IN THE RED:
THE US FAILURE TO DELIVER ON A PROMISE OF RACIAL EQUALITY

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
SOLUTIONS NETWORK
A GLOBAL INITIATIVE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS

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For a complete list of data sources, refer to www.github.com/sdsna

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CONTENTS

4 Foreword by Dr. Helen Bond
8 The Sustainable Development Goals
9 In the Red: The US Failure to Deliver on a Promise of Racial Equality
10 The Leave No One Behind Agenda (box)
21 References
23 Data Sources
32 Appendix: Maps & Dashboards

FOREWORD BY DR. HELEN BOND

In its pronouncements on human rights, the United States Government has recently invoked the term “genocide” to describe human rights abuses in China and the Turkish massacres of Armenians during and after World War I. It is therefore fitting and important to remember that the charge of genocide has powerfully and cogently been pointed towards the US as well, regarding the brutal treatment of Black and Indigenous communities in the US.

The claim of genocide was put forth to the United Nations General Assembly in 1951 by the Civil Rights Congress (CRC) led by William L. Patterson and Paul Robeson. The petition charged that the US government was in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. The petition used the United Nation’s recently adopted definition of genocide: “Any intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, racial, or religious group is genocide” (Civil Rights Congress, 1951, p. xxv). While the attempt was not successful in bringing charges of genocide against the US, it is a prime example of how international instruments have been used to apply local pressure to advance civil rights in the US.

Chief Deskaheh of the Cayuga Nation—the legendary leader of the Haudenosaunee people made a similar voyage across the big waters in 1923 to "bring his peoples” case before the League of Nations in Geneva (Garrow, 2008, p. 341). While he was denied permission to appear before the League, he argued his case before the people in a press conference about the violation of his people's rights. These human rights violations resulted in the widespread depopulation of Indigenous peoples across the US. For example, California’s Native American population was reduced by nearly 80 percent between 1846 and 1870. While a number of factors contributed to the decline, historian Benjamin Madley (2016) argues—and quite convincingly that genocide was one of them. What seemed like a failure to Chief Deskaheh was one step toward the passage of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples adopted by the General Assembly in 2007. The Declaration builds on existing human rights frameworks to ensure the survival, dignity and human rights of Indigenous peoples worldwide.

Fast forward, 98 years later, Black, Hispanic, Asian, and Indigenous peoples have died disproportionate to their presence in the US population from COVID-19. On April 8, 2021, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) declares racism a serious public health threat in the US, as police officer Derek Chauvin is

convicted of the murder of George Floyd, a Black man that died under the weight of Chauvin's knee to his neck (CDC, 2021). Southern states are enacting new laws restricting voting and anti-trans healthcare laws. Indigenous sovereignty in the US continues to be ignored. Violence against the rights of migrants crossing the southern border remains a serious concern. Antisemitism is on the rise. Anti-Asian hate crimes, which are disproportionately directed at women, harken back to an earlier age when anti-Asian sentiment expressed itself in the Chinese Exclusion Act which prohibited some Chinese laborers from entering the country (Kil, 2012; Price, 2018). The Act became law on May 6,1882 and also barred Chinese people from obtaining naturalized citizenship. While the Chinese Exclusion Act was hotly debated in Congress, both Houses ultimately agreed that "The gate must be closed," a statement made by Representative Edward Valentine of Nebraska (Lee, 2016, p.43).

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015 stands in the legacy of Chief Deskaheh, the CRC and the efforts of people of color everywhere in declaring a vision for sustainable development that is firmly rooted in cultural diversity, equity, and justice. *In the Red: the US Failure to Deliver on a Promise of Racial Equality* uses international instruments to demonstrate how massive inequality, racism, and discrimination are decimating the lives, aspirations, and futures of people of color in the US.

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) define the American dream. Food on the table and a little savings in the bank. A good job with a livable wage. Clean water to drink and clean air to breathe. A good education and a decent place to live that is safe, with good roads, schools, transit systems, bridges, internet, powered by renewable energies, with a little culture on the side. Fair treatment, equal opportunity, and the right to vote. Access to health care and the opportunity to live a long life without dying in childbirth, ingesting lead, or getting shot. And finally, a chance to do as well or maybe even better than your parents. Many of these basic needs are enshrined as fundamental human rights that, if respected, would help eliminate poverty (Alston, 2017)

The SDGs and their 169 targets provide a framework to measure progress toward these fundamental goals. *In the Red* measures how differently US states are meeting these benchmarks for white communities in comparison to Black, Hispanic, Indigenous, Asian, Multiracial or 'Other' communities. The project is rooted in the transformative "Leave No One Behind (LNOB)" SDG agenda which requires cities, states, and national governments to eradicate racism and discrimination that undermine the realization of the SDGs.

How far have we progressed? *In the Red* features interactive maps with states ranked by their overall score or progress towards achieving the SDGs, when measured by the progress of the racial or ethnic

group that has been left the furthest behind. A score of 100 indicates that all SDGs have been achieved for all racial and ethnic groups. If these composite scores were represented by letter grades based on a grading scale of 90-100 A, 80-89 B, 70-79 C, 60-69 D, and below 60 F; every State in the Union would receive a failing grade of "F" for their performance toward achieving the 17 SDGs for Black, Hispanic, Indigenous, Asian, Multiracial or 'Other' communities.

Consider the SDG grade card: No poverty (SDG 1), "F." Health and well-being (SDG 3), "F." Quality Education (SDG 4), "F." Gender Equality (SDG 5), "F." Even access to decent work and economic growth (Goal 8) for Black, Hispanic, Asian, and Indigenous communities in the richest country in the world received a failing grade. South Dakota ranked the lowest at 7.8 (out of 100) and Utah the highest 43.7 (out of 100). Poverty described in SDG 1 disproportionately impacts people of color but affects all groups. There are 8 million more whites in poverty than Black people (Alston, 2017). In 2016, approximately 31 percent of poor children are white, 24 percent are Black, 36 percent are Hispanic, and 1 percent are indigenous (Alston, 2017).

Of particular concern is the low score states received for SDG 16: The promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development. Minnesota, the state where police officer Derek Chauvin was convicted of the murder of George Floyd, has an overall score of 4.1 (out of 100) for SDG 16. Other states such as South Dakota score even lower (0.46), while 12 others get zero: Arkansas, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana , Nebraska, Nevada, Oklahoma, Oregon, Texas, and Wisconsin.

How did we get here? *In the Red: the US Failure to Deliver on a Promise of Racial Equality* not only focuses on combating systemic racism, but also recognizes that root causes—both immediate and structural play a role. Yet simply identifying who is being left behind is not enough. Emphasis must be placed on understanding why certain populations are left behind and repairing the harm done. This requires an understanding and recognition of history— we didn't get here overnight. We've been here a long time. Understanding how things got so bad can point to the way forward and clarify how the US might keep its promise of racial equality.

On August 28, 1963, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., proclaimed—as he stood on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, that America defaulted on her promissory note to which every American was heir in his famous "I have a Dream" speech (Vail, 2006, p. 67). *In the Red* shows the depth of that default. Dr. King compares the lack of civil rights and economic justice for Black Americans to a bounced check—returned insufficient funds. He notes that racial justice could not be achieved without economic justice (Vail, 2006). What good was the right to sit at the lunch counter, if you didn't have a quarter to pay for the hamburger? And some of the people trying to deny you the right to sit at the counter, couldn't pay for the hamburger either.

Dr. King's Poor People's Campaign (PPC) was founded on a multiracial coalition around race and class, as he explained in the *Trumpet of Conscience* (1967, p. 650): "The dispossessed of this nation—the poor, both white and Negro live in a cruelly unjust society. They must organize a revolution against injustice." Dr. King believed that structural injustice was the root cause of poverty that affected all people. Other communities joined Dr. King's PPC Campaign, such as the American Indian, Puerto Rican, Mexican American, and poor white communities, to fight for economic security.

Dr. King never realized that revolution. Peter Ling (1998, p. 17) calls the PPC his "half-forgotten dream." He was assassinated as it was taking shape, but others have taken up the cause. Cross-racial solidarity of poor people to overcome economic inequality is absolutely crucial to the realization of racial justice and sustainability.

Leaving No One Behind, the transformative agenda of the SDGs builds on King's vision of the PPC and the Beloved Community. It is the promise that all people everywhere would be guaranteed the unalienable rights of life, liberty, and a sustainable future. Onward.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
1 NO POVERTY
2 ZERO HUNGER
3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
4 QUALITY EDUCATION
5 GENDER EQUALITY
6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION
7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY
8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH
9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES
11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES
12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION
13 CLIMATE ACTION
14 LIFE BELOW WATER
15 LIFE ON LAND
16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS
17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

In the Red: the US Failure to Deliver on a Promise of Racial Equality

There is a long history of racial justice leaders in the United States using international tools and frameworks to hold the US accountable to its promise of racial equality. As Dr. Bond refers to in the Forword, the promise of racial equality these leaders were fighting for -- of tribal sovereignty, of equality across peoples, of freedom from violence, or as Martin Luther King Jr. put it, of "sacred obligation" -- remains unrealized. A recent international framework, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted in 2015 by all 193 member states of the UN, including the US, may offer anew a chance to use international tools to measure progress towards, and create accountability for, racial equality.

The 17 SDGs and 169 targets cover every aspect of American life -- from health and wellbeing, clean water and sanitation, quality education, decent work, to taking action to combat climate change and reduce its impacts. These indicators provide a framework to measure how differently resources and services are provided to white communities when compared with Black, Hispanic, Indigenous, Asian, Multiracial or 'Other' communities.[1] The SDGs represent humankind's shared principles and commitments, and are founded on the transformative "Leave No One Behind" Agenda which requires cities, states, and national governments to eradicate the racism, discrimination, and inequality that undermine the realization of a sustainable future.

This project, *In the Red: the US failure to Deliver on a Promise of Racial Equality,* uses the SDGs to describe and interrogate the nature and extent of racial inequality in the US. The SDGs provide an opportunity to extend analysis of racial inequality beyond any one issue area to a broad set of metrics that can be considered together, and through doing so, this project sheds light on the patterns of inequality, and creates a systemic picture of this broken promise.

The results indicate that the racial gaps in delivering resources and services in the US is both deep and wide. On average across states, white communities receive resources and services at a rate approximately three times higher than the racial community that has been left furthest behind. Inequalities appear across education, employment, exposure to pollution, justice, and life expectancy, amongst others. Crucially, the full extent of this unequal treatment is unknown, due to the lack of available racial data and publicly available analysis of critical public needs like hunger and maternal health (see section on Limitations below for more details).

[1] In 2010, the US Office of Management and Budget (OMB) which offers guidelines around racial data collection to the US Census, offered an umbrella category of "Some Other Race," this can, but does not necessarily, include the option to detail that race (US Census 2020).

In the Red is one of the first known attempts to use the SDGs to assess unequal racial delivery of sustainability in the United States. This project is accompanied by an online data visualization that displays the geographic distribution of racial inequality in the US. This work builds on the work done in a recent SDSN report *Never More Urgent*, which outlines the policies and practices that contributed to the gaps highlighted here (Lynch et al., 2020).

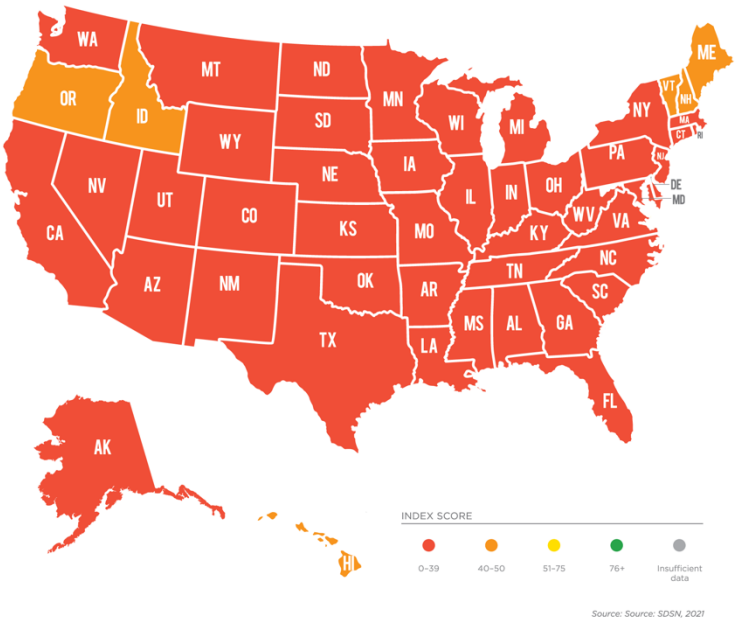
The Leave No One Behind Agenda

As the Sustainable Development Goals were adopted in 2015, a key declaration was included. It is what is now referred to as the "Leave No One Behind" Agenda and it outlines how the SDGs are to be achieved. It asserts that:

> As we embark on this great collective journey, we pledge that no one will be left behind. Recognizing that the dignity of the human person is fundamental, we wish to see the Goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society. **And we will endeavor to reach the furthest behind first.**
>
> - UNGA Resolution 70/1, 2015

This agreement around how the SDGs are to be delivered requires, of course, a clear understanding of who is being left behind.

