

Woodstown Borough: Vulnerable Populations Exposure Snapshot

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Introduction

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While all people living in the United States are affected by climate change, some communities and some populations are more vulnerable. Some populations and communities are subject to multiple stressors, making them disproportionately affected by changing climate conditions.

Vulnerability may vary by several factors:

- **Location** - such as living close to flood prone areas.
- **Physical status** - such as age, pre-existing health conditions and/or physical disability.
- **Social, economic and underlying community conditions** - such as the extent to which individuals have access to the services and results of long-standing societal factors (i.e., community underinvestment, racism, and poor representation in decision-making).

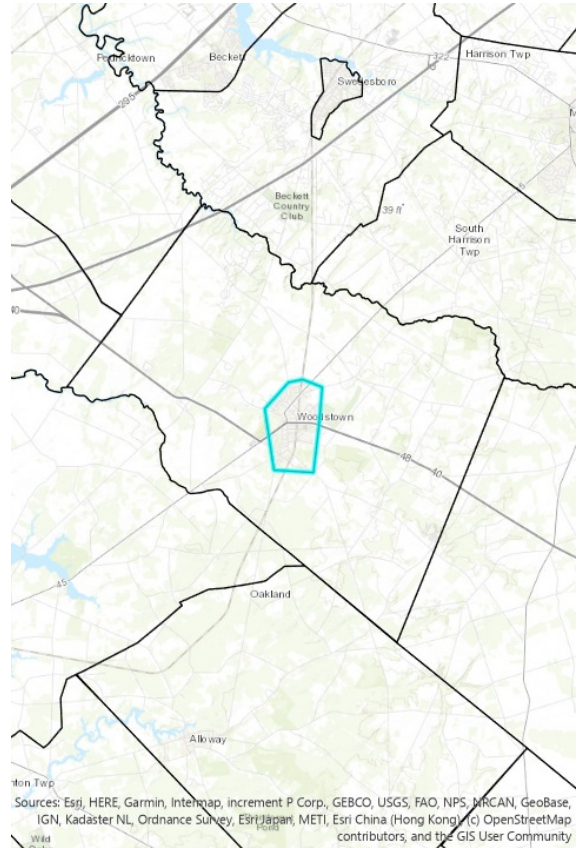
The United States Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention uses information from the U.S. Census to create an index (the [Social Vulnerability Index](#)) that ranks the social vulnerability of communities in the United States to hazardous events and disasters. The ability to recover from these events and disasters is much more difficult for socially vulnerable populations. The CDC index, which helps identify these populations, is at a census tract level and is comprised of 15 social factors that are organized according to four themes. These four themes are: Socioeconomic Status, Household Composition and Disability; Minority Status and Language; and Housing and Transportation.

Understanding where socially vulnerable populations are in relation to climate hazards, such as flooding, can help a community plan for impacts to those groups most vulnerable to such hazards.

There are 3 types of flood events:

1. Riverine (or 'fluvial') flood events occur when intense rain events cause rivers and streams to overtop their banks.
2. Flash (or 'pluvial') floods occur when intense rainfall causes a flood event that is not directly associated with a body of water. For example, flash flood events include floods in roadways from impaired stormwater management systems.
3. Coastal flood events occur when sea-level rise, high tides, and storm surge combine to create flood events that range from nuisance high-tide floods to destructive storm tides from seawater.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) models flood hazards, both riverine (1) and coastal (3), as part of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) regulations and insurance requirements. FEMA does not model flash flood events (2) for their NFIP flood mapping.



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Demographics

Total Population: 3,680

Total Housing Units: 1,743

Average Municipal Household Income: \$46,756

Total Municipality Acres: 1,034

Total Urban Area (Acres): 693

- **Urban Area Impacted by 1% Annual Chance Flood:** 30 Acres (4.35%)
- **Urban Area Impacted by 0.2% Annual Chance Flood:** 59 Acres (8.51%)
- **Urban Area Impacted by Regulatory Floodway:** 7 Acres (1.06%)

Impacted populations were calculated by determining the proportion of urban land use within a municipality impacted by inland and coastal flood hazards and applying that proportion to the total value of the indicator variable for that municipality.

