Resilience: Vulnerability and Social Cohesion

The Tennessee Department of Health's Emergency Preparedness Program is using this brief questionnaire as part of a study that will ask you to rate five categories of your community in the context of emergency and disaster resilience.

The categories are:

* Vulnerability
* Inequality
* Deprivation
* Connectedness
* Community involvement

Each category is defined for you and examples of what low and high ratings may look like in a community are available for your convenience. Please choose the community you know best and rate each category on a scale of 1 to 10 with one being low and 10 being optimal. It may take 10-15 minutes to complete. You may rate multiple communities if you have in-depth knowledge of more than one simply by starting a new survey after submitting the first.

These ratings will be used to inform local emergency preparedness and recovery planning and the results will be shared via a follow-up focus group to discuss potential solutions.

Please enter the zip code for the community you are rating.

Please select your current professional industry.

* Local Government
* State Government
* Federal Government (Non-military)
* Military
* Community-based or Nonprofit
* Faith-based/Clergy
* Politics/Elected Official
* K-12 Education
* College/University
* Healthcare
* Public Health
* Business/Private Sector
* Community Member
* Other

Please describe your professional industry.

Please select the group(s) of people you serve. Choose all that apply.

* General Public
* Faith-based or religious communities
* People with disabilities
* Incarcerated or formerly incarcerated people
* Immigrants, refugees, or people with undocumented status
* Rural communities
* People from racial and ethnic minority groups
* People from the LGBTQIA community
* People who are medically underserved
* People experiencing homelessness
* People experiencing poverty
* People with a mental illness
* Older adults
* Youth
* Other
* Not Applicable

Please name other groups you serve.

**POPULATION VULNERABILITY**

**Definition: The social, economic, and political conditions that may lead to harm, loss, or disruption during or after an emergency.**

For a description of what a community with low capacity looks like, click YES.

 Yes  No

VULNERABILITY: The community may have a higher than average number of people known to be at greater risk, more limited in their ability to respond to emergency instructions, and more likely to be in places where they may be harmed. This includes children and elderly residents, people with lower incomes, people with functional and access needs or special medical needs, single heads of household, and institutionalized people. People may distrust outsiders and be reluctant to seek assistance. There may be a high amount of housing insecurity, homelessness, mobile homes, or seasonal tourists. There is a lack of reliable transportation. People of the community lack access to resources.

For a description of what a community with optimal capacity looks like, click YES.

 Yes  No

VULNERABILITY: Most residents in the community have low exposure to risk, are prepared for and have options to respond to emergencies, and are less likely to be in places where they may be harmed. Most residents are mobile and have access to private vehicles or safe, reliable, and accessible public transportation. The community has a strong economy and low unemployment rates. People share common languages and can communicate with one another. There are trusting relationships among community members built upon shared history or a sense of civic responsibility. Community members are aware of hazards that are most likely, and actively participate in preparedness activities.

On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate your community on vulnerability? (1=low capacity, 10=optimal capacity)

Things to consider when rating:

* Can members of the community remove themselves from danger if needed (i.e., via access to transportation or emergency funds?)
* What proportion of your community is young or elderly and may not be able to independently respond to emergency instructions?
* Are there high levels of minority groups in your community? For example, racial groups, ethnic groups, people with disabilities, or low socioeconomic status?

1 – Low 10 - Optimal

*(Place a mark on the scale above)*

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What is the reason for your rating?

**INEQUALITY**

**Definition: The unequal access to opportunities and unequal exposure to risks as a result of the environment and social structure.**

For a description of what a community with low capacity looks like, click YES.

 Yes  No

INEQUALITY: There is a high degree of unequal access to resources, opportunities, and choices. The community has high unemployment rates, deteriorating conditions, and limited access to reliable and affordable transportation.

People are more susceptible to hazards from the built environment and there is disproportionate exposure to risks. Opportunities for human activities (e.g., farmland, energy sources, places to live and work) are limited.

For a description of what a community with optimal capacity looks like, click YES.