Figure 1: Overall Performance on the SDGs
Source: SDSN, 2021



Given that states are only a third of the way, on average, to delivering the SDGs to the racial community left furthest behind, achieving the SDGs in the US will require significant efforts to resolve racial inequality both in addition to, and through, sustainability efforts that include delivering lead-free water, ending hunger, and improving infrastructure.

In the Red: A Long Road to SDG Achievement

Overall, the US has not been successful in delivering the SDGs; a 2018 SDSN report using a similar methodology to the one used here, showed that on average US states were 47 percent of the way to SDG achievement (Sachs et al, 2018).[2] Figure 1, however, shows the impact of accounting for race when measuring SDG progress: most states are 'in the red.' The map (Figure 1) shows SDGs outcomes mapped to 'stoplight' colors, where red is assigned to states with scores under 40, and green is assigned to states with scores over 75, with orange and yellow indicating progress in between.

The results were constructed by considering three factors: 1) context indicators that do not have racially specific data but describe the context in which people live (e.g. clean water); 2) level indicators that measure how close the state has gotten a community to SDG achievement (e.g. percent living in poverty per community); 3) relative indicators that measure how unequally SDG achievement is measured (e.g. how many times more likely white people are to be employed when compared with Hispanic people). Together these three types of indicators are combined, whenever possible, in each Goal and contribute to the overall score.[2] Considering level and relative indicators separately can give an indication of where implementation needs to be improved and where inequality is greatest.

[2] Full methodology can be found at us-inequality.sdgindex.org/methodology or at www.github.com/sdsna

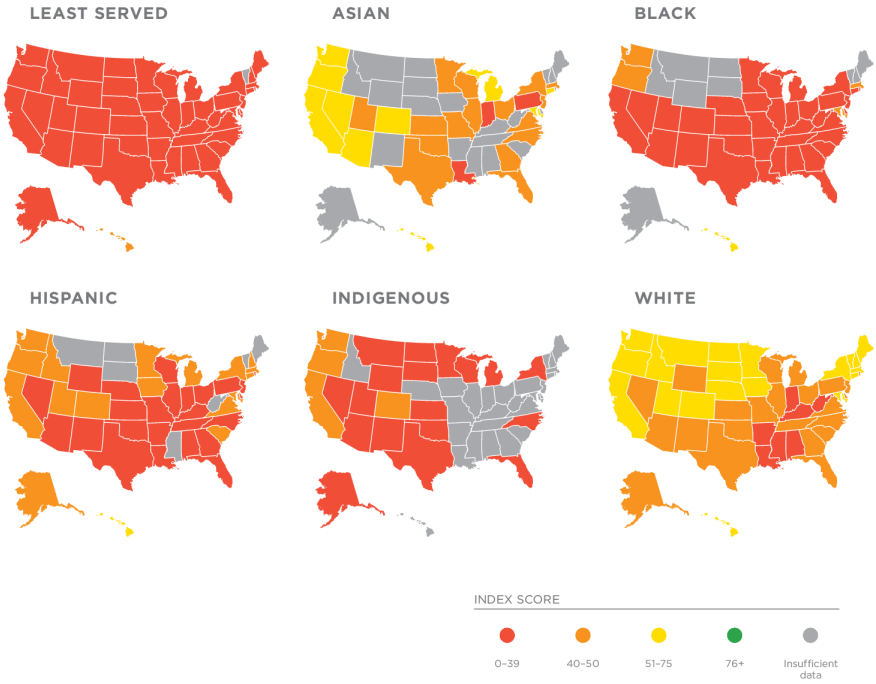


Figure 2: SDG Implementation by race and state
Source: SDSN, 2021

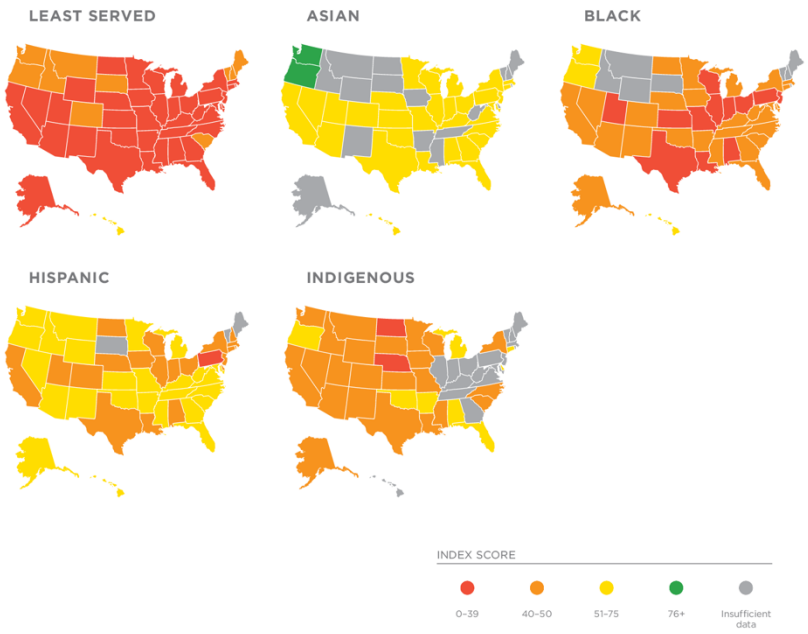


Figure 3: Inequality in SDG delivery by race and state
Source: SDSN 2021

Figure 2 and Figure 3 are shown here as an illustration of these ideas, however caution is urged when interpreting differences due to reduced indicator numbers used to calculate these averages. Figure 2 shows how the implementation of the SDGs varies by state and race. A pattern emerges where the SDGs are implemented more successfully for white communities than other communities. Figure 3 shows how inequality varies by state, and where inequality is greatest for certain communities (in both figures, some racial communities aren't shown because there was not enough data to calculate outcomes in this way).

These patterns hold in the overall results as well, when the data is disaggregated by race, the results show that Black and Indigenous communities are the ones most often left behind, see Figure 4 (although racial data is not equally available for all groups, as discussed further below).

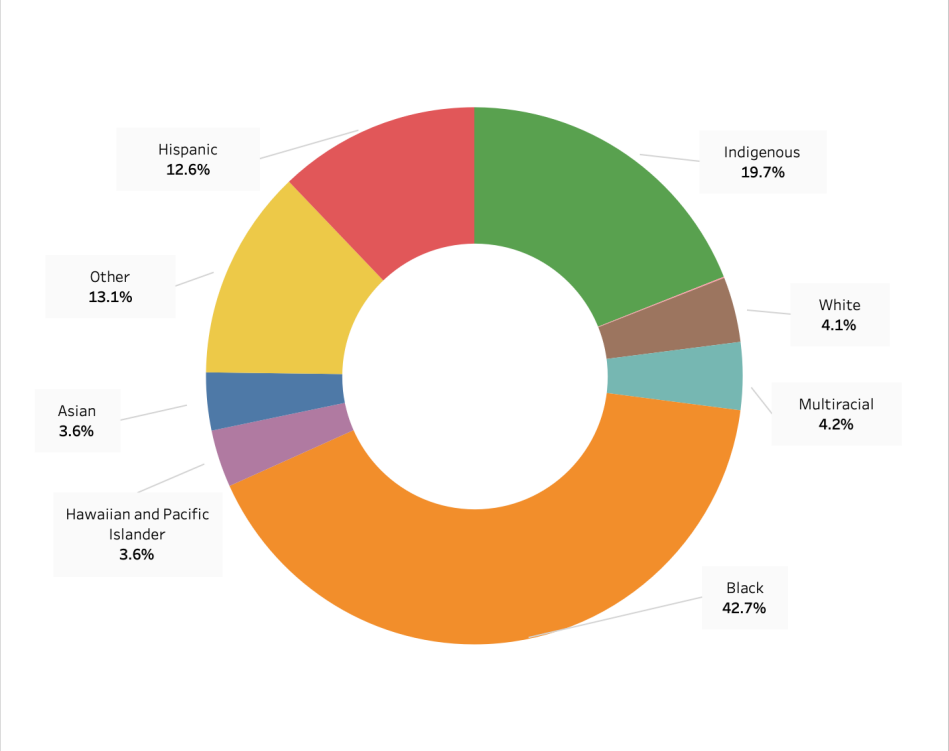


Figure 4: Racial group least served by state and indicator, Source: SDSN, 2021

Indicators with the largest average state racial disparity are displayed in Table 1. Notably, the two most unequal indicators involve children: percent of students in high poverty schools, and detained youth. The implications of this are troubling - inequality ingrained so early in life can compound over decades and across generations. In sum, **the results suggest deep and pervasive racial inequalities persist in how states deliver programs, services, and resources across the US, and beyond any one topic area.**

Table 1: Indicators with largest disparities

How Many Times Better a State Delivered the SDGs to the White Community than it did to the Least Served Community*					
Topic	**Average times better for white community**	**Times better for white community in state with least inequality**	**Times better for white community in state with most inequality**	**State with the largest inequality, and community least served**	**Related SDGs**
Percent of students in high poverty schools (>75% Free and Reduced-Price Lunch)	8.5 times	1 (equal)	42.1 times	North Dakota, Indigenous students	
Detained youth aged 10+, per 100,000 youth in population	7.0 times	1.1 times	30.1 times	New Jersey, Black children	
Percent of people living in high poverty neighborhood	6.3 times	1.4 times	28 times	Alaska, Indigenous people	
Jail and prison incarceration rates of population aged 15-64, per 100,000 people	6 times	2.4 times	12.1 times	New Jersey, Black people	
Racial Disparity in Police Involved Fatalities	4.9 times	1.4 times	19.5 times	Rhode Island, Black people	
Percent of people without health insurance	4.1 times	1.9 times	8.8 times	Maryland, Other racial groups	

*Comparison community varies by indicator and state

Importance of Disaggregation

Whole group averages, or population averages, can leave out important information, particularly about inequality. In this project, performance on the SDGs was measured by the racial group least served by the state. This approach helps to clarify if states show preference to certain racial groups in delivery of sustainability, and how much work remains to be done to deliver on the promise of racial equality. Looking at averages indeed obscures important understandings of inequality.

Figure 6 shows the racial distribution of children living in poverty. Overall, troublingly high percentages of children live in poverty. When this is disaggregated by race, clear racial stratification is revealed, white people (represented in brown) have among the lowest rates of child poverty, where Black, Hispanic and

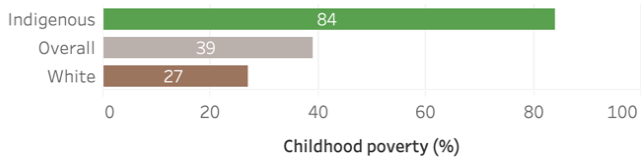


Figure 5: Childhood Poverty in South Dakota, 2018, Source: 2021 SDSN analysis of KIDS COUNT data

Indigenous people (represented in orange, green and red, respectively) are clustered at the top of the graph with highest rates of poverty. In South Dakota, for example, 39 percent of children were living in poverty (see Figure 5). When broken down by race, 27 percent of white children were in poverty and 84 percent of Indigenous children were in poverty. The population, or whole group, average of 39 percent obscures the reality that white children are receiving resources and benefits approximately three times more than Indigenous children.

