

Figure 2. Social Vulnerability Index

This graphic demonstrates what the social vulnerability index (SVI) is. It is broken down by SVI themes, SVI variables, and SVI description of American Community Survey Variables.

The first theme is socioeconomic vulnerability. Socioeconomic vulnerability is comprised of the following variables and their definitions:

- Below poverty: percent of persons below federally defined poverty line, a threshold that varies by the composition of household. Denominations is total population where they poverty status is checked.
- Unemployed: percent of civilians unemployed based on total population 16 years and older, includes unemployed persons actively seeking work.
- Income: per capita income calculated as the mean income for every person in the census tract.
- Percent of persons of persons 25 of age and older with less than a 12th grade education, including individuals with 12 grades but no diploma.

The second theme is household composition and disability. Household composition and disability is comprised of the following variables and their definitions:

- Aged 65 or older: percent of persons 65 years of age or younger.
- Aged 17 or younger: percent of persons aged 17 years of age or younger.
- Civilian with a disability: percent of civilian population not in an institution who are five years of age and older with a disability.
- Single-parent households: percent male or female householder with children under 18 and no spouse present.

The third theme is minority status and language. Minority status and language is comprised of the following variables and their definitions:

- Minority: percent minority inclusive of black, African American, American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian, other Pacific Islander, Hispanic, Latino, other race alone, and two or more races.
- Speak English "less than well:" percent of persons five years of age or older who speak English less than "well," "not well," or "not at all," inclusive of all age groups and all languages.

The fourth theme is housing and transportation. The housing and transportation theme is comprised of the following variables and their definitions:

- Multi-unit structures: percent housing units with 10 or more units in structure (e.g., apartment buildings)
- Mobile homes: percent housing units that are mobile homes.
- Crowding: percent total occupied housing units (i.e., households) with more than one person per room – at household level, more people than rooms.
- No vehicle: Percent households with no vehicle available.
- Group quarters: percent of persons who are in institutionalized group quarters (e.g., correctional institutions, nursing homes) and non-institutionalized group quarters (e.g., college dormitories, military quarters).

There is a note alongside the graphic reading, “schematic constructed by Indiana University Environmental Resilience Institute staff based on SVI documentation. May 21, 2019.