

# National Study of Treatment and Addiction Recovery Residences Report ALABAMA

**The National Study of Treatment and Addiction Recovery Residences (NSTARR)** constitutes the largest and most diverse study of recovery housing in the US to date. NSTARR compiled data from publicly available sources (e.g., Oxford House, National Alliance for Recovery Residences, and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration websites) and lists maintained by entities tracking recovery housing. Residences for which locating information was available were geocoded and linked with U.S. Census data on urbanicity, alcohol- and drug-involved mortality, and COVID vulnerability. Data collection began in January 2020 and is ongoing until June 2023. The NSTARR database currently contains information on 10,358 residences operated by 3,628 providers in all 50 states. For a detailed description of methods and national findings, please see Mericle et al., 2022.

## KEY FINDINGS

The NSTARR team identified 30 recovery residences (0.62 houses per 100,000 population) in Alabama (see Table 1). Compared to other states (which include DC), Alabama ranked 51 in terms of recovery housing availability per capita. Ninety-seven percent of residences in Alabama could be geocoded for these analyses. Montgomery County, an urban county, had the most recovery residences per 100,000 population, and 57 counties had no identified recovery residences, representing a mix of rural-urban classifications; 64 all but three counties had fewer than 5 recovery residences (see Figure 1).

We used geographic information systems to identify hot and cold spots in Alabama. A hot spot is a cluster of high values (county with a high number of residences surrounded by other counties with high numbers of residences) and a cold spot is a cluster of low values (county with low counts surrounded by counties also with low counts). Our analyses found hot spots but no cold spots within the state (see Figure 2).

The age-adjusted alcohol- and drug-involved mortality rate (per 100,000 population) was 10.50 in Alabama for the years 2009-2019. Alabama ranked 51 on alcohol- and drug-involved mortality out of the 50 states and DC. Among the counties ranked, Escambia County had the highest alcohol- and drug-involved mortality rate and Marion County had the lowest alcohol- and drug-involved mortality rate. Of the three counties that had the highest mortality rates in Alabama (i.e., Escambia, Walker, and Jefferson), only one of them had any recovery housing at all, suggesting more recovery resources may be needed (see Table 1 and Figure 3).

COVID vulnerability was summarized using the county-level data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's COVID Vulnerability Index (CCVI). The CCVI is a composite measure of seven social determinants of health, encompassing modified themes from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Social Vulnerability Index in combination with COVID risk factors to identify communities in need of additional support during the COVID pandemic. Forty-four counties were classified as having very high vulnerability, and only 8 of these had any recovery housing at all, again suggesting that more recovery resources may be needed (see Table 1 and Figure 4).

