSISSIPPI	0.3	0.6	42	3	55	21	0.5	1	40	3	54	19
MISSOURI	0.4	1	6	3	90	13	0.4	2	20	6	73	13
MONTANA	10	0.5	0.3	3	87	12	4	0.8	0.5	4	92	9
NEBRASKA	1	0.6	2	6	94	8	0.7	3	8	11	84	11
NEVADA	4	4	5	22	77	13	0.9	8	8	27	69	12
NEW HAMPSHIRE	0.2	2	0.5	2	96	5	0.2	3	2	5	90	7
NEW JERSEY	0.2	8	9	15	76	7	0.2	8	18	20	63	10
NEW MEXICO	12	0.9	1	44	73	18	9	2	2	45	73	16
NEW YORK	0.4	5	8	11	80	10	0.5	9	20	19	57	14
NORTH CAROLINA	1	1	21	8	72	15	1	3	22	9	68	14
NORTH DAKOTA	8	0.4	1	3	89	8	7	2	2	3	91	7
OHIO	0.2	1	7	3	89	12	0.2	2	20	4	74	16
OKLAHOMA	9	0.8	5	7	74	14	6	2	11	11	71	14
OREGON	1	2	1	11	89	13	1	5	2	11	83	11
PENNSYLVANIA	0.1	2	6	4	90	9	0.2	3	16	7	75	12
RHODE ISLAND	0.6	3	5	10	86	9	0.4	3	7	14	78	12
SOUTH CAROLINA	0.5	0.9	33	4	62	17	0.3	1	27	5	67	14
SOUTH DAKOTA	11	0.4	0.7	3	85	11	7	2	3	4	84	10
TENNESSEE	0.3	0.9	11	3	85	15	0.3	2	22	5	72	15
TEXAS	0.5	2	9	32	82	14	0.5	4	13	39	72	15
UTAH	2	2	1	11	89	11	1	3	1	14	87	10
VERMONT	0.3	0.9	1	2	96	8	0.2	3	2	2	90	10
VIRGINIA	0.3	3	17	5	76	10	0.3	7	22	9	64	9
WASHINGTON	3	4	2	12	83	11	1	9	4	10	77	9
WASHINGTON, DC	0.4	5	38	5	49	9	0.3	3	57	9	33	16
WEST VIRGINIA	0.2	0.5	3	1	94	15	0.2	1	5	2	91	14
WISCONSIN	2	1	3	4	92	9	0.6	3	11	8	78	12
WYOMING	3	0.8	0.8	8	89	8	1	1	1	11	91	10

APPENDIX E: STATE-LEVEL ESTIMATES OF CENSUS TRACTS WITH A POST OFFICE RETAIL LOCATION AND PERCENT AVERAGE POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS, BY THE PRESENCE OF A COMMUNITY BANK BRANCH (N = 21,649)