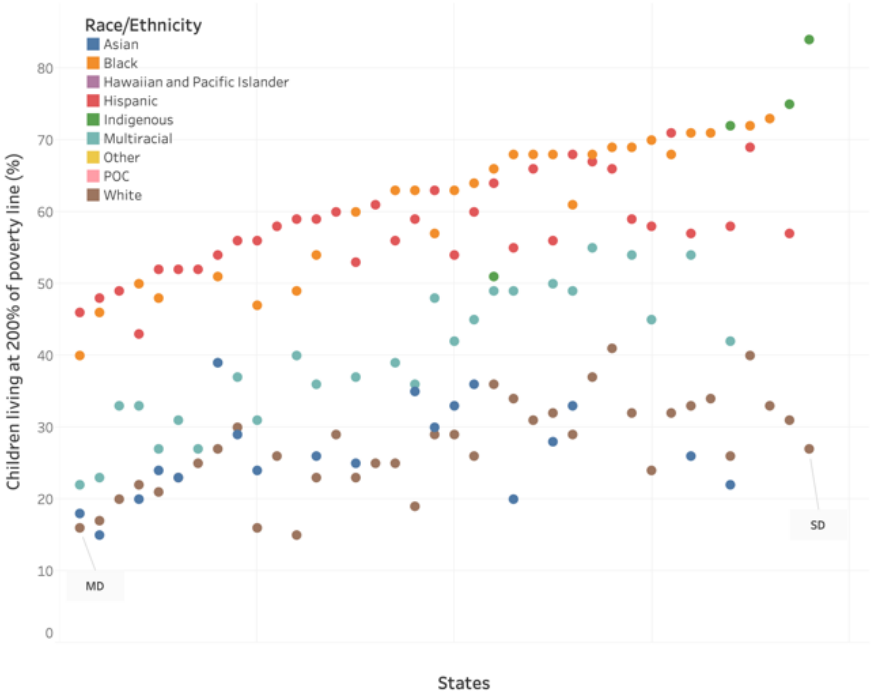


Figure 6: Children living below 200% of the poverty line (%), 2018, Source: 2021 SDSN analysis of KIDS COUNT data

Figure 7 shows racial disparity in infant mortality rates: the gap between Black infants (indicated by orange) and white, Hispanic and 'Other' infants (brown, red, yellow circles, respectively) is evident. Even if states were able to ramp up service delivery across these goal areas, without an approach that takes into account that some communities have received better and/or more services and benefits than others, the inequalities will remain unaddressed, and the SDGs will not be achieved.

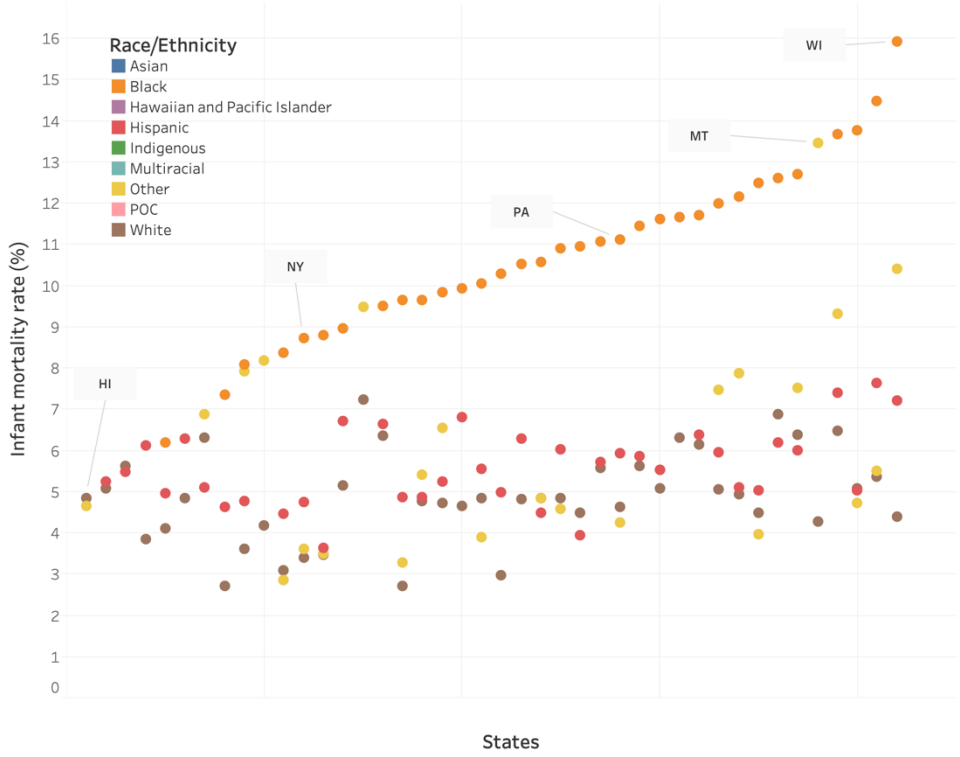


Figure 7: Infant mortality by state and race (per 1,000 live births), 2017

The Leave No One Behind Agenda

Because gaps in how states deliver the SDGs to racial communities are so large, unless the inequality itself is addressed, the SDGs will not be achieved. The Leave No One Behind Agenda takes this a step further, maintaining that those who have been least served by progress on sustainable development must be those first addressed through the SDGs.

Figure 8 shows the percentage of people from each group that are not covered by health insurance. Across all states, the group that is most insured is nearly always white, and the group that is least insured is nearly always the community that does not identify as one of the seven offered Census race categories (the Census refers to this group as "Some other race", see footnote above). On the left side of the graph, Massachusetts is the state with the lowest percentage of uninsured people overall, as well as the least amount of inequality across racial groups (although inequality is still an issue, with 3.4 times more people of "Other races" being uninsured than white people). Maryland is all the way to the right of the graph, with people of "Other races" being nearly nine times more likely to be uninsured than white people. This opens important questions about the racial classification system being used by the Census: how well does it resonate with those who respond to it, and who gets invisibilized by its use. Essential to repairing this inequality of health care is understanding who needs coverage, as well as what best performing states are doing to improve racial equality in covering their inhabitants.

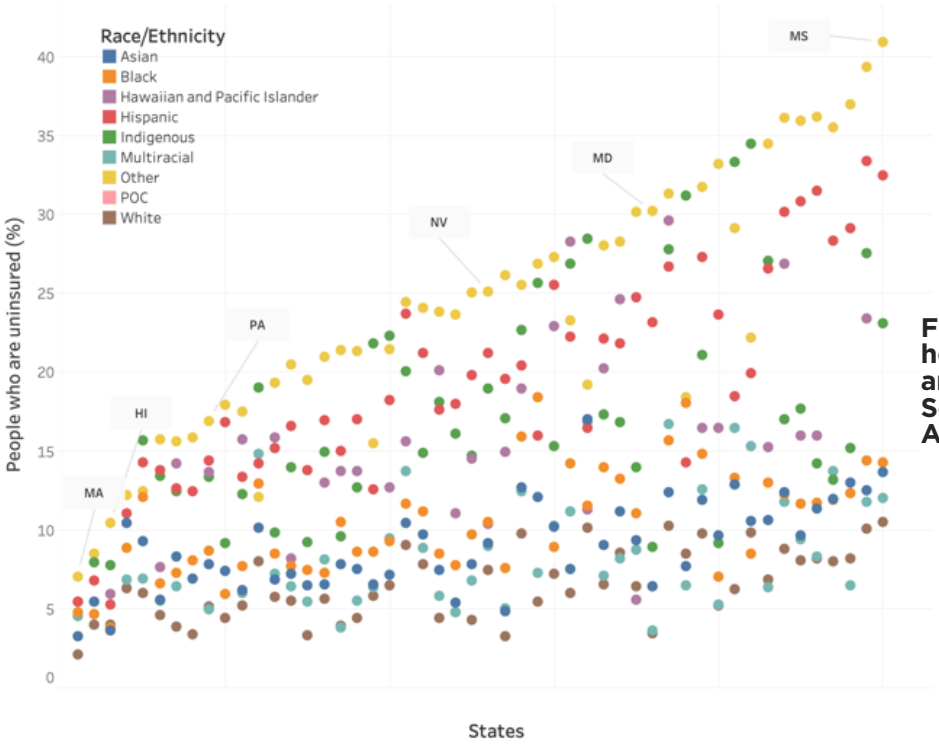


Figure 8: Percent without health insurance by race and state, 2014 – 2018 Source: 2021 SDSN Analysis of ACS data

There is much left to do to understand the Leave No One Behind Agenda in the US. Goal 5: Gender Equality begins to unpack how gender inequality plays out in the US and how it intersects with race, but a more comprehensive analysis is warranted. Similarly, indicators in Goal 1: No Poverty, shed some light on the intersections between race and class. Goal 1 had the lowest scores of all indicators, with an average score of less than 1 out of a possible 100. Much has been written about the crisis of poverty in the US, including a report by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty in 2017 (Alston, 2017).

Black, Hispanic, Indigenous, Pacific Islander and Asian communities are disproportionately represented in those living below the poverty line, and, nearly half of all poor people in the US are white. This highlights an important implication of the Leave No One Behind Agenda, it is not meant to pit communities against each other, but rather to remind us how much everyone has to gain by building and advocating for sustainable communities that serve all of us.

Limitations and Suggestions for Further Research

A significant barrier to evaluating progress is the unavailability of racially disaggregated data across a variety of issue areas. For too many important topic areas, there is currently no racially disaggregated data available at the state level, areas like food insecurity, maternal mortality and lead in drinking water. Even in the areas where there was some racially disaggregated data, it was often not available for all groups (see Figure 9). Particularly missing were measures of environmental justice. In SDGs focusing on Water, Clean Energy, and Life on Land (SDGs 6, 7, and 15), racially disaggregated data was not found, although there is research supporting that clean water, for example, is unequally distributed across racial groups. The reasons for these gaps vary: for some indicators, data is not tracked through a nationally organized database, in some cases, the data hasn't been released on schedule and is therefore outdated, and in other cases, surveys are not large enough to disaggregate by race. While particular estimates may vary with methodological choices and data selection, **it is clear that the overarching finding of widespread racial inequality is supported by the available data.** Though broad measurement and analysis are better than none at all, improved data collection and reporting is vital. As was made clear with the disparate impacts of COVID-19, understanding to whom resources are being distributed has real life implications and is an important part of holding democratic institutions accountable to promises of equality.

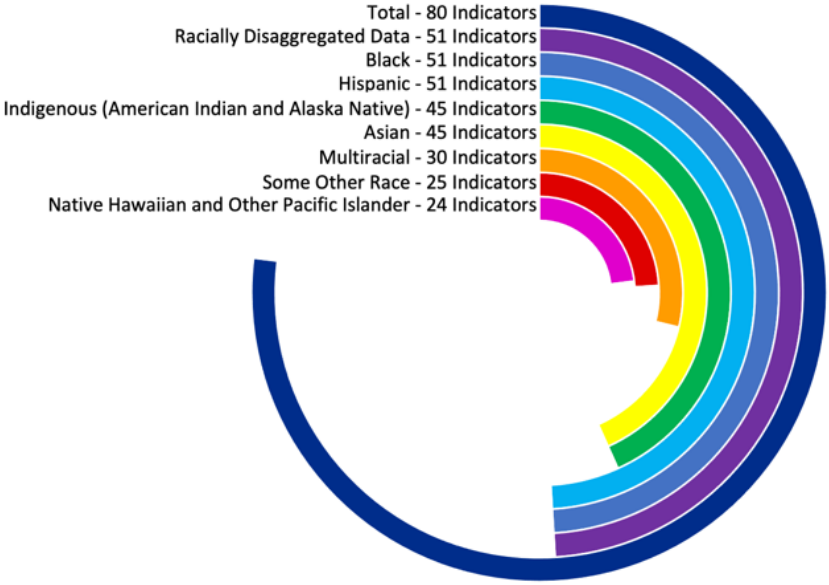


Figure 9: Availability of disaggregated data by race for included indicators Source: SDSN 2021

The SDGs cannot be attained in part, or for only some. While this work provides an overview of the current context, more nuanced investigation and research is needed. Both the generalization, and the lack of standardization, of racial categories across data sources collapses important differences within and across racial groups. The UN resolution adopted in 2015 included a commitment to review the SDG progress "based on evidence, informed by country-led evaluations and data which is high-quality, accessible, timely, reliable and disaggregated by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migration status, disability and

geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts" (UNGA Resolution 70/1, 2015). People are often left behind due to a combination of intersecting identities and factors; they remain hidden in averages. Evaluating the Leave No One Behind Agenda through the lens of gender, ability, class and other identities are undoubtedly important and urgent. Disaggregating data along two axes such as race and location—is revealing. But an even more refined analysis using multilevel disaggregation, such as looking at women and race in urban settings, would likely reveal even starker inequalities. Those are not included here and are important areas for future work. Other areas for further exploration include the use of longitudinal data to understand how these inequalities are changing over time.

Finally, as the Leave No One Behind Agenda continues to be analyzed in the US context, it is essential that further research is done in collaboration and following the leadership of the communities least served. History is full of examples of how data has been used to surveil, not empower, the least served communities. Following the leadership of these communities is one of the best ways to ensure that improving collection and analysis of racially disaggregated data is done in a way that serves and respects their sovereignty and agency.[3]

[3] Portions of this section are reproduced in the Methodology. The full methodology can be found at www.usinequality.sdgindex.org or at www.github.com/sdsna

Conclusion

The interconnected nature of the SDGs helps reveal a pattern of broad racial inequality that extends across all measured Goals and geographies. While a lack of racially disaggregated data limits the full appraisal of the harms done, the overwhelming evidence from the available data shows widespread and deep inequality in how the US states have delivered development thus far. These results point to the insidious and structural nature of racial inequality in the US. It is not the failure of any community, but of unfair systems that have led to unequal and unsustainable outcomes. Repairing the harms of racial inequality, therefore, should be equally structural and ubiquitous. Crucially, a business-as-usual approach will not be sufficient.

