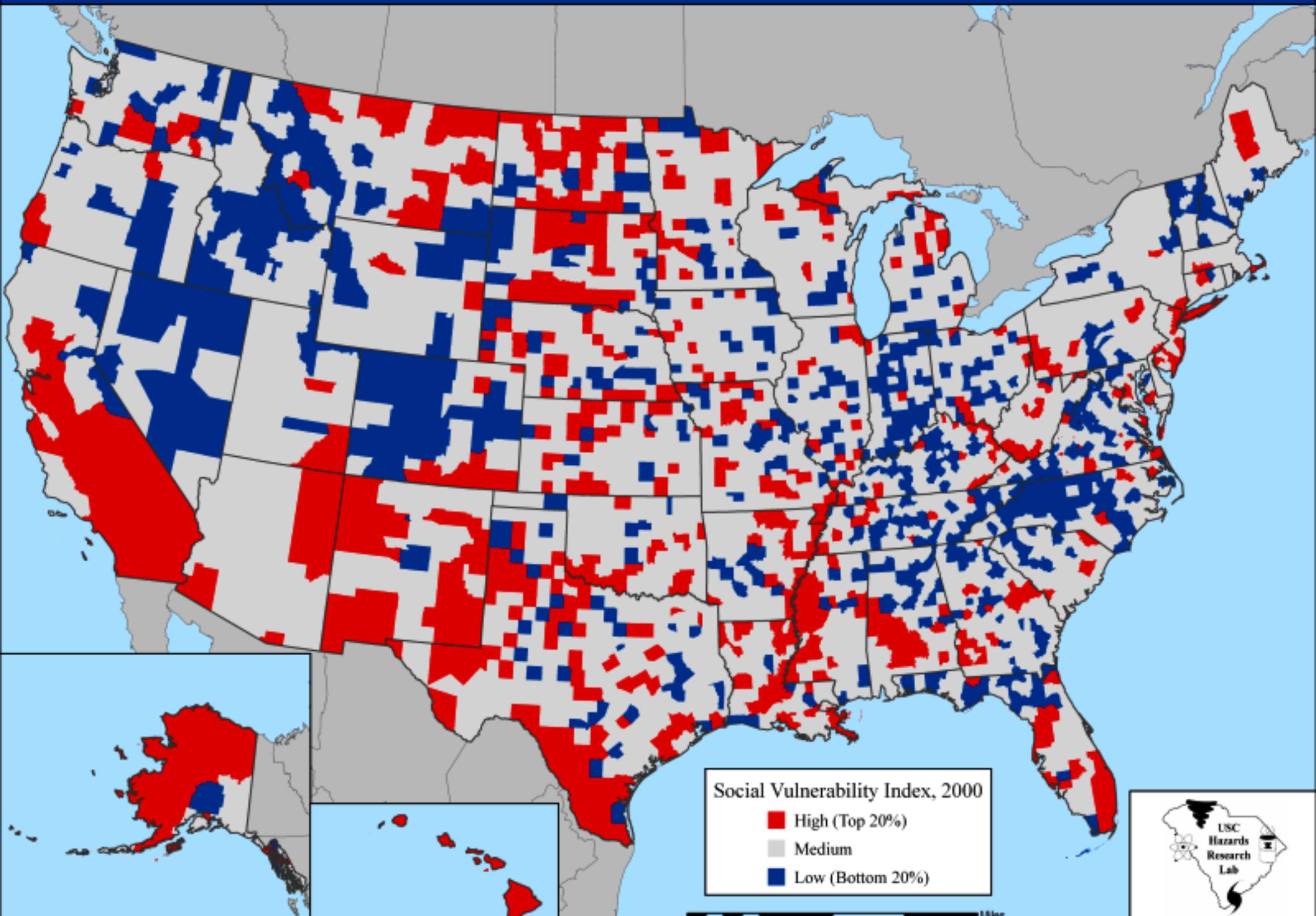


# Some Characteristics of Social Vulnerability

- **Special Needs Populations**
  - Difficult to identify (infirm, transient) let alone measure; invariably left out of recovery efforts; often invisible in communities
- **Age (Elderly and Children)**
  - Affect mobility out of harm's way; need special care; more susceptible to harm
- **Socioeconomic Status (Rich, Poor)**
  - Ability to absorb losses and recover (insurance, social safety nets), but more material goods to lose
- **Race and Ethnicity (Non-white, Non-Anglo)**
  - Impose language and cultural barriers; affect access to post-disaster recovery funding; tend to occupy high hazard zones
- **Gender (Women)**
  - gender-specific employment, lower wages, care-giving role



