

How Assessments Can Inform—and Empower—Community Resilience

Key findings in working with communities

Matt Hutchins, Karin Rogers, Jim Fox, Nina Hall



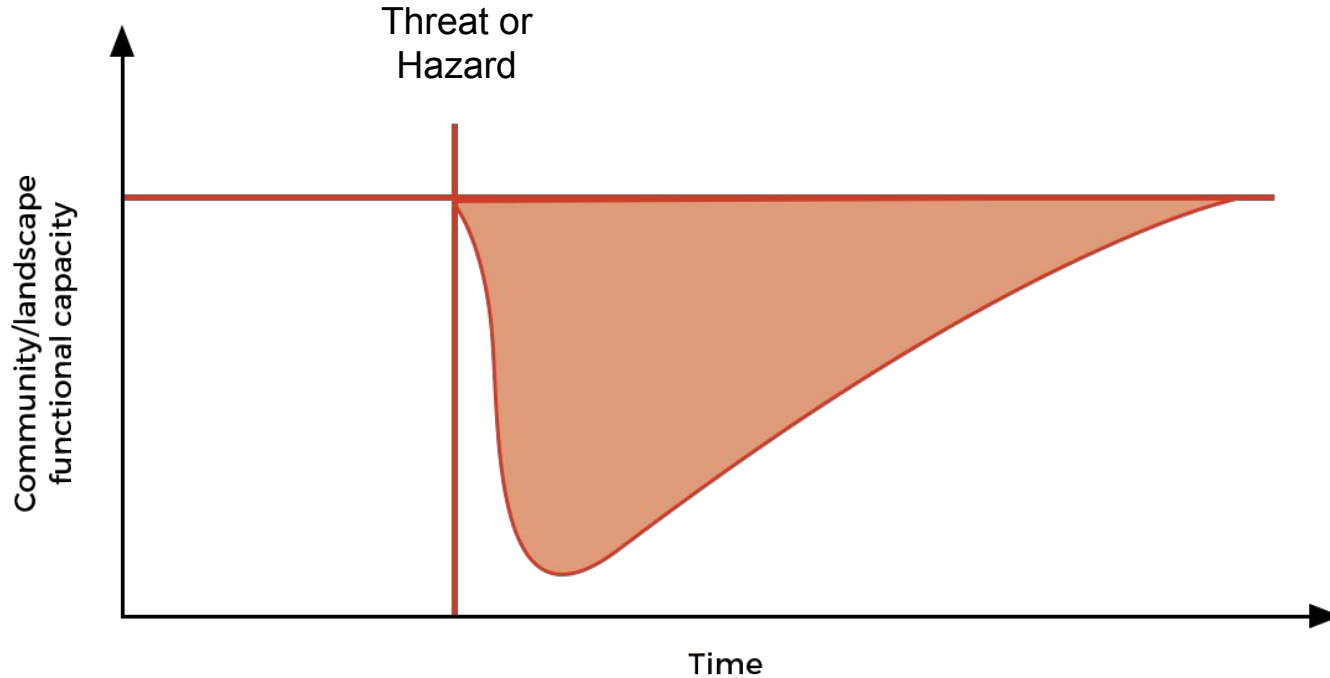
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Key questions

- What are the key elements to include in an assessment, and why?
- How are they tailored to the needs of a community?
- What types of projects or strategies do they inform?

