

Satellite Remote Sensing for Measuring Urban Heat Islands and Constructing Heat Vulnerability Indices

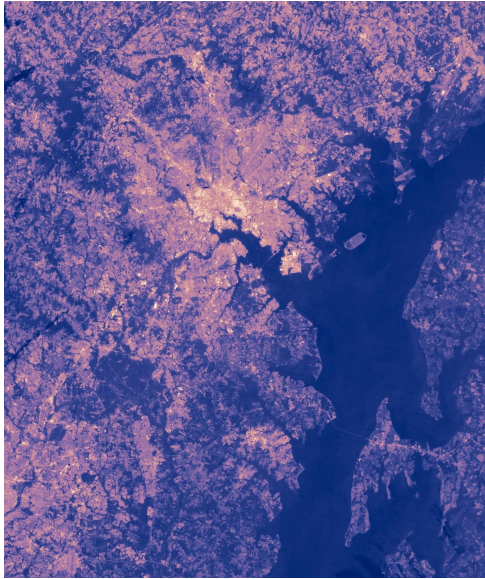
Part 2: Integrating Socioeconomic Data with Satellite Imagery for Constructing Heat Vulnerability Indices (Session 1)

Kathryn Conlon, PhD, MPH & Evan Mallen, PhD, MUP – August 4, 2022



Training Outline

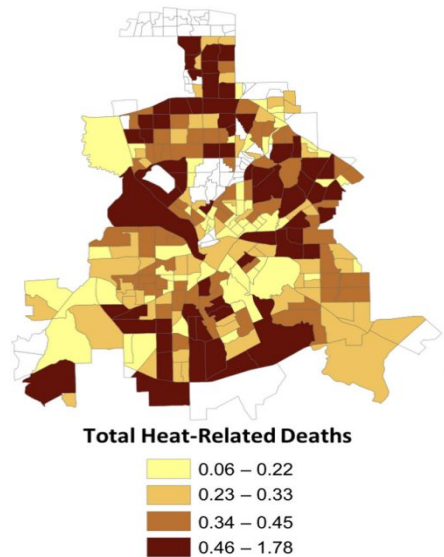
2 August 2022



Credit: [NASA](#)

Land Surface
Temperature-based Urban
Heat Island Mapping

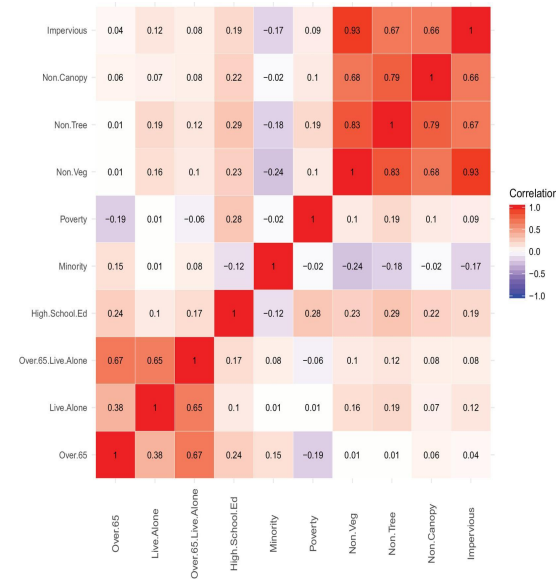
4 August 2022



Credit: [Mallen et al., 2019](#)

**Integrating
Socioeconomic Data
with Satellite Imagery
for Constructing Heat
Vulnerability Indices -
Session 1**

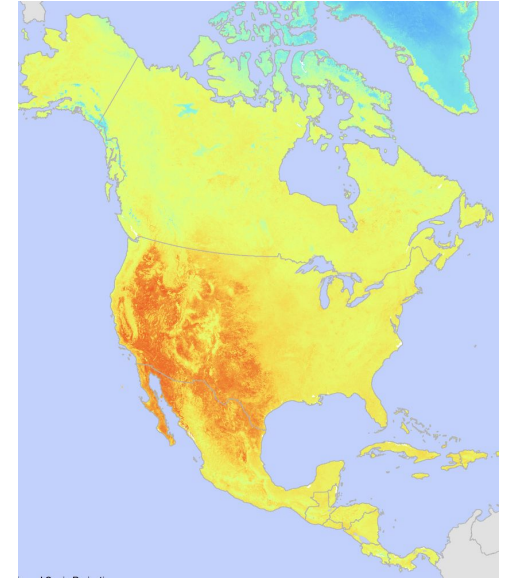
9 August 2022



Credit: [Conlon et al., 2020](#)

**Integrating
Socioeconomic Data
with Satellite Imagery
for Constructing Heat
Vulnerability Indices -
Session 2**

11 August 2022



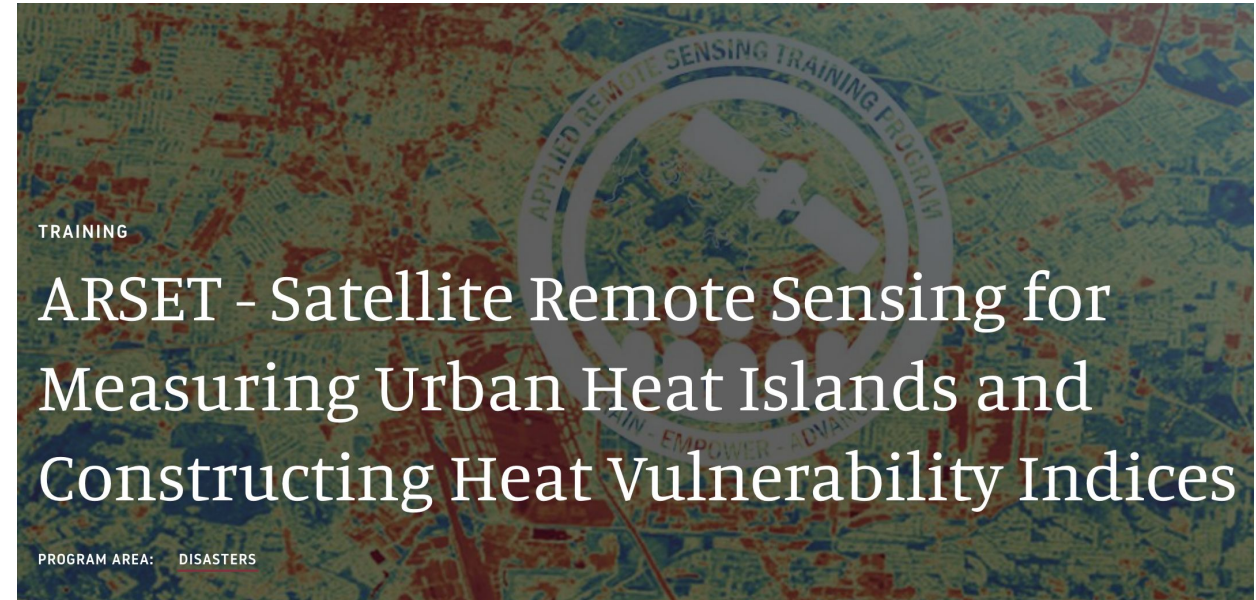
Credit: [CIESIN](#)

**Using High-Resolution,
Satellite Derived
Hot-Humid Heat Estimates
and Gridded Population
Data to Map Extreme
Heat Exposure Worldwide**



Course Structure and Materials

- Webinar recordings, presentations, and homework assignment can be accessed from the training page:
 - <https://appliedsciences.nasa.gov/join-mission/training/english/arset-satellite-remote-sensing-measuring-urban-heat-islands-and>
[d](#)



Homework and Certificate

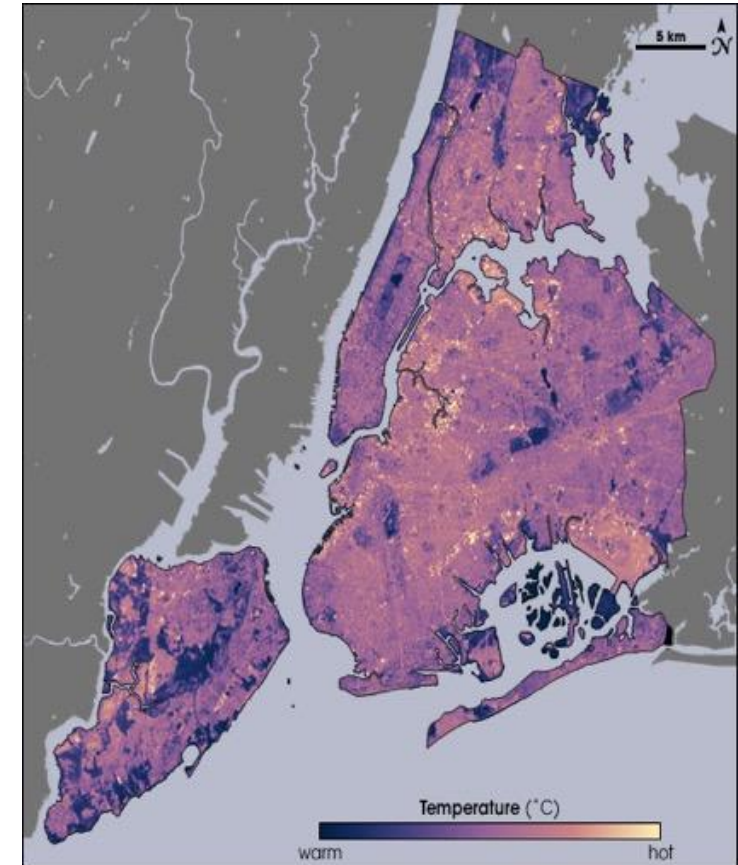
- Homework Assignment:
 - There will be one homework assignment for this webinar series
 - Answers must be submitted via instructions found on the [training page](#)
 - Due date: August 25, 2022
- A certificate of completion will be awarded to those who:
 - Attend all live webinars
 - Complete the homework assignment by the deadline
 - You will receive a certificate approximately two months after the completion of the course from: marines.martins@ssaihq.com