# Social Vulnerability to Environmental Hazards, 2000





## Social Vulnerability Index for the United States

The Social Vulnerability Index (SoVI) measures the social vulnerability of U.S. counties to environmental hazards. The index is a comparative metric that facilitates the examination of the differences in social vulnerability among counties. SoVI is a valuable tool for policy makers and practitioners. It graphically illustrates the geographic variation in social vulnerability. It shows where there is uneven capacity for preparedness and response and where resources might be used most effectively to reduce the pre-existing vulnerability. SoVI also is useful as an indicator in determining the differential recovery from disasters.

The index synthesizes 42 socioeconomic and built environment variables, which the research literature suggests contribute to reduction in a community's ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from hazards. The data were culled from national data sources, primarily those from the United States Census Bureau.

The socioeconomic and built environment data were compiled and geo-referenced by the Hazards Research Lab at the University of South Carolina. The socioeconomic and built environment variables were standardized and input into a principal components analysis to reduce the number of variables into a smaller set of indicators. Adjustments were made to the component's directionality (negative, positive) to insure that positive loadings were associated with increasing vulnerability, and negative loadings with decreasing vulnerability. Once the directions of the loadings were determined, the components were added together to determine the numerical social vulnerability score for each county. For SoVI 2000, there are 11 significant

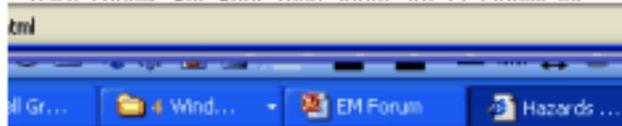
[Home](#) [FAQ](#) [Maps & Data Download](#)

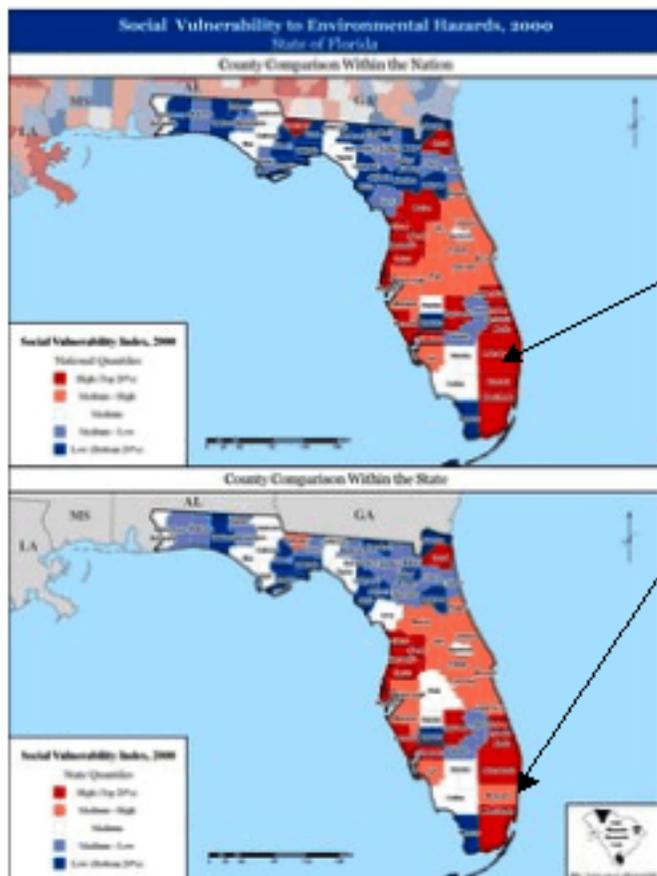
Social Vulnerability Index for the United States 2000

Click on the map below  
or select region type and area of interest  
to view SoVI maps and download data.

