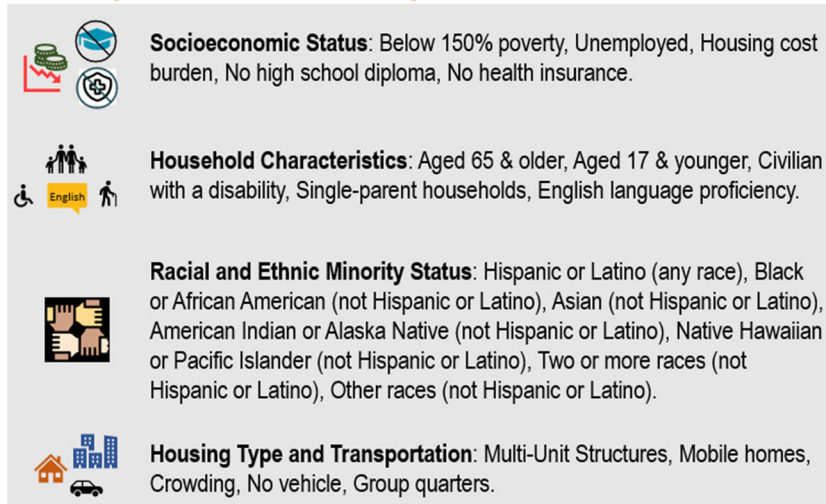# SOCIAL VULNERABILITY INDEX

Estimated* Social Vulnerability Index by Subregional Area, San Diego County, 2022

Figure 1: SVI variables grouped into four themes

Socioeconomic Status: Below 150% poverty, Unemployed, Housing cost burden, No high school diploma, No health insurance.

Household Characteristics: Aged 65 & older, Aged 17 & younger, Civilian with a disability, Single-parent households, English language proficiency.

Racial and Ethnic Minority Status: Hispanic or Latino (any race), Black or African American (not Hispanic or Latino), Asian (not Hispanic or Latino), American Indian or Alaska Native (not Hispanic or Latino), Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (not Hispanic or Latino), Two or more races (not Hispanic or Latino), Other races (not Hispanic or Latino).

Housing Type and Transportation: Multi-Unit Structures, Mobile homes, Crowding, No vehicle, Group quarters.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/ Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry/ Geospatial Research, Analysis, and Services Program. CDC/ATSDR Social Vulnerability Index 2022 Database California. Accessed September 2024. Prepared by: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, March 2025.

Table 1: SRAs with High and Medium to High Levels of Social Vulnerability, San Diego County, 2022

Subregional Area	Region	Social Vulnerability Index
National City	South	0.85
Chula Vista	South	0.80
South Bay	South	0.69
Southeastern San Diego	Central	0.68
Mountain Empire	East	0.66
Mid-City	Central	0.65
El Cajon	East	0.64
Vista	North Coastal	0.60
Escondido	North Inland	0.57
Spring Valley	East	0.56
Lemon Grove	East	0.55
Fallbrook	North Inland	0.55

"Social vulnerability refers to the demographic and socioeconomic factors (such as poverty, lack of access to transportation, and crowded housing) that adversely affect communities that encounter hazards and other community-level stressors. These stressors can include natural or human-caused disasters (such as tornadoes or chemical spills) or disease outbreaks (such as COVID-19)."[1]