	WITH A POST OFFICE RETAIL LOCATION						WITHOUT A POST OFFICE RETAIL LOCATION					
	% AMERICAN INDIAN / ALASKA NATIVE	% ASIAN / NATIVE HAWAIIAN / PACIFIC ISLANDER	% BLACK	% LATINO	% NON-LATINO WHITE	% FAMILY POVERTY	% AMERICAN INDIAN / ALASKA NATIVE	% ASIAN / NATIVE HAWAIIAN / PACIFIC ISLANDER	% BLACK	% LATINO	% NON-LATINO WHITE	% FAMILY POVERTY
ALABAMA	0.5	1	30	3	66	17	1	0.5	20	3	76	17
ALASKA	26	5	2	5	58	10	13	3	4	6	71	8
ARIZONA	12	2	3	28	75	17	2	1	2	26	85	12
ARKANSAS	0.6	1	15	5	80	15	0.6	0.5	16	4	79	16
CALIFORNIA	1	10	5	34	69	14	3	6	3	28	77	14
COLORADO	1	2	3	20	85	10	1	0.6	1	19	91	11
CONNECTICUT	0.2	4	7	10	83	7	0.3	2	3	9	89	7
DELAWARE	0.3	2	17	7	76	9	1	1	14	8	79	10
FLORIDA	0.3	2	16	19	77	15	0.3	1	13	13	81	14
GEORGIA	0.3	2	30	7	64	17	0.2	0.9	29	6	66	18
HAWAII	0.3	40	2	10	32	6	0.1	36	4	7	17	6
IDAHO	2	1	0.4	11	92	13	0.7	0.8	0.4	9	95	10
ILLINOIS	0.2	4	14	12	76	11	0.2	0.8	3	4	93	9
INDIANA	0.3	0.8	6	5	90	11	0.2	0.6	1	3	96	10
IOWA	0.4	1	3	5	93	10	0.3	0.7	0.8	3	96	7
KANSAS	1	2	6	12	84	11	1	0.7	2	6	93	9
KENTUCKY	0.2	0.9	5	3	91	17	0.2	0.5	3	2	94	18
LOUISIANA	0.8	1	31	4	65	16	0.8	0.6	30	3	67	17
MAINE	0.6	0.6	0.7	1	96	10	0.7	0.7	0.5	1	96	10
MARYLAND	0.3	4	20	7	71	7	0.2	2	17	4	77	8
MASSACHUSETTS	0.2	5	5	8	85	8	0.2	3	3	5	91	6
MICHIGAN	0.6	2	9	4	86	12	1	0.4	3	3	93	11
MINNESOTA	2	3	4	5	87	10	1	1	1	3	94	7
MISSISSIPPI	0.2	0.7	41	3	56	21	0.5	0.4	44	2	54	21
MISSOURI	0.4	1	9	4	85	14	0.5	0.6	3	2	93	12
MONTANA	11	0.6	0.4	3	85	12	8	0.5	0.3	3	88	11
NEBRASKA	1	1	5	11	88	12	1	0.4	0.6	4	96	7
NEVADA	4	4	6	22	76	12	1	2	2	21	80	13
NEW HAMPSHIRE	0.2	2	0.7	2	95	5	0.3	0.8	0.5	1	97	6
NEW JERSEY	0.2	8	10	15	75	7	0.2	5	7	12	82	7
NEW MEXICO	13	1	1	44	72	19	6	0.5	0.7	46	80	14
NEW YORK	0.4	5	9	12	78	10	0.3	2	3	5	91	9
NORTH CAROLINA	1	1	21	7	72	15	2	0.7	20	9	72	16
NORTH DAKOTA	11	0.6	1	3	84	10	6	0.3	0.6	2	91	7
OHIO	0.2	1	9	3	86	13	0.2	0.5	1	2	96	10
OKLAHOMA	11	1	6	8	72	15	8	0.6	4	7	76	14
OREGON	2	2	1	11	89	13	1	1	0.4	10	91	11
PENNSYLVANIA	0.1	2	7	4	88	10	0.1	1	2	2	95	8
RHODE ISLAND	0.6	3	5	11	84	9	0.7	0.9	2	3	95	5
SOUTH CAROLINA	0.4	1	32	5	63	16	0.7	0.6	37	4	59	18
SOUTH DAKOTA	14	0.7	0.8	3	81	14	9	0.3	0.5	2	88	9
TENNESSEE	0.3	1	13	4	82	15	0.3	0.4	7	3	89	15
TEXAS	0.5	2	10	34	79	15	0.6	0.8	7	29	86	14
UTAH	2	2	0.9	12	89	11	1	0.9	0.4	8	93	10
VERMONT	0.3	1	0.8	2	96	8	0.4	0.7	0.5	1	97	8
VIRGINIA	0.3	3	18	6	74	10	0.3	1	15	3	81	10
WASHINGTON	3	4	2	12	83	11	3	3	3	11	83	12
WASHINGTON, DC	0.4	5	36	8	50	7	-	-	-	-	-	-
WEST VIRGINIA	0.2	0.6	3	1	94	16	0.1	0.3	3	1	95	14
WISCONSIN	2	2	4	4	89	10	1	0.6	1	3	95	8
WYOMING	3	0.9	0.8	8	89	7	4	0.6	1	7	90	8

Notes: Given that fewer tracts have a credit union branch, this table presents data for tracts with a post office retail location and without a community bank branch only.

APPENDIX F: STATE-LEVEL ESTIMATES OF CENSUS TRACTS WITH A POST OFFICE RETAIL LOCATION AND WITHOUT A COMMUNITY BANK BRANCH, BY GEOGRAPHY (N = 14,938)