30  
RESIDENCES  
TOTAL

51  
NATIONAL  
AVAILABILITY  
RANKING

57  
COUNTIES  
WITHOUT  
RESIDENCES

Table 1. County-level Descriptive Statistics on Recovery Residences

County Name	Population <sup>1</sup>	RUCC Classification <sup>2</sup>	Number of Recovery Residences <sup>3</sup>	Recovery Residences Per 100,000 Population	Recovery Residences Availability per Capita (Rank) <sup>4</sup>	Age-Adjusted Alcohol/Drug Mortality <sup>5</sup> Rate per 100,000 Population	Mortality Rate (Rank) <sup>6</sup>	CCVI Quintile <sup>7</sup>
ALABAMA	4,876,250		30	0.62	51	10.50	51	
Autauga	55,380	Urban	0	0.00	67	18.40	45	High
Baldwin	212,830	Urban	0	0.00	67	28.00	15	Moderate
Barbour	25,361	Adjacent rural	0	0.00	67	11.40	61	Very high vulnerability
Bibb	22,493	Urban	0	0.00	67	25.40	24	High
Blount	57,681	Urban	0	0.00	67	37.60	4	High
Bullock	10,248	Adjacent rural	0	0.00	67	Suppressed	-	Very high vulnerability
Butler	19,828	Adjacent rural	0	0.00	67	17.10	47	Very high vulnerability
Calhoun	114,618	Urban	1	0.87	8	24.40	25	Very high vulnerability
Chambers	33,660	Adjacent rural	0	0.00	67	23.30	27	Very high vulnerability
Cherokee	25,903	Adjacent rural	0	0.00	67	33.80	8	High
Chilton	44,055	Urban	0	0.00	67	26.90	19	Very high vulnerability
Choctaw	12,925	Non-adjacent rural	0	0.00	67	15.00	54	High
Clarke	24,128	Non-adjacent rural	0	0.00	67	17.90	46	Very high vulnerability
Clay	13,337	Non-adjacent rural	0	0.00	67	21.00	32	High
Cleburne	14,916	Adjacent rural	0	0.00	67	23.30	27	High
Coffee	51,662	Adjacent rural	0	0.00	67	15.90	51	Very high vulnerability
Colbert	54,771	Urban	0	0.00	67	15.60	53	High
Conecuh	12,394	Non-adjacent rural	0	0.00	67	32.80	9	Very high vulnerability
Coosa	10,757	Adjacent rural	0	0.00	67	19.10	41	High
Covington	37,200	Adjacent rural	0	0.00	67	19.50	38	Very high vulnerability
Crenshaw	13,844	Adjacent rural	0	0.00	67	18.50	44	Very high vulnerability
Cullman	82,853	Adjacent rural	1	1.21	4	34.10	6	Very high vulnerability
Dale	49,277	Adjacent rural	0	0.00	67	19.00	42	Very high vulnerability
Dallas	39,149	Adjacent rural	0	0.00	67	16.10	50	Very high vulnerability
DeKalb	71,310	Adjacent rural	0	0.00	67	31.70	10	Very high vulnerability
Elmore	81,144	Urban	0	0.00	67	15.90	51	Very high vulnerability
Escambia	37,057	Adjacent rural	0	0.00	67	79.30	1	Very high vulnerability
Etowah	102,748	Urban	0	0.00	67	30.00	13	Very high vulnerability
Fayette	16,494	Adjacent rural	0	0.00	67	30.70	11	High
Franklin	31,466	Adjacent rural	0	0.00	67	26.90	19	Very high vulnerability
Geneva	26,417	Urban	0	0.00	67	34.10	6	Very high vulnerability

Greene	8,324	Adjacent rural	0	0.00	67	Suppressed	-	Very high vulnerability
Hale	14,809	Urban	0	0.00	67	12.70	59	High
Henry	17,133	Urban	0	0.00	67	13.70	58	High
Houston	104,702	Urban	1	0.96	6	25.60	23	Very high vulnerability
Jackson	51,852	Adjacent rural	0	0.00	67	19.30	40	High
Jefferson	659,680	Urban	6	0.91	7	44.80	3	Very high vulnerability
Lamar	13,885	Adjacent rural	0	0.00	67	18.90	43	High
Lauderdale	92,556	Urban	1	1.08	5	23.90	26	High
Lawrence	33,058	Urban	0	0.00	67	26.70	22	High
Lee	161,152	Urban	0	0.00	67	21.40	31	High
Limestone	94,727	Urban	0	0.00	67	16.60	48	High
Lowndes	10,079	Urban	0	0.00	67	Suppressed	-	Very high vulnerability
Macon	18,708	Adjacent rural	0	0.00	67	15.00	54	High
Madison	362,276	Urban	2	0.55	9	20.90	33	High
Marengo	19,321	Non-adjacent rural	0	0.00	67	12.70	59	Very high vulnerability
Marion	29,866	Non-adjacent rural	0	0.00	67	9.70	62	Very high vulnerability
Marshall	95,643	Adjacent rural	0	0.00	67	27.50	16	Very high vulnerability
Mobile	414,114	Urban	8	1.93	3	27.10	18	Very high vulnerability
Monroe	21,270	Non-adjacent rural	0	0.00	67	21.70	30	Very high vulnerability
Montgomery	226,941	Urban	7	3.08	1	14.90	56	Very high vulnerability
Morgan	119,213	Urban	0	0.00	67	29.30	14	Very high vulnerability
Perry	9,293	Adjacent rural	0	0.00	67	Suppressed	-	Very high vulnerability
Pickens	20,243	Urban	0	0.00	67	20.30	35	Very high vulnerability
Pike	33,333	Adjacent rural	0	0.00	67	20.50	34	Very high vulnerability
Randolph	22,647	Adjacent rural	0	0.00	67	16.60	48	Very high vulnerability
Russell	57,952	Urban	0	0.00	67	30.70	11	Very high vulnerability
Shelby	213,432	Urban	0	0.00	67	27.50	16	Moderate
St. Clair	87,989	Urban	0	0.00	67	37.40	5	High
Sumter	12,797	Adjacent rural	0	0.00	67	Suppressed	-	Very high vulnerability
Talladega	80,387	Adjacent rural	0	0.00	67	19.70	37	Very high vulnerability
Tallapoosa	40,541	Adjacent rural	1	2.47	2	26.80	21	Very high vulnerability
Tuscaloosa	207,305	Urban	1	0.48	10	23.10	29	Very high vulnerability
Walker	64,110	Urban	0	0.00	67	52.70	2	Very high vulnerability
Washington	16,541	Adjacent rural	0	0.00	67	14.80	57	Very high vulnerability
Wilcox	10,681	Non-adjacent rural	0	0.00	67	20.30	35	Very high vulnerability
Winston	23,784	Adjacent rural	0	0.00	67	19.50	38	Very high vulnerability