Population and Household values were retrieved from The U.S. Census Bureau, [American Community Survey](#) (2022 - ACS 5 Year) API

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Exposure Based on Socioeconomic Status

By Population (FEMA Flood Zones)

Represents quartile of this census tract to other census tracts in New Jersey

Variable	Population		# Exposed in ...		
	Within Variable	% of Total	1% Annual Chance Flood	0.2% Annual Chance Flood	Regulatory Floodway
Below Poverty	362	9.84%	16	31	4
Unemployed	69	1.88%	3	6	1
No High School Diploma	186	5.05%	8	16	2

The FEMA National Flood Hazard Layer (NFHL) dataset represents the current effective flood data across the United States. Areas in the National Flood Hazard Layer are:

- Floodway: The floodway is the channel of a stream plus any adjacent floodplain areas that must be kept free of encroachment so that the 1% annual chance flood can be carried without substantial increases in flood height.
- 1% Annual Chance Flood: The 1% annual flood (100-year flood), also known as the base flood, is the flood that has a 1% chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year. The Special Flood Hazard Area is the area subject to flooding by the 1% annual chance flood. Areas of Special Flood Hazard include Zones [A](#), [AE](#), [AH](#), [AO](#), [AR](#), [A99](#), [V](#), and [VE](#). The Base Flood Elevation is that water-surface elevation of the 1% annual chance flood.
- 0.2% Annual Chance Flood: The 0.2% annual flood (500-year flood) is the flood that has a 0.2% chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year.
- Areas of Undetermined Flood Hazard are areas with possible but undetermined flood hazards.
- FEMA Flood Zone exposure analyses are inclusive of lesser FEMA flood designations. The number exposed to 1% Annual Chance Flood includes those exposed in the Regulatory Floodway area in its analysis and the 0.2% Annual Chance Flood includes those exposed in the 1% Annual Change Flood and in the Regulatory Floodway.

[LINK TO SOCIO-ECONOMIC MAP](#)

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Exposure Based on Household Composition & Disability

By Population (FEMA Flood Zones)

Represents quartile of this census tract to other census tracts in New Jersey

Variable	Population		# Exposed in ...		
	Within Variable	% of Total	1% Annual Chance Flood	0.2% Annual Chance Flood	Regulatory Floodway
Aged 65 or Over	537	14.59%	24	46	6
Aged 17 or Younger	745	20.24%	32	63	8
Civilian with a Disability	553	15.03%	24	47	6

By Households (FEMA Flood Zones)

Represents quartile of this census tract to other census tracts in New Jersey

Variable	Households		# Exposed in ...		
	Within Variable	% of Total	1% Annual Chance Flood	0.2% Annual Chance Flood	Regulatory Floodway
Single-Parent Households	126	7.23%	5	10	1

[LINK TO HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION & DISABILITY MAP](#)

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Minority Status & Language

By Population (FEMA Flood Zones)

Represents quartile of this census tract to other census tracts in New Jersey

Variable	Population		# Exposed in ...		
	Within Variable	% of Total	1% Annual Chance Flood	0.2% Annual Chance Flood	Regulatory Floodway
Minority	516	14.02%	22	43	5
Black or African American	75	2.04%	3	7	1
AIAN ¹	6	0.16%	0	0	0
Asian	6	0.16%	0	0	0
NHPI ²	0	0.00%	0	0	0
Other	0	0.00%	0	0	0
Two or More Races	24	0.65%	1	2	0
Hispanic or Latino	405	11.01%	17	34	4
Speak English "Less than Well"	2	0.05%	0	0	0