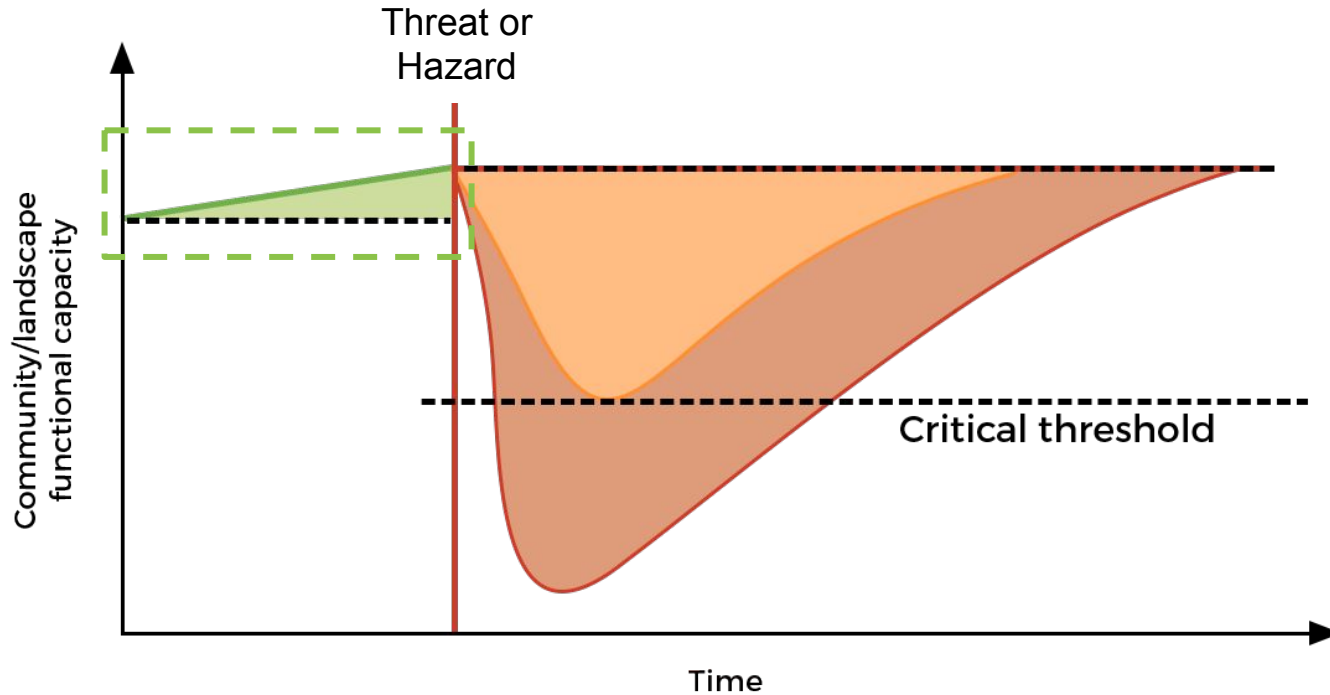


Threats impact our community capacities



Modified from Resilience Loss Recovery Curve, Source: White et al. (2015), p. 203, Adapted from model derived by M.E. Hynes, b. Ross and CARRI (2008), presented at the DHS University Summit, Washington, DC

