

Social Vulnerability Index for Maine Communities

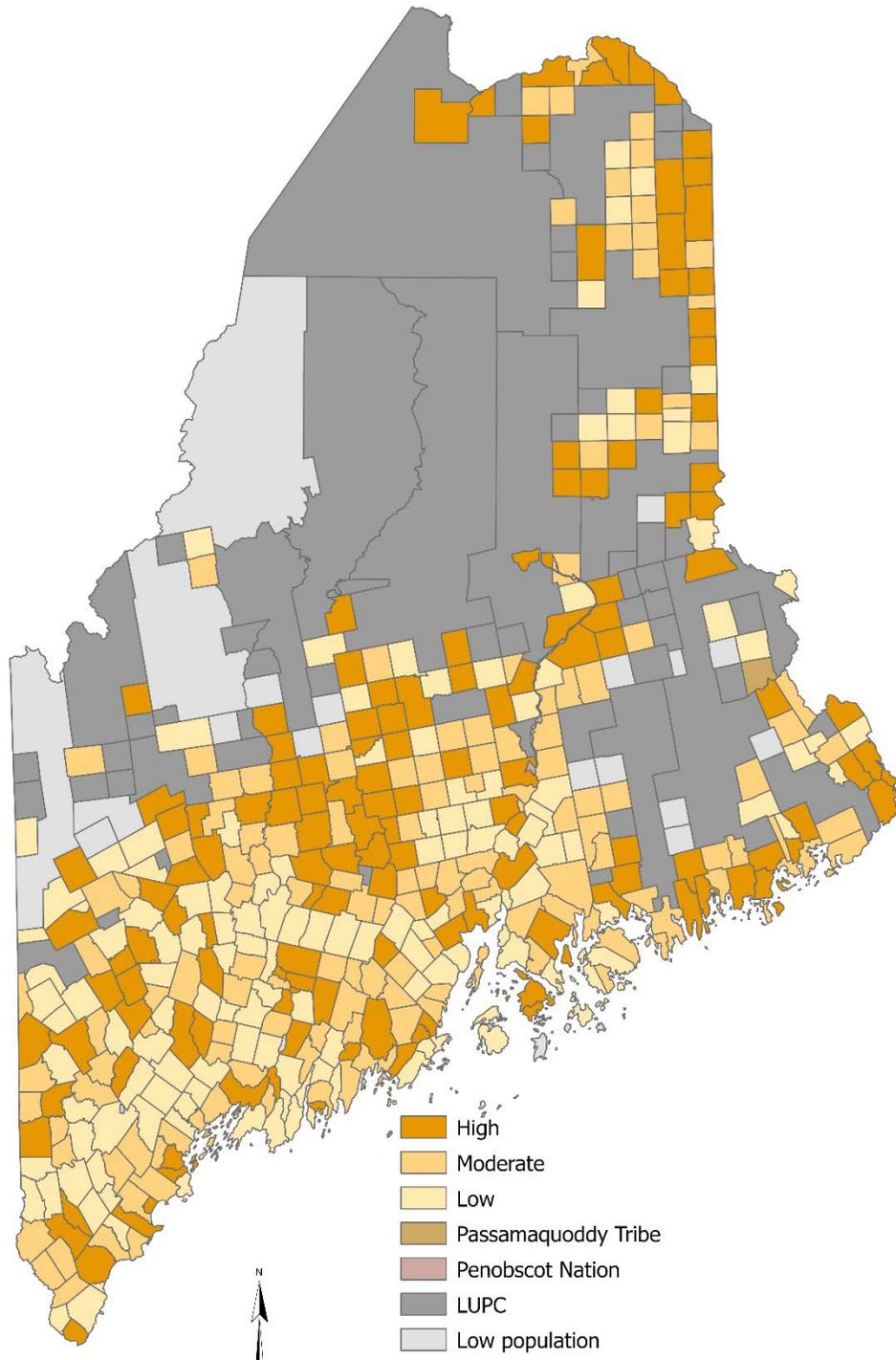
Socially Vulnerable Populations include those who have specific socioeconomic circumstances that may increase their vulnerability in the event of an emergency, such as, but not limited to, poverty, minority status, people without vehicles, people with disabilities, older adults, and people with limited English proficiency.

The Maine Social Vulnerability Index (MSVI) is maintained by Eileen Johnson at Bowdoin College and Jeremy Bell at The Nature Conservancy in Maine to help identify where vulnerable populations are located and what factors contribute to those vulnerabilities. Until the development of the MSVI, work being done in Maine on identifying vulnerabilities to projected impacts of climate change had focused almost entirely on impacts to physical infrastructure like roads, bridges and buildings. Little had been done to assess ‘social vulnerability’.

The MSVI is based on 19 socioeconomic and demographic indicators taken from US Census data. The MSVI is a customized version of the US Centers for Disease Control’s social vulnerability index. The MSVI calculates the percentage of the population within each census county subdivision, which aligns with municipal government boundaries for each indicator. The MSVI supports communities in decision making that improves the resiliency of the whole community by addressing the needs of those who might be at-risk or underserved. Note that ‘vulnerability’ is often the result of the societal systems in place that create inequities in climate risk to people.

