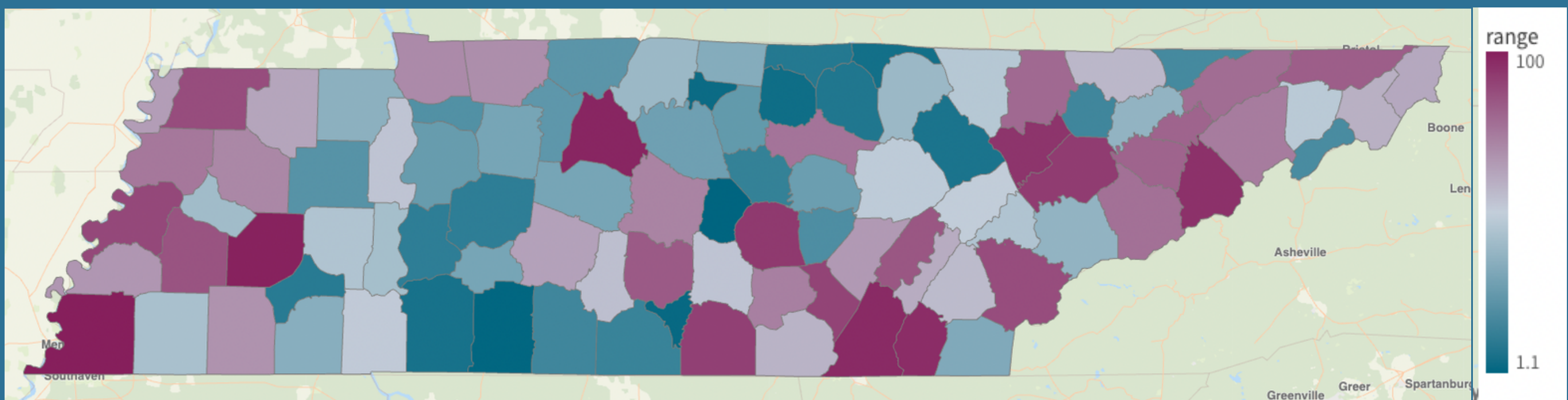


ENGAGE TOGETHER®

Vulnerable Population Index

The Engage Together Vulnerable Population Index (VPI), developed in partnership between Engage Together, Pomerol and the Belmont Data Collaborative, uses 24 variables from a variety of publicly available data sources to help identify communities with a higher prevalence of vulnerabilities toward human trafficking activity. Relevant data points were curated using, as a starting point, 5 High-Risk populations identified through collaboration between the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, the Tennessee Counter Trafficking Alliance, and Engage Together, including: Refugees and recent migrant populations, Drug endangered children and gang-involved youth, those experiencing homelessness or poverty, youth aging out of foster care, and those who have already suffered other types of abuse or exploitation (domestic violence/sexual abuse).

The goal of the VPI is to provide a data driven tool that visualizes a high-level view of potential vulnerability across the state, with the ability to drill down on more detailed data that speaks to the specific vulnerabilities within a community. For the overall vulnerability index (mapped below), as well as each of the vulnerability categories described in the methodology section, the higher the index score, the higher vulnerability within that community.



Vulnerability Categories and Variables

Demographic Vulnerabilities

- Population density ¹
- % Population with a disability ¹
- % Population foreign born and not a citizen ¹
- % Households that speak limited English or less ¹
- % Single parent households ¹

Socioeconomic Vulnerabilities

- % Population below poverty level ¹
- % Population that is low-income and low-access to healthy food options ⁶
- % Households receive SNAP benefit ⁶
- Point-in-time homelessness estimate (per 10k) ⁴

Local Environment Vulnerabilities

- Abduction offenses per 10k ²
- Drug offenses per 10k ²
- Identity and financial offenses per 10k ²
- Other sex offenses per 10k ²
- Property offenses per 10k ²
- SA/DV offenses per 10k ²
- Weapons law offenses per 10k ²

Youth Vulnerabilities

- % Students that are chronically absent ³
- PIT Homelessness Estimate per 10k - under 25 and unaccompanied ⁴
- Juvenile arrest rate per 1k youth ⁵
- % Disconnected youth ¹
- % Under 18 population with a disability ¹

Known Human Trafficking Activity

- Commercial sex offenses per 10k ²
- Involuntary servitude offenses per 10k ²
- TN Human Trafficking Hotline Calls (TBI) ⁷

Data Sources

1. Census Bureau - American Community Survey
2. Federal Bureau of Investigation (NIBRS)
3. Tennessee Department of Education
4. US Department of Housing and Urban Development
5. US Department of Justice - Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
6. US Department of Agriculture
7. Tennessee Human Trafficking Hotline (Tennessee Bureau of Investigation)

Vulnerable Population Index

Methodology

The methodology for the current, beta version of the VPI is based on the Center for Disease Control's Social Vulnerability Index. The VPI ranks each county* across Tennessee on the 24 variables included in the dataset and groups them into five categories. Each county receives a separate ranking for each of the five categories, as well as an overall ranking which corresponds to the overall VPI.

The five categories are:

- Demographic Vulnerabilities
- Socioeconomic Vulnerabilities
- Local Environment Vulnerabilities
- Youth Vulnerabilities
- Known Human Trafficking Activity

* there is also a census tract version of the VPI that uses a subset of the 24 variables included in the county-level VPI, as not all variables are available at the census tract level

Next Steps

- Partner with organizations and agencies that may be able to provide additional data that will add valuable insight into vulnerable populations that are not currently captured in the VPI. Examples of data not currently in the VPI are:
 - Youth Aging out of Foster Care
 - Student Truancy
 - Location-based data of potential "hot spots" for human trafficking activity, e.g.,
 - bus/transit stations
 - high-traffic entertainment events
 - sexually oriented businesses
- Continue to validate and fine-tune the VPI model and weighting of the included variables to optimize its ability to identify vulnerable communities.

Collaborate

If you would like to have further discussion, share data, or collaborate as the VPI project progresses, please contact:

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To learn more about Engage Together® Project Tennessee, please visit: engagetogether.com/project/tn/