Resilience is investing now for a better future



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Steps to Resilience

1 Explore Threats

2 Assess Vulnerability & Risks

3 Investigate Options

4 Prioritize & Plan

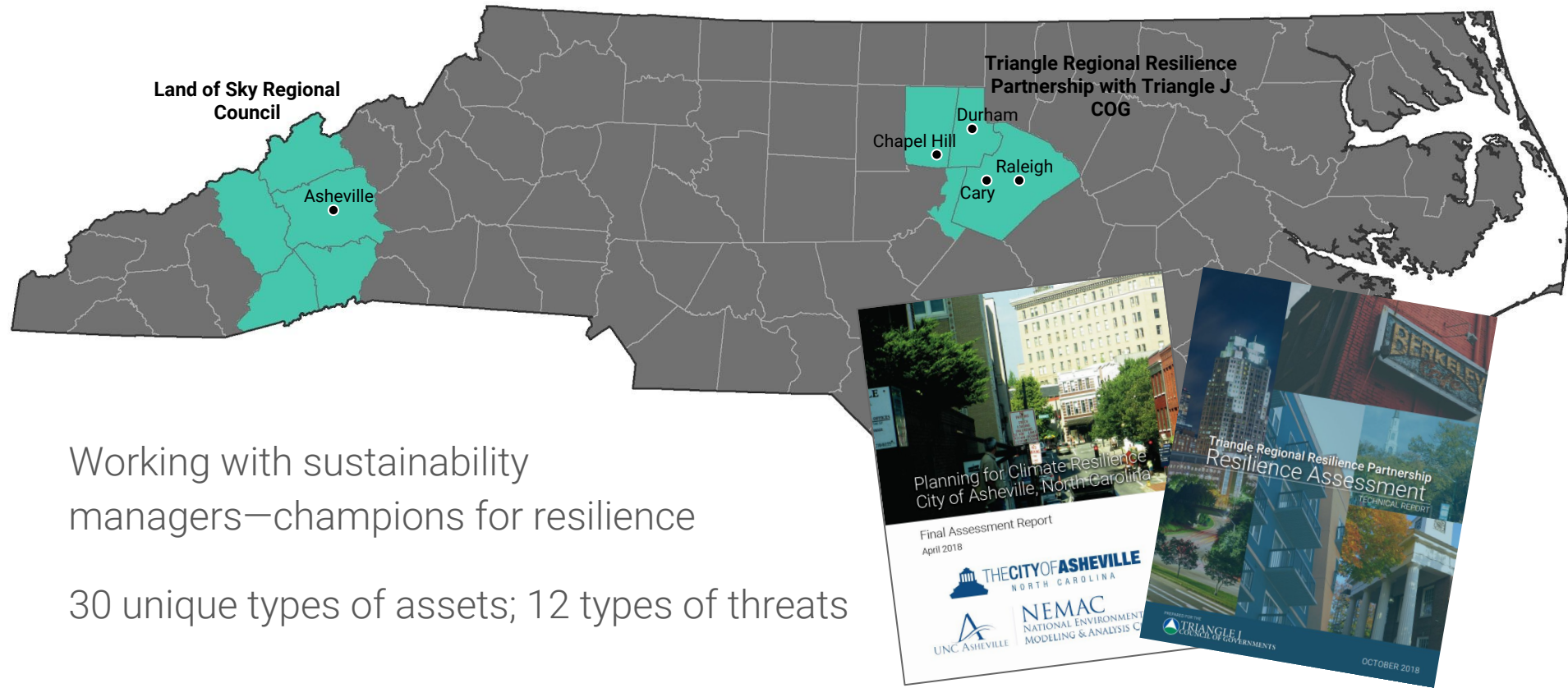
5 Take Action



**U.S. Climate
Resilience Toolkit**

toolkit.climate.gov

Climate Resilience Assessments



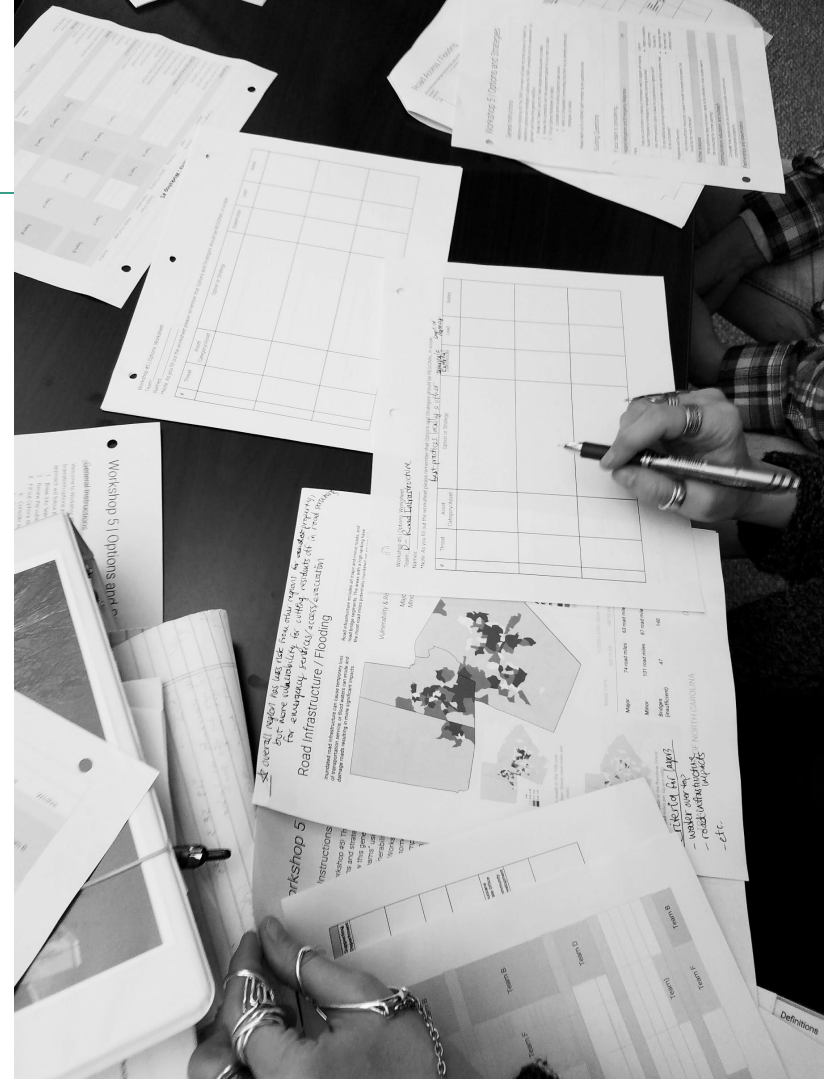


Three key assessment elements

1 Transparency

Assessments must be useful and usable.

- Communities should be part of the assessment process.
- Assessments should include the unique characteristics of the community.
- The assessment process develops a shared understanding.



2 Consideration of vulnerability and risk (at local level)

