

March 14th, 2024



Machias, Maine
Photo: Alex MacLean

Climate Impacts Workshop

Facilitated by University of
Maine, Mitchell Center for
Sustainability Solutions

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A Word from the Equity Subcommittee

- Why are we here today?
- How does this workshop build on work we've been doing?
- Why does it matter?

About Us

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Moises Nuñez



University of Maine
George Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions

Goal

To better understand how climate change impacts different people in the state differently, and to consider how we can create policy that supports the most vulnerable people in Maine.

You will walk away with the following:



An understanding of how climate change can impact different people in the state in different ways



Exploration of which populations are most vulnerable in Maine



Lenses to help understand how equity, accessibility, diversity, and inclusion intersect with policy



Guiding questions to help you shape your policies in the future

Picture your community

- Think of a 20-mile radius from where you live
- How do you think climate change will impact your community?
 - What will change?
 - What will be threatened?



Some people in the state will be more vulnerable to climate change.

- What populations do you think could be more vulnerable to climate change in Maine?

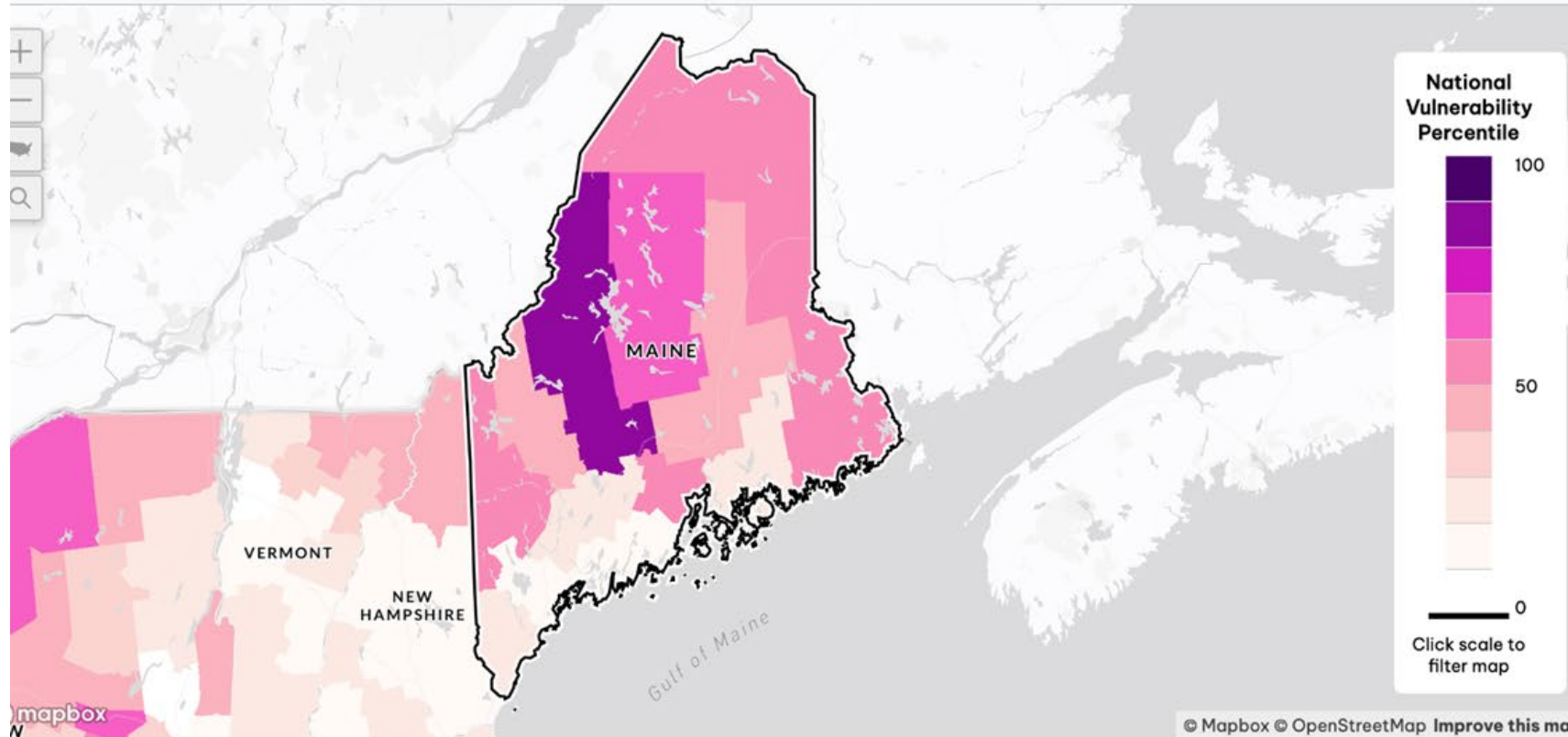


Naples, Maine
Photo: Ben McKenna

How Does Maine Compare with the Nation?

