Social vulnerability refers to the human factors within a community that negatively affect its ability to manage circumstances harmful to health. Communities must prepare for and respond to hazardous events such as environmental disasters, chemical exposures, and disease outbreaks. Preparing for these events prevents or decreases both human suffering and financial loss. The Social Vulnerability Index (SVI)\(^1\) compares and ranks every community in the U.S. at the Census tract level, on many social factors. These factors, including poverty, lack of car access, and crowded housing, are further grouped into four related themes. Each community receives a separate ranking for each of the four, as well as an overall ranking. To learn more, please visit SVI home page.

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