

Special Topics

Coal 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 is 6 key cities within the county (Coalgate, Tupelo, Lehigh, Centrahoma, Bromide, Phillips).

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.

No comprehensive plan was found for the main city, Coalgate.

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.

No hazard mitigation plan was found for Coal County.

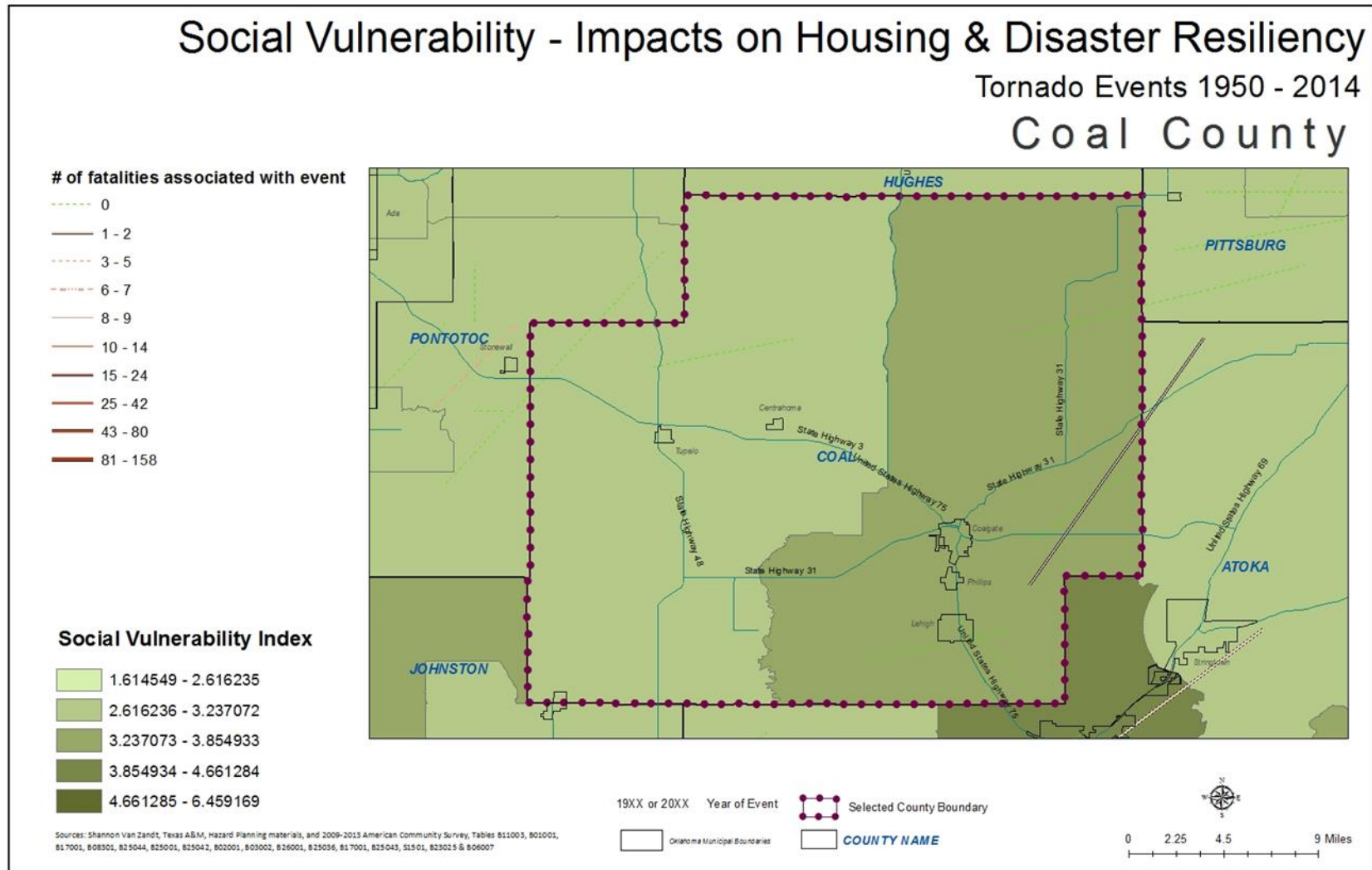
C.2.1.1. Historical Data on Natural Disasters and Other Hazards