Vulnerability

- Potential impact
- Adaptive capacity

Risk

- Probability
- Consequence



Benjamin Lowy for The New York Times

Commercial Property/Flooding

- Building Footprints
- Floodway

Vulnerability

- High
- Med
- Low

Map of Fairview, MD, showing commercial property and floodway vulnerability. The map displays building footprints in dark gray, floodways in blue, and vulnerability levels in three shades of red (High, Medium, Low). A legend in the bottom right corner explains these symbols.

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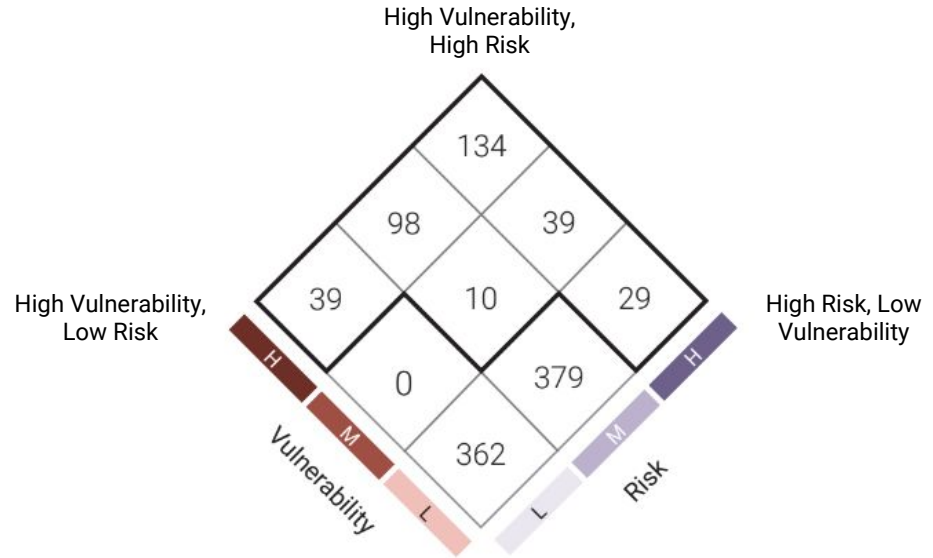
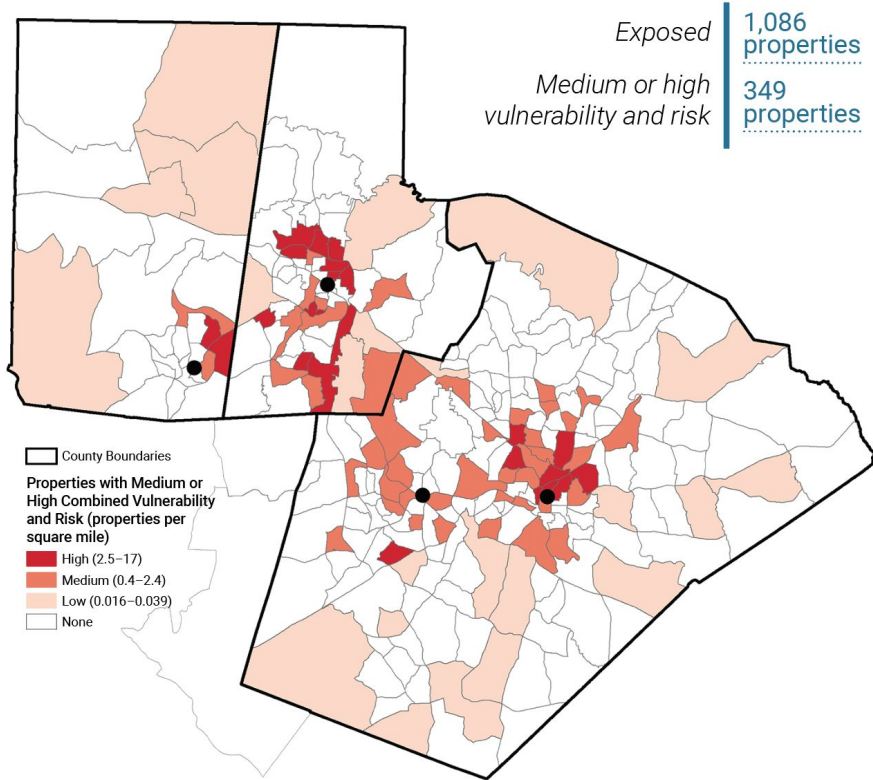
Map data: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User community

