

The Allegheny Housing Assessment — Pittsburgh's Machine-Learning Tool Improves Housing Prioritization, But an Independent Study Finds Racial Disparities Persist

AI in the Public Sector · Good practice · United States of America

Quality score: 60/100

Evidence strength: Moderate

Summary

Allegheny County, Pennsylvania replaced a biased screening survey with a machine-learning score (AHA) to prioritize homelessness services. It predicts risk better, but a peer-reviewed study found racial disparities in who actually gets housed did not improve.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of impact / measured public value	3/3
Transparency, fairness & accountability	2/3
Transferability / demonstrated replication	1/3
Scalability beyond pilot	2/3
Governance, capability & sustainability	1/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

C-NAPSE web research — accessed 2026-08-29

Allegheny County Department of Human Services — accessed 2026-08-29

Allegheny County Analytics — Improving Prioritization of Housing Services: Implementation of the AHA and MH-AHA — accessed 2026-08-29

AAAI/ACM AIES 2024 — Algorithm-Assisted Decision Making and Racial Disparities in Housing: A Study of the Allegheny Housing Assessment Tool — accessed 2026-08-29

Centre for Social Data Analytics, AUT — Allegheny Housing Assessment tool helping to make decisions 'faster, more efficient' — accessed 2026-08-29

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