

# Preliminary Community Data Profile: Alton, Illinois

**Prepared by:** Constance Eze  
**Position:** Graduate Research Assistant  
**Date:** 4/25/2025

## Introduction

This report presents an overview of key demographic, socioeconomic, and health indicators for Alton, Illinois in comparison to state and national data, based primarily on year 2023 report, to support the Office of Community Engagement’s goals for targeted intervention, equity-focused programming, and data-driven decision-making. This initial profile provides insights into the population structure, education, housing, income, access to services, and health outcomes that affect community well-being. The aim of this report is to use this baseline to identify priority areas for further research and resource allocation while maintaining flexibility for future updates.

People and Housing	Alton	State-IL	Nation-US
Population Estimate	25,430	12,812,508	331,526,933
HS. Diploma or More (% of Adults 25+)	90.8%	90.6%	89.8%
BS or More (% Adults 25+)	21.2%	38.3%	36.2%
Households	10,811	5,071,288	131,332,360
Total Housing Units	12,995	5,470,727	145,333,462
Occupied	11,230	5,071,288	131,332,360
Vacant	1,765	399,439	14,001,102
Employment and Income			
Labor Force <sup>5</sup>	12,238	6,665,114	173,038,795
Unemployment Rate <sup>1</sup>	5.1%	4.7%	4.3%
Median Household Income <sup>3</sup>	53,005	80,306	77,719
Median Family Income <sup>4</sup>	67,800	101,886	96,401
Poverty Rate <sup>2</sup>	24.5%	11.6%	12.5%
Mean Travel Time to Work (min) <sup>6</sup>	23.7	28.1	26.8
Community Characteristics			
Population	25,430	12,812,508	331,526,933
Poverty Rate	24.5%	11.6%	12.5%
Median Age (Overall)	38.4	39.5	39.2
Median Age (Males)	37.6	38.5	38.1
Median Age (Females)	40.1	40.6	40.3

% Without Healthcare Coverage <sup>7</sup>	6.4%	6.2%	7.9%
% Without Access to Broadband <sup>8</sup>	12%	8.2%	7.8%

## Race

White	66.7%	60.7%	60.5%
Black or AA	24.2%	13.3%	12.1%
American Indian / Alaska Native	0.2%	0.7%	1.0%
Asian	1.1%	6.0%	6.0%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%
Other	1.0%	8.1%	7.4%
2+ Races	6.8%	11.1%	12.8%
Hispanic/Latino	2.7%	19.0%	19.4%

## Health Outcomes

Arthritis	33.5%	24.5%	26.3%
Asthma	11.2%	9.5%	10.3%
High Blood Pressure	41.7%	33.5%	34.0%
Cancer	8.4%	7.5%	8.4%
Coronary Heart Disease	8.1%	7.9%	8.5%
Diabetes	14.9%	12.2%	11.5%
Depression	20.7%	18.1%	22.0%
Obesity <sup>9</sup>	39.8%	36.0%	34.3%
Fair/Poor Health Prevalence <sup>10</sup>	19.5%		12.4%
Poor Mental Health Prevalence	18.5%	13.7%	15.4%
Poor Physical Health Prevalence	15.9%	11.7%	12.6%

## Health Risk Behaviors

Binge Drinking	15.8%	18.7%	16.7%
Physical Inactivity <sup>11</sup>	29.4%	21.4%	24.2%
Short Sleep Time <sup>12</sup>	39.4%	36.0%	35.5%

## Glossary of Terms

<b>Unemployment Rate<sup>1</sup></b>	The percentage of people who are looking for a job but don't have one.
<b>Poverty Rate<sup>2</sup></b>	The percentage of people whose income is too low to afford basic needs like food and housing.
<b>Median Household Income<sup>3</sup></b>	The middle income for all households.
<b>Median Family Income<sup>4</sup></b>	The middle income for families (people related by blood or marriage).
<b>Labor Force<sup>5</sup></b>	People who are working or looking for work in that area (age 16+).
<b>Mean Travel Time to Work<sup>6</sup></b>	The average number of minutes people take to get to work.
<b>% Without Healthcare Coverage<sup>7</sup></b>	The percentage of people who don't have any form of health insurance.
<b>% Without Access to Broadband<sup>8</sup></b>	The percentage of homes without reliable, high-speed internet.
<b>Obesity<sup>9</sup></b>	A condition where a person has too much body fat, which may affect their health.

<b>Fair/Poor Health Prevalence<sup>10</sup></b>	The percent of people who rate their health as “fair” or “poor.”
<b>Physical Inactivity<sup>11</sup></b>	The percentage of adults who don’t do any exercise outside of work.
<b>Short Sleep Time<sup>12</sup></b>	The percentage of adults who sleep fewer than 7 hours each night.

## Key Findings

Based on this initial assessment, the following areas may warrant deeper investigation and potential intervention:

### 1. Chronic Disease & Lifestyle-Related Health Risks

- High rates of **obesity**, **hypertension**, and **short sleep duration** indicate a need for community-wide wellness programs and improved access to nutrition and preventive care.

### 2. Poverty & Economic Disparities

- A **24.5% poverty rate** combined with relatively low bachelor's degree attainment suggests opportunities for **economic empowerment initiatives**, workforce development, and adult education.

### 3. Housing Stability & Infrastructure

- With over **1,700 vacant units**, there may be underlying issues of **housing quality, affordability**, or mismatch between housing stock and community needs.

### 4. Healthcare Access & Broadband

- Gaps in **healthcare coverage** (6.4%) and **broadband access** (12%) could impact access to telehealth, job opportunities, and education.

### 5. Mental Health and Depression

- The data show high rates of **depression (20.7%)** and poor mental health prevalence (18.5%). Further exploration of mental health support availability is recommended.

Compared to both Illinois and the United States overall, Alton exhibits a number of health and socioeconomic disparities. The poverty rate in Alton (24.5%) is more than double the state average (11.6%) and significantly above the national average (12.5%). Likewise, median household income in Alton (\$53,005) is substantially lower than the state (\$80,306) and national (\$77,719) figures. Educational attainment is also lower, with only 21.2% of Alton adults holding a bachelor’s degree or higher, compared to 38.3% statewide and 36.2% nationally.

In terms of health outcomes, Alton residents report higher rates of chronic conditions to state and national levels

## **Conclusion**

This preliminary data profile provides a foundation for understanding some of the critical needs and disparities in Alton, Illinois. Continued data collection, engagement with community stakeholders, and monitoring of social determinants of health will be key to shaping responsive and sustainable interventions.

## **Sources**

<https://www.cdc.gov/places/index.html>

<https://data.census.gov/>

<https://www.americashealthrankings.org>

QR Code?