Learning Objectives

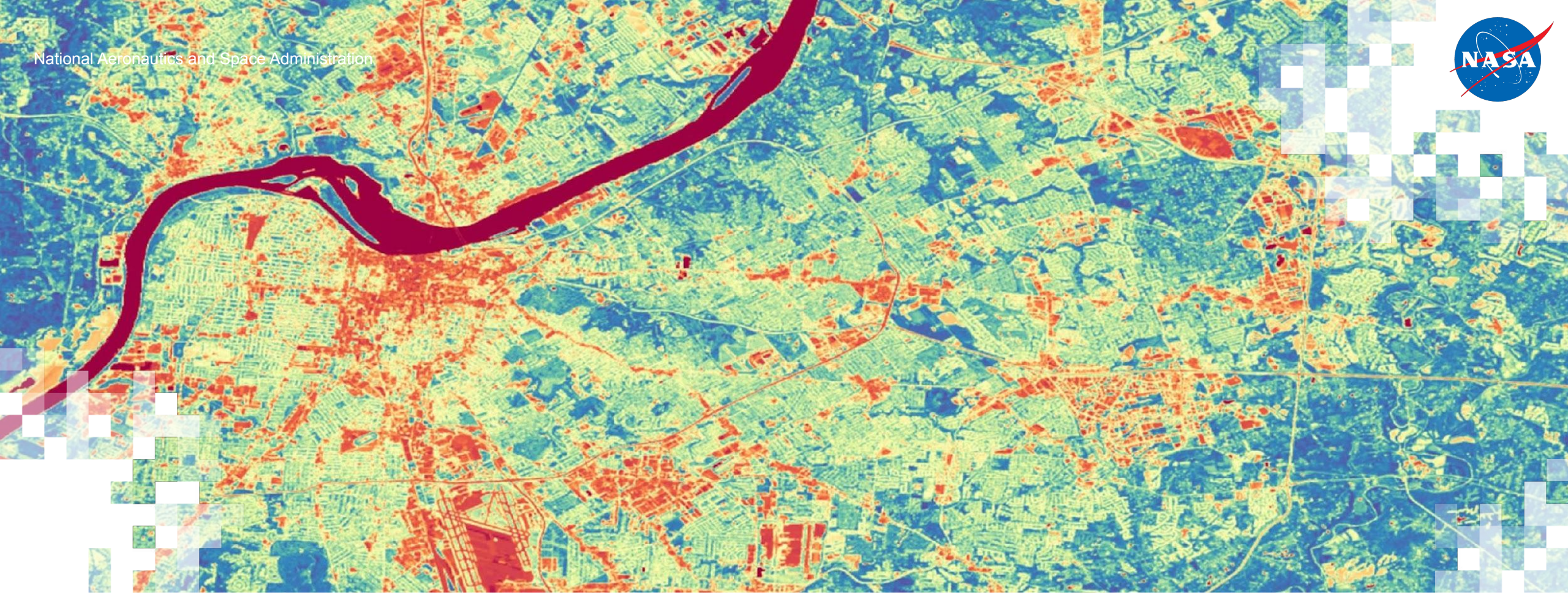
After participating in today's training, attendees will be able to:

- Give examples of common methods used to create heat vulnerability indices (HVI)
- Recognize techniques for effectively using HVI results to inform exposure and mitigation efforts
- Identify case studies showing how heat vulnerability mapping informed urban planning



Credit: [NASA Earth Observatory](#)





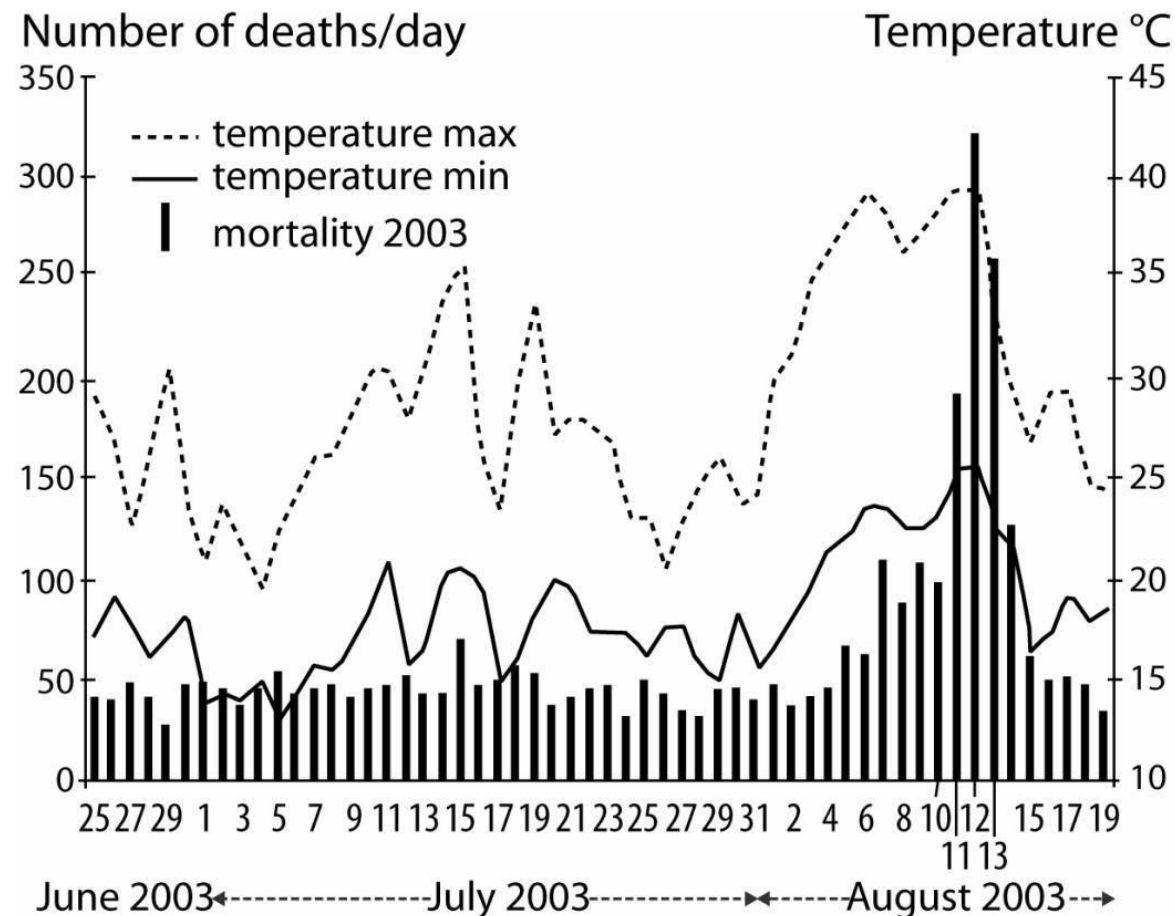
Background on Urban Heat & Heat Vulnerability Indices

Heat & Human Health

- Exposure to high temperatures can cause^{1,2,3}
 - Heat stroke
 - Heat exhaustion
 - Heat syncope
 - Heat cramps
 - Death
- Annual US heat-related mortality may increase by up to 34,000⁴

¹Bouchama et al. (2002); ²Kovats et al. (2008); ³USGCRP (2016);

⁴Voorhees et al. (2011)



Dousset et al. (2010)