As Dr. Bond referred to in the Foreword, Black, Indigenous and other people of Color, have a history of researching, organizing, and advocating that is as long as the history of broken promises. As this generation petitions the conscience of the American people and demands the US deliver on its promise of racial equality, the SDGs may be an international mechanism to support that accountability.

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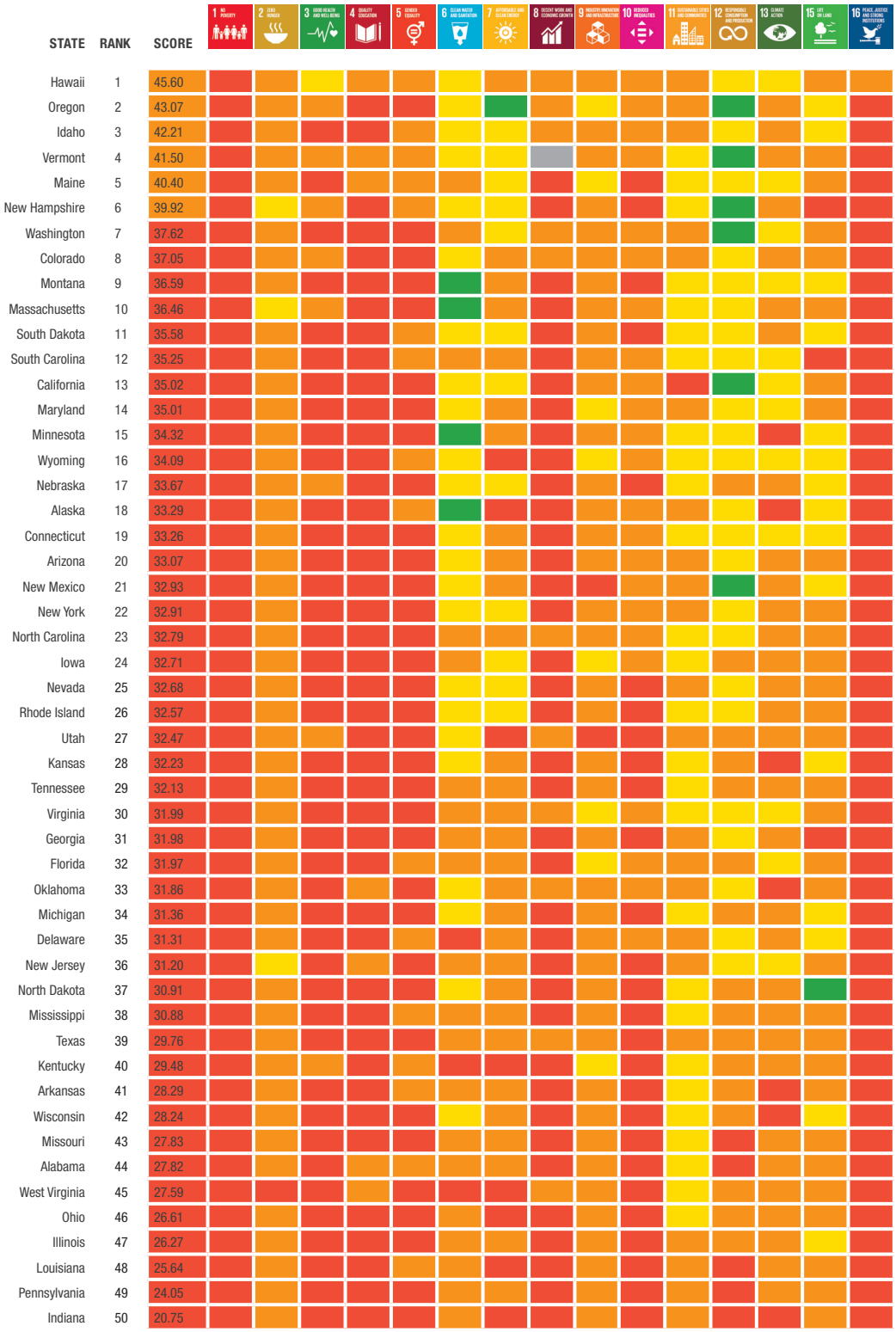
SDSN USA is a network of 150+ research institutions across the United States and unincorporated territories. The network builds pathways toward achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the United States by mobilizing research, outreach, collective action, and global cooperation. SDSN USA is one of more than 40 national and regional SDSN networks globally. It is hosted by the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) in New York City, and is chaired by Professors Jeffrey Sachs (Columbia University), Helen Bond (Howard University), Dan Esty (Yale University), and Gordon McCord (UC San Diego).

The Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) has been operating since 2012 under the auspices of the UN Secretary-General. SDSN mobilizes global scientific and technological expertise to promote practical solutions for sustainable development, including the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Climate Agreement.

Appendix

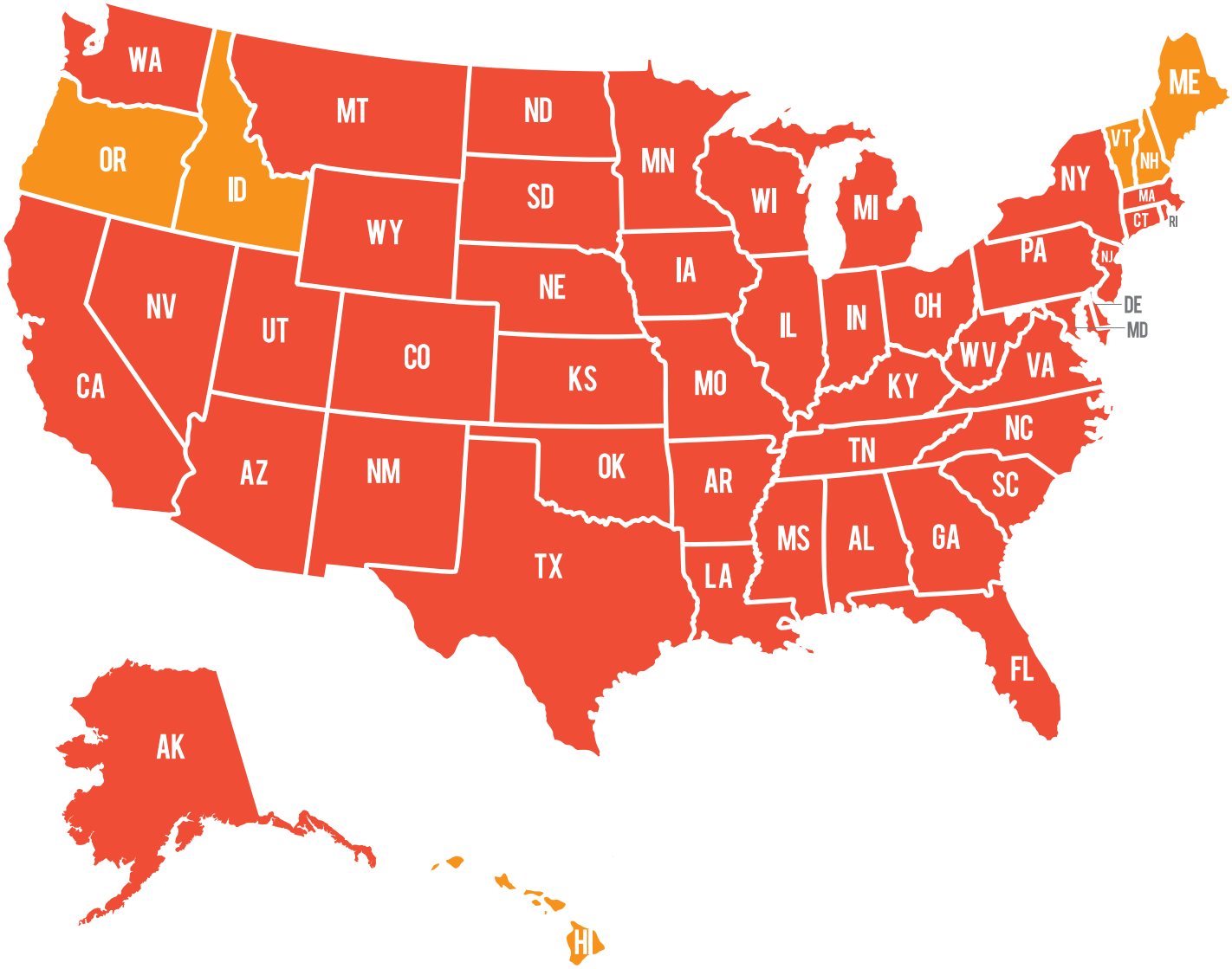
The following maps display the overall results when SDG progress is measured on how well the states deliver the SDGs to the indicated group. The dashboards display the overall results and the results for each goal by state. States and dashboard cells are grey when there was no data, or, when at the goal level there was data for less than 50 percent of included indicators. Overall scores are in grey if states had data for less than 80 percent of indicators or less than 75 percent of indicators that were racially disaggregated. Available data varied widely by race. Census racial categories are imprecise and not necessarily culturally relevant, these averages may conceal important sub-group variation. Small differences in states may not be statistically significant, and readers are urged to use caution when interpreting scores. More information about the methodology can be found at us-inequality.sdgindex.org/methodology

US SDG DELIVERY TO THE 'LEAST SERVED' COMMUNITY



STATE	RANK	SCORE
Hawaii	1	45.60
Oregon	2	43.07
Idaho	3	42.21
Vermont	4	41.50
Maine	5	40.40
New Hampshire	6	39.92
Washington	7	37.62
Colorado	8	37.05
Montana	9	36.59
Massachusetts	10	36.46
South Dakota	11	35.58
South Carolina	12	35.25
California	13	35.02
Maryland	14	35.01
Minnesota	15	34.32
Wyoming	16	34.09
Nebraska	17	33.67
Alaska	18	33.29
Connecticut	19	33.26
Arizona	20	33.07
New Mexico	21	32.93
New York	22	32.91
North Carolina	23	32.79
Iowa	24	32.71
Nevada	25	32.68
Rhode Island	26	32.57
Utah	27	32.47
Kansas	28	32.23
Tennessee	29	32.13
Virginia	30	31.99
Georgia	31	31.98
Florida	32	31.97
Oklahoma	33	31.86
Michigan	34	31.36
Delaware	35	31.31
New Jersey	36	31.20
North Dakota	37	30.91
Mississippi	38	30.88
Texas	39	29.76
Kentucky	40	29.48
Arkansas	41	28.29
Wisconsin	42	28.24
Missouri	43	27.83
Alabama	44	27.82
West Virginia	45	27.59
Ohio	46	26.61
Illinois	47	26.27
Louisiana	48	25.64
Pennsylvania	49	24.05
Indiana	50	20.75