¹ American Indian and Alaska Native

² Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander

[LINK TO MINORITY STATUS & LANGUAGE MAP](#)

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Housing & Transportation

By Households (FEMA Flood Zones)

Variable	Households		# Exposed in ...		
	Within Variable	% of Total	1% Annual Chance Flood	0.2% Annual Chance Flood	Regulatory Floodway
Multi-Unit Structures ¹	185	10.61%	8	16	2
Mobile Homes	36	2.07%	1	3	0
Crowding ²	17	0.98%	1	1	0
No Vehicle	78	4.48%	4	7	1

¹ Multi-unit structures is defined here as 10 or more housing units in a structure.

² Crowding is defined here as the number of households that have more people than rooms.

By Population (FEMA Flood Zones)

Represents quartile of this census tract to other census tracts in New Jersey

Variable	Population		# Exposed in ...		
	Within Variable	% of Total	1% Annual Chance Flood	0.2% Annual Chance Flood	Regulatory Floodway
Group Quarters ³	19	0.52%	1	1	0

³ Group Quarters is defined as persons who are in institutionalized group quarters (e.g., correctional institutions, nursing homes) and non-institutionalized group quarters (e.g., college dormitories, military quarters).

[LINK TO HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION & DISABILITY MAP](#)

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Other Data Sets

In addition to the CDC SVI data, several other sets of data are available that can be used to reflect the social vulnerability of populations and communities:

Municipal Revitalization Index

Managed by the state Department of Community Affairs, the [Municipal Revitalization Index \(MRI\)](#) serves as the State's official measure and ranking of municipal distress. This index is linked to economic, housing, and labor market data.

[LINK TO MUNICIPAL REVITALIZATION MAP](#)

Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed

<https://www.unitedforalice.org/new-jersey>

ALICE, an acronym for [Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed \(ALICE\)](#), represents the growing number of individuals and families who are working, but are unable to afford the basic necessities of housing, child care, food, transportation, energy, and health care.

[LINK TO ALICE MAP](#)

NJCounts Point-in-Time

The Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires each state to conduct an assessment in January of each year to identify individuals residing in emergency shelters, transitional housing programs, safe havens and living on the streets or other locations not fit for dwelling. For NJ, this data is known as [NJCounts](#).

[LINK TO NJCOUNTS POINT-IN-TIME MAP](#)

Veterans

The [U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey](#) maintains data regarding demographic, social and economic data on veterans.

[LINK TO VETERANS MAP](#)

Housing Stock Age

Maintained by the United States [Census Bureau, American Community Survey](#), the Housing Stock Age reflects the number of housing units built in the municipality prior to 1970. These homes may be more vulnerable and less resilient to changing climate conditions.

[LINK TO HOUSING STOCK AGE MAP](#)

Landscan

Landscan provides a relative assessment of population density measured on a "people per cell" indicator basis. While this is not a measure of social vulnerability, it is provided to better understand where populations reside.

[LINK TO LANDSCAN MAP](#)

Metadata / Sources - Flood Hazards

Name	Description	Where to Get It	
		Map Service	Authoritative Source
FEMA Flood Zones	This FIRM data service allows users to view FIRMs for NJ. Counties were combined using the data downloaded from FEMA's Region II office.	FEMA Flood Zones Map Service	Federal Emergency Management Agency(FEMA)