Drivers of the Urban Heat Island

Loss of Vegetation



Impervious Materials

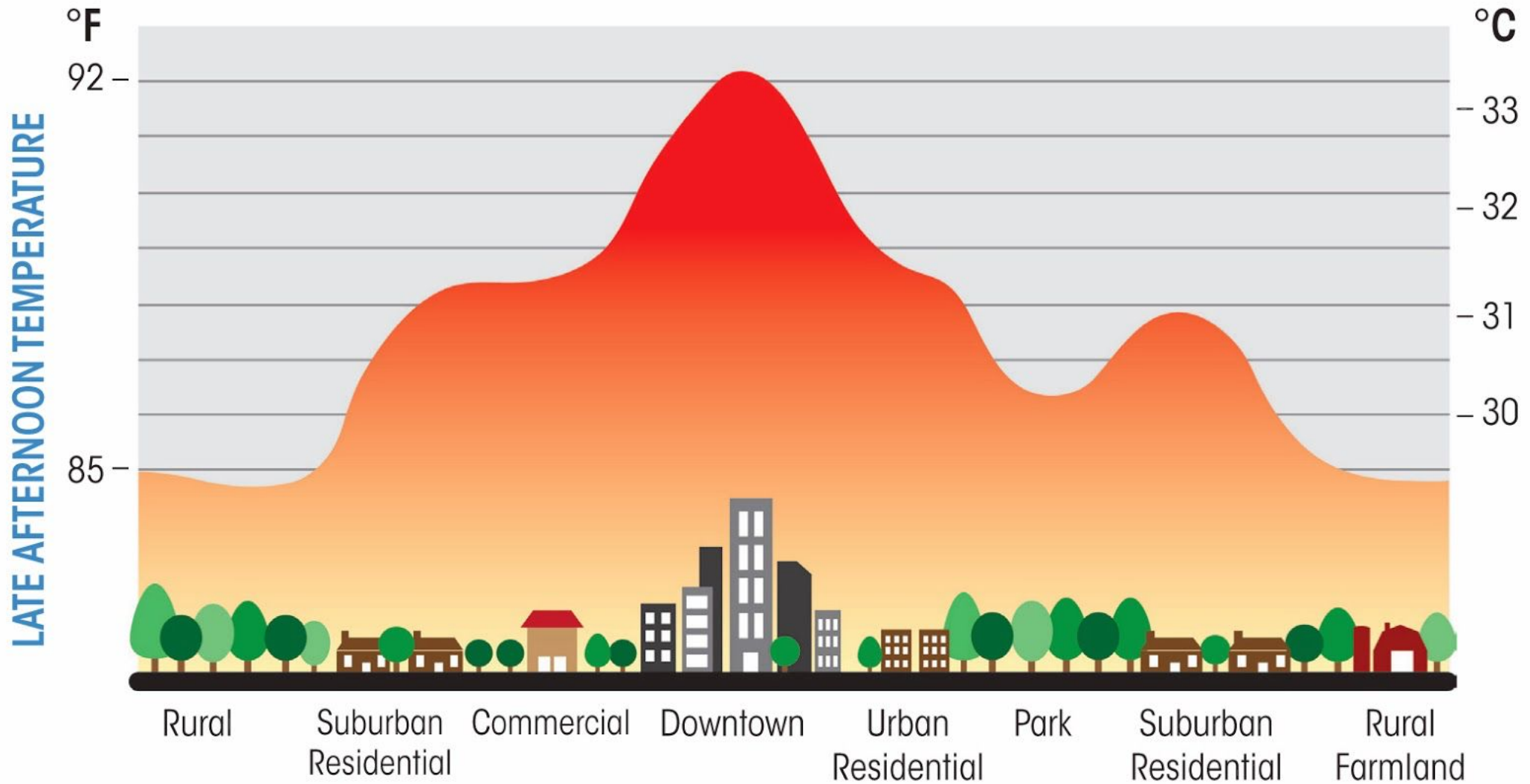


Waste Heat

Urban Morphology



Drivers of the Urban Heat Island



Inequities in Urban Heat Exposure



Hoffman et al., 2020; [New York Times](#)



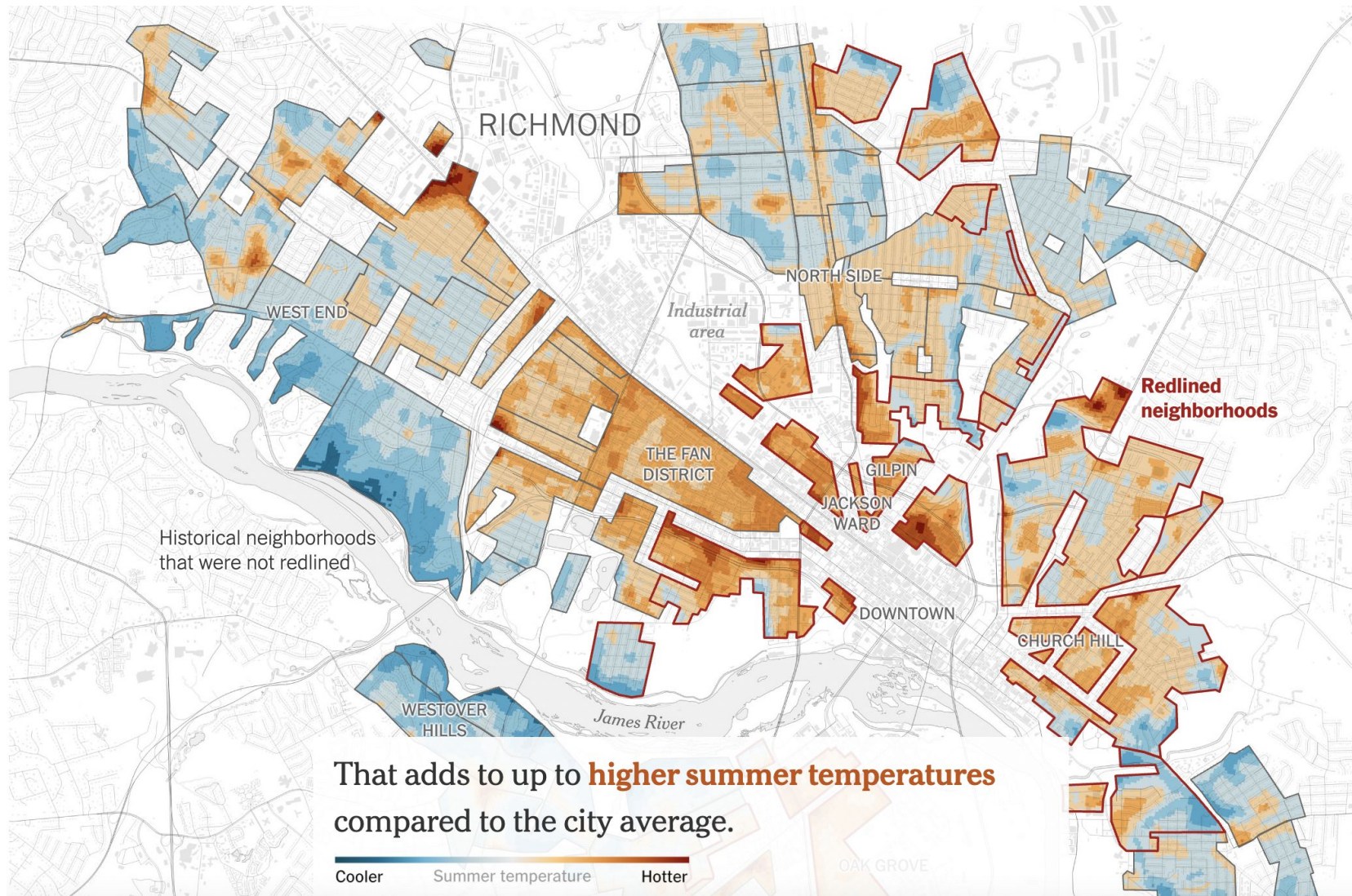
Inequities in Urban Heat Exposure



Hoffman et al., 2020; New York Times



Inequities in Urban Heat Exposure

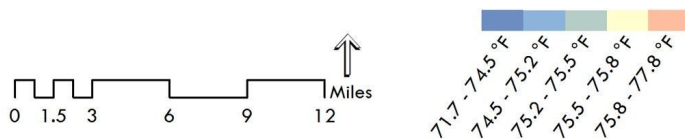
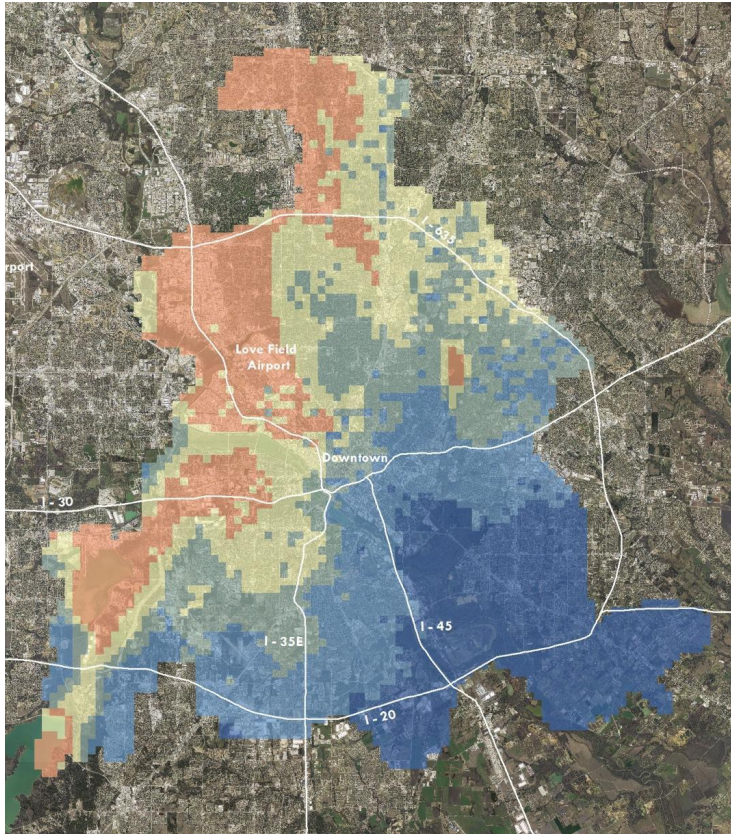


Hoffman et al., 2020; New York Times

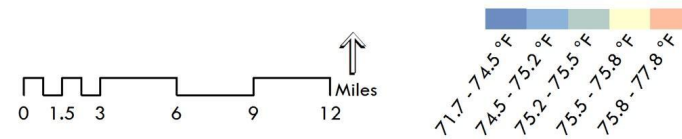
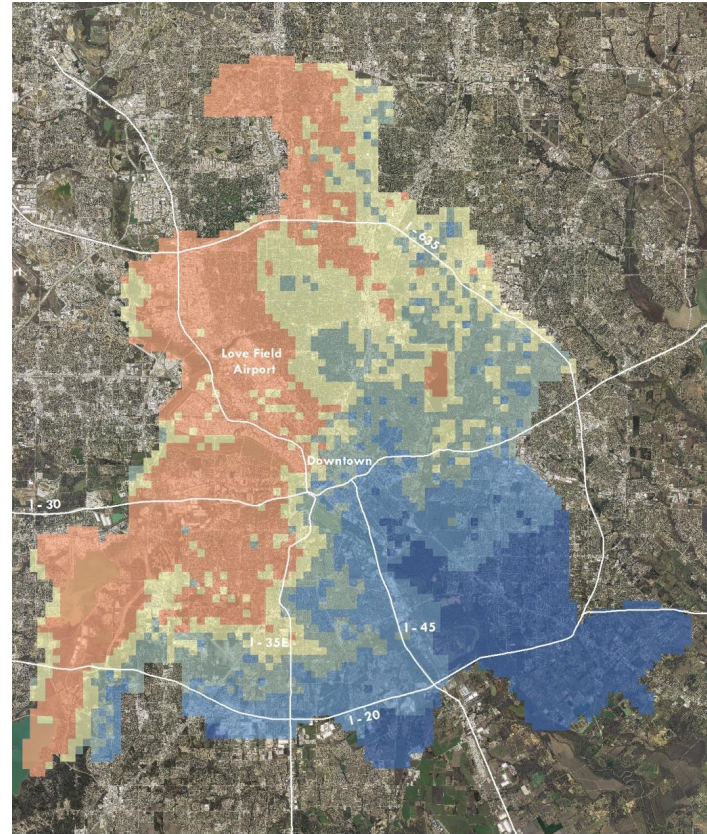


