

CDC/ATSDR Social Vulnerability Index

This metadata page provides a brief summary of this dataset. Please refer to the detailed metadata provided by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Agency for Toxic Substances Disease Registry (ATSDR) for more information on data methods and limitations.

Definition

The CDC/ATSDR Social Vulnerability Index (CDC/ATSDR SVI) uses 16 U.S. census variables to help local officials identify communities that may need support before, during, or after disasters. ATSDR's Geospatial Research, Analysis & Services Program (GRASP) created databases to help emergency response planners and public health officials identify and map communities that will most likely need support before, during, and after a hazardous event.

The CDC/ATSDR SVI uses U.S. Census data to determine the social vulnerability of every census tract. Census tracts are subdivisions of counties for which the Census collects statistical data. The CDC/ATSDR SVI ranks each tract on 16 social factors, including poverty, lack of vehicle access, and crowded housing, and groups them into four related themes. Each tract receives a separate ranking for each of the four themes, as well as an overall ranking.

Data Source

- US CDC— [CDC/ATSDR SVI Data and Documentation Download](#)

The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) Environmental Public Health Tracking Program download these data from the CDC's ATSDR SVI Data and Documentation Download, by Louisiana Parish (County).

Vintage: The dataset featured from the CDC: data year **2018**. Updated data may be available from the Program.

Data Measure(s)

The CDC/ATSDR SVI Data and Documentation Download provides the following measure:

- Estimated total population
- Percentage uninsured in the total civilian noninstitutionalized population estimate
- Percentage of persons below poverty estimate
- Unemployment Rate estimate among civilian (age 16+) population
- Percentage of persons with no high school diploma (age 25+) estimate
- Percentage of single parent households with children under 18 estimate
- Percentage minority (all persons except white, non-Hispanic) estimate
- Percentage of persons (age 5+) who speak English "less than well" estimate

- Percentage of households with no vehicle available estimate
- Overall Percentile Ranking: Relative Social Vulnerability

Explore Data

The LDH Health Data Explorer (<http://ldh.la.gov/tracking>) is an online query tool which allows health, environmental hazard, exposure and population data to be explored and viewed side-by-side in tables, charts, and maps. These data can be downloaded, viewed and further analyzed.

To *Explore Data* on the query tool:

Step 1: Select Criteria

Category: Population Health

Topic: Covid Feature Dataset

Focus: CDC/ATSDR Social Vulnerability Index

Indicator: **Social And Disease Vulnerability**

Measure: **(various)**

CDC/ATSDR Social Vulnerability Index and your Health

Every community must prepare for and respond to hazardous events, whether a natural disaster like a tornado or disease outbreak, or a human-made event such as a harmful chemical spill. A number of factors, including poverty, lack of access to transportation, and crowded housing may weaken a community's ability to prevent human suffering and financial loss in a disaster. These factors are known as social vulnerability.

CDC/ATSDR Social Vulnerability Index and the Environment

LDH Tracking has included Social Vulnerability as a measure in the Health Data Portal because scientists are studying the associations between social factors and population health, which affect health factors, while we are studying the environment. Environmental justice and health disparity considerations must be investigated as co-factors when we study environmental factors. In one example, in high poverty areas, or in areas where there is a physician shortage, lack of transportation or inadequate access to health care, these situations are likely to impact health outcomes as much or more than environmental hazards which may also be compounding an already fragile population. Studies have suggested poor air quality makes worse the existing health concerns of a community. When the pandemic affected communities, multiple factors including asthma and other upper respiratory illness, other underlying health conditions, social vulnerability, and poor air quality could be a devastating combination leading to increased sickness and deaths among marginalized groups. Studies are ongoing which consider COVID outcomes at sub-county geographies in Louisiana.

Data Limitations and Important Considerations

CDC's Metadata associated with this dataset can be found on the website: [CDC/ATSDR SVI Data and Documentation Download](#)

Disclaimer

Data are intended to spur further research and should be used only as a starting point to understanding how the environment and other contributing factors may be connected to disease. Datasets presented on the LDH Health Data Explorer site are intended to answer some basic questions, but should ultimately lead to further inquiry and more detailed study.

Data limitations should be noted if conducting exploratory ecological studies with these data. Limitations may include data gaps, reporting discrepancies (for example, a disruption of reporting or instrument recording) and insufficient data on all potentially confounding factors. There are numerous additional factors which may contribute to disease onset. These include genetics, access to health care, existing health conditions, medicines, other chemical substances we come into contact with or ingest, nutrition, route and duration of exposure, level of activity, level of stress, and others.

Responsible use of this data therefore requires exercising caution when drawing conclusions based solely on views of the limited available data. Any perceived relationship, trend, or pattern apparent in the data should not be interpreted to imply causation; may in fact be unrelated; and should be regarded as preliminary, and potentially erroneous, until more in-depth study and if applicable, statistical evaluation, can be applied.

The LDH Bureau of Health Informatics and Environmental Public Health Tracking Program cannot guarantee the completeness of the information contained in these datasets and expressly disclaim liability for errors and omissions in their content.

Additional Information

Please visit the following links for more information on CDC/ATSDR Social Vulnerability Index.

- [CDC/ATSDR Social Vulnerability Index](#)
- [CDC/ATSDR SVI Fact Sheet](#)

Questions?

- Email: healthdata@la.gov
- Website: <http://ldh.la.gov/tracking>
- Toll free Phone: 1-888-293-7020