Metadata / Sources - Social Vulnerability

			Where to Get It
Name	Description	Map Service	Authoritative Source
Social Vulnerability Index - Overall	The Social Vulnerability Index combines percentile rankings of US Census American Community Survey (ACS) 2014-2018 variables, for the state, at the census tract level and highlight the location of a community's most vulnerable people.	Overall Social Vulnerability Map Service	Center for Disease Control -Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)
Social Vulnerability Index - Socio-Economic	The Social Vulnerability Index combines percentile rankings of US Census American Community Survey (ACS) 2014-2018 variables, for the state, at the census tract level and highlight the location of a community's most vulnerable people. Socioeconomic Status: Poverty, Unemployed, Per Capita Income, No High School Diploma.	SVI Socio-Economic Map Service	Center for Disease Control -Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)
Social Vulnerability Index - Household Composition	The Social Vulnerability Index combines percentile rankings of US Census American Community Survey (ACS) 2014-2018 variables, for the state, at the census tract level and highlight the location of a community's most vulnerable people. Household Composition/Disability: Aged 65 and Over, Aged 17 and Younger, Single-parent Household, Aged 5 and over with a Disability.	SVI Household Composition Map Service	Center for Disease Control -Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)
Social Vulnerability Index - Race / Ethnicity / Language	The Social Vulnerability Index combines percentile rankings of US Census American Community Survey (ACS) 2014-2018 variables, for the state, at the census tract level and highlight the location of a community's most vulnerable people. Race/Ethnicity/Language: Minority, English Language Ability.	SVI Race/Ethnicity/Language Map Service	Center for Disease Control -Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)
Social Vulnerability Index - Housing / Transportation	The Social Vulnerability Index combines percentile rankings of US Census American Community Survey (ACS) 2014-2018 variables, for the state, at the census tract level and highlight the location of a community's most vulnerable people. Housing/Transportation: Multi-unit, Mobile Homes, Crowding, No Vehicle, Group Quarters.	SVI Housing/Transportation Map Service	Center for Disease Control -Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)
ALICE	ALICE represents working households unable to afford basic necessities. ALICE households have incomes above the Federal Poverty Level, but below the Household Survival Budget (HSB). The HSB calculates the actual cost of basic necessities - housing, child care, food, transportation, health care, technology (smartphones), and taxes - in New Jersey, adjusted for different counties and household types.	ALICE Map Service	United Way of Northern New Jersey

		Where to Get It	
Name	Description	Map Service	Authoritative Source
Homeless Population	The homeless population is calculated via a Point-in-Time (PIT) count of sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness on a single night in January. This dataset was gathered in January 2018. The count is based on Continuum of Care program geographies. Some Continuum of Care programs cover one county in New Jersey, while other programs cover multiple counties. Map boundaries have been dissolved to show Continuum of Care geographic coverage.	Homeless Population Map Service	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Age of Housing Stock	Housing units built prior to the year 1970	Housing Stock Map Service	U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey
MRI Distress Score	The Municipal Revitalization Index (MRI) ranks New Jersey's municipalities according to eight separate indicators that measure diverse aspects of social, economic, physical, and fiscal conditions in each locality. These indicators are: Average annual population change; Children on Temporary Assistance for Needy Families; Unemployment rate; Equalized 3-year effective tax rate; Equalized valuation per capita; Per capita income; Substandard housing percentage; Pre-1960 housing percentage. The distress score ranges from 0 to 100, with 100 indicating maximum distress.	MRI Distress Score Map Service	New Jersey Department of Community Affairs
Veteran Population	Veteran status for the civilian population 18 years and older	Veteran Population Map Service	U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey
NJDEP Environmental Justice Overburdened Communities	<p>In September 2020, New Jersey adopted a new law (N.J.S.A. 13:1D-157) that requires the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to evaluate the contributions of certain commercial and industrial facilities to existing environmental and public health stressors in overburdened communities when reviewing certain permit applications. The law also directs the Department to publish a list of overburdened communities, at a census block level, based on the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ At least 35 percent of the households qualify as low-income households (at or below twice the poverty threshold as determined by the U.S. Census Bureau); ◦ At least 40 percent of the residents identify as minority or as members of a State recognized tribal community; or ◦ At least 40 percent of the households have limited English proficiency according to the U.S. Census Bureau. <p>This data layer represents the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's published list of overburdened communities. More information can be found at: https://www.nj.gov/dep/ej/communities.html</p>	Overburdened Communities Feature Service	NJDEP Office of Environmental Justice