	% METRO URBAN	% NON-METRO SUBURBAN	% NON-METRO RURAL
TOTAL	72	19	9
ALABAMA	67	22	11
ALASKA	33	4	63
ARIZONA	78	19	3
ARKANSAS	50	25	25
CALIFORNIA	91	7	2
COLORADO	67	18	15
CONNECTICUT	91	9	-
DELAWARE	100	-	-
FLORIDA	90	10	< 1
GEORGIA	71	22	7
HAWAII	65	35	-
IDAHO	35	40	24
ILLINOIS	84	11	5
INDIANA	64	31	5
IOWA	43	31	26
KANSAS	59	26	16
KENTUCKY	39	20	41
LOUISIANA	77	19	4
MAINE	47	35	18
MARYLAND	94	6	-
MASSACHUSETTS	96	3	1
MICHIGAN	64	19	18
MINNESOTA	64	23	13
MISSISSIPPI	33	31	36
MISSOURI	57	25	18
MONTANA	20	30	50
NEBRASKA	54	20	26
NEVADA	62	25	13
NEW HAMPSHIRE	59	35	6
NEW JERSEY	100	-	-
NEW MEXICO	51	32	15
NEW YORK	84	14	2
NORTH CAROLINA	59	32	9
NORTH DAKOTA	27	24	49
OHIO	69	29	2
OKLAHOMA	47	35	18
OREGON	63	30	7
PENNSYLVANIA	81	17	2
RHODE ISLAND	100	-	-
SOUTH CAROLINA	76	22	2
SOUTH DAKOTA	32	21	47
TENNESSEE	66	24	10
TEXAS	73	21	6
UTAH	65	12	23
VERMONT	21	34	45
VIRGINIA	70	15	15
WASHINGTON	74	21	4
WASHINGTON, DC	100	-	-
WEST VIRGINIA	51	33	16
WISCONSIN	59	28	13
WYOMING	14	16	70

APPENDIX G: STATE-LEVEL ESTIMATES OF CENSUS TRACTS WITH A POST OFFICE RETAIL LOCATION AND WITHOUT A COMMUNITY BANK BRANCH, BY PERCENT AVERAGE POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS AND METRO URBAN GEOGRAPHY (N = 10,773)

	METRO URBAN					
	% AMERICAN INDIAN / ALASKA NATIVE	% ASIAN / NATIVE HAWAIIAN / PACIFIC ISLANDER	% BLACK	% LATINO	% NON-LATINO WHITE	% FAMILY POVERTY
ALABAMA	0.6	1	25	4	71	15
ALASKA	7	6	5	7	73	8
ARIZONA	5	2	3	29	81	15
ARKANSAS	0.7	2	17	6	77	14
CALIFORNIA	10	11	5	35	68	14
COLORADO	0.9	2	3	19	85	10
CONNECTICUT	0.2	4	7	11	82	8
DELAWARE	0.7	2	17	7	76	9
FLORIDA	0.3	2	15	19	77	14
GEORGIA	0.3	3	30	8	62	15
HAWAII	0.3	41	3	10	30	7
IDAHO	2	1	0.5	10	92	13
ILLINOIS	0.2	3	12	11	79	10
INDIANA	0.3	1	7	5	88	11
IOWA	0.2	2	2	4	94	7
KANSAS	1	2	5	7	88	9
KENTUCKY	0.2	1	7	4	87	13
LOUISIANA	0.8	1	30	4	66	15
MAINE	0.4	0.7	1	1	96	9
MARYLAND	0.3	4	21	6	70	7
MASSACHUSETTS	0.2	4	4	7	86	7
MICHIGAN	0.4	2	11	5	83	12
MINNESOTA	1	3	4	4	89	8
MISSISSIPPI	0.2	1	37	3	59	16
MISSOURI	0.5	2	9	4	85	12
MONTANA	3	0.6	0.6	3	92	11
NEBRASKA	0.5	1	4	7	90	8
NEVADA	3	6	8	25	71	14
NEW HAMPSHIRE	0.2	2	0.7	3	95	5
NEW JERSEY	0.2	8	9	15	76	7
NEW MEXICO	12	1	2	44	71	19
NEW YORK	0.3	6	10	13	76	9
NORTH CAROLINA	0.4	2	20	8	73	14
NORTH DAKOTA	22	0.5	2	3	87	9
OHIO	0.2	2	10	3	85	12
OKLAHOMA	8	1	7	7	73	14
OREGON	1	2	1	10	88	13
PENNSYLVANIA	0.1	2	7	4	87	9
RHODE ISLAND	0.6	3	5	10	86	9
SOUTH CAROLINA	0.3	1	47	5	65	16
SOUTH DAKOTA	3	0.7	0.4	4	91	8
TENNESSEE	0.3	1	4	4	80	14
TEXAS	0.5	3	6	34	79	15
UTAH	0.8	3	0.4	13	88	11
VERMONT	0.4	2	0.6	2	94	6
VIRGINIA	0.3	4	15	7	74	10
WASHINGTON	2	5	0.3	12	82	11
WASHINGTON, DC	0.4	5	38	8	49	8
WEST VIRGINIA	0.2	0.6	4	1	93	14
WISCONSIN	0.7	2	5	4	90	8
WYOMING	0.9	0.9	3	9	80	7

Notes: Given that fewer tracts have a credit union branch, this table presents data for tracts with a post office retail location and without a community bank branch only.