Socioeconomic Stressors

The aspects of a person's identity and daily lives that can increase stress.



MAP BOUNDARIES

Counties Tracts

Socioeconomic Stressors

Environment Extreme Events

Infrastructure

SELECTED INDICATOR

Socioeconomic Stressors

GEOGRAPHIC CONTEXT

Select an area below to focus the map

State EPA Region



✕ Maine

[Copy Link](#) | [Export Image](#) | [Overlay Data](#) | [f](#) | [in](#) | [t](#)

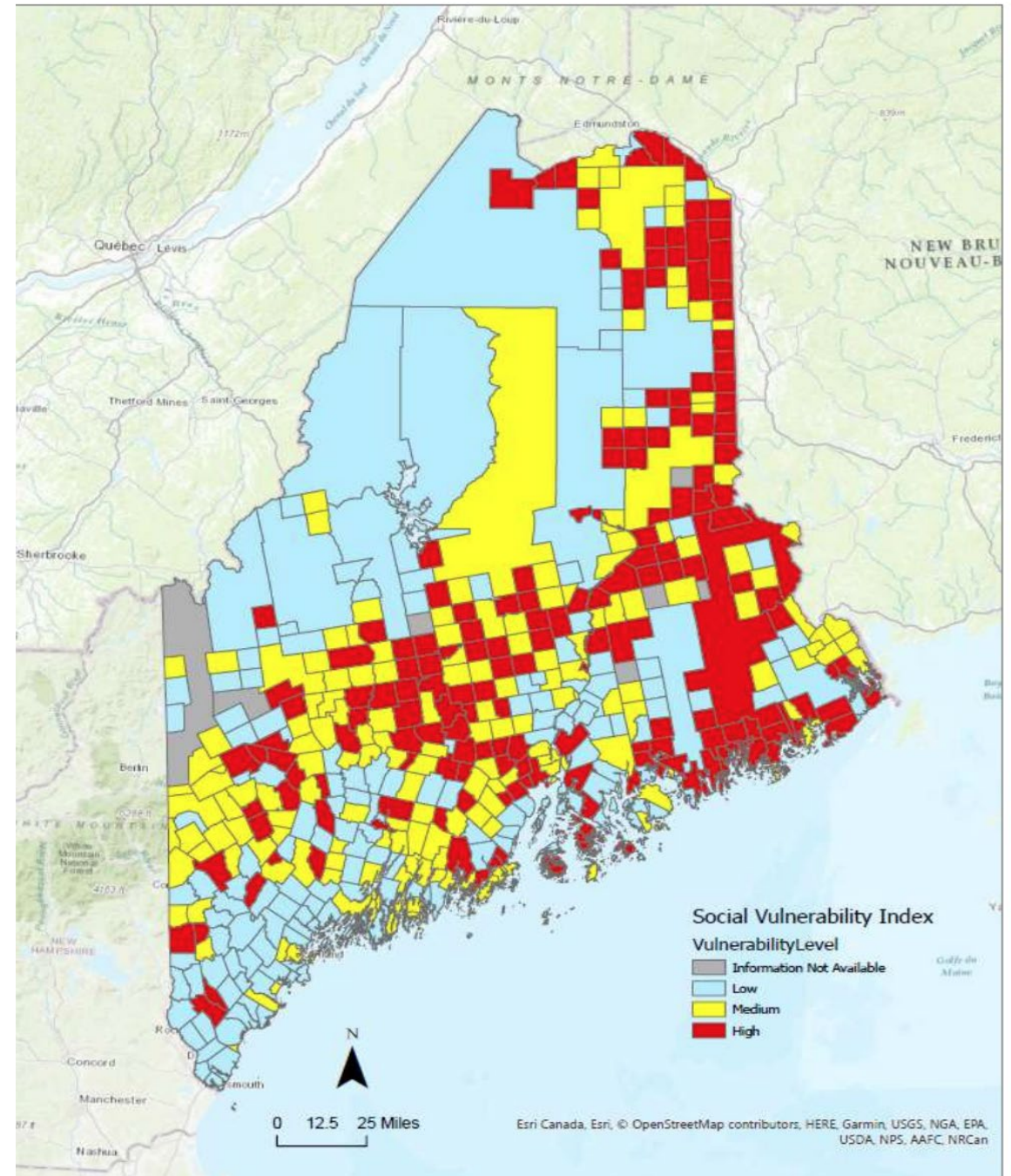
lower vulnerability 40th national percentile

Ranks 30 out of 51 States and Districts in the U.S.

