# **Special Topics**



# **Noble County Disaster Resiliency Assessment**

The purpose of this section is to assess at the county level key components of disaster resiliency. Housing location and quality as well as planning activities can help reduce impacts from disaster events and allow for faster recovery. Disasters can include tornadoes, extreme weather, high winds, as well as man-made events. These events may largely be inevitable, but the ability to reduce damage and casualties as well recovery can be improved with good planning.

### **C.0 Comprehensive Plans & Hazard Mitigation Plans**

There are 5 key cities within the county (Perry, Billings, Morrison, Red Rock, Marland).

**Comprehensive plans** are the guiding documents for cities of various sizes to address key aspects of their community from land use, transportation, environment, housing, and economic development.

City of Perry has a Strategic Plan, which discusses support for increasing housing in the area.

The other key plan for a city to manage, mitigate and plan for recovery related to disasters is a **Hazard Mitigation Plan** (or Emergency Management Plan). Often low density counties, the Hazard Mitigation Plan is done at the county level, though some cities may augment the county plan with a city plan.

Noble County has a Hazard Mitigation Plan in progress, but was not available for use in this study.

#### C.2.1.1. Historical Data on Natural Disasters and Other Hazards

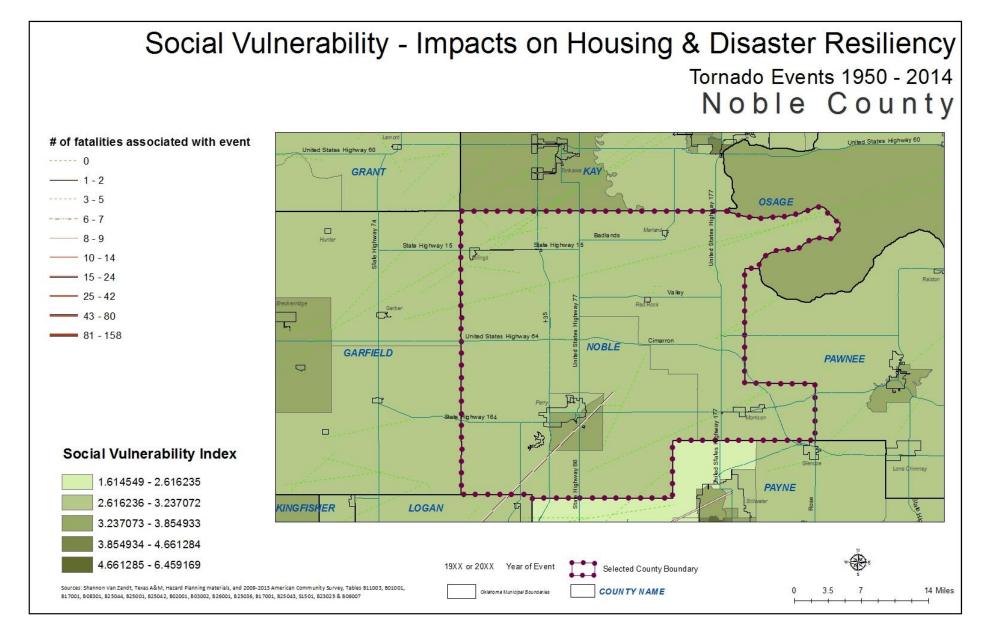
Data on historical damages and casualties is typically collected as part of a Hazard Mitigation Plan preparation to determine the appropriate planning measures and actions to take before and after an event.

Flooding, based on FEMA FIRM maps, does not show floodplain areas in the county. The National Flood Hazard Layer (Official) is not available for this area. Flash flooding is a concern for all parts of the state after heavy precipitation.

NOAA data shows the following historic data on disaster events for the county:

Historic data on tornados between 1950-2014 there are 39 tornados documented. There were 35 injuries that occurred connected to these tornados, with 26 of those injuries happening in the 1999 tornado. There were 2 fatalities connected to tornadoes during this time period, both of which occurred in 1999 tornado. Property losses between 1950-1996 ranged from \$573,052.00 to \$5,730,600.00. (The accounting methods used for losses changed in 1996.) The losses estimated between 1996-2014 was \$13,270,000.00.







#### C.2.1.2; C.2.1.6; C.2.1.7; C.2.1.8 Shelters from Disaster Event

No information available.

#### C.2.1.3 Public Policy and Governance to Build Disaster Resiliency

No information available.

#### **C.2.1.4 Local Emergency Response Agency Structure**

No information available.