APPENDIX H: STATE-LEVEL ESTIMATES OF CENSUS TRACTS WITH A POST OFFICE RETAIL LOCATION AND WITHOUT A COMMUNITY BANK BRANCH, BY PERCENT AVERAGE POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS AND NON-METRO SUBURBAN GEOGRAPHY (N = 2,838)

	NON-METRO SUBURBAN					
	% AMERICAN INDIAN / ALASKA NATIVE	% ASIAN / NATIVE HAWAIIAN / PACIFIC ISLANDER	% BLACK	% LATINO	% NON-LATINO WHITE	% FAMILY POVERTY
ALABAMA	0.7	0.4	24	4	72	19
ALASKA	9	4	1	6	77	3
ARIZONA	32	0.6	0.5	20	60	22
ARKANSAS	0.5	0.4	15	5	80	16
CALIFORNIA	3	2	1	16	86	12
COLORADO	4	0.8	0.7	21	89	11
CONNECTICUT	0.2	1	1	4	95	4
DELAWARE	-	-	-	-	-	-
FLORIDA	0.5	0.7	15	12	80	17
GEORGIA	0.2	0.6	28	6	68	20
HAWAII	0.4	37	0.6	10	35	12
IDAHO	2	0.8	0.5	9	93	13
ILLINOIS	0.2	0.5	2	3	95	11
INDIANA	0.2	0.4	0.9	4	96	10
IOWA	0.5	0.5	0.8	3	96	8
KANSAS	1	0.9	3	7	91	12
KENTUCKY	0.2	0.3	2	2	94	18
LOUISIANA	1	0.6	4	3	66	18
MAINE	0.4	0.7	29	1	97	11
MARYLAND	0.2	0.7	0.4	5	85	9
MASSACHUSETTS	0.3	2	11	3	94	7
MICHIGAN	0.7	0.5	1	4	95	12
MINNESOTA	1	7	0.9	4	95	8
MISSISSIPPI	0.4	0.7	44	3	54	23
MISSOURI	0.4	0.6	3	3	93	14
MONTANA	13	0.5	0.2	3	83	13
NEBRASKA	0.3	0.4	0.7	8	96	7
NEVADA	4	1	1	17	84	10
NEW HAMPSHIRE	0.2	1	0.7	1	96	6
NEW JERSEY	-	-	-	-	-	-
NEW MEXICO	16	0.8	1	44	70	18
NEW YORK	0.4	0.8	3	4	93	10
NORTH CAROLINA	3	0.6	23	7	69	17
NORTH DAKOTA	2	0.7	1	4	93	6
OHIO	0.2	0.4	1	2	96	11
OKLAHOMA	13	0.6	3	6	73	15
OREGON	2	1	0.5	13	89	13
PENNSYLVANIA	0.1	0.5	1	2	97	11
RHODE ISLAND	-	-	-	-	-	-
SOUTH CAROLINA	0.8	0.4	41	3	55	20
SOUTH DAKOTA	2	0.5	0.5	3	95	8
TENNESSEE	0.3	0.5	7	3	89	15
TEXAS	0.5	0.4	7	29	85	15
UTAH	0.9	1	0.5	10	94	9
VERMONT	0.3	0.8	0.6	2	96	8
VIRGINIA	0.4	0.6	23	3	74	13
WASHINGTON	5	1	1	12	84	12
WASHINGTON, DC	-	-	-	-	-	-
WEST VIRGINIA	0.2	0.4	2	0.8	96	16
WISCONSIN	0.9	0.7	0.8	4	95	9
WYOMING	0.9	1	0.8	8	92	7

Notes: Given that fewer tracts have a credit union branch, this table presents data for tracts with a post office retail location and without a community bank branch only.

