

SOCIAL VULNERABILITY INDEX

RELEASE NOTES

DATA VINTAGE

2019

BASE LEVEL GEOGRAPHY

Dissemination Area

UPDATE FREQUENCY

Annual

VARIABLES

11

WHAT IT IS

The Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) looks at Canadians who may be challenged during and post-pandemic due to mental health issues and limited social networks. Governments and social service agencies understand that some Canadians will inevitably have difficulty coping. The Social Vulnerability Index in combination with PRIZM helps shed light on who is most likely to need more social support. This allows program support and communications to be designed with specific target populations in mind, and focused on the neighbourhoods most at risk. The SVI is constructed with the following variables, and every six-digit postal code in Canada has an associated SVI:

- Single-person households
- Self-reported rates of poor or fair mental health
- Rates of orientation towards “Community Involvement”
- Confidence in being able to rely on others in the community
- Measures of having close friends and family
- Unemployment rate (pre-COVID estimates)

The Social Vulnerability Index is calculated by weighting variables across multiple Environics Analytics databases; DemoStats, CommunityLife, CommunityHealth, and SocialValues.

HOW IT'S USED



Municipal governments and social services can use the index to target their support to neighbourhoods and areas with the highest concentration of residents identified as socially vulnerable.



Not-for-profit and Community-Based Organizations (CBO) can use the SVI to prioritize neighbourhoods to efficiently leverage their resources to maximize their dollars for the greatest impact.

SAMPLE QUESTIONS IT CAN ANSWER

- Which neighbourhoods contain the highest concentration of residents with the greatest need for social support?
- How many households in my jurisdiction will likely need support? How can we rank them based on need?
- Where can we allocate our resources for minimum investment and maximum impact?
- What is the best way to make help accessible to the segments that may not know its available?