Region Type:  States  FEMA Regions

Select area of interest:





Broward

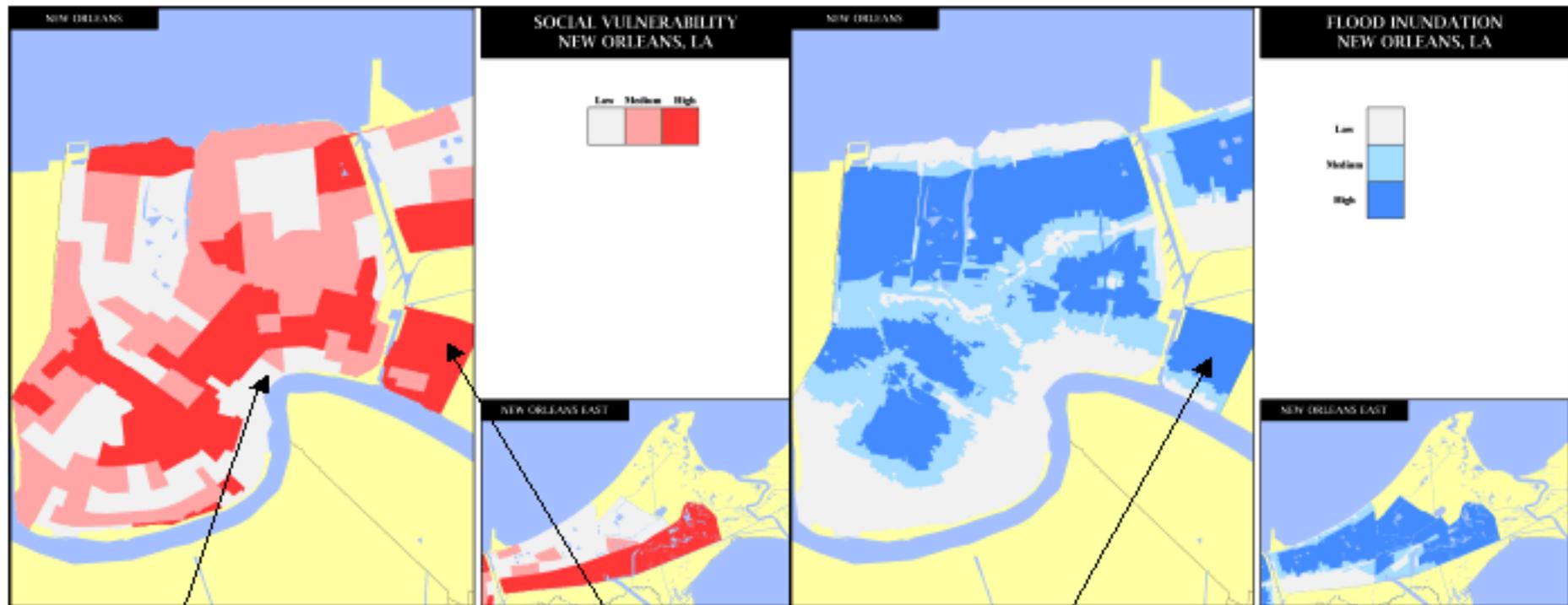
County	State	SOVI 2000	National Percentile Ranking
Miami-Dade County	Florida	8.15	97.5
Citrus County	Florida	7.90	97.2
Hernando County	Florida	7.07	96.4
Charlotte County	Florida	5.96	94.4
Sarasota County	Florida	5.59	93.7
Pinellas County	Florida	5.27	92.6
Highlands County	Florida	4.95	91.3
St. Lucie County	Florida	4.53	89.8
Sumter County	Florida	4.40	89.2
Pasco County	Florida	4.34	88.9
Palm Beach County	Florida	4.34	88.9
Martin County	Florida	3.94	86.5
Duval County	Florida	3.86	86.0
Broward County	Florida	3.81	85.6
Gadsden County	Florida	3.74	85.1
Indian River County	Florida	3.69	84.8
Marion County	Florida	3.58	84.2

Click on the image above to open a pdf version of the map  
Click on column headers to sort table