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- Map of Fairview, MD, showing commercial property and floodway vulnerability. The map displays building footprints in dark grey, floodways in blue, and vulnerability levels in three shades of red (High, Med, Low). A legend in the bottom right corner explains these symbols. The map includes street names like FAIRVIEW RD, CAYTON RD, and OLD FAIRVIEW RD, and landmarks like Oakley Park and a recreation area.



Focus on the most vulnerable and at-risk

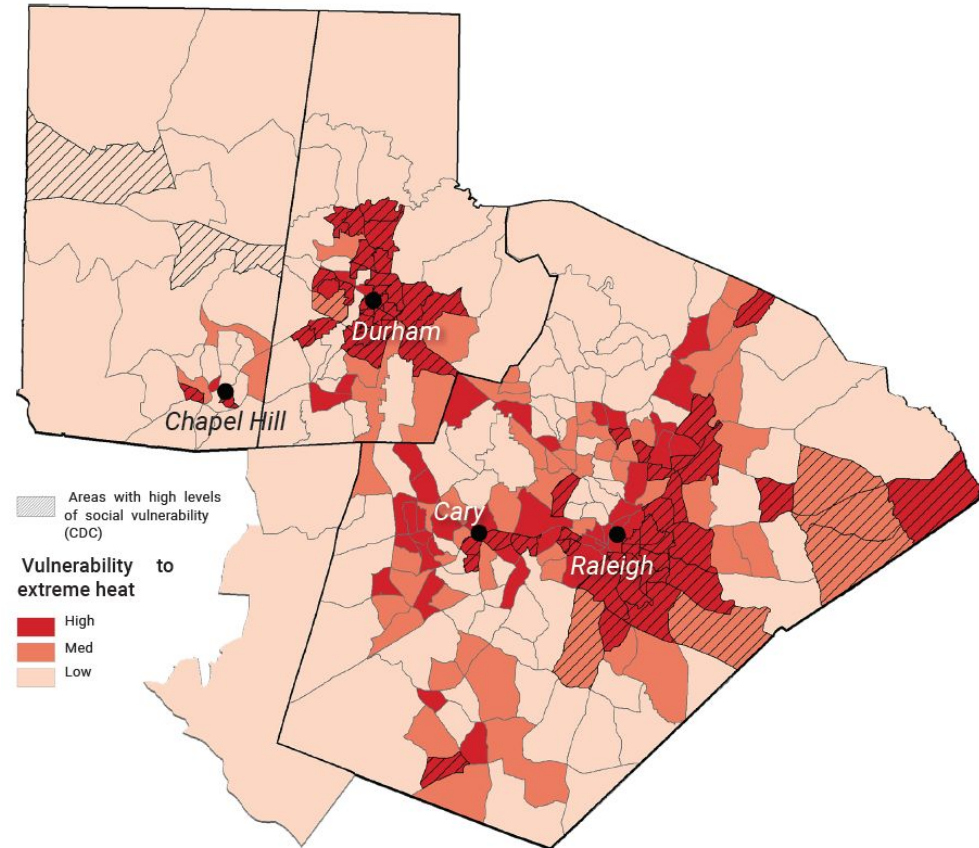
Example: Commercial Property-Flooding (Triangle Regional Resilience Partnership Resilience Assessment)