#### **C.2.1.5 Threat & Hazard Warning Systems**

The identified Threat & Hazard Warning Systems for Noble County include:

Sirens
Phone notification
Emergency Broadcast System

## **Social Vulnerability**

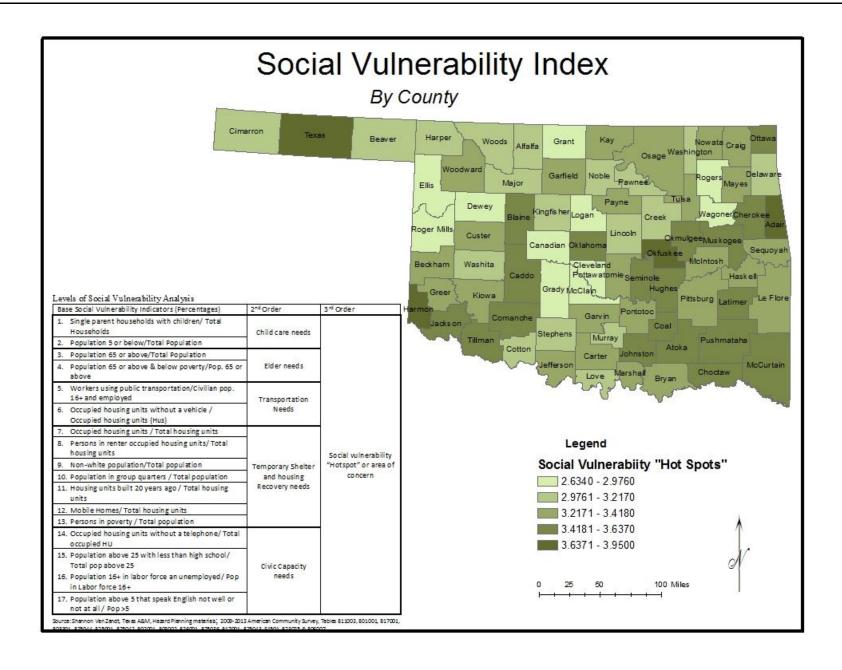
Based on the research work done by the Texas A&M University Hazard Reduction and Recovery Center, an added component is being included in this section. Social vulnerability can place households at a further disadvantage during and after a disaster. This analysis is assessing for the county the levels of social vulnerability based on demographic indicators to highlight 'hotspots' or counties that have higher social vulnerability. That combined with Hazard Mitigation Plans – or lack thereof – can highlight places where additional work is needed to reduce impacts on households.



Social Vulnerability Analysis - Noble County				
Base Social Vulnerability Indicators (%)		2nd Order	3rd Order	
1.) Single Parent Households	9.71%	0.16		
2.) Population Under 5	6.33%	(Child Care Needs)		
3.) Population 65 or Above	16.83%	0.259		
4.) Population 65 or Above Poverty Rate	9.10%	(Elder Needs)		
5.) Workers Using Public Transportation	0.47%	0.055		
6.) Occupied Housing Units w/o Vehicle	5.04%	(Transportation Needs)		
7.) Housing Unit Occupancy Rate	85.63%			
8.) Rental Occupancy Rate	27.23%	2.395	3.1	
9.) Non-White Population	17.13%	(Temporary Shelter	Social Vulnerability	
10.) Population in Group Quarters	2.18%	and Housing	'Hotspot' or Area of	
11.) Housing Units Built Prior to 1990	81.14%	Recovery Needs)	Concern	
12.) Mobile Homes, RVs, Vans, etc.	12.14%	Recovery Needs)	Concern	
13.) Poverty Rate	14.05%			
14.) Housing Units Lacking Telephones	2.83%			
15.) Age 25+ With Less Than High School		0.23		
Diploma	12.70%			
16.) Unemployment Rate	6.92%	(Civic Capacity		
17.) Age 5+ Which Cannot Speak English		Needs)		
Well or Not At All	0.56%			

