#18: ADDITIONAL METRICS including SOCIAL VITALITY

OPTIONAL METRIC FOR CATEGORY **A** & **B** & **C** COMMUNITIES

METRIC TOPICS

18.1   Social vulnerability (index number)
18.2   Livability (index number)
18.3   Civic participation/ civic capital (index number)

Other possible topics
Educational attainment
Arts & culture
Community health
Crime & safety
Social & cultural diversity
Equity

Depending on your Category, report community-defined data for the following number of metric topics:
Category A communities: 4 topics
Category B communities: 3 topics
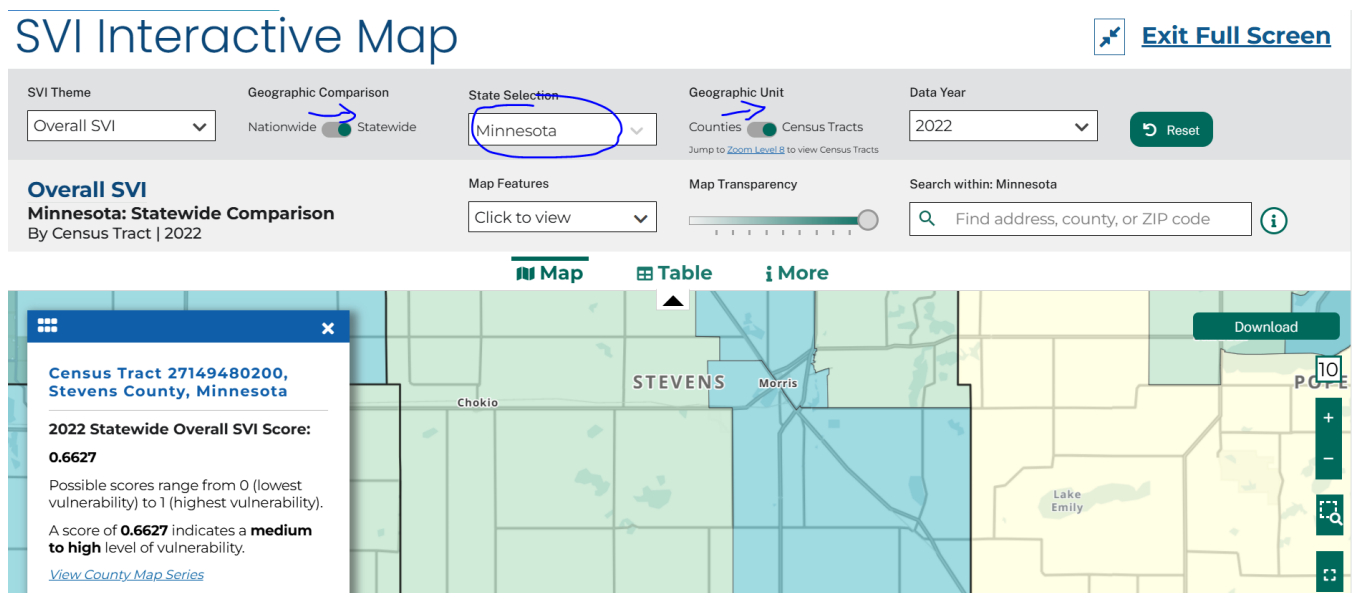Category C communities: 2 topics

METRIC DEFINITION

- **Social vulnerability/resilience** refers to a specific index measure that attempts to gauge the resilience of communities when confronted by external stresses on human health, stresses such as natural or human-caused disasters, or disease outbreaks. The index web site pulls 14 Census/other government data variables at the tract level in the areas of socioeconomics, household composition/disability, minority status/language, and housing/transportation. (Metric 18.1)

- **Livability** refers to a specific Livability Index number from an AARP (American Association of Retired Persons) web site. 40 Census/other government data points are used from seven major livability categories: housing, neighborhood, transportation, environment, health, engagement, and opportunity. (Metric 18.2)

- **Civic participation/ civic capital** attempts to gauge the number or percent of community members active, at some level or in some way, in community organizations and/or civic opportunities (like voting) that are open to all. Civic capital refers to the formal and informal relationships, networks and capacities that communities use to make decisions and solve problems. See more from the National Civic League. (Metric 18.3)

- **Educational attainment** is a term commonly used to refer to the highest degree of education an individual has completed. For a community, an aggregate measure for all school children or community members is used that is most relevant to particular issues or local concerns.