US SDG DELIVERY TO THE 'LEAST SERVED' COMMUNITY

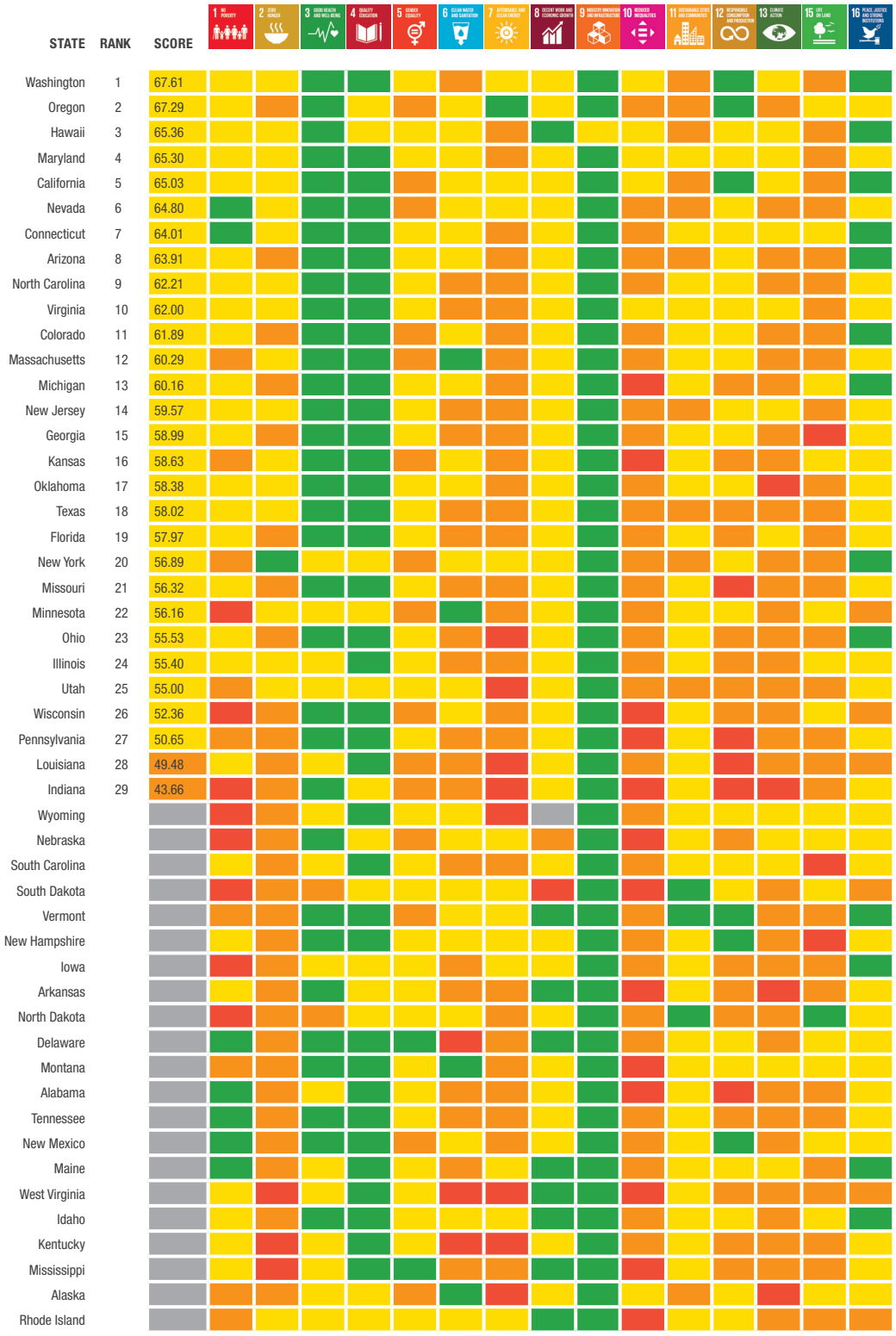


INDEX SCORE

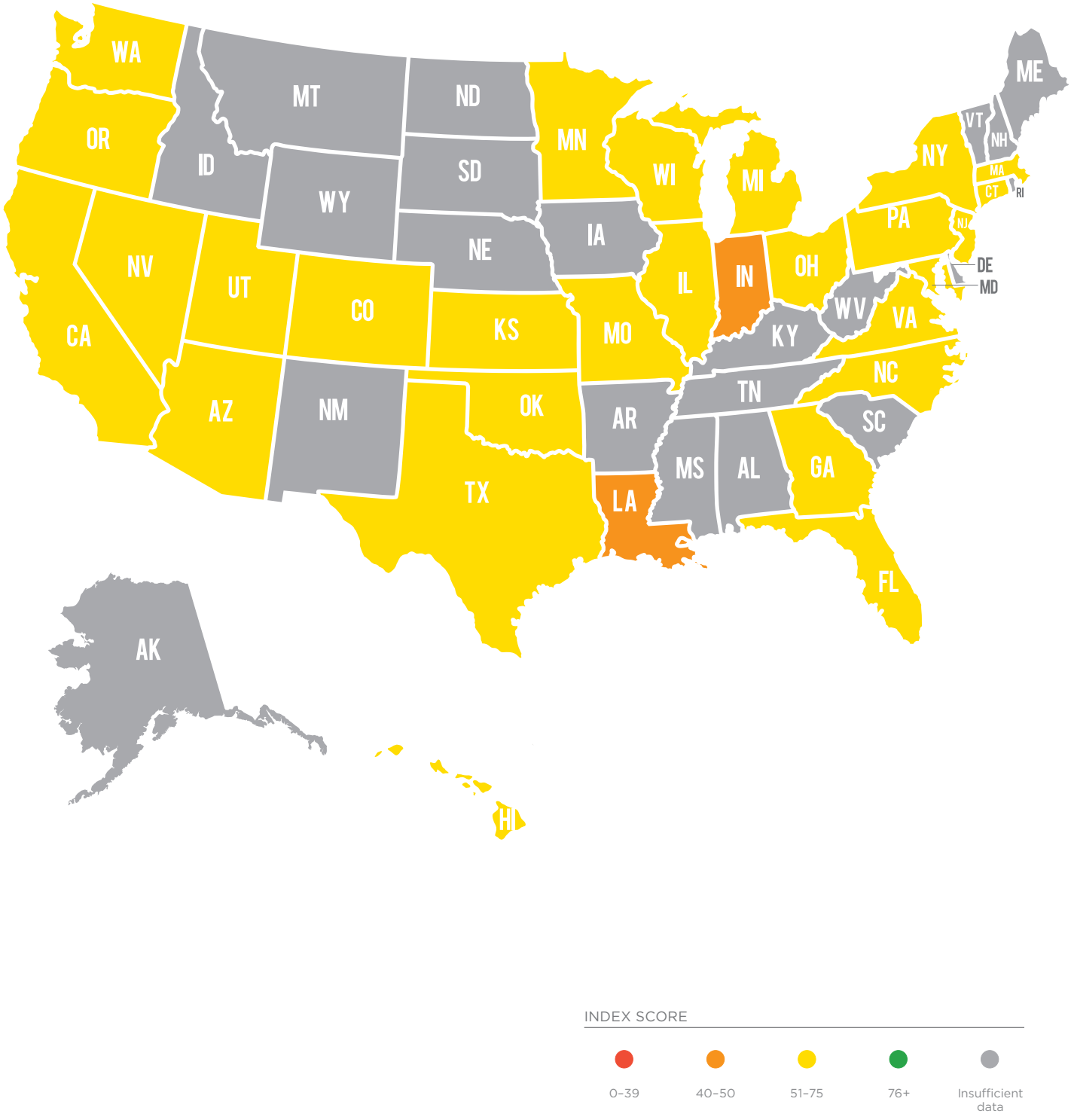
0–39	40–50	51–75	76+	Insufficient data

Source: Source: SDSN, 2021

US SDG DELIVERY TO ASIAN COMMUNITIES

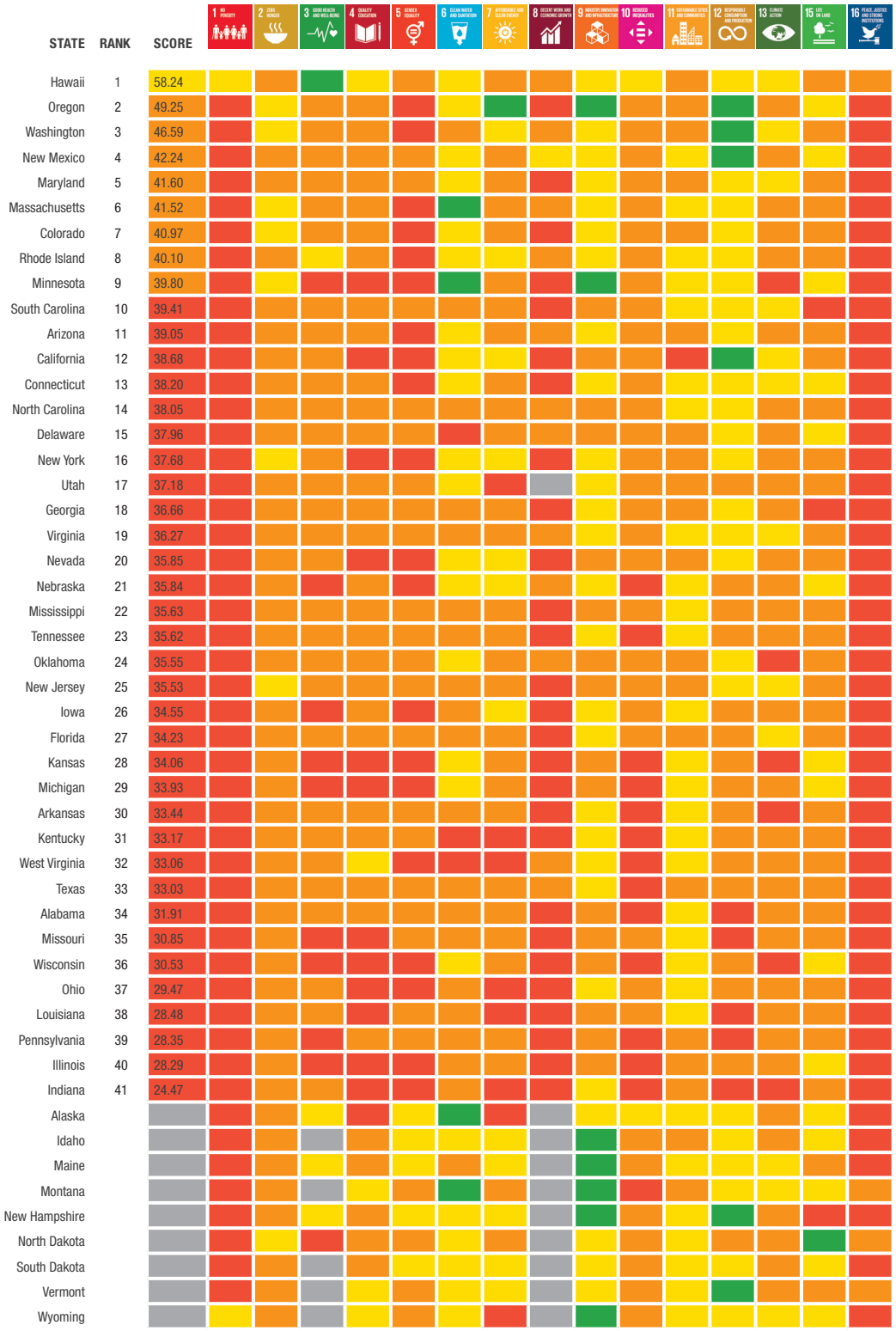


US SDG DELIVERY TO ASIAN COMMUNITIES

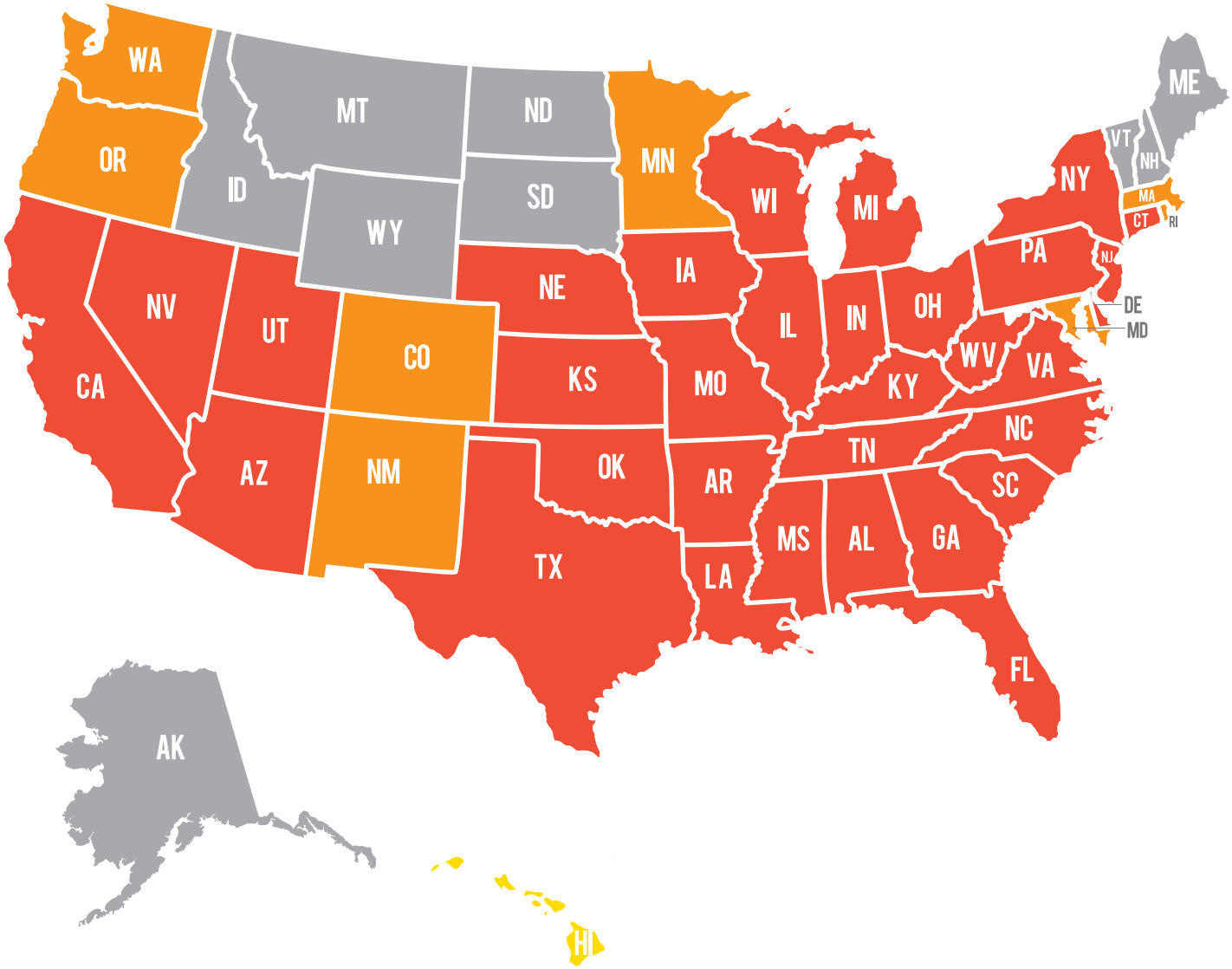


Source: Source: SDSN, 2021

US SDG DELIVERY TO BLACK COMMUNITIES

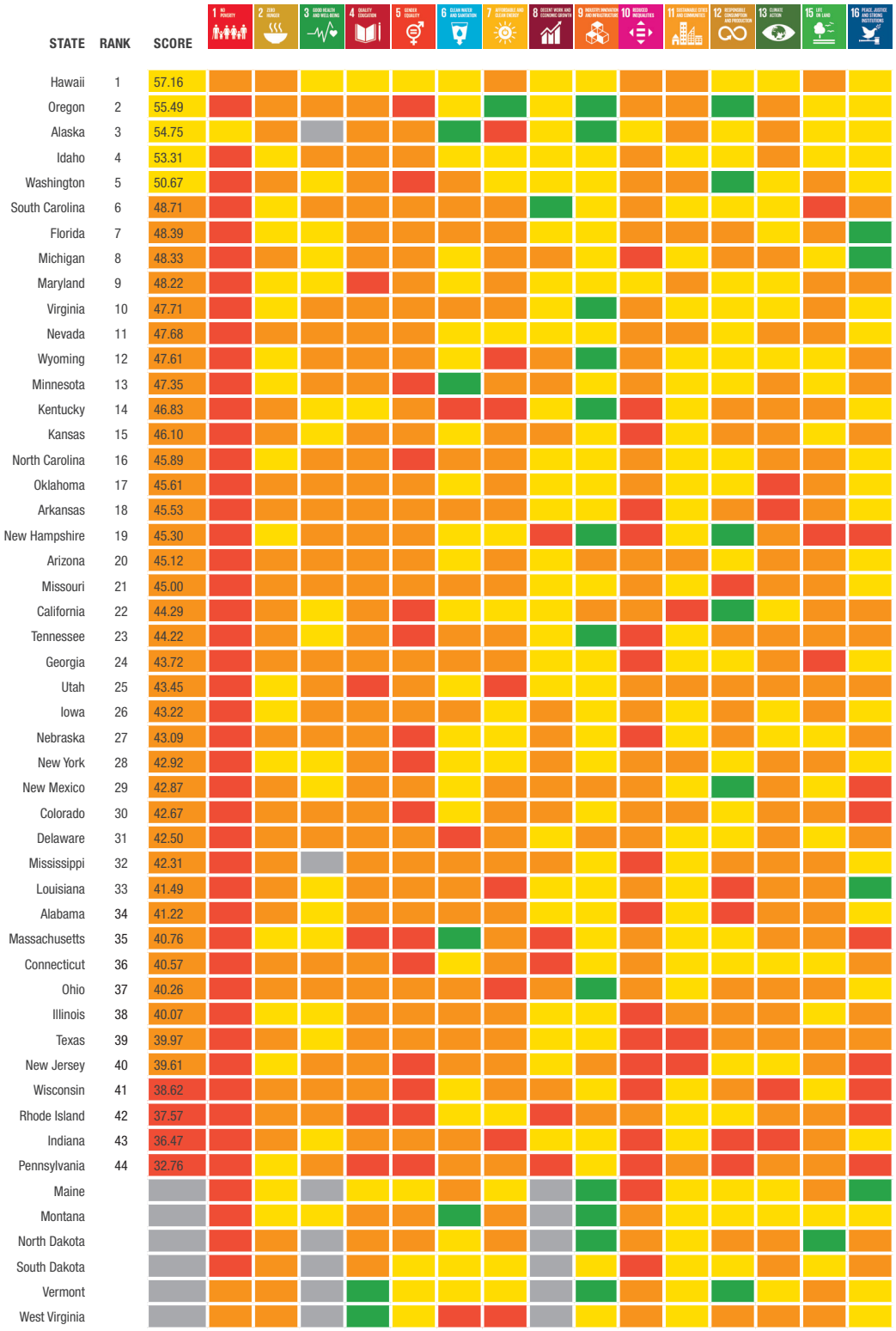


US SDG DELIVERY TO BLACK COMMUNITIES



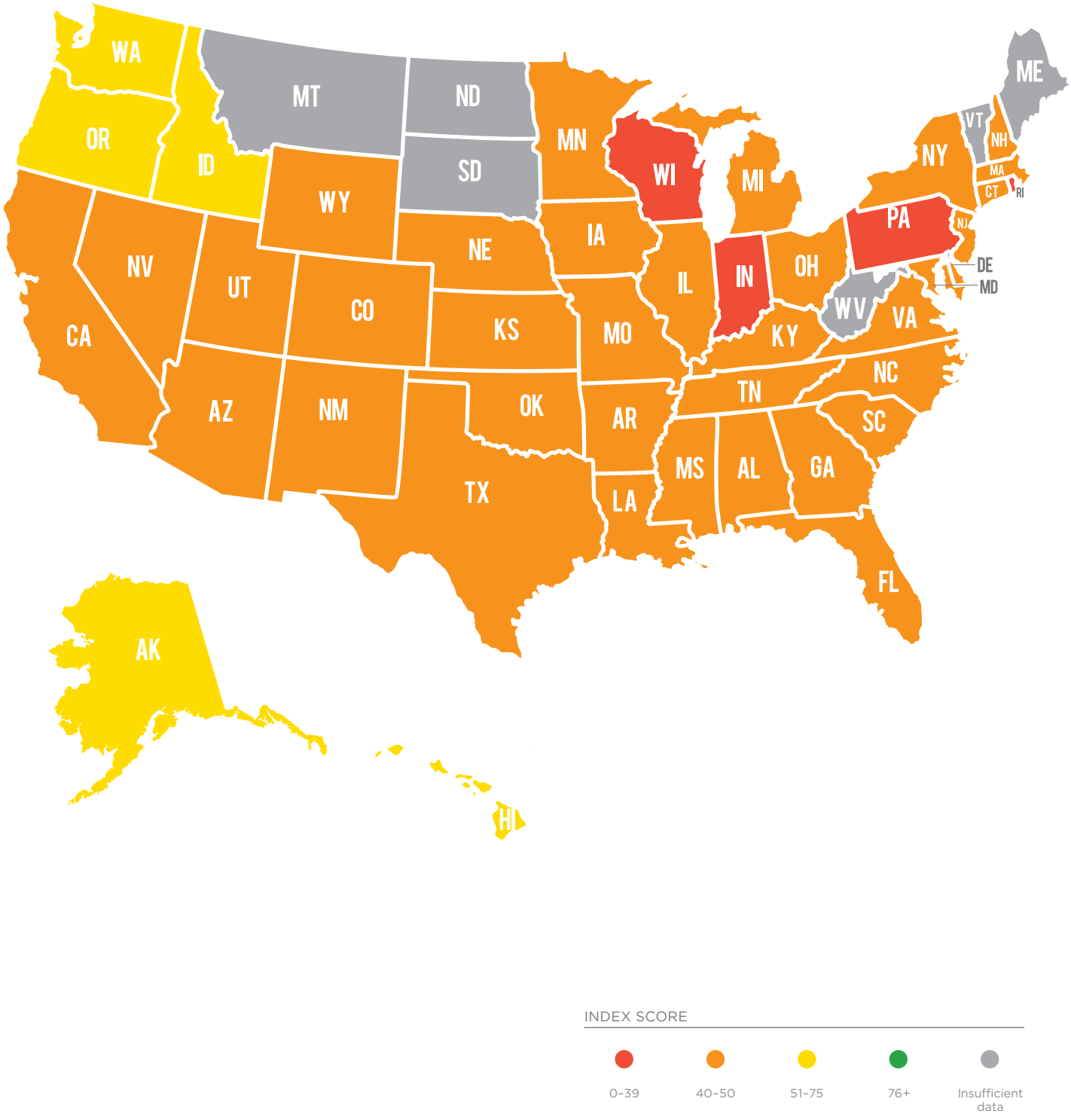
Source: Source: SDSN, 2021

US SDG DELIVERY TO HISPANIC COMMUNITIES



STATE	RANK	SCORE
Hawaii	1	57.16
Oregon	2	55.49
Alaska	3	54.75
Idaho	4	53.31
Washington	5	50.67
South Carolina	6	48.71
Florida	7	48.39
Michigan	8	48.33
Maryland	9	48.22
Virginia	10	47.71
Nevada	11	47.68
Wyoming	12	47.61
Minnesota	13	47.35
Kentucky	14	46.83
Kansas	15	46.10
North Carolina	16	45.89
Oklahoma	17	45.61
Arkansas	18	45.53
New Hampshire	19	45.30
Arizona	20	45.12
Missouri	21	45.00
California	22	44.29
Tennessee	23	44.22
Georgia	24	43.72
Utah	25	43.45
Iowa	26	43.22
Nebraska	27	43.09
New York	28	42.92
New Mexico	29	42.87
Colorado	30	42.67
Delaware	31	42.50
Mississippi	32	42.31
Louisiana	33	41.49
Alabama	34	41.22
Massachusetts	35	40.76
Connecticut	36	40.57
Ohio	37	40.26
Illinois	38	40.07
Texas	39	39.97
New Jersey	40	39.61
Wisconsin	41	38.62
Rhode Island	42	37.57
Indiana	43	36.47
Pennsylvania	44	32.76
Maine		
Montana		
North Dakota		
South Dakota		
Vermont		
West Virginia		