Air Temperature Data: Regional Climate Modeling

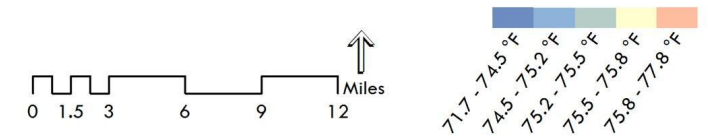
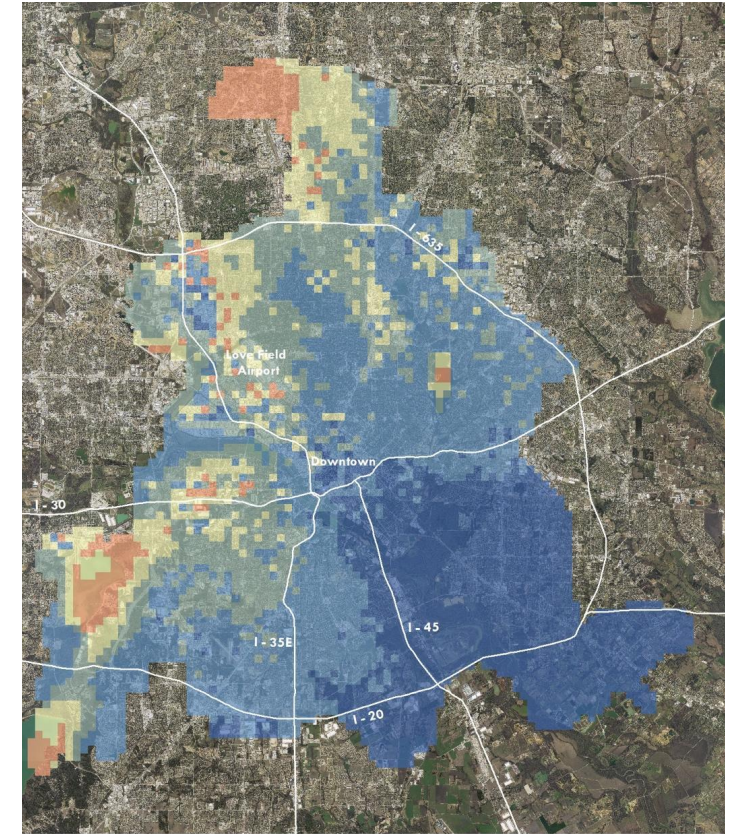
Current Conditions



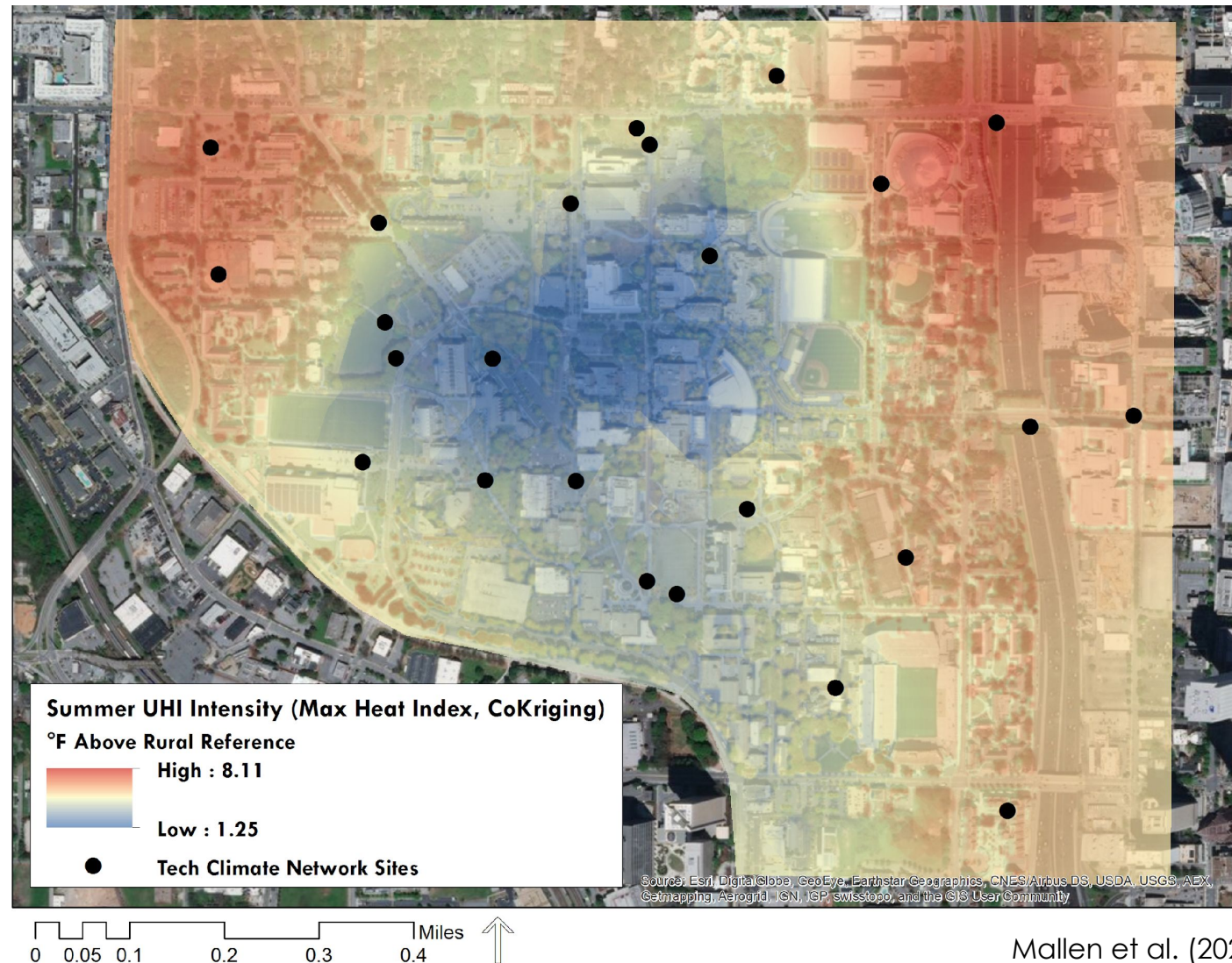
Tree Loss Scenario



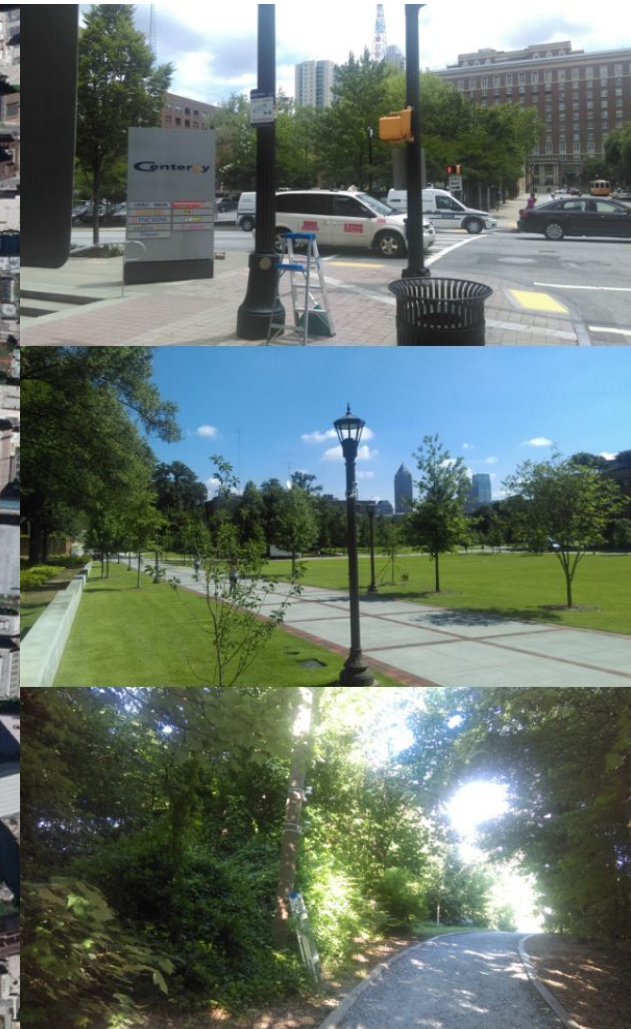
Greening Scenario



Air Temperature Data: Field Measurements



Mallen et al. (2020)



