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## CDC Social Vulnerability Index (SVI): Nevada Counties

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## CDC SOCIAL VULNERABILITY INDEX (SVI): NEVADA COUNTIES

Demography Fact Sheet No. 20 | September 2021

Prepared by: Vanessa M. Booth, Ally M. Beckwith, Kelliann Beavers, and William E. Brown, Jr.

### PURPOSE:

This fact sheet highlights how Nevada counties rank on the Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) as defined by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR).<sup>1</sup> Socially vulnerable populations are often disproportionately harmed during public health emergencies such as natural disasters and infectious disease outbreaks. The Geospatial Research, Analysis, and Services Program (GRASP) created the CDC/ATSDR Social Vulnerability Index (CDC/ATSDR SCI) to help public health officials and emergency response planners meet community health needs during response and recovery efforts (ATSDR, 2020).

### ABOUT THE DATA:

The CDC/ATSDR SVI uses U.S. Census data to determine the social vulnerability of every census tract. Census tracts are subdivisions of counties for which the Census collects statistical data. The CDC/ATSDR SVI ranks each tract on 15 social factors and groups them into four related themes: Socioeconomic Status; Household Composition and Disability; Minority Status and Language; and Housing Type and Transportation<sup>2</sup>. Each census tract receives a separate score for each of the four themes; these scores inform the index for social vulnerability as a whole, the SVI.

The SVI scores for 17 Nevada counties are presented: Carson, Churchill, Clark, Douglas, Elko, Esmeralda, Eureka, Humboldt, Lander, Lincoln, Lyon, Mineral, Nye, Pershing, Storey, Washoe, and White Pine. Further information about the scores for each of the four themes can be explored by visiting this resource online and exploring the interactive maps, data downloads and associated publications.<sup>3</sup> The site reports data from 2000, 2010, 2014, 2016, and 2018. This fact sheet focuses on the most recent data, from 2018.

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<sup>1</sup> The data included in this analysis was originally reported in the 2018 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/ Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry/Geospatial Research, Analysis, and Services Program (CDC/ATSDR) Report.

<sup>2</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/ Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry/ Geospatial Research, Analysis, and Services Program. CDC/ATSDR Social Vulnerability Index 2018 Nevada.

<sup>3</sup> See the online tools on the web site <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/placeandhealth/svi/index.html>, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Place and Health, Social Vulnerability Index, 2018. Retrieved as of July, 2021.

This table provides a list of the data that inform the four themes within the Social Vulnerability Index. Each county and census tract are also scored by each of these four themes. This fact sheet focuses on the SVI as a whole and does not present the scores for these four categories. Individual scores can be explored by visiting the original resource.<sup>4</sup>

**Table 1: Social Vulnerability Index Scores, Nevada Counties<sup>5</sup>**

<i>CDC/ATSDR</i> Ranking Metrics	Socioeconomic Status	Below poverty
		Unemployed
		Income
		No high school diploma
	Household Composition and Disability	Aged 65 or older
		Aged 17 or younger
		Older than age 5 with a disability
		Single-parent households
	Minority Status and Language	Minority
		Speaking English “less than well”
	Housing Type and Transportation	Multi-unit structures
		Mobile homes crowding
		No vehicle
Group quarters		

**KEY FINDINGS:**

1. Pershing County has the highest Social Vulnerability Index, with an index approaching 1 at .9038. Other notably vulnerable counties include Mineral County, ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> with an index of .8815, and Carson City, ranking 3<sup>rd</sup> at 0.8443. Note that an SVI of 1.0 is the highest level of Social Vulnerability possible.
2. The counties with the least social vulnerability include Eureka, ranked 17<sup>th</sup> at .067; Storey at .0717; and Douglas at .1793.
3. Four counties have a ‘High’ level of Vulnerability: Carson City, Lander, Pershing, and Mineral; whereas, eight counties have ‘Moderate to High’ levels of vulnerability: Churchill, Clark, Elko, Esmeralda, Humboldt, Lyon, Nye, and Washoe; “Low to moderate’ levels of vulnerability are found in White Pine county and Lincoln county; and ‘Low’ levels of vulnerability are found in Douglas, Eureka, and Storey county.

<sup>4</sup> See the online tools on the web site <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/placeandhealth/svi/index.html>, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Place and Health, Social Vulnerability Index, 2018. Retrieved as of July, 2021.

<sup>5</sup> For a detailed description of SVI variable selection rationale and methods, see *A Social Vulnerability Index for Disaster Management* ([https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/placeandhealth/svi/img/pdf/Flanagan\\_2011\\_SVIforDisasterManagement-508.pdf](https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/placeandhealth/svi/img/pdf/Flanagan_2011_SVIforDisasterManagement-508.pdf)).