US SDG DELIVERY TO HISPANIC COMMUNITIES

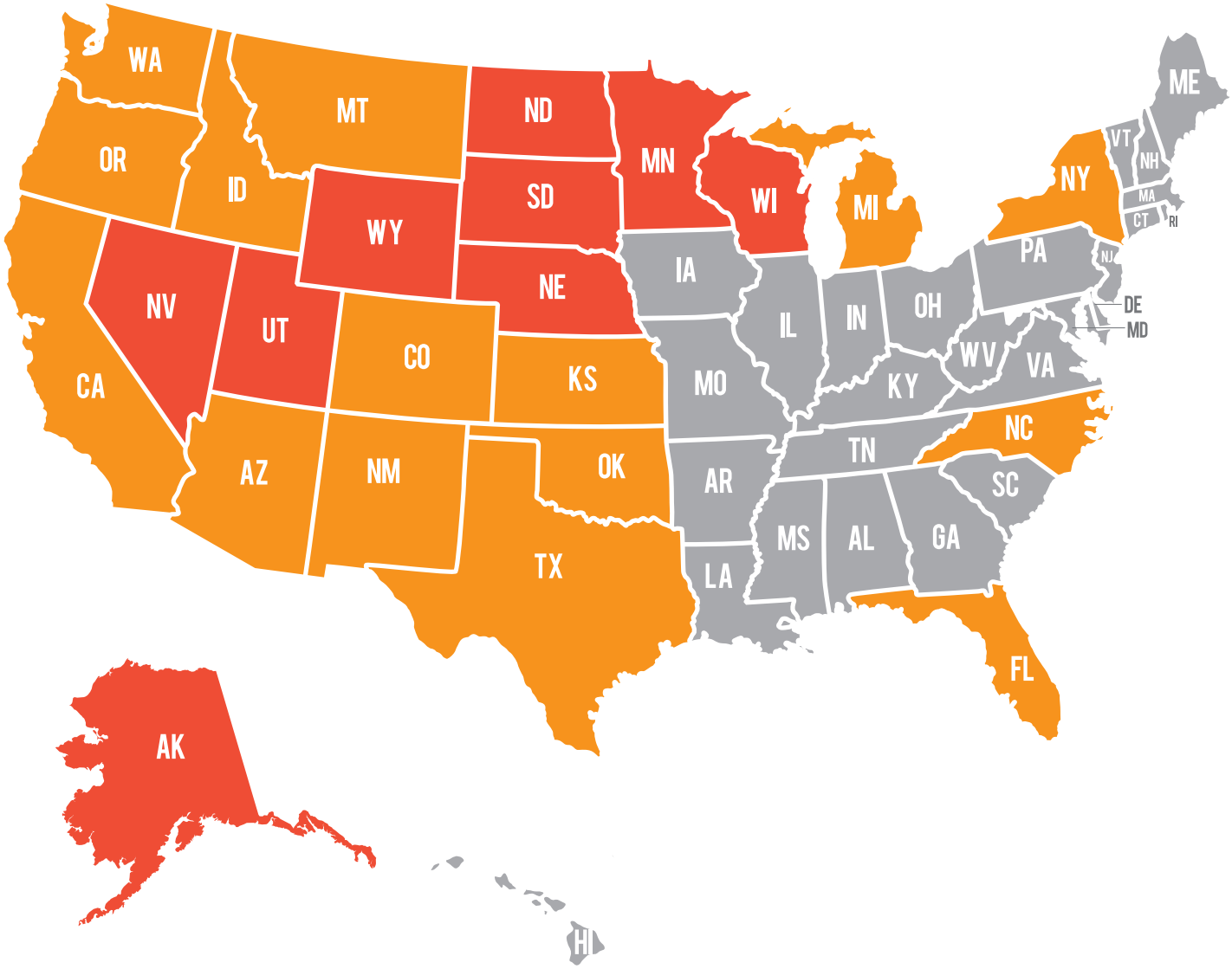


Source: Source: SDSN, 2021

US SDG DELIVERY TO INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

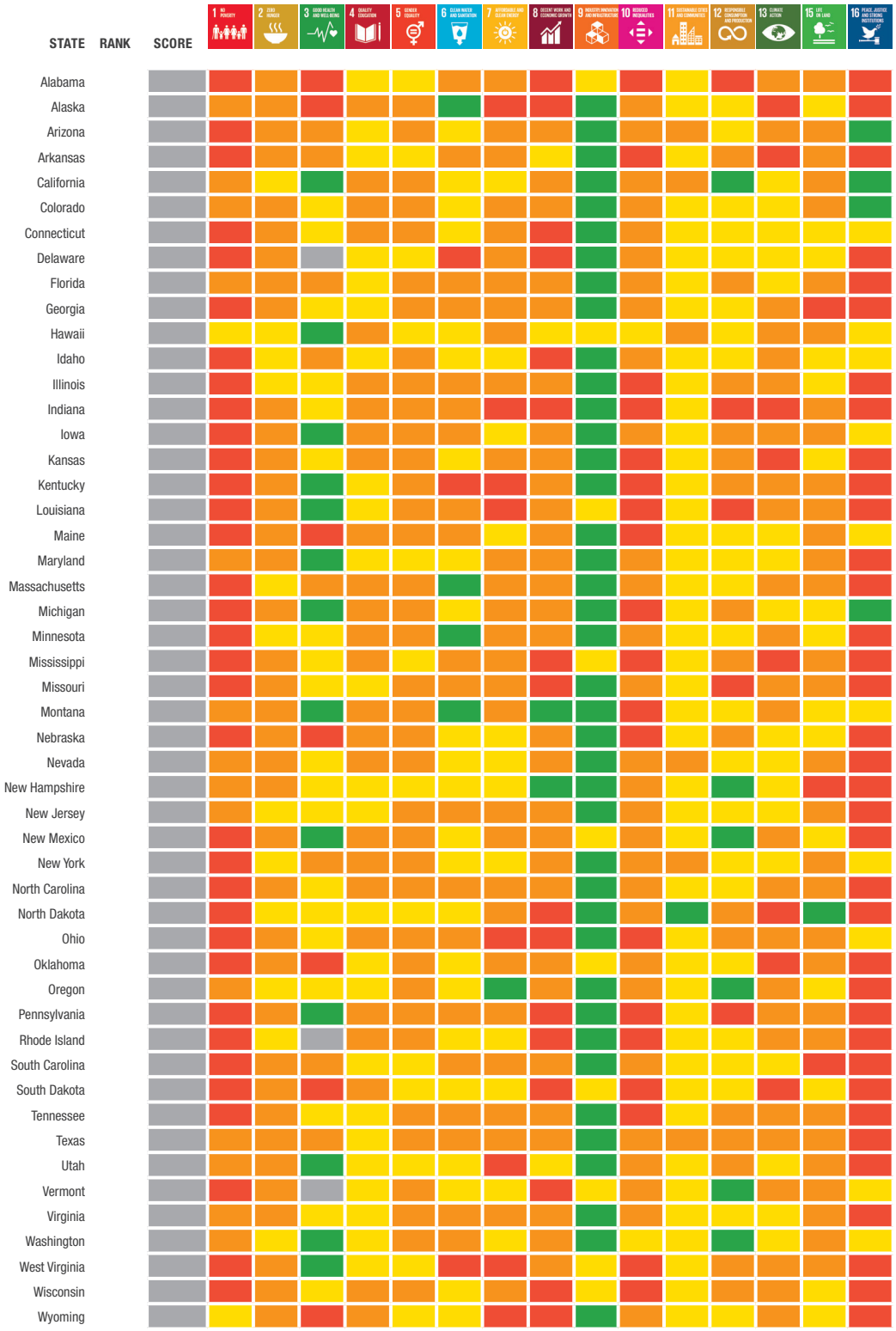
STATE	RANK	SCORE
Oregon	1	47.93
Florida	2	45.73
Michigan	3	45.33
Oklahoma	4	44.37
Idaho	5	44.28
New York	6	44.11
Texas	7	43.57
Washington	8	42.45
Colorado	9	41.51
New Mexico	10	40.93
Kansas	11	40.86
North Carolina	12	40.69
California	13	40.07
Arizona	14	39.86
Montana	15	39.83
Nevada	16	39.15
Wyoming	17	38.70
Alaska	18	38.36
Minnesota	19	38.13
South Dakota	20	37.73
Wisconsin	21	36.61
Utah	22	35.40
Nebraska	23	33.97
North Dakota	24	33.63
Alabama		
Arkansas		
Connecticut		
Delaware		
Georgia		
Hawaii		
Illinois		
Indiana		
Iowa		
Kentucky		
Louisiana		
Maine		
Maryland		
Massachusetts		
Mississippi		
Missouri		
New Hampshire		
New Jersey		
Ohio		
Pennsylvania		
Rhode Island		
South Carolina		
Tennessee		
Vermont		
Virginia		
West Virginia		

