

Centering the Margins

Focusing on People and Places Most Vulnerable to Extreme Events

March 2026

Introduction

New Hampshire's weather is changing, and extreme events are becoming more common. But not all residents face equal exposure to the harm these extreme events cause. Demographic data can reveal patterns — which neighborhoods, properties, or populations are most vulnerable — so that planning and investments can be directed where they're needed most. The Community Data Dashboard presents data and demographics to help answer three core questions:

- Who is most severely affected by the impacts of extreme events in our communities?
- Where should we focus our resources first to address those impacts equitably?
- How might I connect with affected communities to facilitate their involvement in making decisions about these investments and solutions?

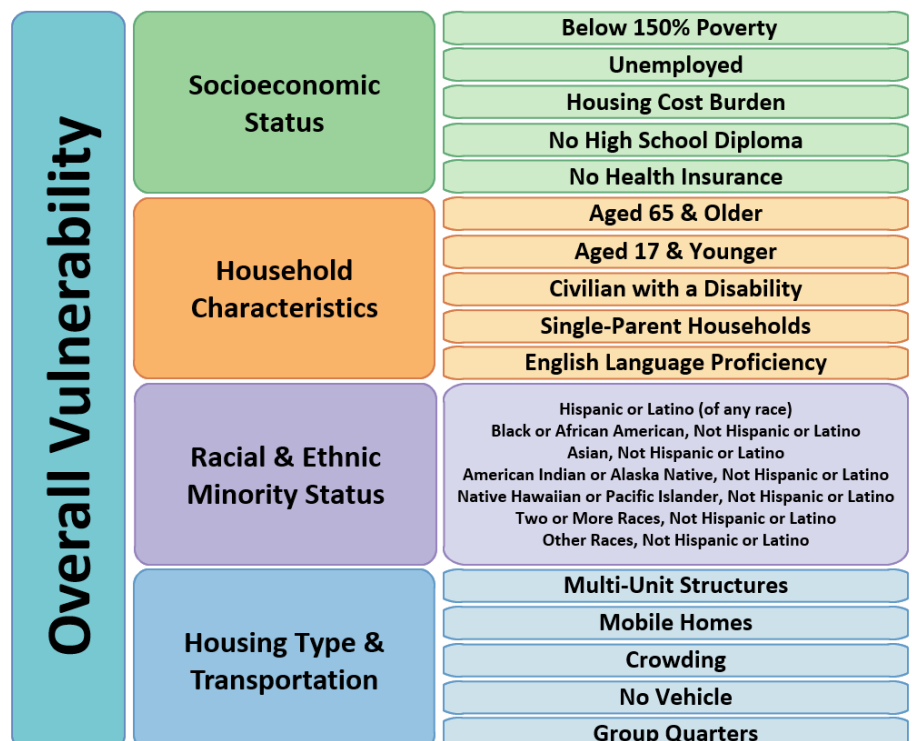
This tool is intended to guide you in seeking the data that can help you answer these questions.

Identifying Who Bears the Greatest Risk

Review the charts below before you review the community profiles and dashboards to help you focus on finding the people and categories in your community who stand to be burdened the most by the impacts of extreme weather and other climate change impacts.

The Social Vulnerability Index

Developed by CDC/ATSDR¹ Social Vulnerability Index uses 16 US Census variables from the 5-year American Community Survey (ACS) to identify communities that may need support before, during, or after disasters. These variables are grouped into four themes that cover four major areas of social vulnerability and then combined into a single measure of overall social vulnerability.



¹ <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/place-health/php/svi/index.html>

The Environmental Justice Index (EJI)

Also developed by CDC/ATSDR², the EJI is designed to help measure the cumulative impacts of environmental burden through the lens of human health and health equity. The indicators included in the EJI help users identify communities that may be disproportionately affected by socioeconomic, environmental, and health burdens.

The EJI also allows users to investigate how specific modules, domains, and indicators might be contributing to higher burden for a community, giving users a starting point to engage affected communities and inform targeted interventions.

The Climate Burden Module (CBM)

Also developed by CDC/ATSDR³, the CBM contains environmental indicators that are or have been influenced by climate change, such as extreme heat and coastal flooding. The CBM contains indicators relating to heat, wildfires, and extreme events.

	Modules	Domains	Indicators	Data Sources	
Overall Environmental Justice Rank	Social Vulnerability	Racial/Ethnic Minority Status	Minority Status	U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey (ACS)	
		Socioeconomic Status	Poverty		
			No High School Diploma		
			Unemployment		
			Renters		
			Housing Cost Burden		
		Household Characteristics	Lack of Health Insurance		
			Lack of Internet Access		
		Housing Type	Age 65 and Older		
			Age 17 and Younger		
	Environmental Burden	Air Pollution	Ozone	U.S. EPA Air Quality System (AQS)	
			Particulate Matter 2.5 (PM2.5)		
			Diesel Particulate Matter	U.S. EPA AirToxScreen	
		Potentially Hazardous & Toxic Sites	Air Toxics Cancer Risk		
			National Priority List Sites	U.S. EPA Facility Registry Service (FRS)	
			Toxic Release Inventory Sites		
			Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Sites		
Risk Management Plan Sites					
Built Environment		Coal Mines	U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration Mine Data Retrieval System (MDRS)		
		Lead Mines			
Transportation Infrastructure	Lack of Recreational Parks	U.S. Geospatial Survey PAD-US 4.0			
	Houses Built Pre-1980	U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey (ACS)			
	Lack of Walkability	U.S. EPA National Walkability Index			
	High Volume Roads	U.S. Department of Transportation National Highway System (NHS)			
Water Pollution	Railways	U.S. Department of Transportation National Transportation Atlas Database (NTAD)			
	Airports	OpenStreetMap and the U.S. Department of Transportation National Transportation Atlas Database (NTAD)			
	Impaired Surface Water	U.S. EPA Watershed Index Online (WSOI)			
Health Vulnerability	Pre-existing Chronic Disease Burden	Asthma* Cancer* Coronary Heart Disease* Diabetes* Poor Mental Health*	U.S. CDC PLACES Estimates		

Modules	Domains	Indicators	Data Sources
Climate Burden	Heat	Extreme Heat Days	U.S. CDC National Environmental Public Health Tracking (NEPHT)
	Wildfire	Wildfire Smoke	U.S. NOAA Hazard Mapping System (HMS)
		Wildfire Proximity	Monitoring Trends in Burn Severity (MTBS)
	Extreme Events	Coastal Flooding Frequency	U.S. FEMA National Risk Index (NRI)
		Drought Frequency	
		Riverine Flooding Frequency	
		Hurricane Frequency	
		Strong Winds Frequency	
	Tornado Frequency	U.S. CDC National Environmental Public Health Tracking (NEPHT)	

² <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/place-health/php/eji/index.html>

³ <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/place-health/php/eji/eji-indicators-climate-burden-module.html>