urban climate lab



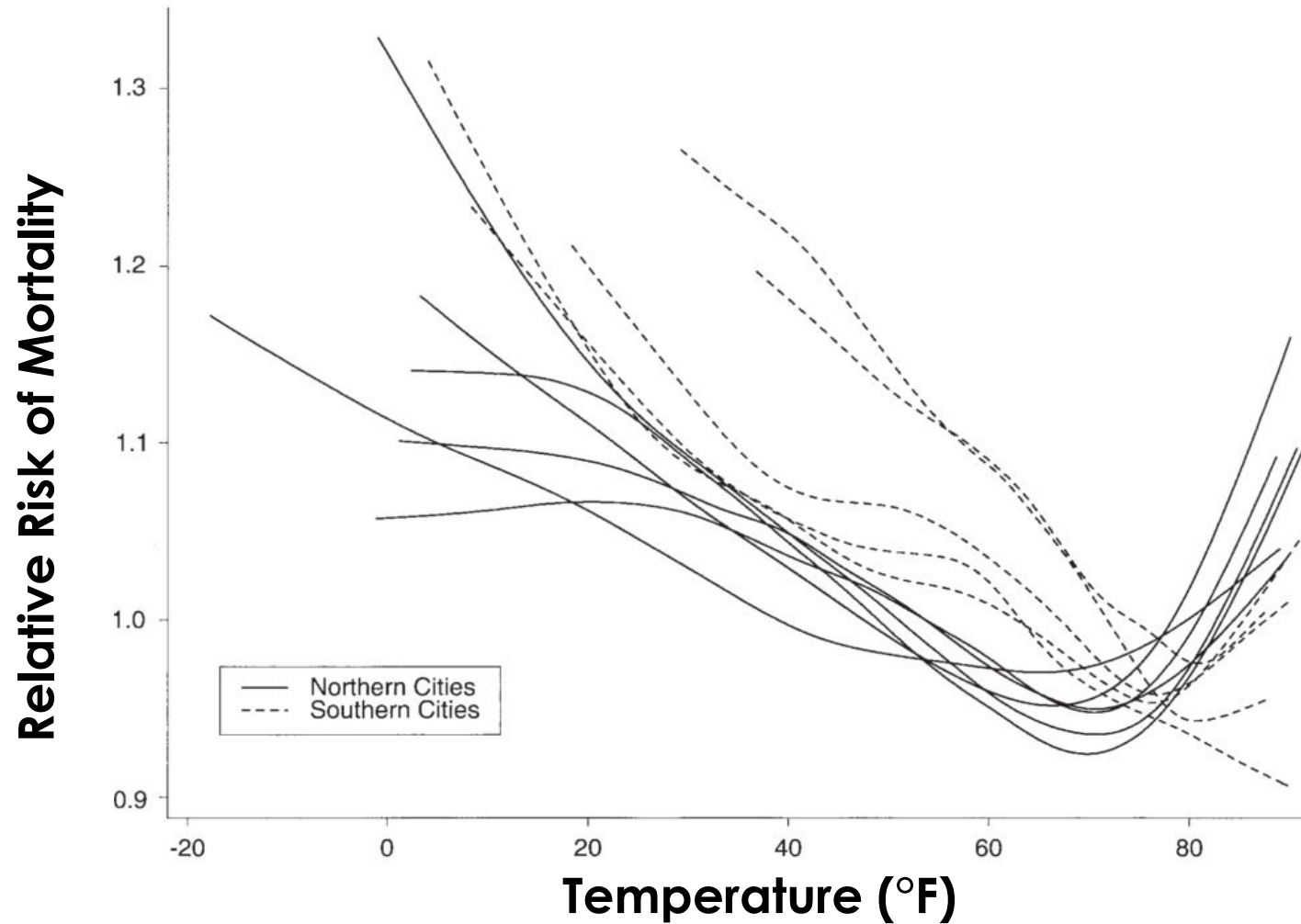
Heat Epidemiology

	Direct Attribution	Statistical Attribution
Definition	<p>Direct observations, but heat mortality/morbidity by proxy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hospital visits, 911 calls, cardio-pulmonary or renal failure during period of extreme heat¹	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Uses statistical relationships between temperature and mortality• Often used in mortality projections³
Limitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rarely attributes death specifically to heat²	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Difficult to obtain spatially comprehensive air temperature data¹

¹USGCRP (2016) ;²Anderson et al. (2011); ³Voorhees et al. (2011)



Heat Epidemiology



1. Temperature-mortality relative risk functions for 11 US cities, 1973–1994. Northern cities: Boston, Massachusetts; Chicago, Illinois; New York; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Baltimore, Maryland; and Washington, DC. Southern cities: Charlotte, North Carolina; Atlanta, Jacksonville, Florida; Tampa, Florida; and Miami, Florida. $^{\circ}\text{C} = 5/9 \times (^{\circ}\text{F} - 32)$.

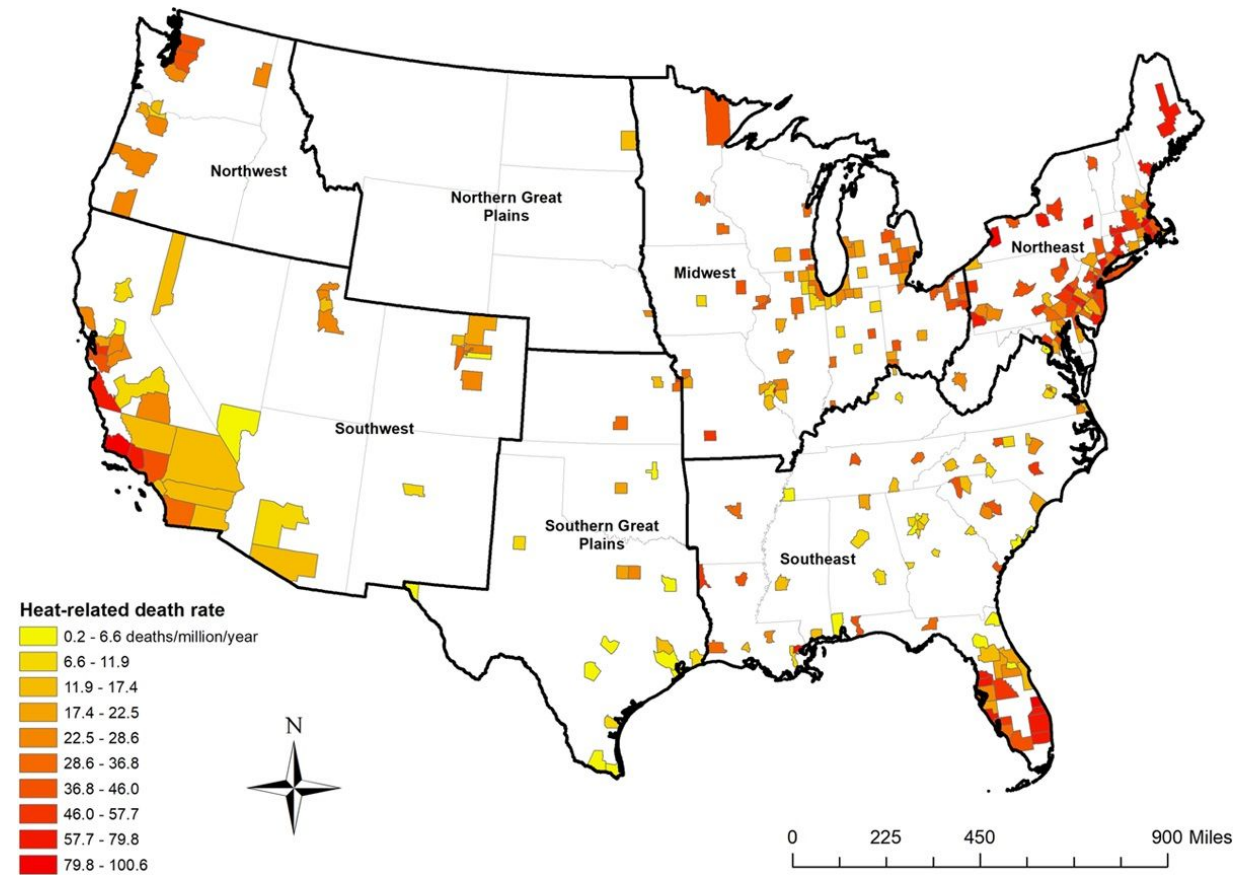
Curriero et al. (2002)



Filling in the Gaps

- Heat epidemiologic model is the gold standard
 - Can be resource-intensive
 - Exposure and health data are required
- In absence of epidemiologic data, heat vulnerability indices (HVIs) can display spatial patterns of heat-related risk