APPENDIX I: STATE-LEVEL ESTIMATES OF CENSUS TRACTS WITH A POST OFFICE RETAIL LOCATION AND WITHOUT A COMMUNITY BANK BRANCH, BY PERCENT AVERAGE POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS AND NON-METRO SUBURBAN GEOGRAPHY (N = 1,344)

	NON-METRO RURAL					
	% AMERICAN INDIAN / ALASKA NATIVE	% ASIAN / NATIVE HAWAIIAN / PACIFIC ISLANDER	% BLACK	% LATINO	% NON-LATINO WHITE	% FAMILY POVERTY
ALABAMA	0.9	0.4	39	1	58	21
ALASKA	36	5	1	3	51	11
ARIZONA	14	0.3	1	34	77	18
ARKANSAS	0.5	0.5	15	3	82	18
CALIFORNIA	5	2	2	12	83	11
COLORADO	1	0.6	1	19	92	11
CONNECTICUT	-	-	-	-	-	-
DELAWARE	-	-	-	-	-	-
FLORIDA	0.3	0.3	16	9	80	18
GEORGIA	0.2	0.5	29	5	67	20
HAWAII	-	-	-	-	-	-
IDAHO	0.9	0.4	0.1	16	93	11
ILLINOIS	0.3	0.4	3	3	94	9
INDIANA	0.3	0.5	0.7	2	96	10
IOWA	0.2	0.7	0.6	4	96	8
KANSAS	0.6	0.4	0.8	7	94	9
KENTUCKY	0.2	0.3	2	1	96	20
LOUISIANA	0.3	0.2	38	1	61	23
MAINE	2	0.5	0.5	1	95	10
MARYLAND	-	-	-	-	-	-
MASSACHUSETTS	0.5	1	4	2	90	6
MICHIGAN	2	0.4	2	2	94	12
MINNESOTA	4	1	0.5	3	92	9
MISSISSIPPI	0.4	0.3	45	2	53	23
MISSOURI	0.4	0.2	3	2	95	15
MONTANA	10	0.5	0.3	2	87	11
NEBRASKA	2	0.4	0.5	5	95	9
NEVADA	13	0.7	2	16	85	11
NEW HAMPSHIRE	0.4	0.7	0.3	1	97	6
NEW JERSEY	-	-	-	-	-	-
NEW MEXICO	2	0.3	0.6	47	81	15
NEW YORK	0.7	0.8	1	2	95	10
NORTH CAROLINA	2	0.5	19	4	75	15
NORTH DAKOTA	9	0.3	0.5	2	88	8
OHIO	0.1	0.4	0.8	1	97	12
OKLAHOMA	7	0.4	3	10	78	14
OREGON	1	1	0.4	4	94	12
PENNSYLVANIA	0.2	0.4	2	1	96	10
RHODE ISLAND	-	-	-	-	-	-
SOUTH CAROLINA	0.1	0.5	47	1	51	18
SOUTH DAKOTA	17	0.4	0.4	2	80	13
TENNESSEE	0.3	0.2	4	2	93	18
TEXAS	0.6	0.5	6	31	88	13
UTAH	6	1	0.4	8	89	11
VERMONT	0.3	0.7	0.6	1	96	9
VIRGINIA	0.2	0.4	15	3	82	14
WASHINGTON	5	1	0.3	6	88	10
WASHINGTON, DC	-	-	-	-	-	-
WEST VIRGINIA	0.1	0.2	2	0.7	96	16
WISCONSIN	6	0.4	0.8	2	91	9
WYOMING	4	0.6	0.6	7	91	8

Notes: Given that fewer tracts have a credit union branch, this table presents data for tracts with a post office retail location and without a community bank branch only.

ENDNOTES

- 1 University of Michigan School of Social Work
- 2 University of Michigan Poverty Solutions
- 3 University of Kansas Institute for Policy and Social Research
- 4 Economic Security Project
- 5 Open Society Foundations
- 6 University of Chicago Inclusive Economy Lab
- 7 Estimates from The Brookings Institution, indicated by Aaron Klein, predicted that upwards of 70 million people could likely receive paper stimulus checks by mail; however, the reported number of paper checks by the IRS in May 2020 was much lower—approximately 20 million paper checks were mailed to eligible recipients. It is plausible that some people who would have otherwise received a paper check in the mail submitted their bank deposit information to the IRS in order to receive their checks direct deposited in a timelier manner, helping to explain the discrepancy between these numbers.

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This includes 8.4 million “unbanked” and 24.2 million “underbanked” households according to the FDIC’s 2017 report. The FDIC’s most recent 2019 report does not provide comparable estimates for the millions of “underbanked” households in the United States. Though, it is likely that this number is much higher than in previous surveys as households increasingly struggle to pay debts and afford basic expenses—including the costs of bank accounts whose fees are becoming more expensive.

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