The MSVI is a tool that can be used to help inform planning processes, allocation of resources, and policy and program development by bringing the elements of social vulnerability into the calculus. It provides detail at the county subdivision level as well as providing a way to assess social vulnerability across Maine communities. The current update (MESVI 2020) reflects updated population data and reflect changes in the US CDC’s social vulnerability index. New variables that have been included in the most current version are housing cost burden (households with annual income less than \$75,000 that spend 30% or more of income on housing costs), uninsured residents, and residents residing in group quarters.

As a resource, the MSVI is intended to complement local level knowledge of a community’s vulnerabilities. In addition to providing an overall SVI category for each community, the MESVI provides information at a community scale on each indicator to help plan for the needs of residents experiencing a particular vulnerability. A community may have a higher percentage of residents who experience heightened vulnerability in a specific category, although the index may indicate a lower level of overall vulnerability. The MESVI is intended as a starting point for conversation for a community to identify its vulnerabilities.



Scale: 1:2,000,000

High represents communities with more categories at upper percentile. Low represents communities with fewer categories at upper percentile.

HIGH Indicators of Social Vulnerability

Addison	Detroit	Madison
Alfred	Dexter	Mars Hill
Allagash	Dixfield	Mattawamkeag
Amity	Dover-Foxcroft	Milbridge
Andover	Dresden	Millinocket
Anson	Eagle Lake	Milo
Ashland	East Machias	Monson
Athens	East Millinocket	Monticello
Auburn	Eastbrook	Moscow
Augusta	Eastport	Newport
Avon	Eustis	Norway
Bangor	Fairfield	Old Orchard Beach
Bath	Farmington	Old Town
Belfast	Fort Fairfield	Orient
Bethel	Fort Kent	Oxford
Biddeford	Franklin	Palmyra
Bingham	Fryeburg	Paris
Blue Hill	Gardiner	Parkman
Boothbay Harbor	Grand Isle	Parsonsfield
Brewer	Greenville	Patten
Bridgewater	Guilford	Pembroke
Bridgton	Hallowell	Perry
Brooks	Hancock	Phillips
Brownville	Hartland	Pittsfield
Brunswick	Haynesville	Portland
Bucksport	Hiram	Presque Isle
Burnham	Houlton	Princeton
Calais	Howland	Randolph
Cambridge	Island Falls	Rockland
Canton	Jonesboro	Sanford
Caribou	Jonesport	Sangerville
Casco	Kittery	Searsport
Caswell	Lagrange	Sherman
Chelsea	Lee	Skowhegan
Cherryfield	Leeds	Smyrna
Chester	Lewiston	Solon
Clinton	Liberty	South Portland
Corinth	Limestone	St. Agatha
Cornville	Lincoln	St. Albans
Cushing	Livermore Falls	St. Francis
Damariscotta	Lubec	Stacyville
Danforth	Machias	Steuben
Deer Isle	Madawaska	Stonington

Strong
Sumner
Thomaston
Troy
Unity

Van Buren
Waldoboro
Waterville
Wells
West Paris

Westfield
Whitefield
Wilton
Winn
Winslow

MEDIUM Indicators of Social Vulnerability

Albion
Alexander
Alna
Alton
Amherst
Appleton
Aurora
Baileyville
Bar Harbor
Beals
Belmont
Benton
Berwick
Blaine
Boothbay
Bradford
Bremen
Bristol
Brownfield
Burlington
Buxton
Camden
Canaan
Castle Hill
Chapman
Charleston
Charlotte
Chebeague Island
Clifton
Columbia
Columbia Falls
Corinna
Cornish
Crystal
Cutler

Easton
Ellsworth city
Embden
Exeter
Falmouth
Farmingdale
Frankfort
Freedom
Freeport
Frenchville
Friendship
Gorham
Gouldsboro
Greenbush
Greenwood
Harmony
Harrington
Harrison
Hebron
Hodgdon
Hudson
Islesboro
Jackman
Jackson
Jefferson
Kenduskeag
Kennebunk
Kennebunkport
Kingfield
Knox
Lebanon
Limerick
Lisbon
Lowell
Ludlow

Machiasport
Mapleton
Mariaville
Maxfield
Mechanic Falls
Medway
Mercer
Mexico
Milford
Monmouth
Monroe
Naples
New Canada
New Portland
New Sharon
New Sweden
New Vineyard
Nobleboro
Norridgewock
North Berwick
Oakfield
Oakland
Orono
Passadumkeag
Penobscot
Perham
Plymouth
Portage Lake
Porter
Prospect
Rangeley
Richmond
Rockport
Roque Bluffs
Rumford

Sabattus	Surry	Washington
Saco city	Swanville	Wellington
Scarborough	Temple	Wesley
Sebago	Thorndike	West Bath
Sedgwick	Topsham	Westbrook city
Somerville	Trenton	Whiting
South Berwick	Turner	Whitneyville
Southwest Harbor	Union	Willimantic
Springfield	Veazie	Windsor
Starks	Vienna	Winter Harbor
Stetson	Wallagrass	Winterport
Stockholm	Waltham	Winthrop
Stow	Warren	Wiscasset
Sullivan	Washburn	Yarmouth

