Impact of COVID-19 on Vulnerable Populations in Texas

County-level Vulnerability and COVID-19 Measures Dashboard Notes

> **Note: The County-level Vulnerability and COVID-19 Measures dashboard was redesigned in June 2022. The most recent data can be accessed by selecting the vulnerability dashboard link on the [HHSC Texas COVID-19 Case Count and Vaccination Data](#) webpage.**

Data sources and description

Several publicly available data sources were collected for this dashboard. They include information from the Texas DSHS COVID-19 dashboard, the US Census Bureau, the Texas Demographic Center, the Texas Workforce Commission, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Social Vulnerability Index (SVI), and County Health Rankings and Roadmaps (CHR). See Table 1.

The vulnerability measures on this dashboard do not predict the likelihood of COVID-19 cases for an area. They identify communities with characteristics that historically correlate with poorer health outcomes.

Measure information

The County-level COVID-19 and Vulnerabilities Dashboard contains two maps depicting COVID-19 measures of occurrence juxtaposed with demographic and social characteristics of Texas counties. These characteristics were selected because they are traditionally associated with a community's ability to respond to external stresses on human health.

Each map allows users to examine (click on) either the county risk map or the COVID-19 statistics map. This will affect the display for both maps and the sorted bar charts. Users can see the relationships between vulnerability measures and COVID-19 measures by looking at the sorted bar charts in tandem. Data are suppressed if the number of COVID-19 cases was 5 or less.

Table 1: County-level Vulnerability and COVID-19 Data Resources

Resource	Data
COVID-19 Case Data (DSHS COVID-19 Dashboard)	• Total cases per 1,000 population per year, 2020-2021
U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 data. Small Area Health Insurance Estimates Program (SAHIE)	• Percent of the population under 65 years that is uninsured
Texas Demographic Center, 2021	• Percent of the population that is Hispanic • Percent that is Black/African American
Texas Workforce Commission (Texas Labor Market Information)	• Percent unemployed, not seasonally adjusted
CDC Social Vulnerability Index	• Social Vulnerability Index Summary (Percentile)
Socioeconomic Status Theme (part of CDC SVI)	• Socioeconomic Status (Percentile) • Population living 200% Below Poverty Level. *Source: U.S. Census Bureau. 5-Year 2018 American Community Survey for Texas (ACS) covering the 2014-2018 period.* • Population that is unemployed. *Source: Texas Workforce Commission*
Household Composition and Disability Theme (part of CDC SVI)	• Household Composition and Disability (Percentile) • Population that is a senior citizen (65 Years or More). *Source: Texas Demographic Center, 2021*

Resource	Data
Minority Status and Language Theme (part of CDC SVI)	• Minority Status and Language (Percentile) • Population that speaks English "less than well"
Housing Type and Transportation Theme (part of CDC SVI)	• Housing Type and Transportation (Percentile) • Percent of population that lives in crowded housing • Percent of population with no access to a vehicle
County Health Rankings and Roadmaps	• Prevalence of Adult Diabetes • Prevalence of Adult Obesity • Prevalence of Adults who are Current Smokers/Tobacco Users, and • Primary Care Physician Rate (Per 100,000 population)