Excess Deaths Attributable to Heat in 297 US Counties



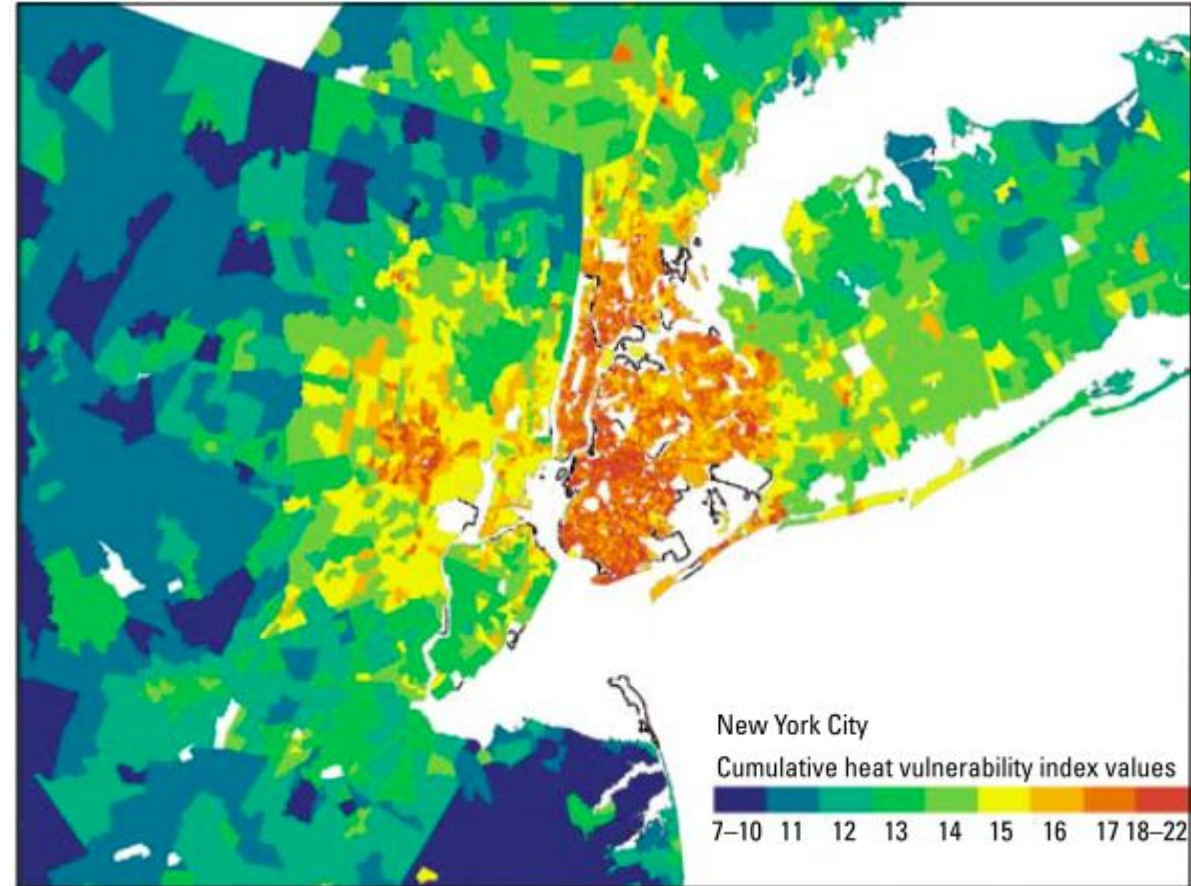
Weinberger, et al. 2020



Why Use HVIs?

- Urban heat is exacerbated by the **urban heat island** and varies by microclimate, but can be mitigated via neighborhood-specific interventions¹
- Interventions should be located in areas where they will be most **effective, efficient, and equitable**
- Heat-related health outcomes and comprehensive, high-resolution air temperature data are difficult to obtain and model
- Practitioners are increasingly using **heat vulnerability indices** (HVI) to identify high-priority areas for intervention²

¹ Stone et al., 2014; ² Bao et al., 2015,



Reid et al., 2009



CDC'S Health Equity Guiding Principles for Inclusive Communication



CDC's *Health Equity Guiding Principles for Inclusive Communication* are intended to help public health professionals ensure their communication work, including communication of public health science, meets the specific needs and priorities of the populations they serve and addresses all people inclusively, accurately, and respectfully. These principles are designed to adapt and change as both language and cultural norms change.

Why do words matter for health equity?

Language in communication products should reflect and speak to the needs of people in the audience of focus, using non-stigmatizing language. This means:

- Using a health equity lens when framing information about health disparities
- Using person-first language and avoiding unintentional blaming
- Using preferred terms for select population groups while recognizing that there isn't always agreement on these terms
- Considering how communications are developed and looking for ways to develop more inclusive health communications products
- Exploring other resources and references related to health equity communications.

How can I help?

CDC encourages all public health professionals at the federal, state, and local levels to look for opportunities to apply these *Guiding Principles* across their public health communication work, including when creating information resources such as scientific publications and public health recommendations, and when engaging with communities, partners, and staff.

Learn more: https://www.cdc.gov/healthcommunication/Health_Equity.html.



U.S. Department of
Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention

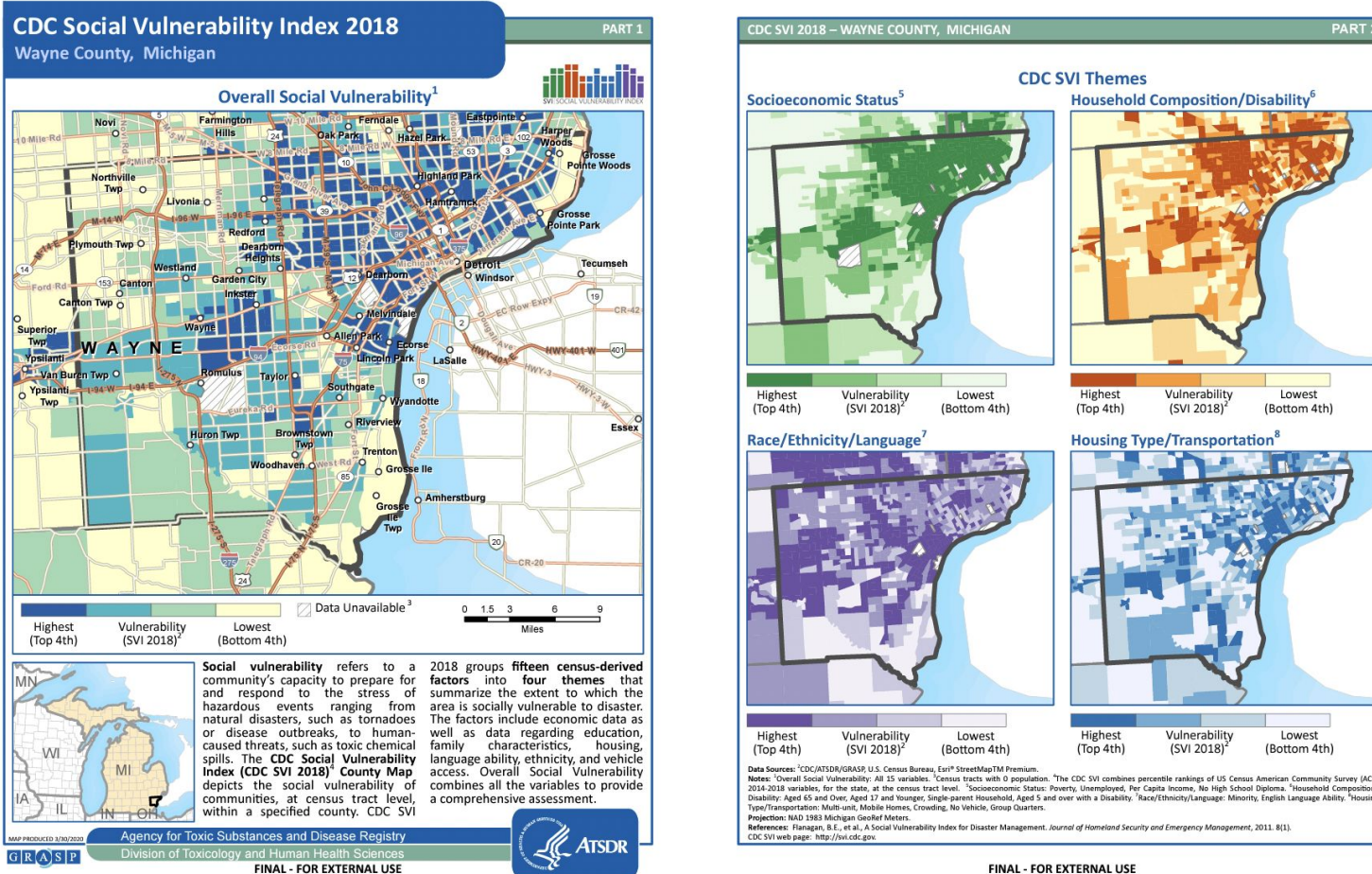
CS 328419-A December 07,

What is Meant by "Vulnerability"?

- Colloquially describes being at-risk to some hazard
 - Seen as dehumanizing
- Modern use of *vulnerability* should consider health equity framing
 - Social determinants of health that contribute to unequal risks
 - Systemic social and health inequities
- Layered inequities
- Rather, use: "people/communities who experience vulnerability"
- For this training we will use vulnerability terminology, but ...
 - Think about this retrospective vs prospective terminology
 - Critical to remember that people **experience** vulnerability, rather than embody it



Social Vulnerability Index (SVI)