<sup>1</sup>Population data were downloaded from tables in Social Explorer's ACS five-year estimate (2015-2019). American Community Survey 5-year Estimates, 2015-2019. Social Explorer tables, ACS 2015-2019. Social Explorer.

<sup>2</sup>The Rural-Urban Continuum Code (RUCC) was used to classify each county as urban, adjacent rural, or non-adjacent rural. Urban counties are counties with codes 1 (Counties in metro areas of 1 million population or more), 2 (Counties in metro areas of 250,000 to 1 million population), and 3 (Counties in metro areas of fewer than 250,000 population). Adjacent rural counties are counties with codes 4 (Urban population of 20,000 or more, adjacent to a metro area), 6 (Urban population of 2,500 to 19,999, adjacent to a metro area), and 8 (Completely rural or less than 2,500 urban population, adjacent to a metro area). Non-adjacent rural counties are the remaining three codes - 5 (Urban population of 20,000 or more, not adjacent to a metro area), 7 (Urban population of 2,500 to 19,999, not adjacent to a metro area), and 9 (Completely rural or less than 2,500 urban population, not adjacent to a metro area). Rural-Urban Continuum Code (RUCC). <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/rural-urban-continuum-codes.aspx>

<sup>3</sup>Recovery residences are from the NSTARR project and are current as of 2020. One (1) recovery residence in the state was not successfully geocoded due to lack of adequate address information, and thus was not assigned to a county.

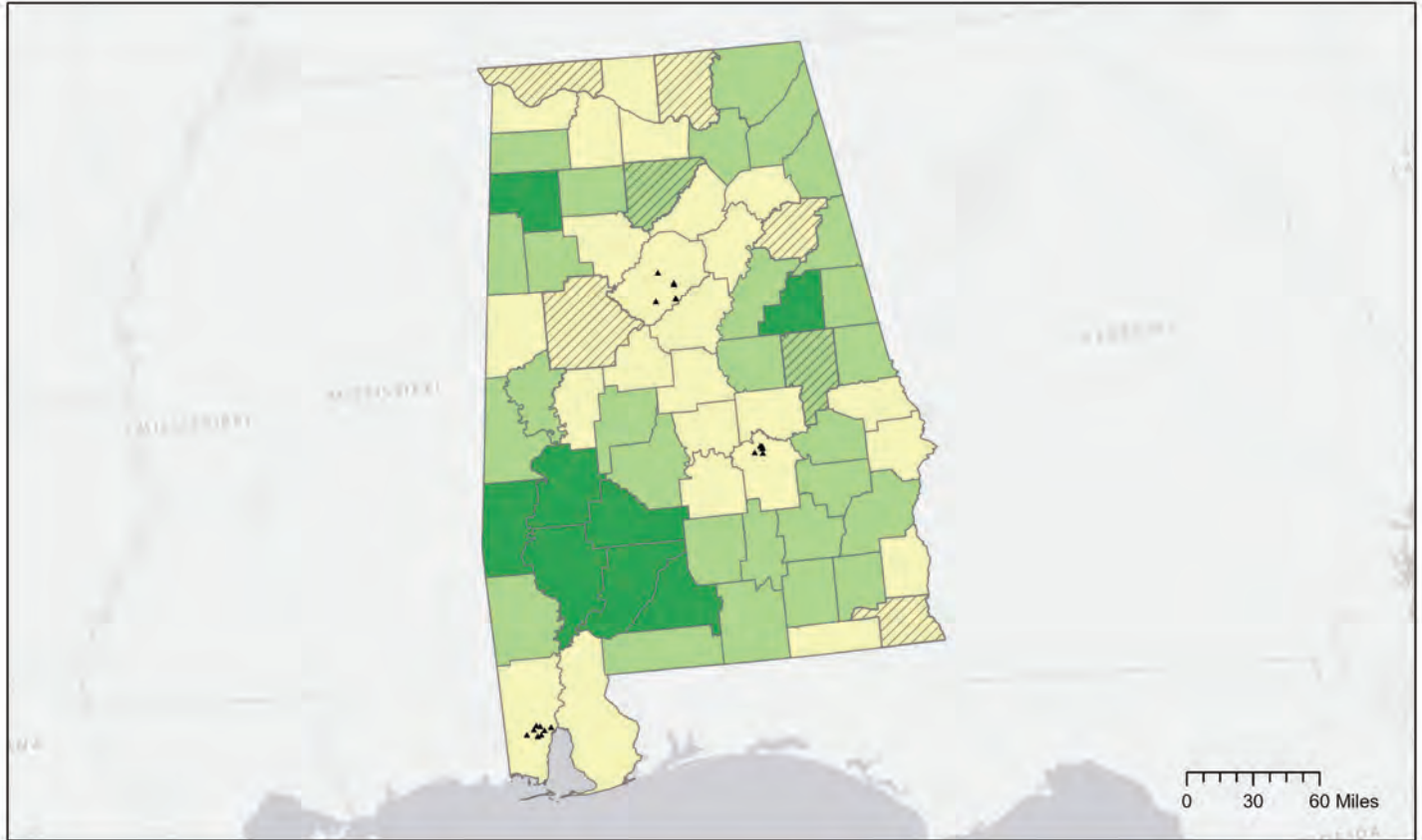
<sup>4</sup>Recovery residences availability per capita is ranked in order of decreasing recovery residence density per 100,000 population per county, with 1 (highest number of residences per 100,000) to 67 (lowest number of residences per 100,000 population). Counties without recovery residences were all assigned a tied rank of 67.