Click to download data

# Social Vulnerability

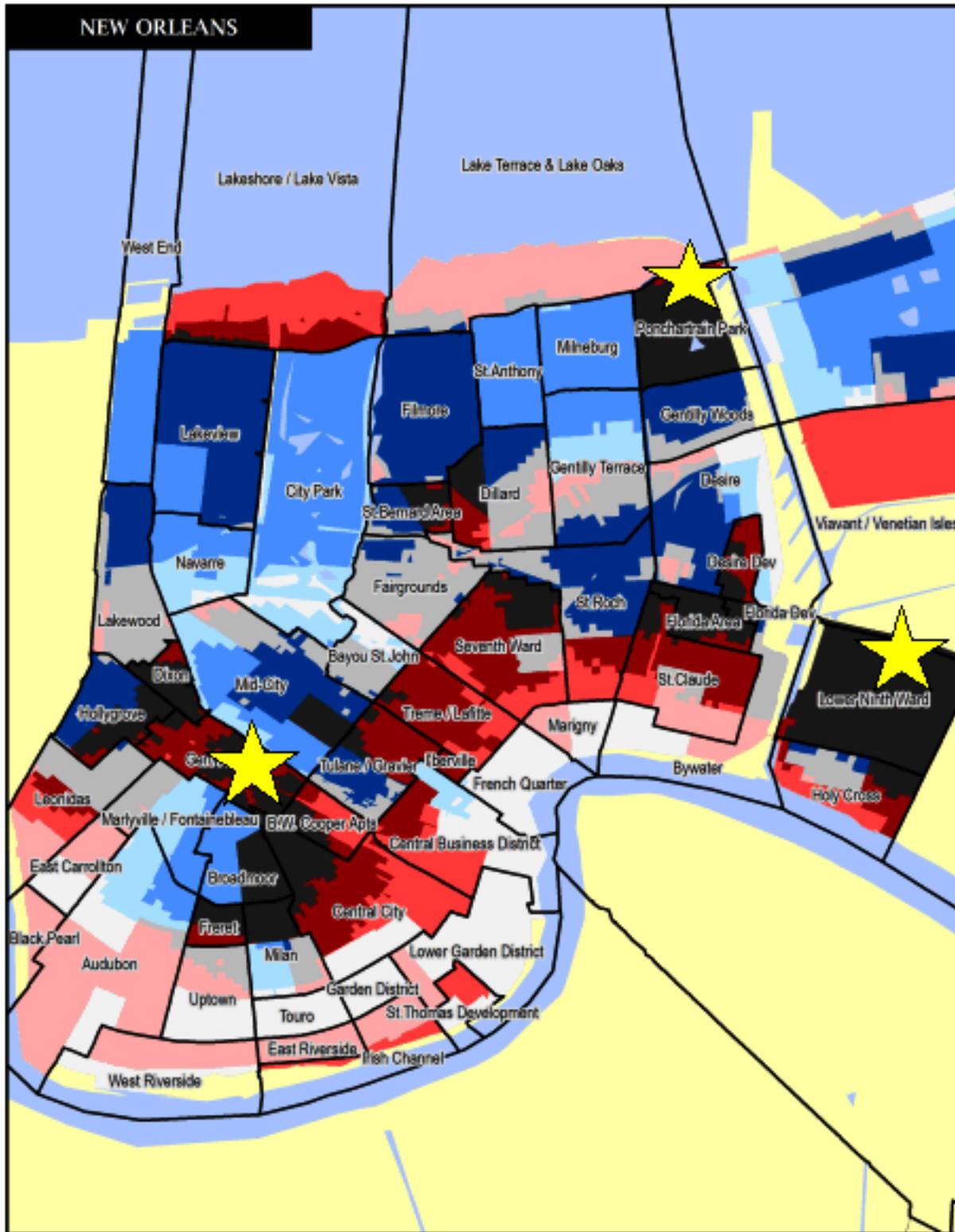
# Flood Inundation



French Quarter

Lower Ninth Ward

# NEW ORLEANS



# VULNERABILITY & HAZARD NEW ORLEANS, LA

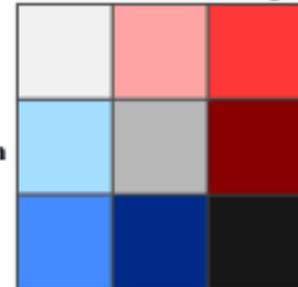
## SOCIAL VULNERABILITY

Low Medium High

Low

Medium

High



## FLOOD INUNDATION

# NEW ORLEANS EAST