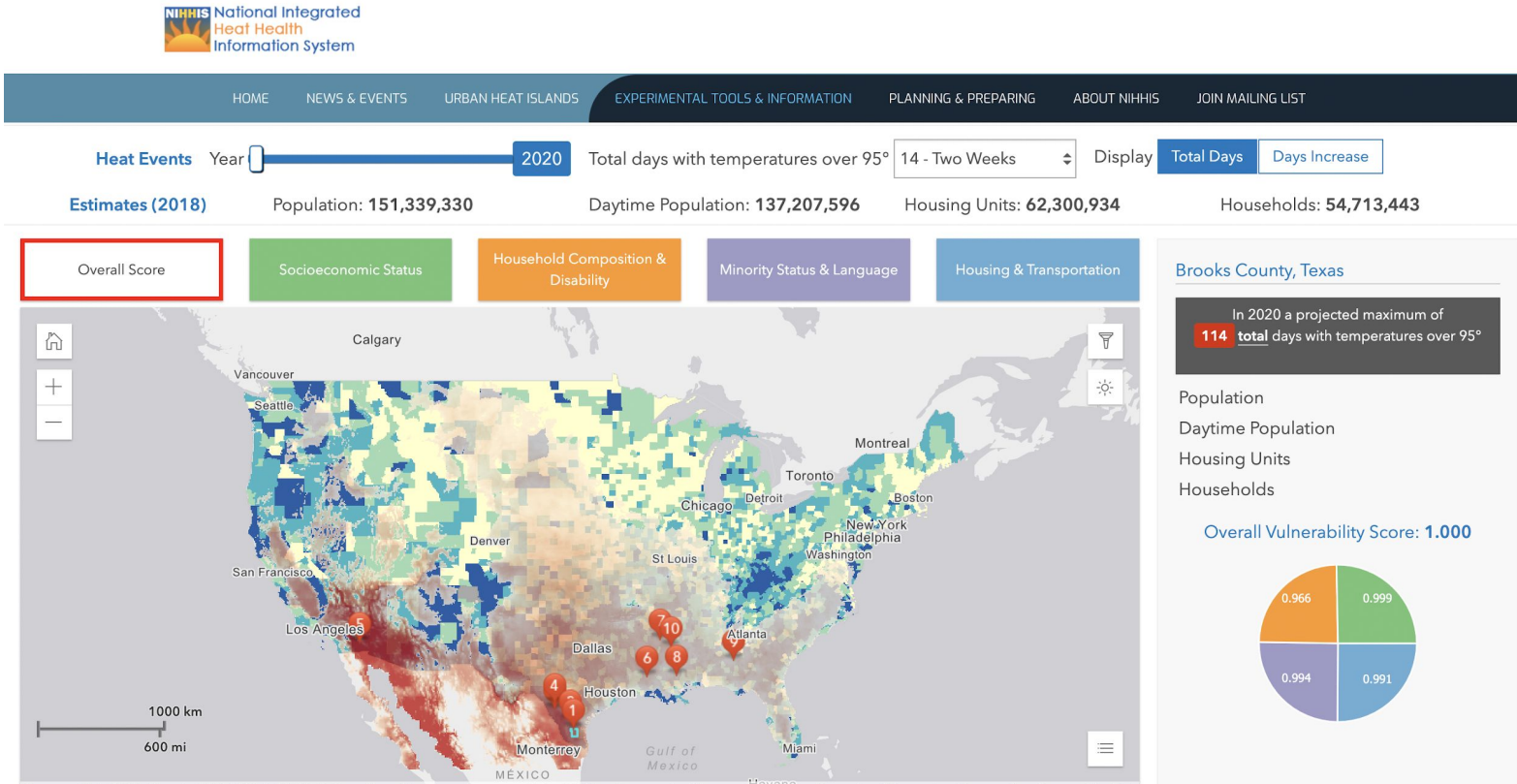


- Unitless characterization of social factors that contribute to a communities' capability to respond to hazards
- Socioeconomic, Household Composition and Disability, Race/Ethnicity/Language, and Housing & Transportation
- Singular value to indicate RELATIVE experience/condition or area in greater need of intervention or response
- HVI is a sub-type of the SVI

https://svi.cdc.gov/Documents/CountyMaps/2016/Michigan/Michigan2016_Wayne.pdf



Decision Support Tools: Vulnerability Mapping



Understand spatial distribution of heat-related vulnerabilities to identify areas for risk reduction

There is no one method for mapping vulnerability

Gamble et al. (2018)

<https://nihhis.cpo.noaa.gov/vulnerability-mapping>



Defining Vulnerability

Exposure

Sensitivity

Adaptive
Capacity

Vulnerability



Exposure

Exposure

Exposure refers to the intensity of the heat risk, or how hot it gets in a particular location. Heat exposure is often driven by the urban heat island and is measured directly or by proxy through UHI drivers.

¹ Oke, 1987; ² Bao et al., 2015



Exposure

Exposure

Hot/heatwave days
Consecutive hot days
Min/Mean/Max temp.
Land surface temp.
Impervious surfaces
Vegetation
Urban density
Land cover
Land use
Homes w/o AC
Population density



Exposure

Exposure

Hot/heatwave days
Consecutive hot days
Min/Mean/Max temp.
Land surface temp.



Direct Measures

Impervious surfaces
Vegetation
Urban density
Land cover
Land use
Homes w/o AC
Population density



Exposure

Exposure

Hot/heatwave days
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Homes w/o AC
Population density



Indirect or Proxy Measures



Sensitivity

Sensitivity

Sensitivity refers to the level to which an individual may be impacted by heat exposure given pre-existing physiological conditions that may help or hinder these impacts. Often these conditions involve difficulty regulating body temperature, salt and water balance, or other internal stressors that increase heat risk.

¹ Bouchama & Knochel, 2002; ²Reid et al., 2009; ³Robinson, 2001



Sensitivity

Sensitivity

Older adults
Infants, young age
Sex
Diabetes
Cardiopulmonary
Renal
Respiratory
Obesity



Adaptive Capacity

Adaptive Capacity

Adaptive Capacity refers to the abilities or resources available to an individual or group to help them cope with exposure to high temperatures. These are often socioeconomic factors, such as the ability to afford and operate air conditioning to reduce personal exposure.

¹ Cutter et al., 2008; ²Kuras et al., 2015; ³Sheridan et al., 2007



Adaptive Capacity

Adaptive Capacity

Air conditioning access
Living alone
Income / wealth
Rental / homeowner
Unhoused
Education
Ethnicity
Language
Foreign-born
Cognitive impairment
Mobility /Transportation



Defining Vulnerability

Exposure

Hot/heatwave days
Consecutive hot days
Min/Mean/Max temp.
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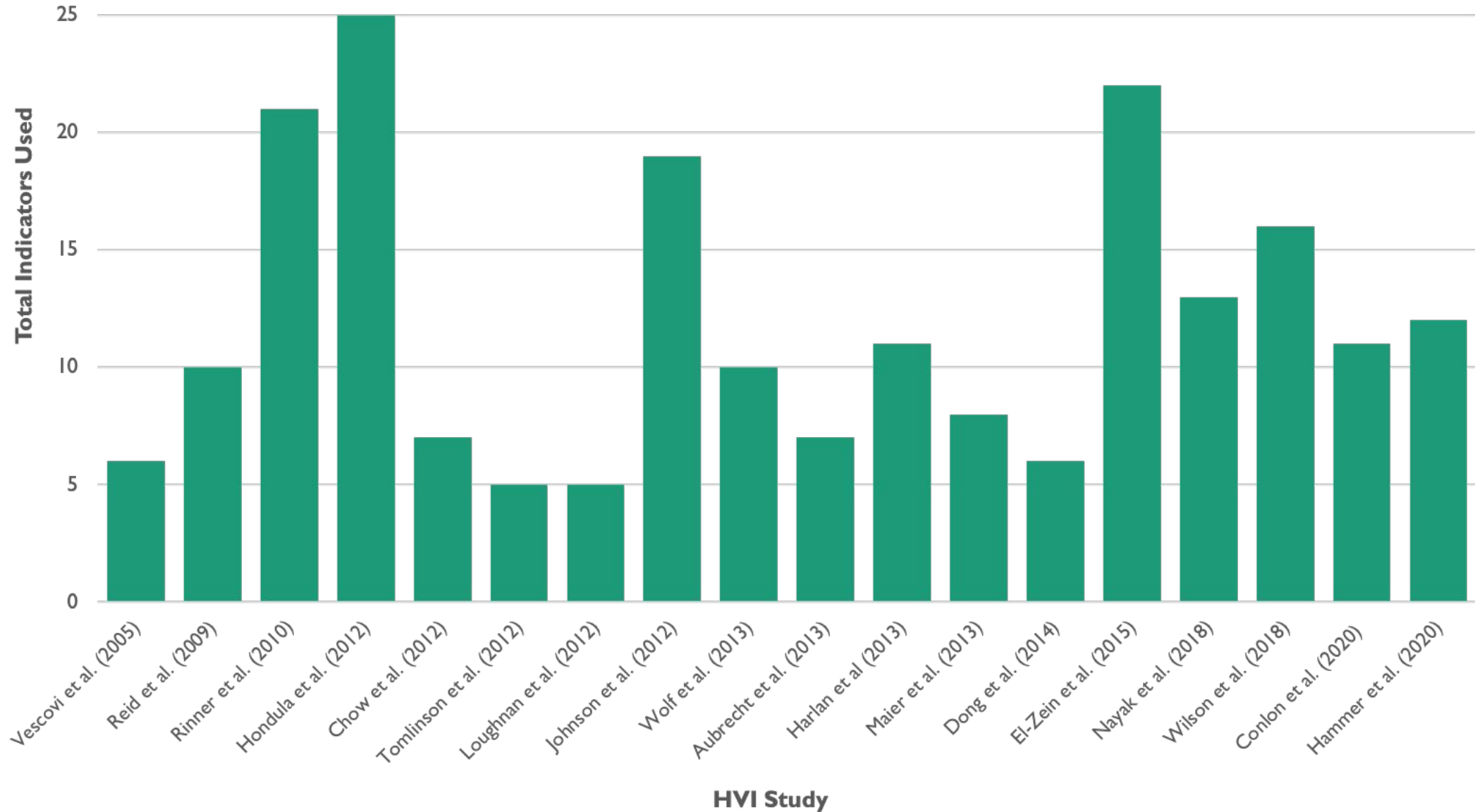
Adaptive Capacity