COVID-19 case data

Total cases refers to the total number of confirmed cases of COVID-19. Confirmed cases are persons who have tested positive through a molecular test that looks for the virus's genetic material.
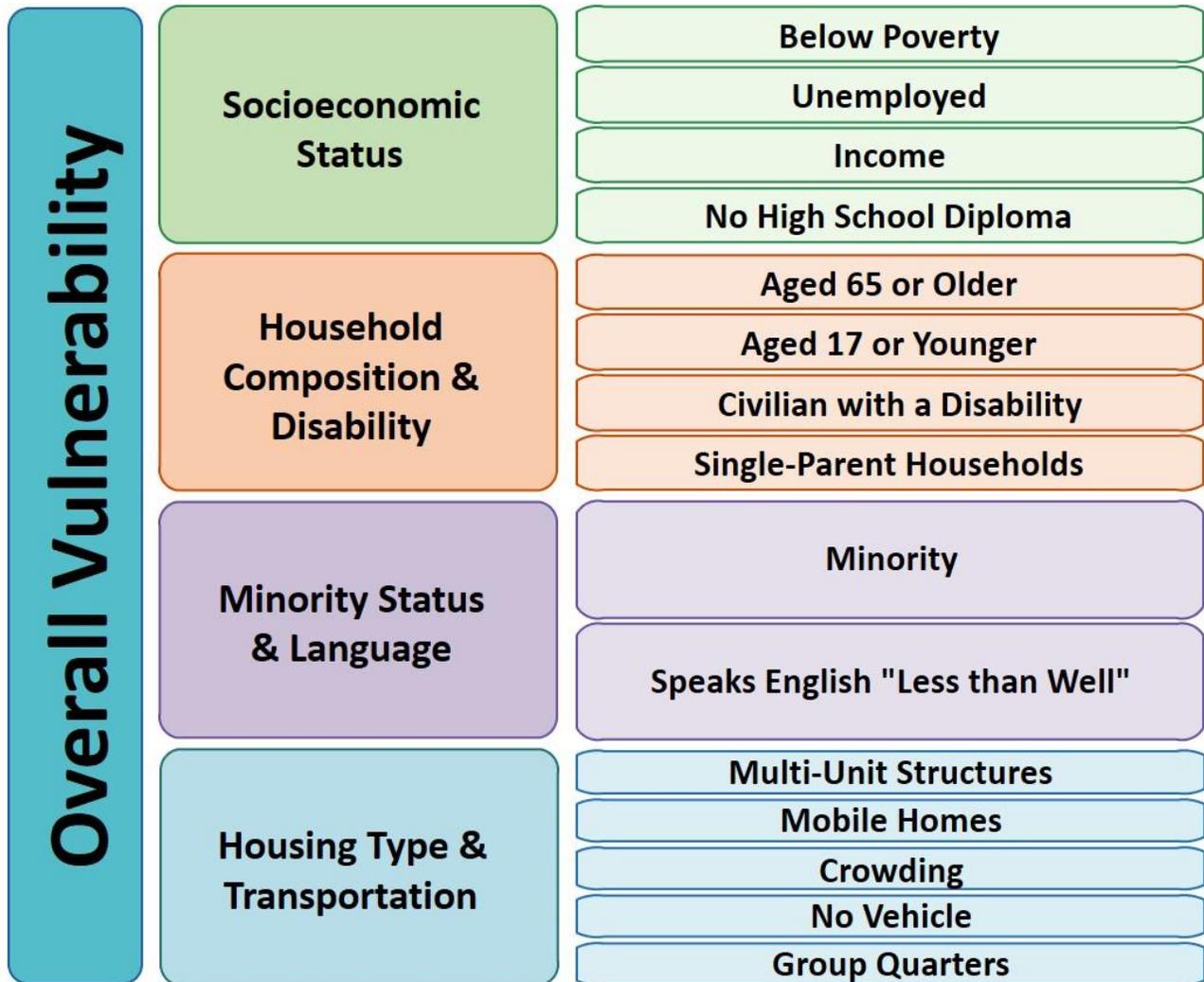
County Health Rankings and Roadmaps (CHR)

The CHR program provides data, evidence, guidance, and examples to build awareness of the multiple factors that influence health. CHR uses over 30 measures from a variety of sources to compare the health of each county within a state to other counties within the same state. This dashboard uses the 2020 data from CHR. For more information, go to County Health Rankings & Roadmaps (CHR).

Social Vulnerability Index (SVI)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) uses Census data to determine the social vulnerability of every county based on sociodemographic characteristics, housing composition, disability status, minority status & language, housing type and having a personal vehicle available (Figure 1). For more information, go to the CDC SVI website.

Figure 1. SVI components

Source: CDC SVI Documentation 2018 (retrieved 12/18/2020)

Text version of overall vulnerability image:

- Socioeconomic Status

- ‣ Below Poverty

- ‣ Unemployed

- ‣ Income

- ‣ No High School Diploma

- Household Composition & Disability

  - ‣ Aged 65 or Older

  - ‣ Aged 17 or Younger

  - ‣ Civilian with a Disability

  - ‣ Single-Parent Households

- Minority Status & Language

  - ‣ Minority

  - ‣ Aged 5 or Older who Speaks English "Less than Well"

- Housing Type & Transportation

  - ‣ Multi-Unit Structures

  - ‣ Mobile Homes

  - ‣ Crowding

  - ‣ No Vehicle

  - ‣ Group Quarters