"Social Vulnerability Index (SVI): Place-based index that identifies communities experiencing social vulnerability. SVI helps local health agencies and public health officials better prepare for and respond to emergency events with the goal of decreasing human suffering, economic loss, and health inequities."[1]
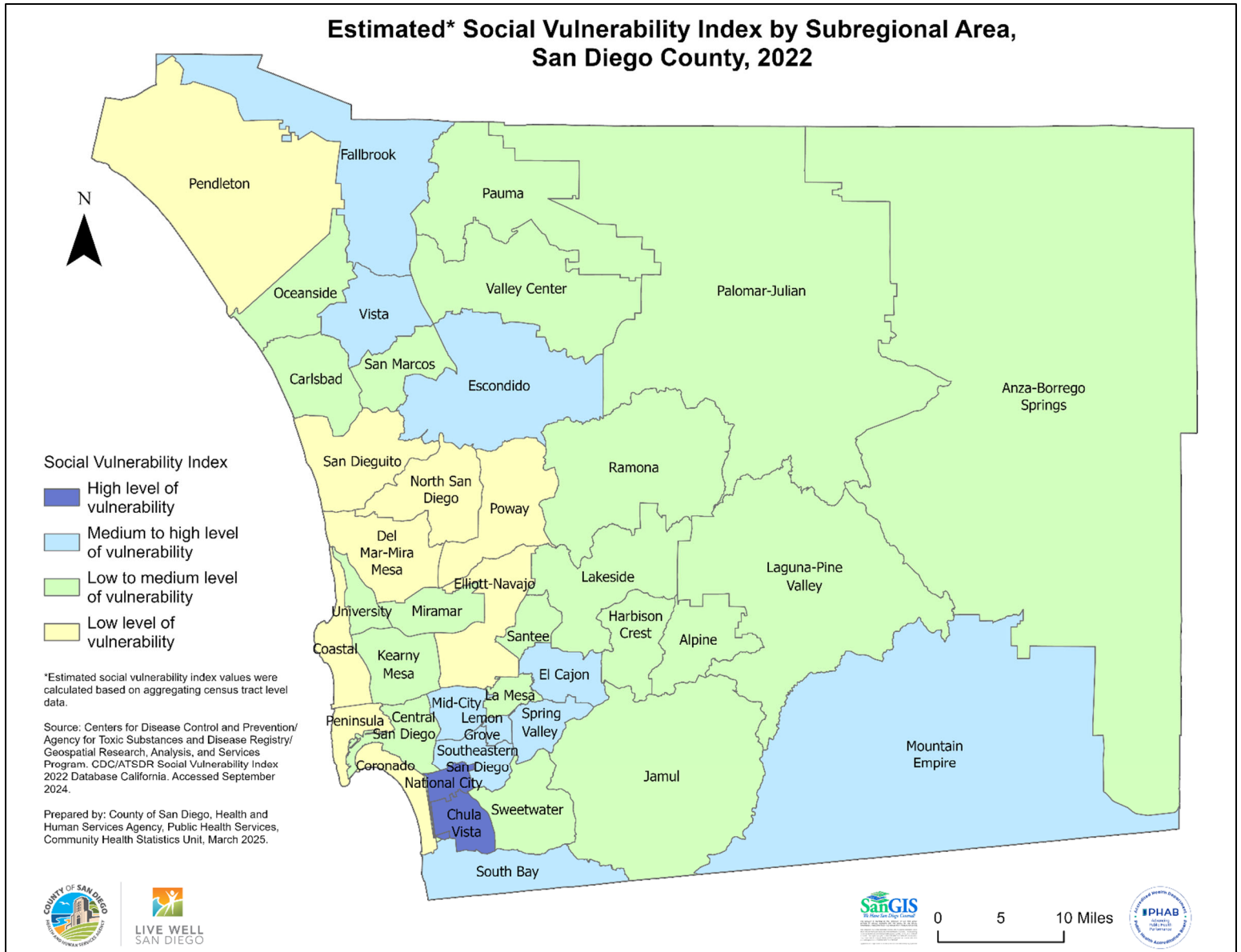
The estimated SVI compares the social vulnerability between subregional areas in San Diego County. The SVI variables are grouped into four themes: socioeconomic status; household characteristics; racial and ethnic minority status; and housing type and transportation (see *Figure 1*). Data were obtained from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/ Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry/ Geospatial Research, Analysis, and Services Program SVI 2022 database.[1] The estimated SVI values for the subregional areas (SRAs) were calculated based on aggregating census tract data.

The four levels of social vulnerability include: low (0-0.24); low to medium (0.25-0.49); medium to high (0.50-0.74); high (0.75-1).[1] The estimated SVI by subregional area shows the variation in levels of social vulnerability (see *Figure 2*) and allows identification of communities with higher social vulnerability.

In 2022, **National City** (South Region) had the **highest social vulnerability index** (0.85) compared to all other subregional areas in San Diego County. In 2022, **3 out of 5 subregional areas** with the **highest social vulnerability index** were in **South Region** in San Diego County.

In 2022, **2 SRAs** (National City and Chula Vista) located in South Region of San Diego County had **high levels of social vulnerability (SVI of 0.75 or over).** Additionally, **4 out of 12 subregional areas** (33.3%) with high and medium to high levels of social vulnerability in San Diego County were in **East Region** in 2022.

Figure 2: Estimated* Social Vulnerability Index by Subregional Area, San Diego County, 2022

Estimated* Social Vulnerability Index by Subregional Area, San Diego County, 2022

*Estimated social vulnerability index values were calculated based on aggregating census tract level data.
Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/ Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry/ Geospatial Research, Analysis, and Services Program. CDC/ATSDR Social Vulnerability Index 2022 Database California. Accessed September 2024.

Prepared by: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services, Community Health Statistics Unit, March 2025.

References

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/ Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry/ Geospatial Research, Analysis,and Services Program. CDC/ATSDR Social Vulnerability Index 2022 Database California. Accessed September 2024.