<sup>5</sup>Alcohol- and drug-involved mortality included all deaths as underlying causes of death and selected ICD-10 codes mentioning or attributed to alcohol or drugs as contributing cause of death. Data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2020. CDC Wonder (Wide-ranging Online Data for Epidemiologic Research). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Atlanta, GA. Available at: <https://wonder.cdc.gov/>. For more information on coding multiple causes of death, see: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, About Multiple Cause of Death, 1999-2019. <https://wonder.cdc.gov/mcd-icd10.html>. accessed on August 9 2021.

<sup>6</sup>Mortality rate is ranked in order of decreasing alcohol- and drug-involved mortality from 1 (highest mortality per 100,000 population) to 62 (lowest mortality per 100,000 population).

<sup>7</sup>COVID-19 Community Vulnerability Index (CCVI) scores range in value from 0 – 1, with 0 being least vulnerable and 1 being the most vulnerable. Each county is ranked relative to all counties across the country, based on seven themes/domains. Each county was grouped into quintiles: very high (score of 0.8-1), high (0.6-0.8), moderate (0.4-0.6), low (0.2-0.4), and very low (0-0.2). For more information on how the CCVI I is calculated, see: COVID-19 Community Vulnerability Index (CCVI) methodology. Retrieved from [https://covid-static-assets.s3.amazonaws.com/US-CCVI/COVID-19+Community+Vulnerability+Index+\(CCVI\)+Methodology.pdf](https://covid-static-assets.s3.amazonaws.com/US-CCVI/COVID-19+Community+Vulnerability+Index+(CCVI)+Methodology.pdf)

Figure 1. Distribution of Residences by Rural-Urban Classification



- ▲ Recovery residences
- Rural-Urban Classification Code (RUCC)
  - Urban
  - Adjacent rural
  - Non-adjacent rural
  - Counties with residence locations suppressed (1-4 residences) to protect privacy



Data Credits: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, EPA, NPS  
 Recovery residence locations: 2020  
 Created by: NSTARR Project (May 2022)