VIEW REPORT

* State values above represent the median of all counties within that state

How Social Vulnerability Varies in the State



Comparing Climate Impacts for Different People

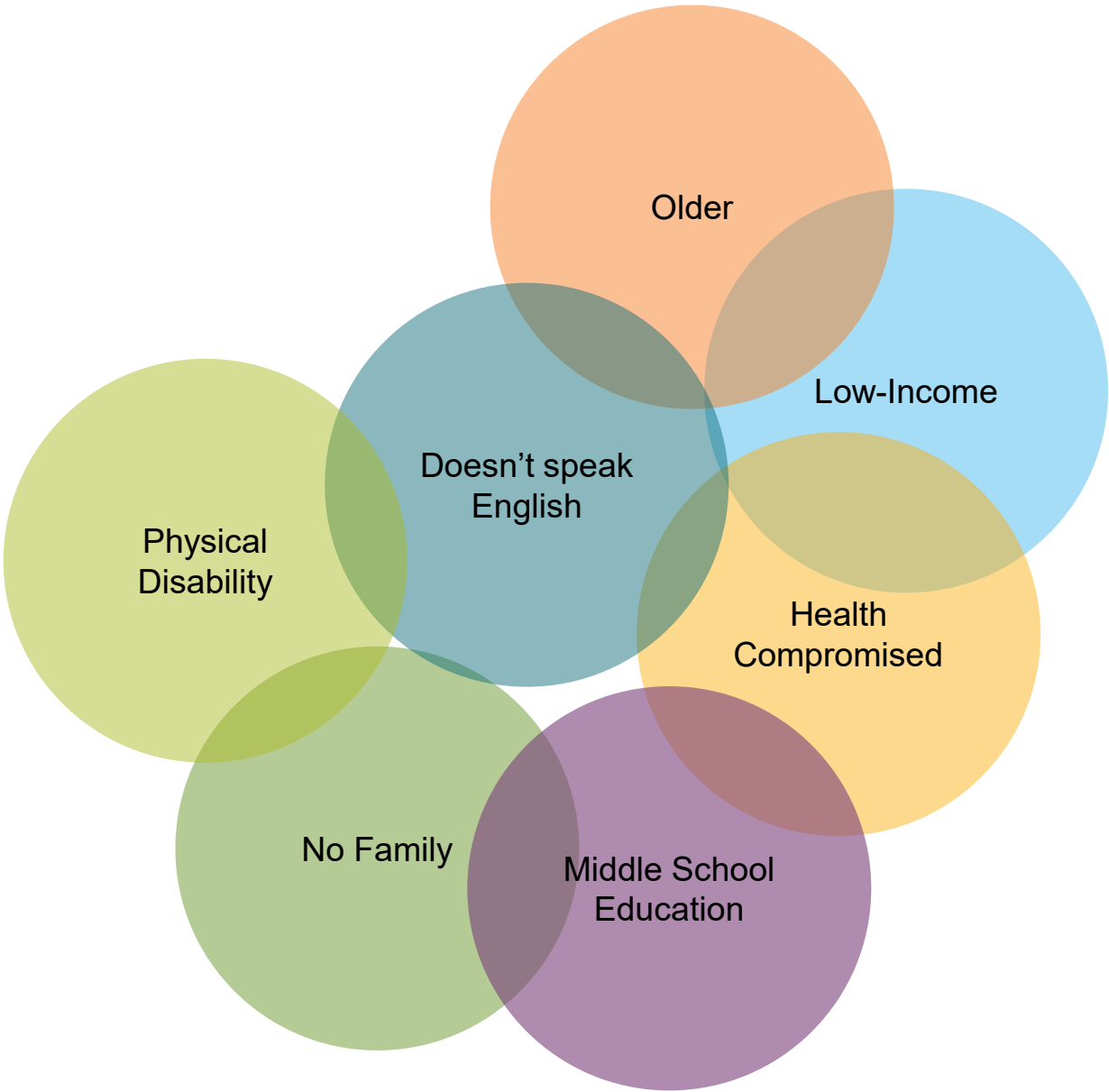
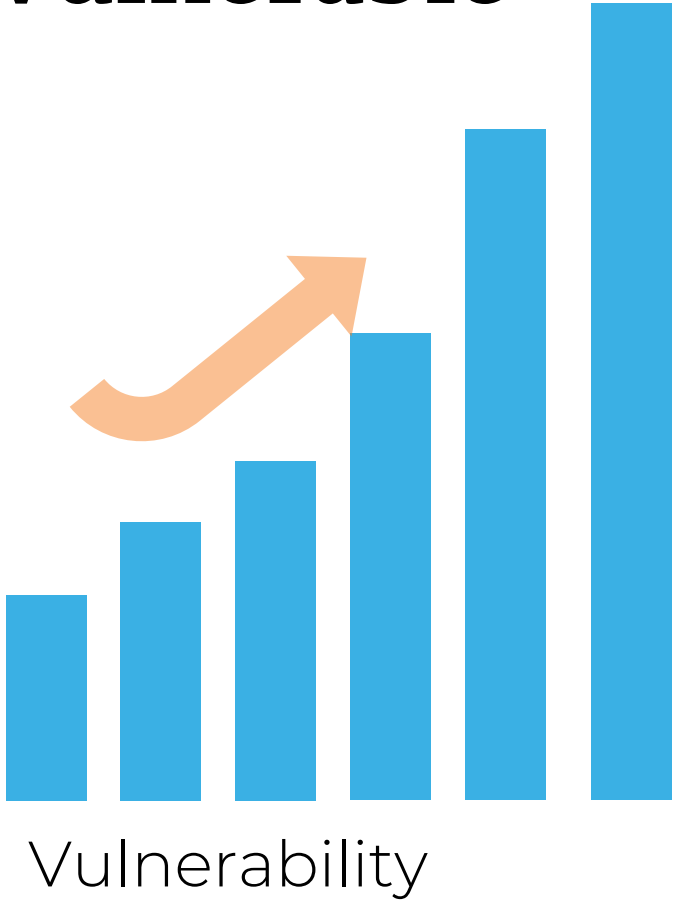