 Yes  No

INEQUALITY: Economic, social, and educational policies enable all people in the community to have access to equitable opportunities, choices, and resources. There is high-quality, accessible education for all ages, and accessible local employment that pays living wages. High-quality, safe and affordable housing is accessible for people with mixed income levels and there is access to affordable and nutritious food.

On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate your community on inequality? (1=low capacity, 10=optimal capacity)

Things to consider when rating:

* The number of homeless people living in your community and the resources available for them.
* People living at or below the poverty line.
* Does your community have food pantries/soup kitchens that are at or over capacity due to such high demand?

1 - Low 10 - Optimal

*(Place a mark on the scale above)*

What is the reason for your rating?

**DEPRIVATION**

**Definition: The material and social disadvantage in the community the individual, family, or group belongs to.**

For a description of what a community with low capacity looks like, click YES.

 Yes  No

DEPRIVATION: Most residents experience a high level of material deprivation (little to no access to goods, services, resources, amenities, or safe physical environments) and social deprivation, (limited community roles, relationships, customs, rights, etc.)

For a description of what a community with optimal capacity looks like, click YES.

 Yes  No

DEPRIVATION: A majority of residents maintain access to abundant goods, services, resources, amenities, and a safe physical environment. People fully embrace the roles, relationships, functions, customs, rights, and responsibilities of membership in the community. There is a fair distribution of necessities, goods, and services where all residents have equitable access.

On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate your community on deprivation? (1=low capacity, 10=optimal capacity)

Things to consider in your rating:

* Does the community experience significant pollution?
* Is there a disproportionate number of people in your community who do not have any formal education?
* Is there a disproportionate number of people in your community who work without payment (unpaid jobs)?
* Do residents in the community have to travel great distances for work, healthcare, food, or other needs?

1 - Low 10 - Optimal

*(Place a mark on the scale above)*

What is the reason for your rating?

**CONNECTEDNESS**

**Definition: The ability to pull together as a community, based on a sense of belonging, neighborliness, and demonstrated patterns of sharing and caring for others.**

For a description of what a community with low capacity looks like, click YES.

 Yes  No

CONNECTEDNESS: Socially isolated, residents are unable to provide or accept help, whether at home, at the workplace, in the neighborhood, or across the larger community. Individuals feel no connection with or obligation to others.

For a description of what a community with optimal capacity looks like, click YES.

 Yes  No

CONNECTEDNESS: Community members have many connections through which they can offer or receive help. Family, friends, coworkers, neighbors, community groups, social service agencies, and more are present in everyone's life as givers and receivers of support.

On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate your community on connectedness? (1=low capacity, 10=optimal capacity)

Things to consider in your rating:

* Do people in your community know, trust and support each other?
* Do residents feel a sense of connection and an obligation toward the larger community?
* To what extent would community members pull together when confronting a disaster?

1 - Low 10 - Optimal

*(Place a mark on the scale above)*

What is the reason for your rating?

**COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

**Definition: The participation of community members in formal groups (e.g., religious organizations, school associations, neighborhood watch) where leadership inspires, and members have opportunities to play meaningful roles.**

For a description of what a community with low capacity looks like, click YES.

 Yes  No

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT: The community has very few active associations or organizations that people participate in outside of home and work. The few groups that exist have low membership, poor attendance, disgruntled members, or uninspiring leaders.

For a description of what a community with optimal capacity looks like, click YES.

 Yes  No

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT: The community has a vibrant life outside of work and home, with active school organizations, block associations, volunteer organizations, places of worship, and more. People are eager to join, active when they do, and committed to growing and improving the group.

On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate your community-on-community involvement? (1=low capacity, 10=optimal capacity)

Things to consider in your rating:

* What kinds of community organizations are active in your community (e.g., school, block associations, places of worship, self-help groups, sports associations, arts, and theatre, etc.)?
* What is the variety and visibility of such groups? Is there high civic engagement and voter turnout in your community?
* Do opportunities exist for people to contribute to emergency planning in your community?

1 - Low 10 - Optimal

*(Place a mark on the scale above)*

What is the reason for your rating?

If you are willing to be contacted regarding any of your comments, please add your name and preferred contact information for follow-up.

(Optional)