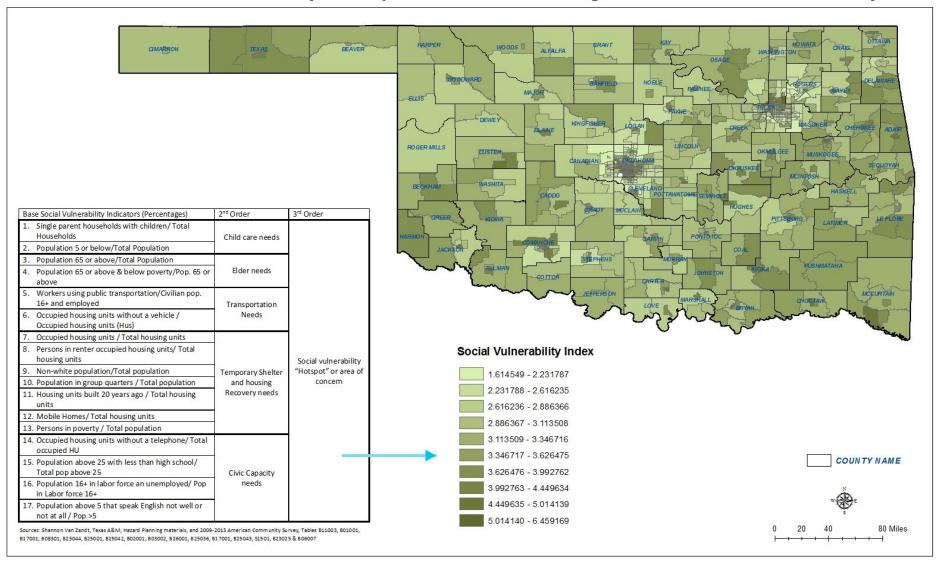
Sources: Shannon Van Zandt, Texas A&M, Hazard Planning materials, and 2009-2013 American Community Survey, Tables B11003, B01001, B17001, B08301, B25044, B25001, B25042, B02001, B03002, B26001, B25036, B17001, B25043, S1501, B23025 & B06007



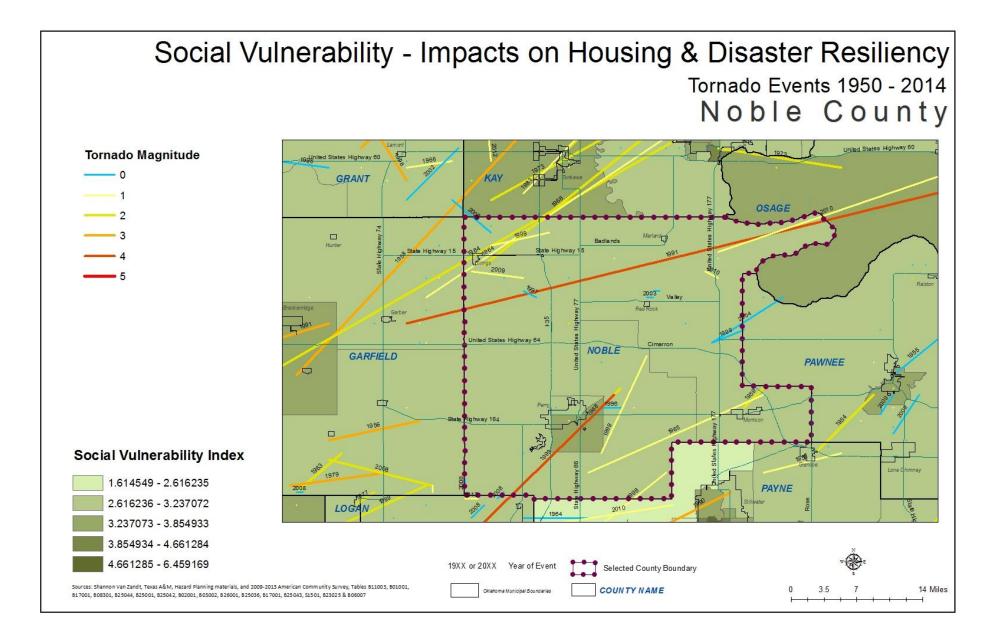




# Social Vulnerability - Impacts on Housing & Disaster Resiliency









Social vulnerability combined with the devastating impacts of a natural or man-made disaster can compound a household's ability to recover and in fact can place those individuals at an even great gap or disadvantage prior to the event (Shannon Van Zandt, Texas A&M, Hazard Planning).

This county falls below the state score per this index for social vulnerability when comparing as a county to other counties in the state. The census tract near Perry exhibits an increased social vulnerability score.

#### Recommendations for this county:

- Continue to update and maintain the county HMP and include attention to areas within the county that in addition to physical vulnerability may have compounding social vulnerability factors.
- Efforts to strengthen building codes related to tornadoes and natural disasters should be considered.
- Planning for shelters from disaster events for multifamily, HUD and LIHTC units, in addition to all housing in the community should be incorporated with any effort to increase housing.