- **Arts & culture** measures can focus on the number of venues in a community, the access/utilization of the venues, the number of employees employed in the arts, or the economic impact of arts and culture businesses.

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- **Community health** has many dimensions, and can be viewed as the extent to which physical and mental conditions do not impede community members from fulfilling their full potential as active participants in society.

- **Crime & safety** cover a wide range of reported, measured and surveyed data about harm and threats to individuals and the perception of harm and threats.

- **Social & cultural diversity** covers a range of factors among a community's population including age, race, national origin, income, gender, and affectional preference.

- **Equity** is a broad topic, broadly defined as the fair distribution, among diverse populations, of resources/opportunities.

DATA SOURCES

- **Social Vulnerability Index**: https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/place-health/php/svi/index.html
  - Open the SVI Interactive Map
  - "Geographic Comparison" - switch the slider from Nationwide to Statewide
  - "State Selection" – Minnesota
  - "Geographic Unit" – Census Tracts
  - Select the most recent data year
  - Click on the census tracts to get the Overall SVI Score for the tract.
  - If you have more than one census tract, report an average score

- **Livability Index**: http://livabilityindex.aarp.org/
  - Enter in your city or an address
  - Record your "Overall Livability Score" – but check out the rest of the page! There are some interesting data that could be used for reporting other/additional metrics.

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Morris, Minnesota

Community Level ⓘ : **City**
Location: **Minnesota** > **Stevens County**
Population: 5,094

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48
2024 average city score

2024 lowest city score **23**   **73** 2024 highest city score

0   **55**   100
Overall Livability Score ⓘ

The overall livability index score for
Morris, Minnesota is **55**.

This is in the **top half** of **communities** in
the U.S.

- **Civic Index:** http://www.nationalcivicleague.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/CivicIndex_FINAL_compressed-1.pdf
- **Educational attainment**: school district records; Census data (American Community Survey, 5 year estimates, Table B15003)
- **Arts & culture**: local records of businesses and common knowledge of staff or community members; American Community Survey Census data; index numbers from specific organizations listed below.
- **Community health**: county or tribal health data; Census data
- **Crime & safety**: city or tribal police and transportation departments; county records; Census data; surveys.
- **Social & cultural diversity & equity**: local data; Census data.

METRIC CALCULATION AND PUBLIC REPORTING

- **The Social vulnerability/resilience index** reports whether individuals in a specific zip code are most vulnerable (highest quartile), least vulnerable (lowest quartile), or in the two middle quartiles. For large communities individual zip code measures would have to be averaged.

- **The Livability Index** pulls 40 data points from Census data, ranks each as to whether your community's data falls in the top, bottom or middle third of data from all US communities, and then calculates **a number between 1 and 100**. Users can change the weighting of each of seven data categories based on your preferences and their relevance to your community, and then recalculate the Index number. Data points/index numbers for even the smallest of Minnesota communities include age diversity, income inequality, voting rate, obesity, drinking water quality, household transportation costs, proximity to libraries, housing cost burden.

- **Civic Index** is a self-assessment tool for measuring a community's civic capital which includes 32 questions to determine the Civic Capital Score. Depending on the size of your community, issues of concern, and availability of data, additional data points for reporting might be:
  - o # of (crime watch) block clubs to total residential blocks in the community
  - o % of eligible residents who voted in the latest November election
  - o # of civic groups (neighborhood associations; fraternal organizations such as the Lions; faith organizations; interest groups such as Friends of the Library; school organizations such as Parent-Teacher-Student Organizations; local chapters of organizations such as the Izaak Walton League of America).
- **Educational attainment -** data points various communities in Minnesota report, sometimes broken down by race and income, are:

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- o   % high school graduation rate
- o   % residents holding a high school diploma
- o   % of 3rd graders reading proficiently
- o   % residents with a college degree
- o   % residents 25-64 with an Associate's degree or higher
- o   % of residents 25-44 with a Bachelor's degree or higher