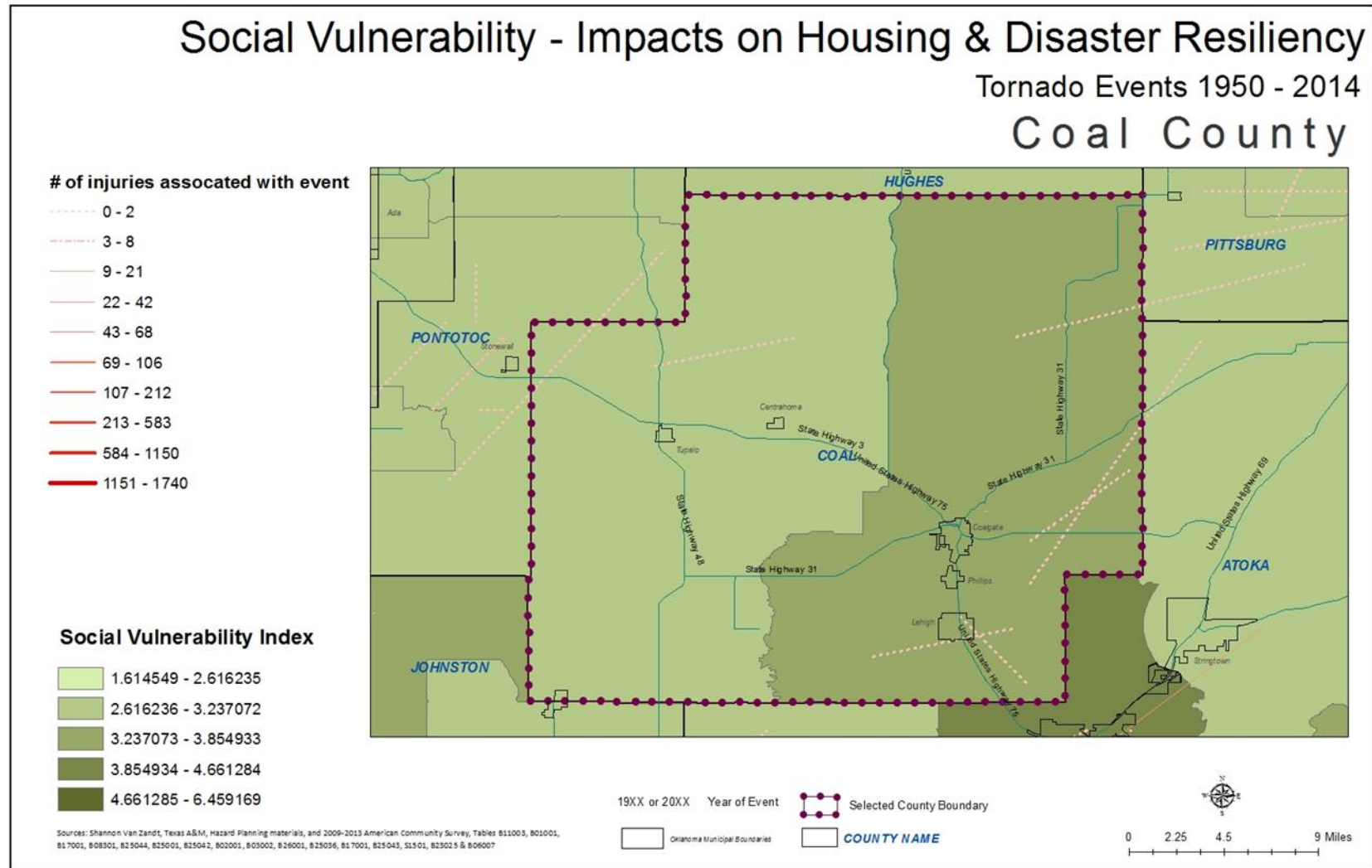
Data on historical damages and casualties is typically collected as part of a **Hazard Mitigation Plan** preparation to determine the appropriate planning measures and actions to take before and after an event.