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Recognition of social vulnerability

- Social vulnerability is an important consideration for all threats
- Considered as a key determinant of vulnerability
- Highlighted in assessment products

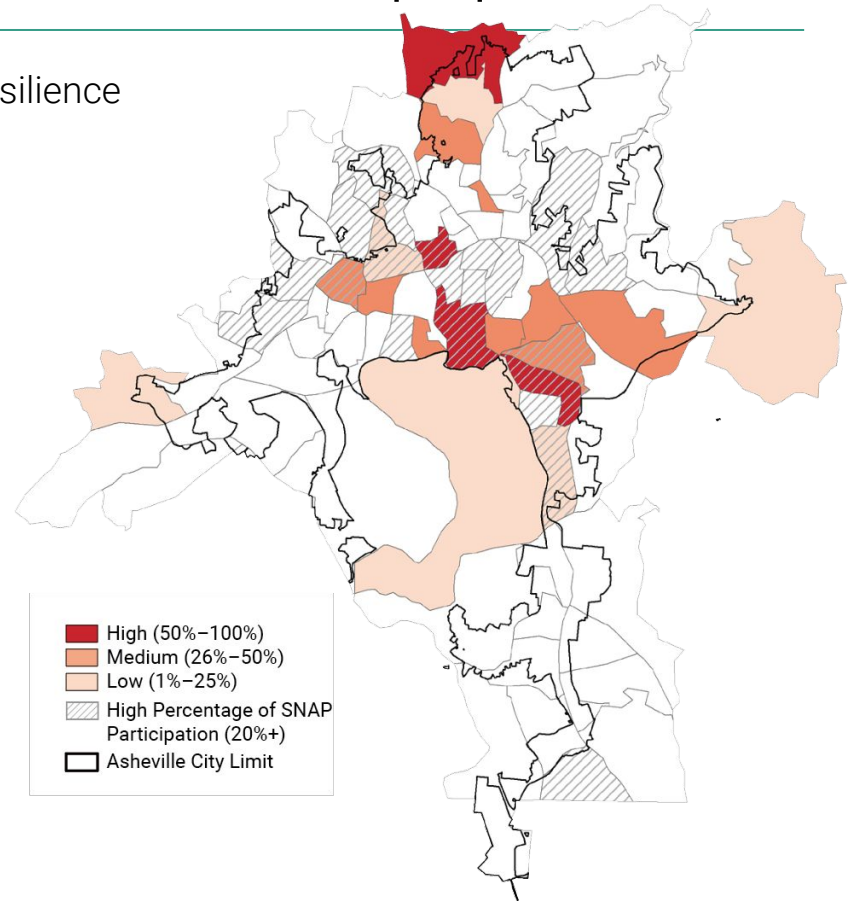



Disproportionate impacts to vulnerable populations

Example: Food Locations-Flooding (City of Asheville Resilience Assessment)

Most vulnerable and at-risk are:

- Families participating in SNAP, and
- SNAP retailers are vulnerable to flooding.
- Three areas where majority of SNAP retailers could be affected.





Assessments provide a foundation to
inform resilience planning, projects,
and strategies.

Identify Options: Target all aspects of vulnerability



Reduce Exposure



Build Adaptive Capacity



Protect Sensitive Systems or Populations



Assist with Response and Recovery

Types of strategies and projects

- Ordinances/design standards
- People and communities
- Hazard mitigation and emergency response
- Infrastructure improvements
- Partnerships and stakeholders



Communication and outreach

- Strategies for general public to consider for building resilience
- Increase awareness and focus on preparedness
- Ability to reach out to specific audiences and neighborhoods



Summary

- Assessments can evaluate how threats impact community capacities
- Three key elements
 - Transparency
 - Consider vulnerability and risk
 - Recognize social vulnerability
- Foundation for options (strategies and projects)
- Provide basis for communication and outreach

Thanks!

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