- **Arts & culture –**
  - o   # of arts, cultural and historical venues (including festivals)
  - o   # of art businesses
  - o   # employed in the "creative class" (using Census date and including various mixes of residents employed in management, business, science and arts occupational sectors).
- **Community health –** many data points may be available in an individual community and of interest for tracking; common single measures are:
  - o   % of community members at a healthy weight (often only county-wide data exists)
  - o   % pregnancies among girls aged 15-17

- **Crime & safety –** typically several measures are reported to cover criminal acts, such as assault, and accidental acts such as car crashes (accidents). Data points various communities in Minnesota report are:
  - o   Part I & II crime clearance rates
  - o   # of violent crimes per capita
  - o   average score (1-5 range) on city survey of perception of safety
  - o   transportation crashes/accidents (pedestrians, bicyclists, car occupants)

- **Equity** The [LEED for Cities Distributional Equity](#) credit includes these optional metrics:
  - Demographic and socio-economic characteristics: Age cohorts; race/ethnic composition; other prominent sociocultural groups present, such as migrants, religious groups, and linguistically isolated; people with disabilities, median household income and proportion of residents living below poverty line; education attainment (people with less than high school education).
  - History of housing and neighborhood development: Brief history of development noting critical points of change for the overall city or specific neighborhoods; housing market analysis; information on unhoused population.
  - Distribution of social infrastructure, assets, and services: Parks, libraries, recreation centers, schools, fire stations, police stations, hospitals/health services, internet (broadband)connectivity, and supermarket/grocery stores with a produce section.
- **Social & cultural diversity** measures of relevance to communities vary widely. For example, in some small western MN communities, **gender diversity** is a crucial issue to the community's continued existence: more women are needed! Other communities may need to focus on measuring how **diverse local or tribal leadership** is in order that diverse people in the community – whatever that diversity is - feel represented. Or a community with low **income diversity** may want to track the positive growth of lower income (such as café workers) or higher income people (doctors). Here are possible measures:
  - o   A score from a self-defined index assessing the **diversity of appointments to local/tribal boards & commissions**
  - o   The Human Rights Campaign's Municipal Equality Index (http://www.hrc.org/campaigns/municipal-equality-index) evaluates how inclusive cities' laws, policies and services are of **lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people**. Currently only the 7 largest Minnesota cities have been scored (on a scale of 1-100) by the HRC but the scoring methodology is available for use by any community by looking at any city's score sheet.

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METRIC RATIONALE

The GreenStep program challenges participants to "achieve their sustainability and quality-of-life goals." While the 29 GreenStep best practices are focused on environmental issues, with a strong economic thread, social issues are inherent in the striving for greater sustainability. Hence this one GreenStep metric focuses on social issues and community vitality, for which a number of metrics have been developed at http://oregonexplorer.info/content/what-community-vitality

Each Community should choose specific metrics to report, as options are many and the GreenStep program does not think any small set of metrics fit all communities. That said, metrics 18.1, 18.2, and 18.3 – complex index numbers for which data is easily available – are suggested as 3 metric elements many communities may choose to report under this Metric 18.

GreenStep Category C participants should report 2 metric elements, which could include - or not - metric elements 18.1, 18.2, and 18.3. Category B communities should report 3 metric elements, and A communities 4 elements.

STEP 5 METRIC TARGETS

While there is no shortage of public and private organizations urging communities to hit specific targets in these social areas, and while there are funding streams related to specific targets, each community is unique and can best set realistic targets that are finely tuned to the community's history, current capabilities, and aspirations.

As an example of one target, the MN Association of Development Organizations' goal is to increase the percentage of residents aged 25-44 with a bachelor's degree or higher to 39% by 2025.

At a state level, the MN Dashboard (https://public.tableau.com/views/Dashboard_ALL/MNDashboard?:showVizHome=no), prepared by the state agency MN Management and Budget, calculates -- and grades -- one number statewide, which communities may find of use for comparison purposes, for these indicators (data from 2019):

- % of 3rd graders proficient in reading: 57%
- % of students graduating from high school in 4 years: 83%
- % adults aged 25-44 with an educational certificate or higher: 60%
- % of Minnesota adults at a healthy weight: 34%
- # of violent crimes per 100,000 people: 242

LEED FOR CITIES & COMMUNITIES

https://www.usgbc.org/leed/rating-systems/leed-for-cities-communities

NS Credit: Resilience Planning
- Option 1. Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (1 point)
  - Identify the local environmental context and conduct a vulnerability and capacity assessment for climate change risks, natural and human induced hazards and extreme events as listed in Table 1. Classification of impacts for Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment and include the following steps:
    - Risk Identification – Identify the impacts from which an area is at risk. Use national/state level maps and historic data of occurrence to identify the potential threats.