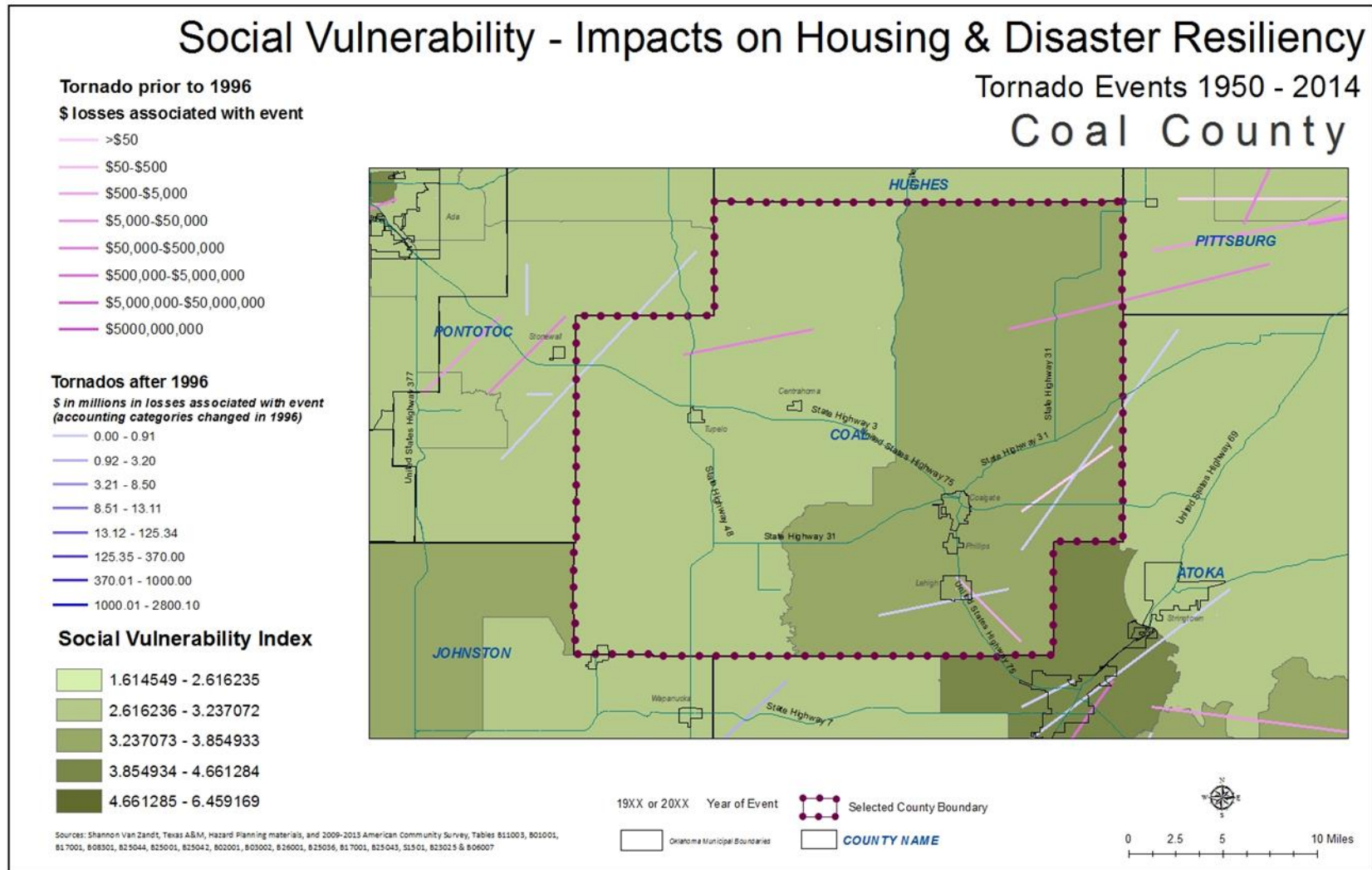
Flooding, based on FEMA FIRM maps, does not show floodplain areas in the county. The National Flood Hazard Layer (Official) is not available for this area. Flash flooding is a concern for all parts of the state after heavy precipitation.

