

**THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (CDC)  
 SOCIAL VULNERABILITY INDEX**

**What is Social Vulnerability?**

Social vulnerability is the ability of communities to survive or thrive when confronted by external stresses on human health, including:

- Natural or human-caused disasters
- Disease outbreaks

**What is the CDC’s Social Vulnerability Index (SVI)?**

SVI is a percentile-based index of a county-level vulnerability to disaster. The tool was created to identify and map communities that need the most support during emergencies like hurricanes or disease outbreaks.

SVI database uses the US Census tracts data (subdivisions of counties) that ranks them on 15 social factors of vulnerability. These factors are grouped into four themes:

- Socioeconomic status
- Household composition & Disability
- Minority status & language
- Housing & Transportation

**What does the SVI score mean?**

The overall SVI score ranges from 0 (least vulnerable) to 1 (most vulnerable).

**Uses of SVI:**

- To categorize communities that will need continued support to recover following an emergency or natural disaster
- To guide community-based health promotion initiatives
- To help public health officials and emergency response planners decide the number of emergency personnel needed, plan the best way to evacuate people, and account for socially vulnerable populations
- To identify areas in need of emergency shelters and estimate the number of supplies needed

**Limitations of SVI:**

- SVI is based on survey responses and focuses on specific communities that could overlook the vulnerability of others
- Local information might be more accurate than these estimates and should always be considered when available
- SVI provides a single snapshot of a community which excludes events that may further impact a community’s vulnerability

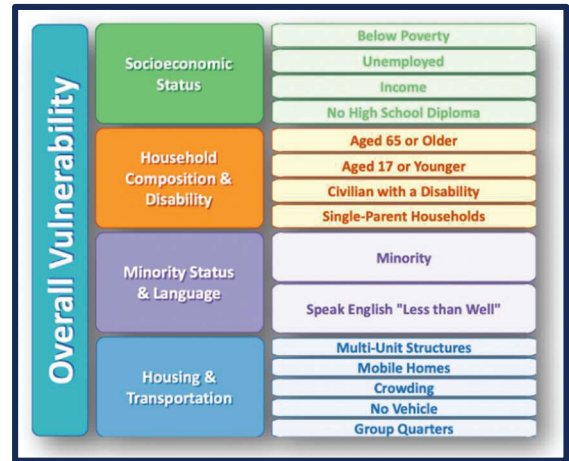


Figure 1: CDC's SVI report 2018

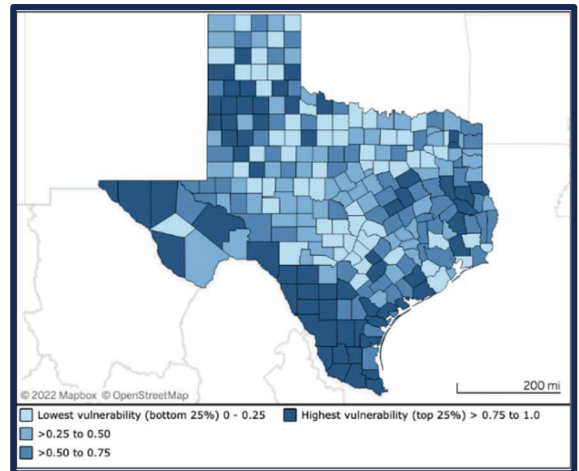


Figure 2: Texas map with each county’s SVI score;  
 Source: Texas Health and Human Services (HHS)



Texas SVI score (Public Health Regions)

TEXAS PUBLIC HEALTH REGIONS (# OF COUNTIES)	AVERAGE SVI SCORE
Region 1 (41)	0.5364
Region 2/3 (49)	<b>0.3391</b>
Region 4/5N (35)	0.5467
Region 6/5S (16)	0.4348
Region 7 (30)	0.4319
Region 8 (28)	0.571
Region 9/10 (36)	0.4781
Region 11 (19)	<b>0.8456</b>

Table 1: Texas Public Health Regions (PHR) and their average SVI score; *green* = low vulnerability and *red* = high vulnerability

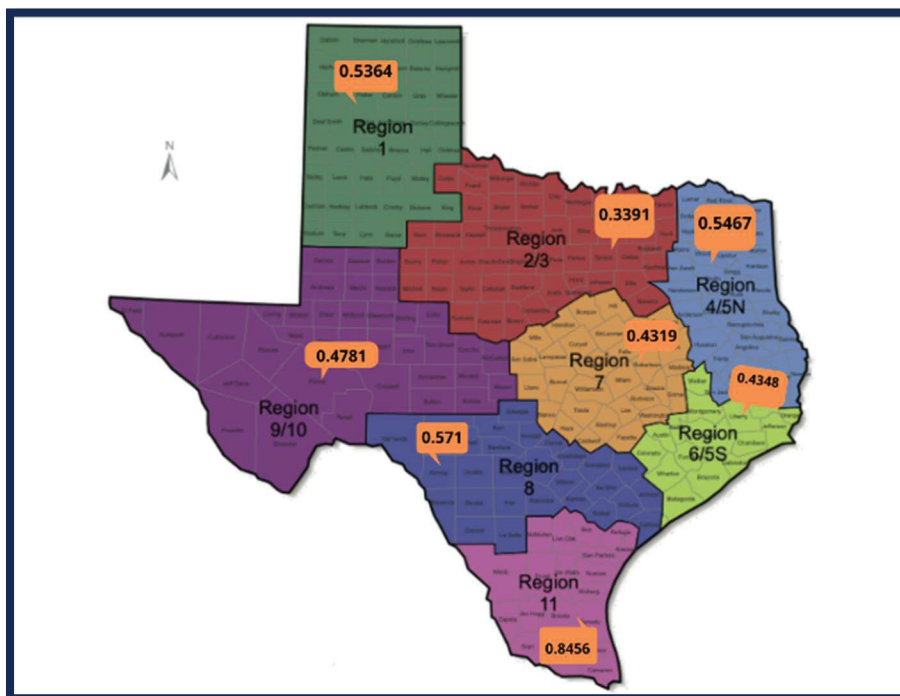


Figure 3: Texas Public Health Regions with their average SVI scores