US SDG DELIVERY TO INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

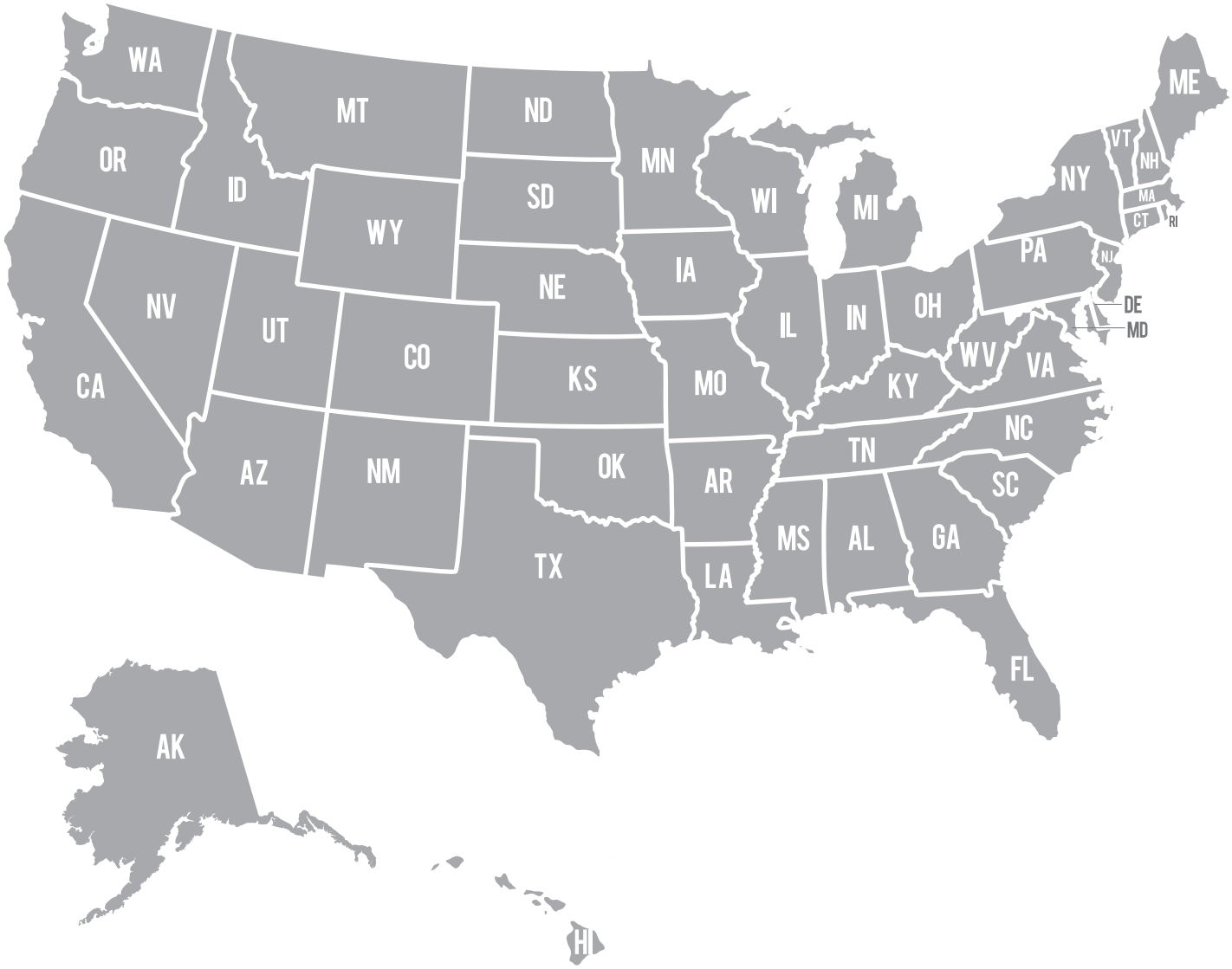


Source: Source: SDSN, 2021

US SDG DELIVERY TO MULTIRACIAL COMMUNITIES



US SDG DELIVERY TO MULTIRACIAL COMMUNITIES

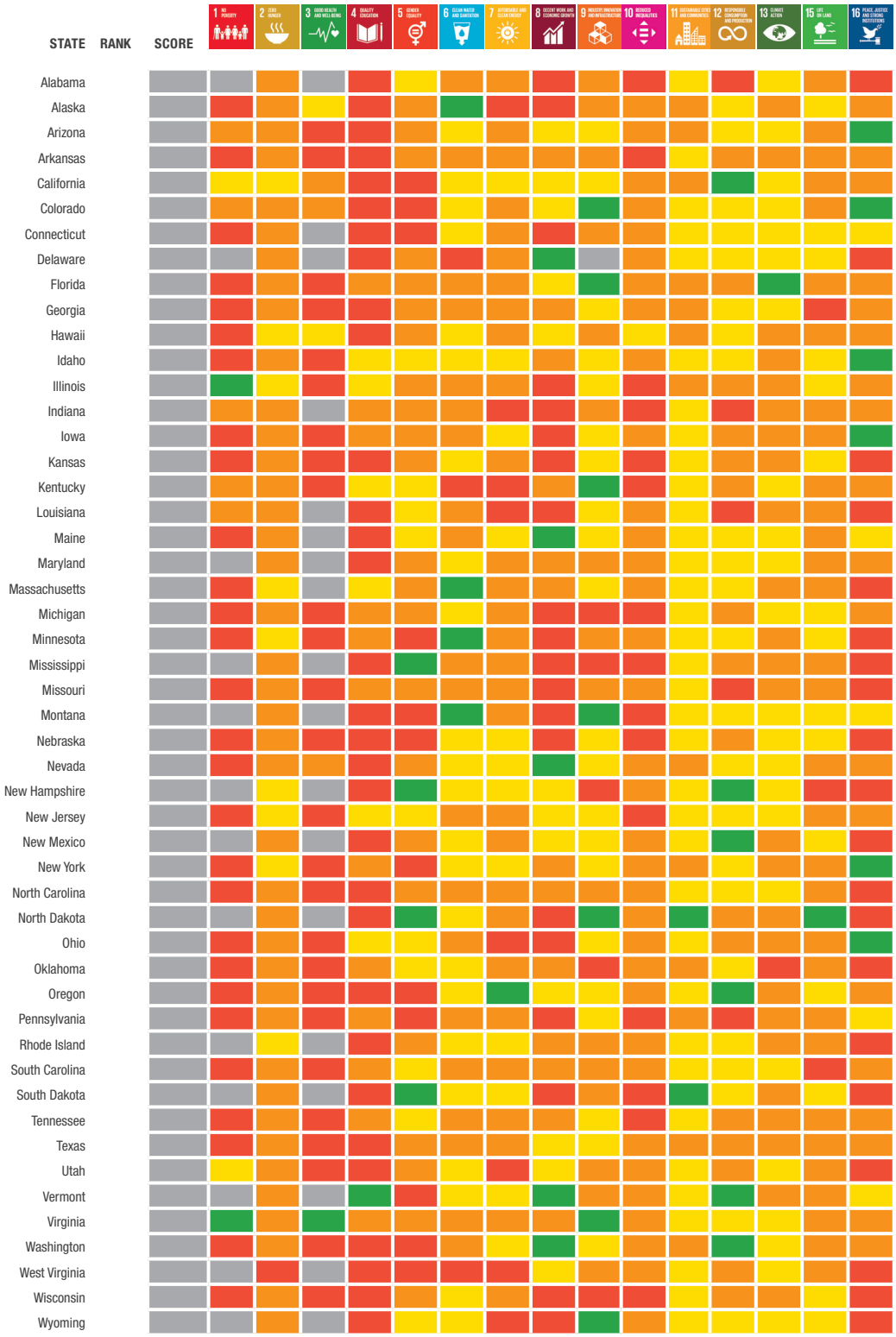


INDEX SCORE

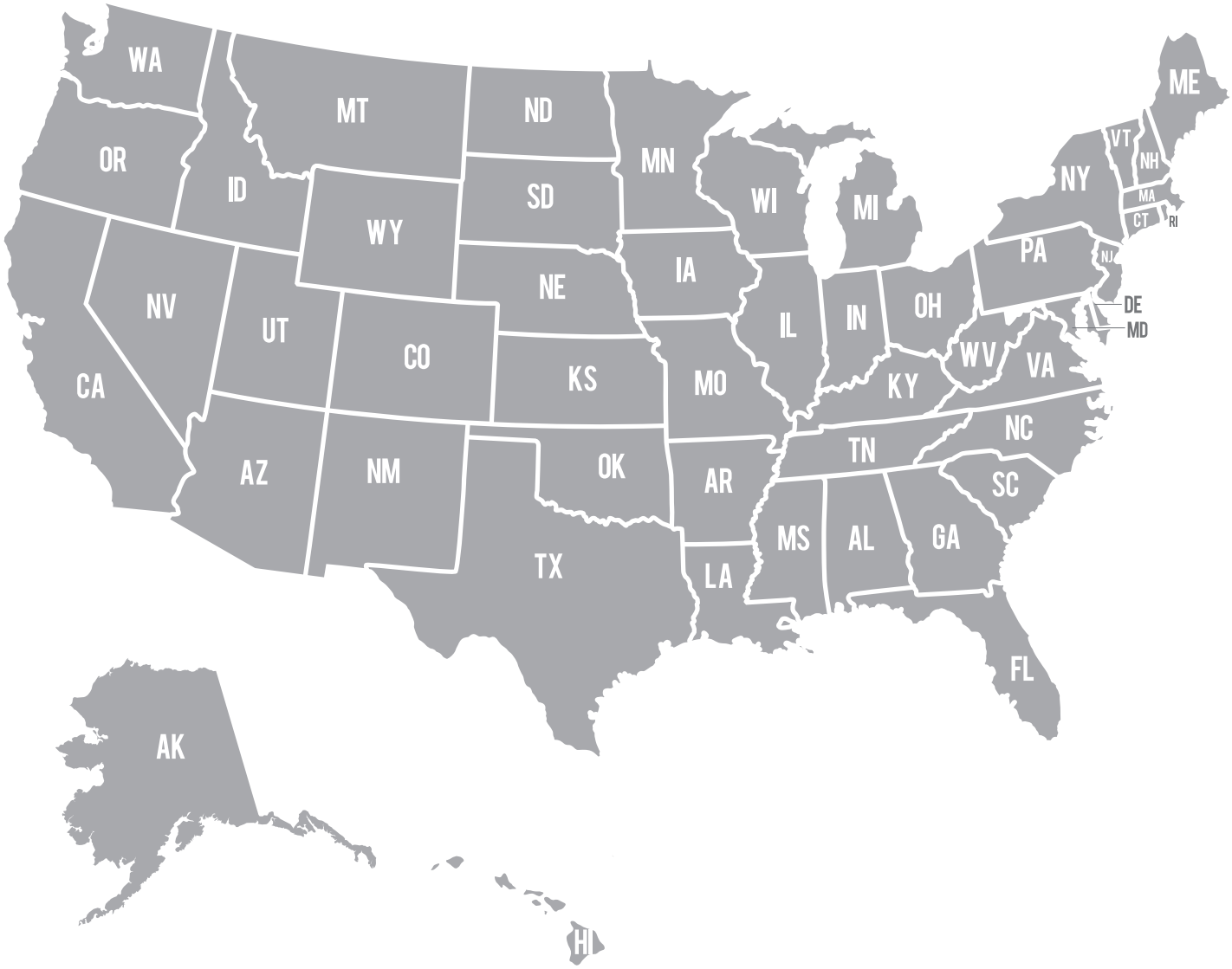
0–39 | 40–50 | 51–75 | 76+ | Insufficient data

Source: Source: SDSN, 2021

US SDG DELIVERY TO NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER COMMUNITIES



US SDG DELIVERY TO NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER COMMUNITIES

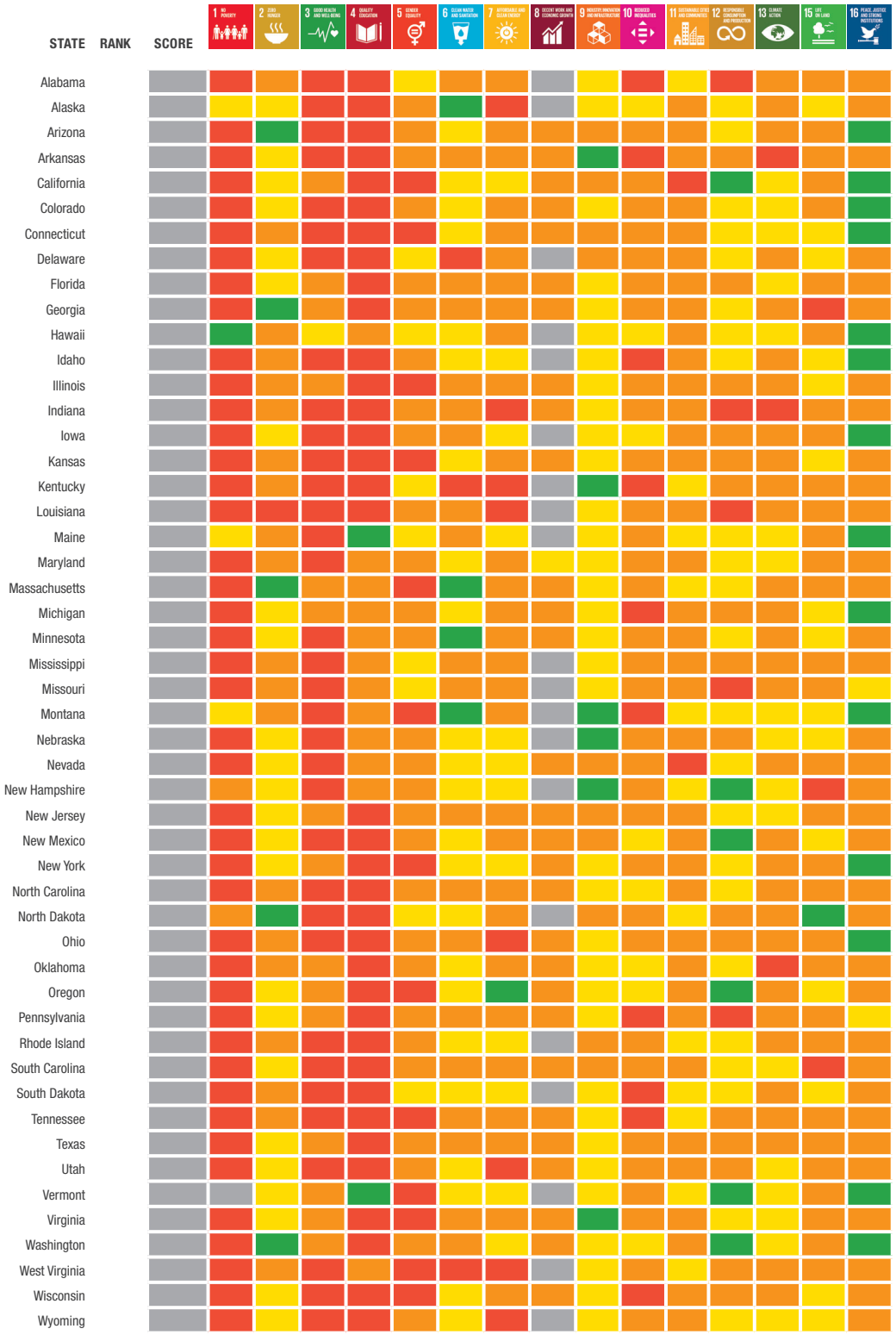


INDEX SCORE

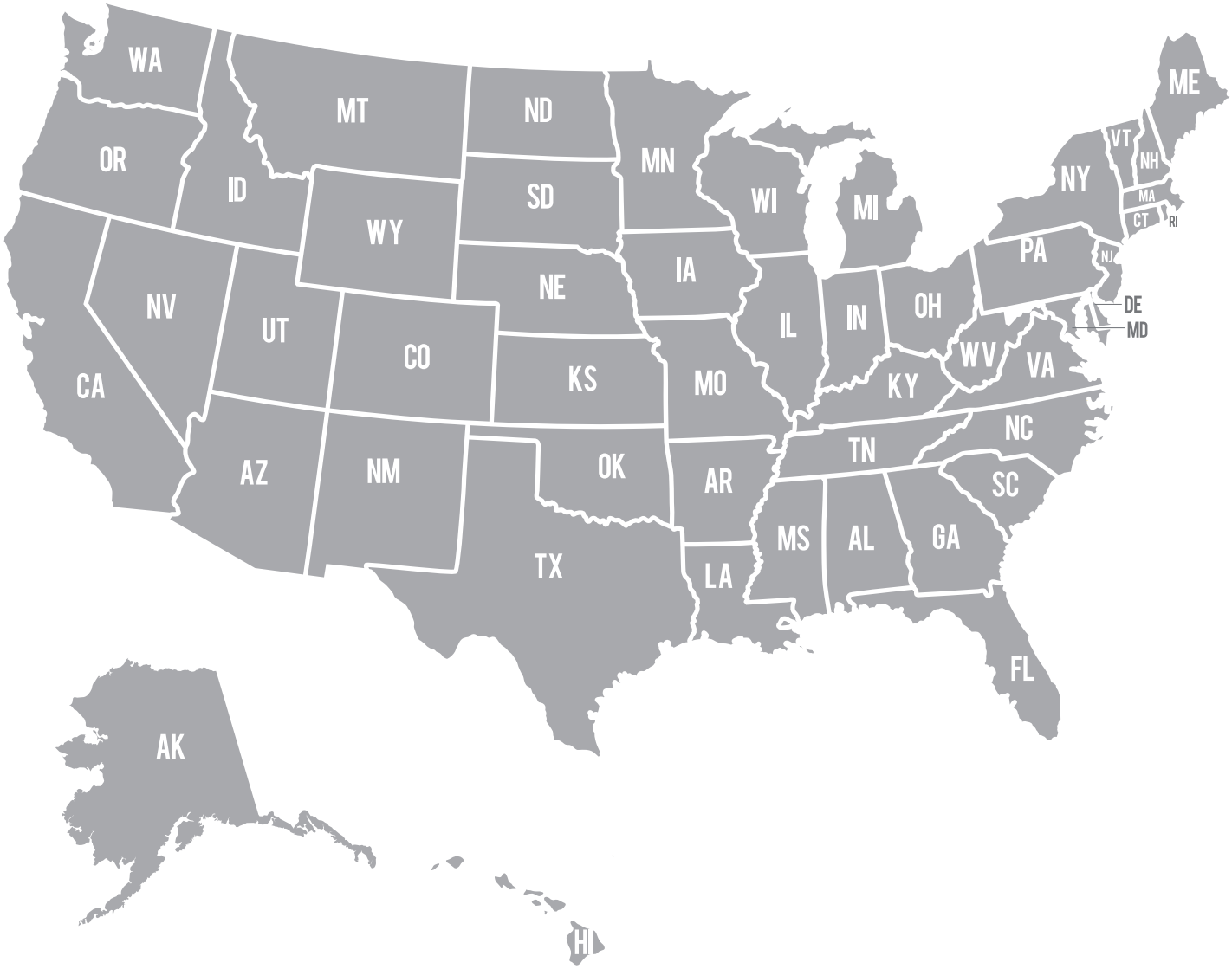
0–39 | 40–50 | 51–75 | 76+ | Insufficient data

Source: Source: SDSN, 2021

US SDG DELIVERY TO 'OTHER' RACIAL COMMUNITIES



US SDG DELIVERY TO 'OTHER' RACIAL COMMUNITIES



INDEX SCORE

0–39 | 40–50 | 51–75 | 76+ | Insufficient data

Source: Source: SDSN, 2021