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

Historic data on tornados between 1950-2014 there are 24 tornados documented. There were 2 injuries that occurred connected to these tornados, with 1 of those injuries happening in the 2001 tornado. There was 1 fatalities connected to tornadoes during this time period, which occurred in 2001. Property losses between 1950-1996 ranged from \$55,000.00 to \$550,000.00. (The accounting methods used for losses changed in 1996.) The losses estimated between 1996-2014 was \$1,270,000.00.







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

Online storm shelter registry: <http://coalem1.wix.com/coalcoem#!saferoom-registration/cxj>

C.2.1.3 Public Policy and Governance to Build Disaster Resiliency**C.2.1.4 Local Emergency Response Agency Structure****C.2.1.5 Threat & Hazard Warning Systems**

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

- Nixle – phone/email notifications

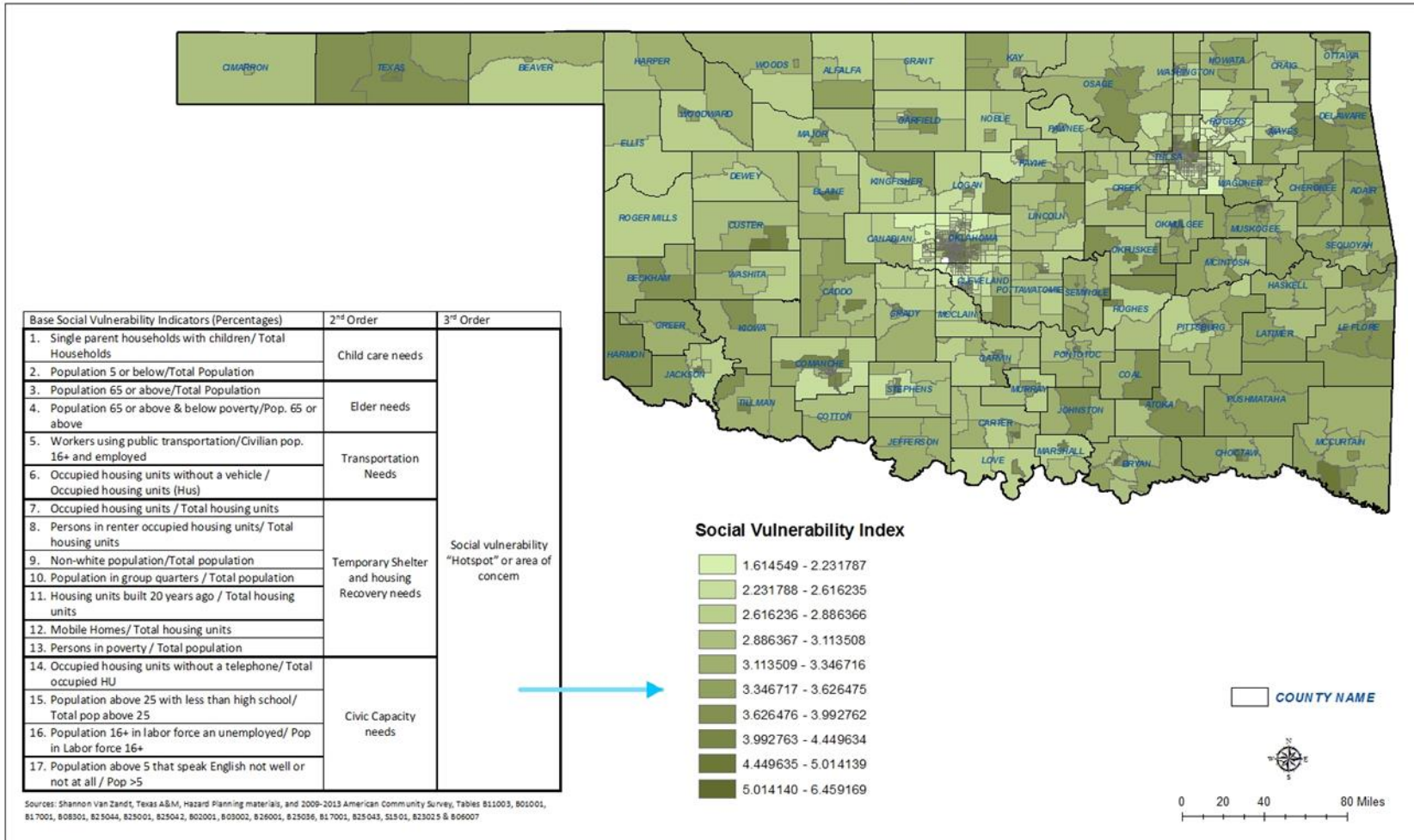
Social Vulnerability

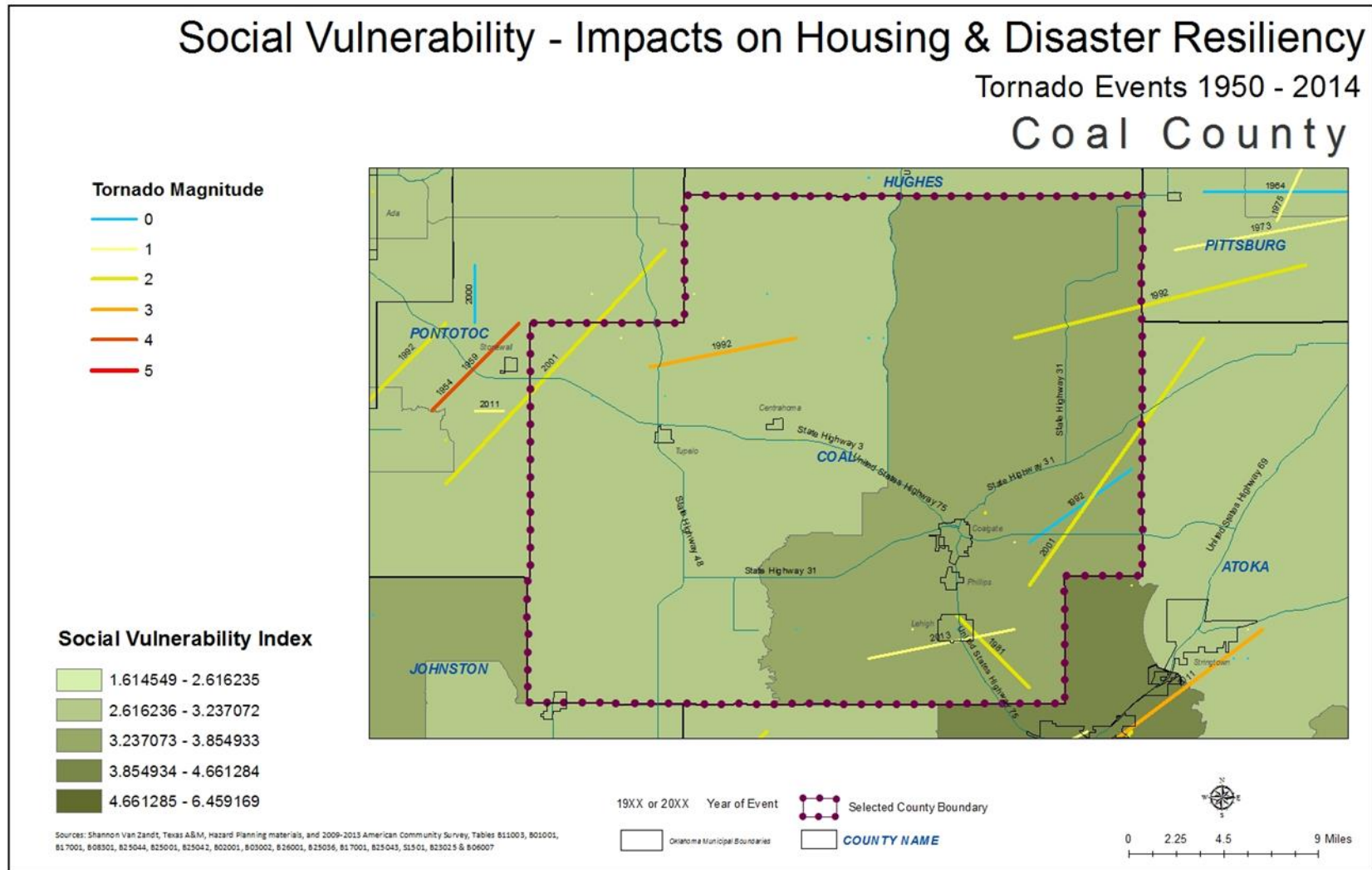