LOW Indicators of Social Vulnerability

Abbot	Dennysville	Industry
Acton	Dixmont	Jay
Arrowsic	Durham	Lamoine
Arundel	Dyer Brook	Levant
Baldwin	Eddington	Limington
Belgrade	Edgecomb	Lincolnville
Bowdoin	Edinburg	Linneus
Bowdoinham	Eliot	Litchfield
Bowerbank	Enfield	Littleton
Bradley	Etna	Livermore
Brooklin	Fayette	Long Island
Brooksville	Garland	Lovell
Buckfield	Georgetown	Lyman
Cape Elizabeth	Gilead	Manchester
Carmel	Glenburn	Marshfield
Carrabassett Valley	Gray	Masardis
Carthage	Greene	Matinicus Isle plantation
Castine	Hampden	Meddybemps
Chesterville	Hanover	Medford
China	Harpwell	Merrill
Cooper	Hartford	Minot
Cranberry Isles	Hermon	Montville
Cumberland	Hersey	Moose River
Dayton	Holden	Morrill
Dedham	Hollis	Mount Desert
Denmark	Hope	Mount Vernon

New Gloucester	Readfield	Upton
New Limerick	Ripley	Vanceboro
Newburgh	Robbinston	Vassalboro
Newcastle	Rome	Verona Island
Newfield	Roxbury	Vinalhaven
Newry	Searsmont	Wade
North Haven	Sebec	Waite
North Yarmouth	Shapleigh	Waldo
Northfield	Shirley	Wales
Northport	Sidney	Waterboro
Ogunquit	Smithfield	Waterford
Orland	Sorrento	Wayne
Orrington	South Bristol	Weld
Otis	South Thomaston	West Gardiner
Otisfield	Southport	Westmanland
Owls Head	St. George	Weston
Palermo	Standish	Westport Island
Peru	Stockton Springs	Windham
Phippsburg	Stoneham	Woodland
Pittston	Swans Island	Woodstock
Poland	Sweden	Woodville
Pownal	Topsfield	Woolwich
Raymond	Tremont	York

Wabanaki Nations – Federal census data does not align with federally recognized Tribal Lands or use the names of federally recognized Tribal Governments, impacting the usefulness of the Maine Social Vulnerability Index. The combinations of socioeconomic factors that exist in Wabanaki Nations may elevate aspects of social vulnerability. For the purposes of CRP grant applications, Tribal Governments are invited to categorize themselves, if desired, as having High indicators of social vulnerability.

Aroostook Band of Micmacs
Houlton Band of Maliseets
Passamaquoddy Tribe at Motahkomikuk
Passamaquoddy Tribe at Sipayak
Penobscot Nation

Uncategorized – Municipalities with less than 60 residents and Maine’s Unorganized Territories are not categorized in the Maine Social Vulnerability Index due to data limitations when population size is very small. The very small and remote nature of these communities are factors that may elevate social vulnerability. For the purposes of CRP grant applications, these communities are invited to categorize themselves, if desired, as having High indicators of social vulnerability.

Argyle UT
Bancroft UT
Baring plantation
Beaver Cove
Beddington
Blanchard UT
Brighton plantation
Byron
Caratunk
Carroll plantation
Central Aroostook UT
Central Hancock UT
Central Somerset UT
Codyville plantation
Connor UT
Coplin plantation
Crawford
Criehaven UT
Cyr plantation
Dallas plantation
Deblois
Dennis plantation
Drew plantation
East Central Franklin UT
East Central Penobscot UT
East Central Washington UT
East Hancock UT
Frenchboro
Frye Island
Garfield plantation
Glenwood plantation
Grand Lake Stream plantation
Great Pond
Hamlin
Hammond
Hibberts gore
Highland plantation
Isle au Haut
Kingman UT
Kingsbury plantation
Lake View plantation
Lakeville
Lincoln plantation

Louds Island UT
Macwahoc plantation
Magalloway plantation
Marshall Island UT
Muscle Ridge Islands UT
Milton UT
Monhegan plantation
Moro plantation
Mount Chase
Nashville plantation
North Franklin UT
North Oxford UT
North Penobscot UT
North Washington UT
Northeast Piscataquis UT
Northeast Somerset UT
Northwest Aroostook UT
Northwest Hancock UT
Northwest Piscataquis UT
Northwest Somerset UT
Osborn
Pleasant Ridge plantation
Prentiss UT
Perkins UT
Rangeley plantation
Reed plantation
Sandy River plantation
Seboeis plantation
Seboomook Lake UT
South Aroostook UT
South Franklin UT
South Oxford UT
Southeast Piscataquis UT
Square Lake UT
St. John plantation
Talmadge
The Forks plantation
Twombly Ridge UT
Unity UT
Webster plantation
West Central Franklin UT
West Forks plantation
Whitney UT

Winterville plantation
Wyman UT