* Henry: data collection methodology, alternate data set search, inherent biases research

Social Vulnerability Index

Social vulnerability is a community’s ability to respond to a hazardous event such as a tornado, hurricane, disease or chemical spill. Several factors including poverty, lack of transportation, crowded housing may weaken the community’s ability to prevent human suffering and financial loss.

The centers for disease control (CDC) used census data to rank 15 social factors including poverty, crowded housing, lack of transportation and grouped them into four related themes.

Source:

<https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/placeandhealth/svi/index.html>

**Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)**

The **Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)**, based in Atlanta, Georgia, is a federal public health agency of the **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**. ATSDR protects communities from harmful health effects related to exposure to natural and man-made hazardous substances. We do this by responding to environmental health emergencies; investigating emerging environmental health threats; conducting research on the health impacts of hazardous waste sites; and building capabilities of and providing actionable guidance to state and local health partners.

ATSDR is a federal public health agency of the U.S Department of Health and Human Services. This agency studies the harmful “health effects” caused by natural and man-made hazards. This agency defined social vulnerability as a community’s ability to respond to a hazardous event such as a tornado, hurricane, disease or chemical spill. Several factors including poverty, lack of transportation, crowded housing may weaken the community’s ability to prevent human suffering and financial loss.

TEXAS

<https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/epitox/>

# **Environmental Surveillance and Toxicology Branch**

The Environmental Surveillance and Toxicology Branch (ESTB) uses the principles of epidemiology, toxicology, and surveillance to identify populations at risk, to develop evidence-based actions, and to protect and promote the health of the people of Texas.

Henry

Find out the 15 variables for svi

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 **15 social factors**, including poverty, lack of vehicle access, and crowded housing, and groups them into four related themes. Maps of the four themes are shown in the figure below. Each tract receives a separate ranking for each of the four themes, as well as an overall ranking.