Table 2 displays the Social Vulnerability Index Scores for the 17 Nevada Counties as ranked by the CDC/ATSDR report categorized by 15 social factors. Possible scores range from 0, the lowest vulnerability, to 1, the highest vulnerability. The data is displayed in order from the most vulnerable county to the county with the lowest level of vulnerability.

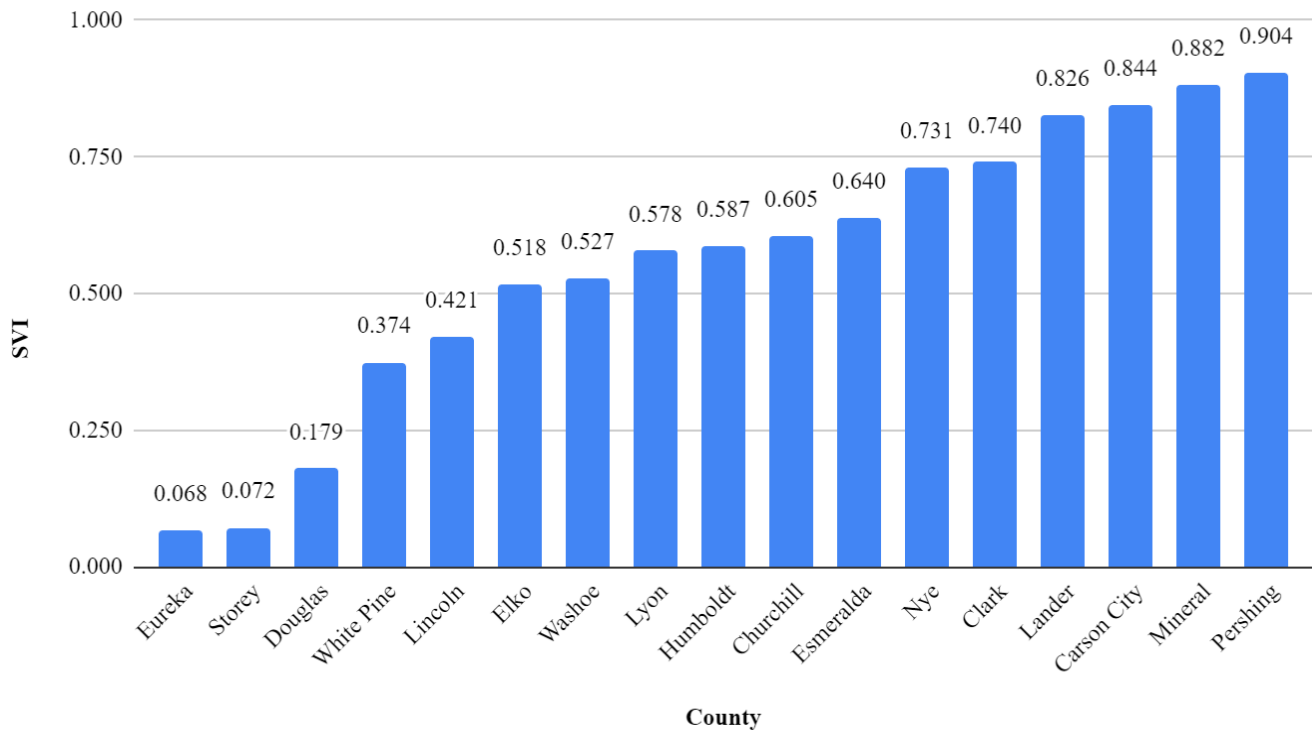
**Table 2: 2018 Social Vulnerability Index Scores, Nevada Counties**

Nevada Counties	Social Vulnerability Index Scores (SVI)
Pershing	0.9038
Mineral	0.8815
Carson City	0.8443
Lander	0.8261
Clark	0.7404
Nye	0.7309
Esmeralda	0.6395
Churchill	0.6048
Humboldt	0.5869
Lyon	0.5783
Washoe	0.5271
Elko	0.5178
Lincoln	0.4213
White Pine	0.3742
Douglas	0.1793
Storey	0.0717
Eureka	0.0675

\* Adapted from CDC/ATSDR Nevada 2018 Report.

Figure 1 presents a bar graph of the Social Vulnerability Index Scores for the 17 Nevada Counties as ranked by the CDC/ATSDR report; the SVI is informed by 15 social factors. Possible scores range from 0, the lowest vulnerability, to 1, the highest vulnerability, with Eureka County being the least vulnerable, 0.068, and Pershing County being the most vulnerable, 0.9088.

**Figure 1: 2018 Social Vulnerability Index Chart, Nevada Counties**



\* Adapted from CDC/ATSDR Nevada 2018 Report.