Based on the research work done by the Texas A&M University Hazard Reduction and Recovery Center, an added component is being included in this section. Social vulnerability can place households at a further disadvantage during and after a disaster. This analysis is assessing for the county the levels 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 - Coal County		
Base Social Vulnerability Indicators (%)	2nd Order	3rd Order
1.) Single Parent Households	14.86%	0.217
2.) Population Under 5	6.85%	(Child Care Needs)
3.) Population 65 or Above	18.69%	0.344
4.) Population 65 or Above & Below Poverty Rate	15.73%	(Elder Needs)
5.) Workers Using Public Transportation	0.57%	0.095
6.) Occupied Housing Units w/o Vehicle	8.93%	(Transportation Needs)
7.) Housing Unit Occupancy Rate	83.02%	2.476 (Temporary Shelter and Housing Recovery Needs)
8.) Rental Occupancy Rate	27.06%	
9.) Non-White Population	27.92%	
10.) Population in Group Quarters	1.25%	
11.) Housing Units Built Prior to 1990	77.45%	
12.) Mobile Homes, RVs, Vans, etc.	9.27%	
13.) Poverty Rate	21.60%	
14.) Housing Units Lacking Telephones	11.04%	0.397 (Civic Capacity Needs)
15.) Age 25+ With Less Than High School Diploma	19.30%	
16.) Unemployment Rate	7.87%	
17.) Age 5+ Which Cannot Speak English Well or Not At All	1.52%	
3.53 Social Vulnerability 'Hotspot' or Area of Concern		

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 greater gap or disadvantage prior to the event (Shannon Van Zandt, Texas A&M, Hazard Planning).

This county has an elevated score per this index for social vulnerability when comparing as a county to other counties in the state. Looking at the census tract level, the Coalgate area and eastern portion of the county have particularly higher scores for social vulnerability. Combine that with the tornados, as one physical hazard or event that occurs, people in these areas may have additional difficulties during an event due to transportation and family needs.

Recommendations for this county:

- Apply for funding develop a county hazard mitigation plan. Receive state and FEMA approval.
- Efforts to strengthen building codes related to tornadoes and natural disasters should be considered.
- Pursue funding for shelters. 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.