CDC's National Center for Environmental Health Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry



#### The CDC/ATSDR Social Vulnerability Index

A tool for measuring social vulnerability at the community level

Elizabeth Pembleton, MPH

11/14/24

#### Healthy people. Thriving communities. Place matters.



Geospatial Research, Analysis, and Services Program (GRASP) Office of Innovation and Analytics (OIA), ATSDR

### The History of the CDC/ATSDR Social Vulnerability Index (SVI)

- The Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act of 2006 cited public health preparedness and response capabilities as critical needs for the United States.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) decided to build agency capacity by addressing social vulnerability to disasters.
- The Geospatial Research, Analysis, and Services Program (GRASP) began developing the SVI in 2007 and disseminated the first SVI database in 2011.

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#### The Purpose of the CDC/ATSDR Social Vulnerability Index

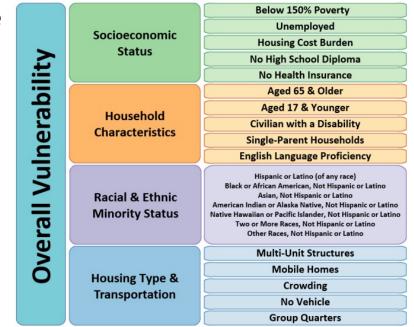


Hurricane Sandy, Breezy Point, NY, October 2012 Photographer: Pauline Tran, CDC public health image library

- Social Vulnerability refers to the demographic and socioeconomic factors that adversely affect communities that encounter hazards and other community-level stressors.
- The SVI was developed as a placebased index, database, and mapping application designed to identify and quantify communities experiencing social vulnerability.

## The Methodology of the CDC/ATSDR Social Vulnerability Index

- SVI uses Census Bureau data to measure the relative social vulnerability of U.S. communities
  - 16 variables
  - 4 themes
  - 1 overall ranking
- SVI uses percentile ranks
  - Scale of 0 to 1
- All variables are weighted equally



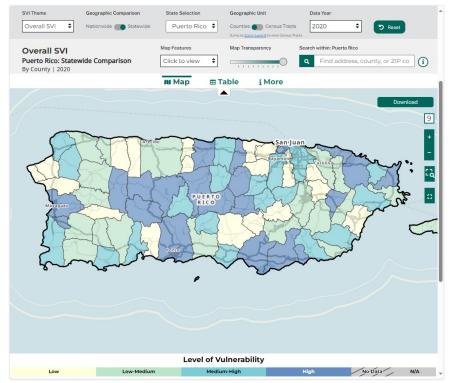
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**Components of the Social Vulnerability Index** 

# The Methodology of the CDC/ATSDR Social Vulnerability Index (continued)

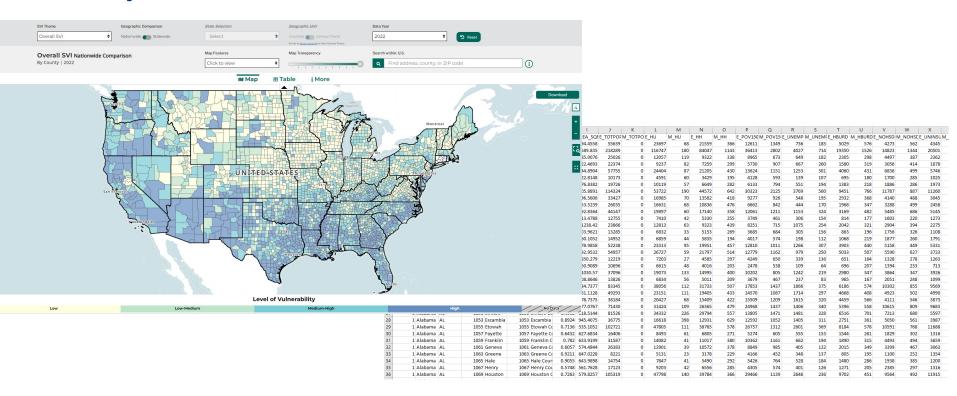
- SVI has been developed for:
  - Census tracts and counties
- SVI is provided as:
  - Nationwide and statewide comparisons
- SVI data available for Puerto Rico and tribal tracts
  - Provided as stand-alone databases
- SVI databases are available for:
  - 2000, 2010, 2014, 2016, 2018, 2020, and 2022



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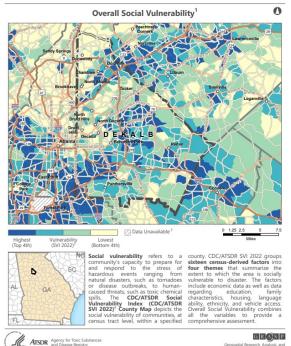
#### The CDC/ATSDR Social Vulnerability Index is a Complete Toolbox

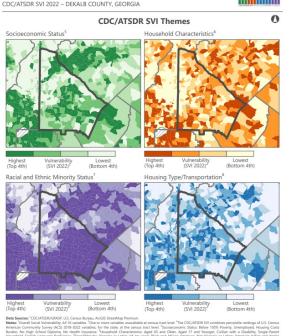


### The CDC/ATSDR Social Vulnerability Index County Map Series

CDC/ATSDR Social Vulnerability Index 2022

DEKALB COUNTY, GEORGIA





American Community Surrey (ACS) 2019-2022 unielles, for the state at the remes toot level "Sociesconnic State. Inter USR Newry, Usersplaced Housing, Computed Housing, Mangel Computed H

place matters. **GRASP** 

References: Flanacan. B.E. et al.. A Social Vulnerability Index for Disaster Management, Journal of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, 2011. 8(1)

Services Program

CDC/ATSDR SVI web page: https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/placeandhealth/svi/index.html.

### The Utility of the CDC/ATSDR Social Vulnerability Index

- SVI has been used by federal, state, local, and academic partners with:
  - Natural hazards (e.g., hurricanes, flooding, tornadoes, and wildfires)
  - Hazard mitigation planning
  - Pathogenic disease outbreaks (e.g., COVID-19 epidemiology, equitable placement of COVID-19 testing and vaccination centers)
  - Non-disaster health outcomes (e.g., obesity, injury morality, cancer, and physical inactivity)

#### Planning for an Emergency: Strategies for Identifying and Engaging At-Risk Groups

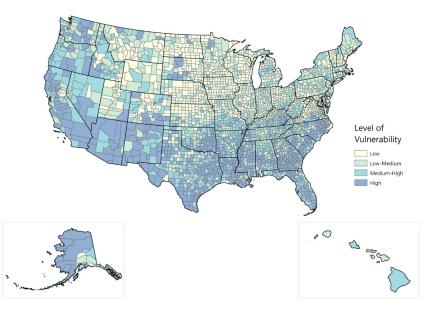
A guidance document for Emergency Managers



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#### Summary of the CDC/ATSDR Social Vulnerability Index

- SVI measures 16 demographic and socioeconomic factors
- SVI is measured for all U.S. census tracts and counties on a scale of 0 to 1
- SVI was originally developed for use within the disaster context
- SVI is useful for assisting communities in need during any public health crisis



#### **Questions?**

- SVI Website:
  - svi.cdc.gov
- SVI Coordinator Email:
  - svi\_coordinator@cdc.gov



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The findings and conclusions in this presentation have not been formally disseminated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry and should not be construed to represent any agency determination or policy.