Figure 2. Hot/Cold Spot Analysis of Recovery Residence Locations



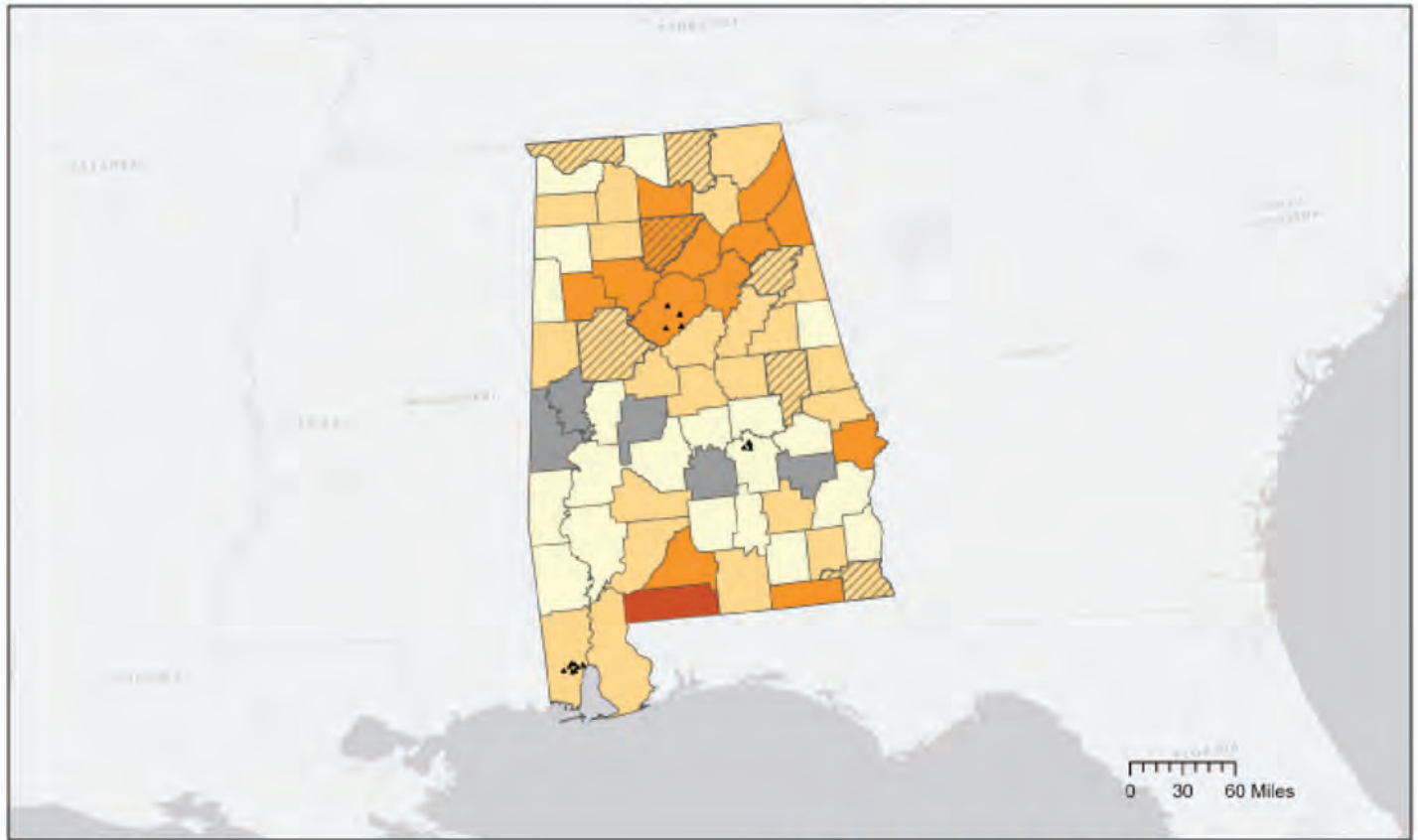
- Hot Spot Analysis (Getis-Ord GI\*)**
- Cold Spot with 99% Confidence
  - Cold Spot with 95% Confidence
  - Cold Spot with 90% Confidence
  - Not Significant
  - Hot Spot with 90% Confidence
  - Hot Spot with 95% Confidence
  - Hot Spot with 99% Confidence



Data Credits: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, EPA, NPS  
 Recovery residence locations: 2020  
 Created by: NSTARR Project (May 2022)



Figure 3. Distribution of Residences by Age-adjusted Alcohol- and/or Drug-involved Mortality