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- Risk Assessment – Estimate the probability of occurrence of the extreme events. Study their characteristics, frequency, and potential severity. Conduct a socio-economic and environmental assessment of the impact.
- Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment – Assess the most exposed and affected sections, strengths and weaknesses of the city.
- Priority Identification - Identify significant threats based on trends and future predictions, critical infrastructures, and population at risk from the threats. The city must identify top two natural and human induced hazards each.

- Option 2. Resilience Plan (1 point)
  - Achieve Option 1. Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment.
  - AND
  - Develop a Resilience Plan for the city. The plan must include details on the following:
    - Adaptation and Mitigation Strategies: Include goals on adaptation and mitigation of significant threats as identified under Option 1. Vulnerability and Risk Assessment, actions to address the adaptation and mitigation goals, and resources required to complete the adaptation and mitigation strategies.
    - Stakeholder Engagement: Include details on diverse community stakeholder (residents, businesses and/or institutions) engagement process, stakeholders' feedback, and results from the stakeholder engagement process.
    - Monitoring & Evaluation: Include metrics to guide monitoring and evaluation of adaptation and mitigation strategies and a clear framework for implementation and reporting.
- Option 3: Improve Resilience (2 points)
  - Achieve Option 1. Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment.
  - AND
  - Demonstrate that the city has reduced vulnerability to at least 2 significant threats and for at least 1 at-risk population group as identified under Option 1. Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment over time. Reductions can be shown using any one of the following three strategies:
    - Reduction: Demonstrate that the occurrence of significant threats has reduced from a baseline year no more than five years prior to the most recent reporting year.
    - Addressal: Demonstrate that at-risk communities, threatened wildlife or critical infrastructures have been moved out of harm's way resulting in reduced risk.
    - Adaptation: If an impact cannot be avoided or addressed, demonstrate an increase in adaptive capacity, or the ability to rebound from an impact.

TR Credit: Compact, Mixed Use and Transit Oriented Development
- Identify Compact and Complete Centers (CCC) that will be analyzed in this credit. CCCs are areas that represent the community's strongest mix of uses, public transit availability, density, and walkability. They are measured as areas within a ½ mile (800 meters) walking distance of a central point, including landmarks such as public transit stations, civic buildings, major employment centers, urban parks, squares, plazas, or other major destinations. CCCs may be adjacent but not overlapping.

QL Prerequisite: Demographic & Social Equity Assessment
- Conduct a demographic and social equity assessment for the city that addresses the following categories:
  - Demographic and socio-economic characteristics: Age cohorts; race/ethnic composition; other prominent sociocultural groups present, such as migrants, religious groups, and linguistically isolated; people with

disabilities, median household income and proportion of residents living below poverty line; education attainment (people with less than high school education).

o   History of housing and neighborhood development: Brief history of development noting critical points of change for the overall city or specific neighborhoods; housing market analysis; information on unhoused population.

o   Distribution of social infrastructure, assets, and services: Parks, libraries, recreation centers, schools, fire stations, police stations, hospitals/health services, internet (broadband) connectivity, and supermarket/grocery stores with a produce section.

RELATED BEST PRACTICE ACTIONS

- 24.3 **Measuring Outcomes**: Engage community members and partners in identifying, measuring, and reporting progress on key sustainability and social indicators/ including energy use/greenhouse gas emissions, social vitality/social inclusion outcome measures.
- 29.1 Prepare to **maintain public health and safety** during extreme weather and climate-change-related events, while also taking a **preventive approach to reduce risk** for community members.
- 29.3 Increase **social connectedness** through engagement, capacity building, public investment, and opportunities for economically vulnerable residents to improve their economic prosperity and resilience to climate change.

NEED HELP? CONTACT

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