

What is the Social Vulnerability Index (SVI)?

The SVI was created by the Geospatial Research Analysis and Services Program (GRASP) Team at the Centers for Disease Prevention and Control (CDC) to help natural disaster agencies identify the locations of vulnerable human populations. The index uses data from the US Census Bureau, specifically 15 variables grouped into 4 themes: socioeconomic status; household composition and disability; minority status and language; and housing and transportation. Social vulnerability refers to the demographic and socioeconomic factors that affect the resilience of communities. Studies have shown the socially vulnerable are less likely to recover from a disaster and more likely to die. The highest value is 1.00 which is the most vulnerable and the lowest is 0.00 which means the least vulnerable.

The Move Together New York map incorporates the SVI for year 2014. It is likely that communities highly vulnerable to natural disaster would be the same communities in need of transportation assistance for work and medical appointments.

Sources:

Flanagan, B. 2013. Social Vulnerability Index. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention https://svi.cdc.gov/Documents/Publications/CDC_ATSDR_SVI_Materials/SVI_30April2013.pdf
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Prepared by:

Lee Yoke Lee for Move Together New York project (March 2018)