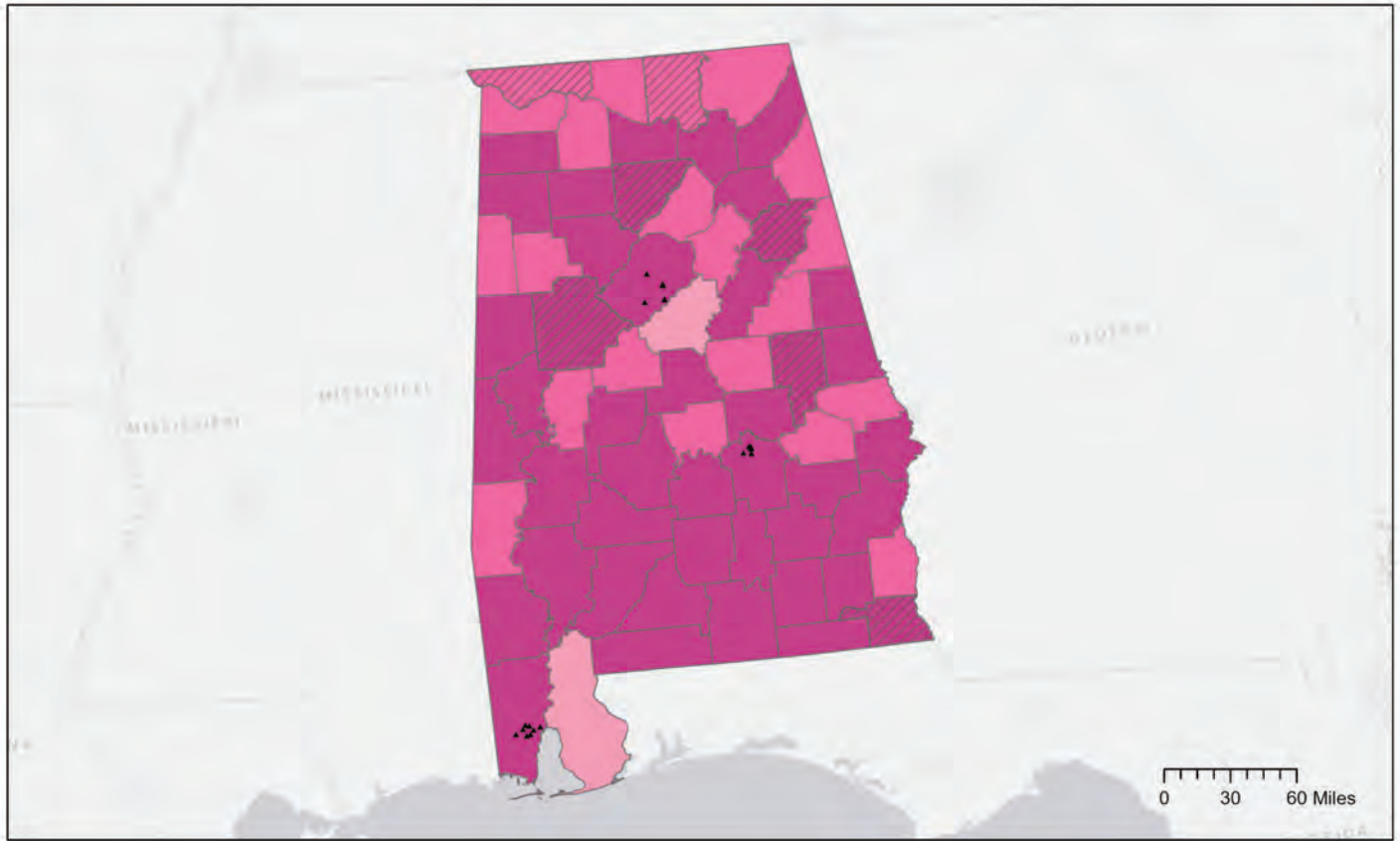
- ▲ Recovery residences
- Age-adjusted alcohol and drug mortality rate per 100,000 population
- 9 - 18
- 19 - 28
- 29 - 52
- 53 - 79
- Suppressed/Unreliable
- Counties with residence locations suppressed (1-4 residences) to protect privacy



Data Credits: Esri, HERE, GARMIN, USGS, EPA, NPS  
 Recovery residence locations: 2020  
 Created by: NSTARR Project (May 2022)



Figure 4. Distribution of Residences by COVID-19 Community Vulnerability Index



- ▲ Recovery Residences
- COVID-19 Community Vulnerability Index (CCVI)
- Very low vulnerability
- Low
- Moderate
- High
- Very high vulnerability
- Counties with residence locations suppressed (1-4 residences) to protect privacy





Data Credits: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, EPA, NPS  
 Recovery residence locations: 2020  
 Created by: NSTARR Project (May 2022)







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Funding for this project was provided by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism at the National Institutes of Health under award R01AA027782 (PI: Mericle).