Santa Barbara, California, U.S.,
November 26, 2019.
REUTERS/David McNew



Photo: Konstantinos Tsakalidis

The Intersections of Some Identities Make People Even More Vulnerable



**How do these differences in
vulnerability correspond to climate
change impacts?**

Scenario # 1 – Heavy Rainstorms

After heavy rainstorms, many areas in the state are flooded. In some places entire roads are washed out.



Naples, Maine
Photo: Ben McKenna



Discussion

When you saw the Mentimeter poll, did you want to expand on some of the vulnerability of certain populations around this issue?

How do issues of equity, access, and inclusion play out in these photographs?

Scenario 2 – Extreme Heat

Maine has a heat wave of 95-100 degrees for over a week. Much of our infrastructure is not prepared to accommodate such hot weather.



Discussion

When you saw the Mentimeter poll, did you want to expand on some of the vulnerability of certain populations around this issue?

How do issues of equity, access, and inclusion play out in this photograph?

Sustainable and Resilient Infrastructure

- **Equity** – Are there policies in place, or in the works, that focus on the most vulnerable first?
- **Accessibility** – Are we providing additional funding to low-income communities so that they have access to the same needed improvements (like culverts that reduce flooding) as wealthier communities?
- **Diversity** – Have we taken into account a variety of perspectives such as the youth, new mainers, older people, people with medical issues, people with disabilities, rural, urban, low income, mobile homes, etc. when we are identifying what infrastructure matters most?
- **Inclusion** – Have we included the populations above in the work to identify the critical needs and solutions?

Connecting to Policy

If we know climate change will impact different populations differently...

And will do more harm to some populations than others...

Then how can we plan for this in the way we make decisions and create policy?

Curb-Cut Effect



University of Maine Mitchell Center Engagement Process

1. Identify most vulnerable Maine communities on a variety of climate impacts
2. Listen and learn about the issues different populations face
3. Share findings with your working groups to help inform policies

Questions to Consider

Who are all the populations impacted by this climate change issue?

Questions to Consider

Of these populations, who are most vulnerable according to the Maine Social Vulnerability Index and US Climate Vulnerability Index?

Questions to Consider

When you review the Final Recommendations of Equity Subcommittee Report and University of Maine Mitchell Center engagement report, **what are you hearing about your policy?** Consider:

- a. What are concerns and needs of vulnerable groups in relation to this policy?
- a. What are negative experiences vulnerable groups have had in the past that could be prevented by this policy?
- a. How might aspects of your policy inadvertently do harm to certain vulnerable groups? How could you address these potential harms?

Policy is Only Part of the Picture

We also need to consider cultural changes including shifts in attitudes and practices that address the issues at hand.

Next Steps

- Consider learnings from today in your committees
- Use “Questions to Consider” Handout
- Review Mitchell Center results as they come in
- All of the above can help inform policy and action

Thank You!