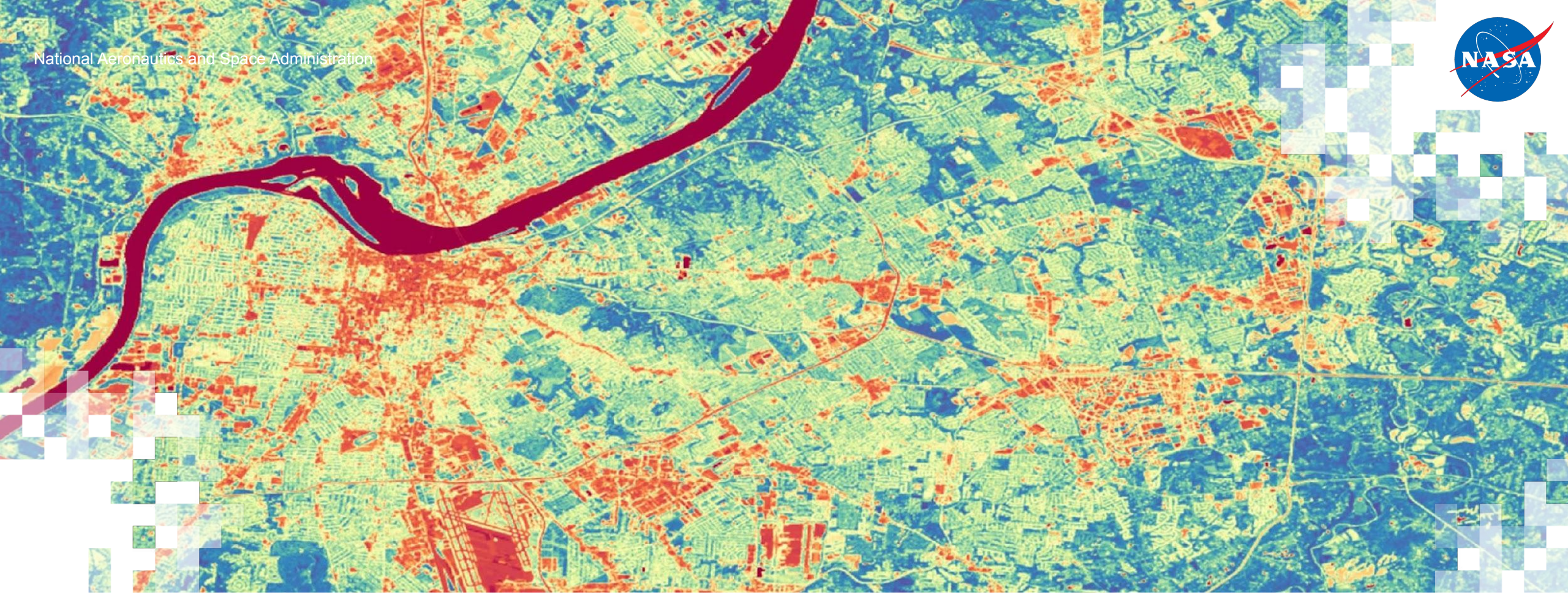
Air conditioning access
Living alone
Income / wealth
Rental / homeowner
Unhoused
Education
Ethnicity
Language
Foreign-born
Cognitive impairment
Mobility / Transportation

Vulnerability



Heat Vulnerability Indicators

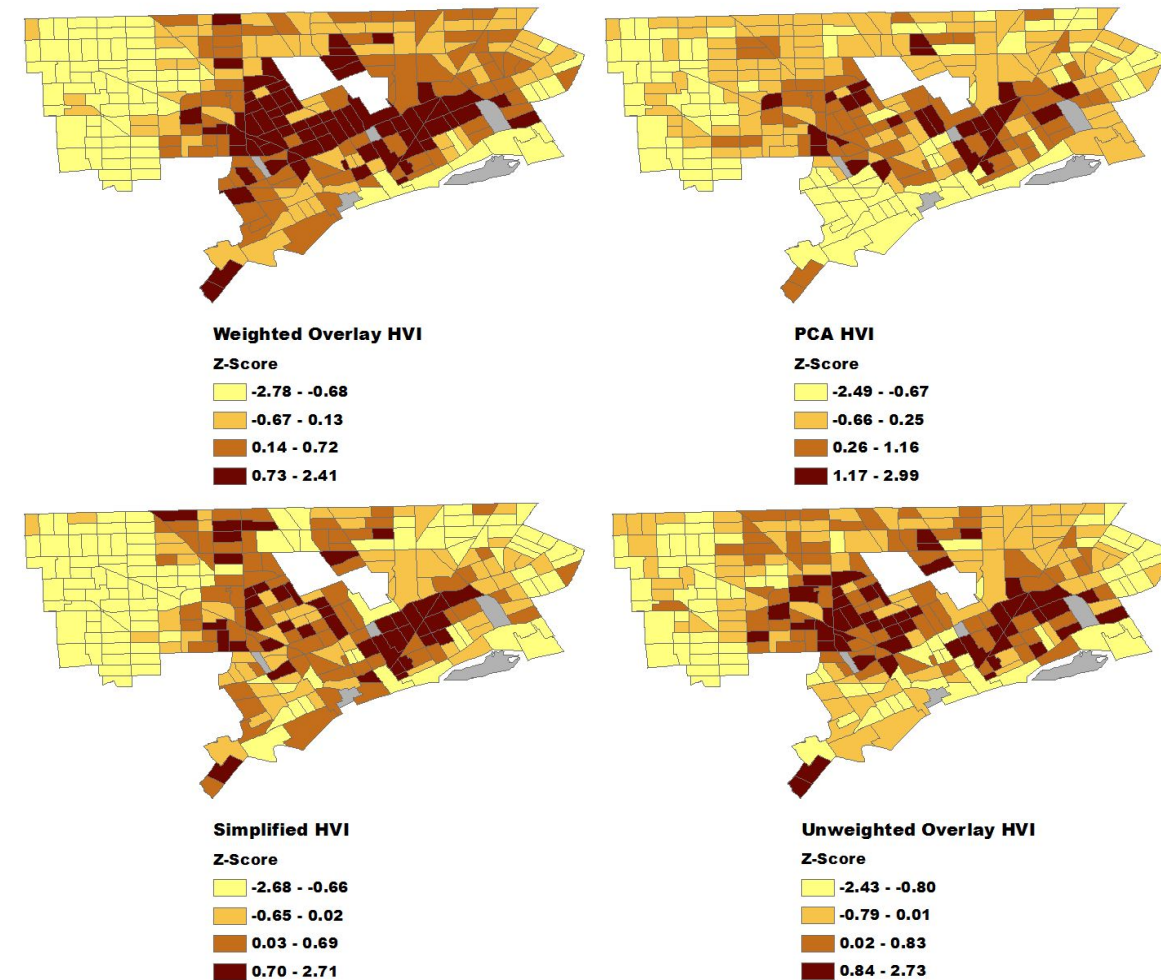




Constructing Heat Vulnerability Indices

HVI Construction Methods

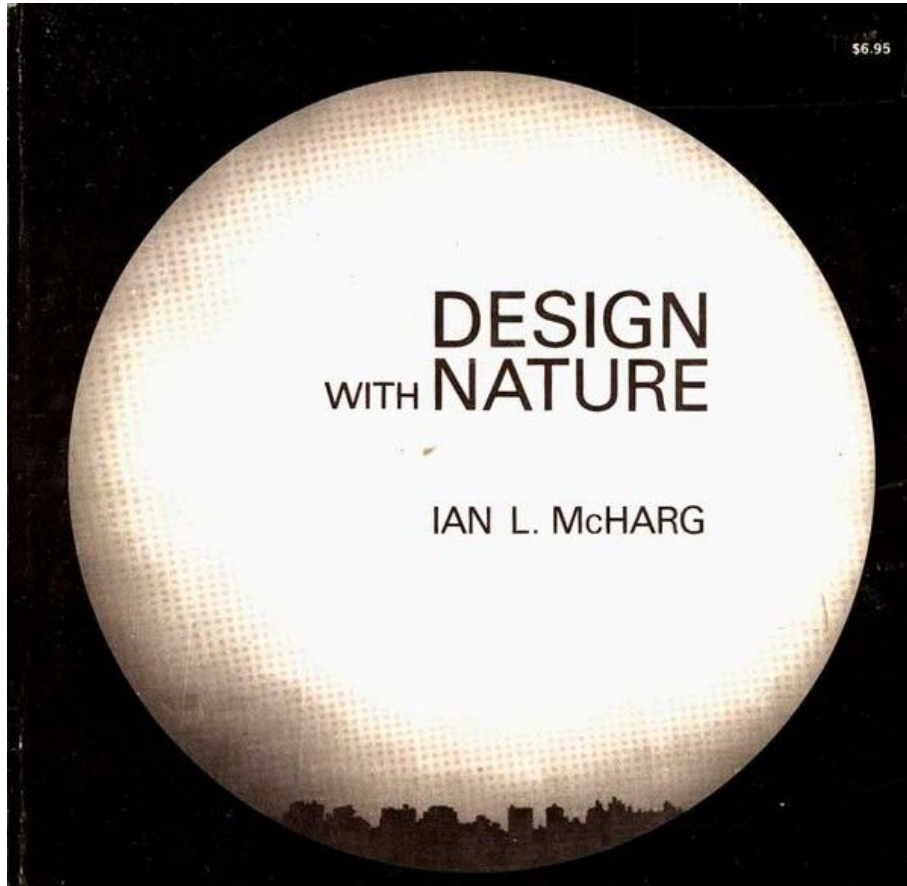
- Origins in the "Ecological Method"
- Common construction techniques
- HVI sensitivities



Mallen, 2019b



McHarg's "Ecological Method"



1. Select site for land use project
2. Identify range of known impacts, both market and non-market
3. Create a separate layer for each impact, identifying areas of high, medium, and low value
4. Overlay the various layers to identify zones of minimum total social impacts





SCENIC VALUES



RECREATION VALUES



RESIDENTIAL VALUES



FOREST VALUES



WILDLIFE VALUES

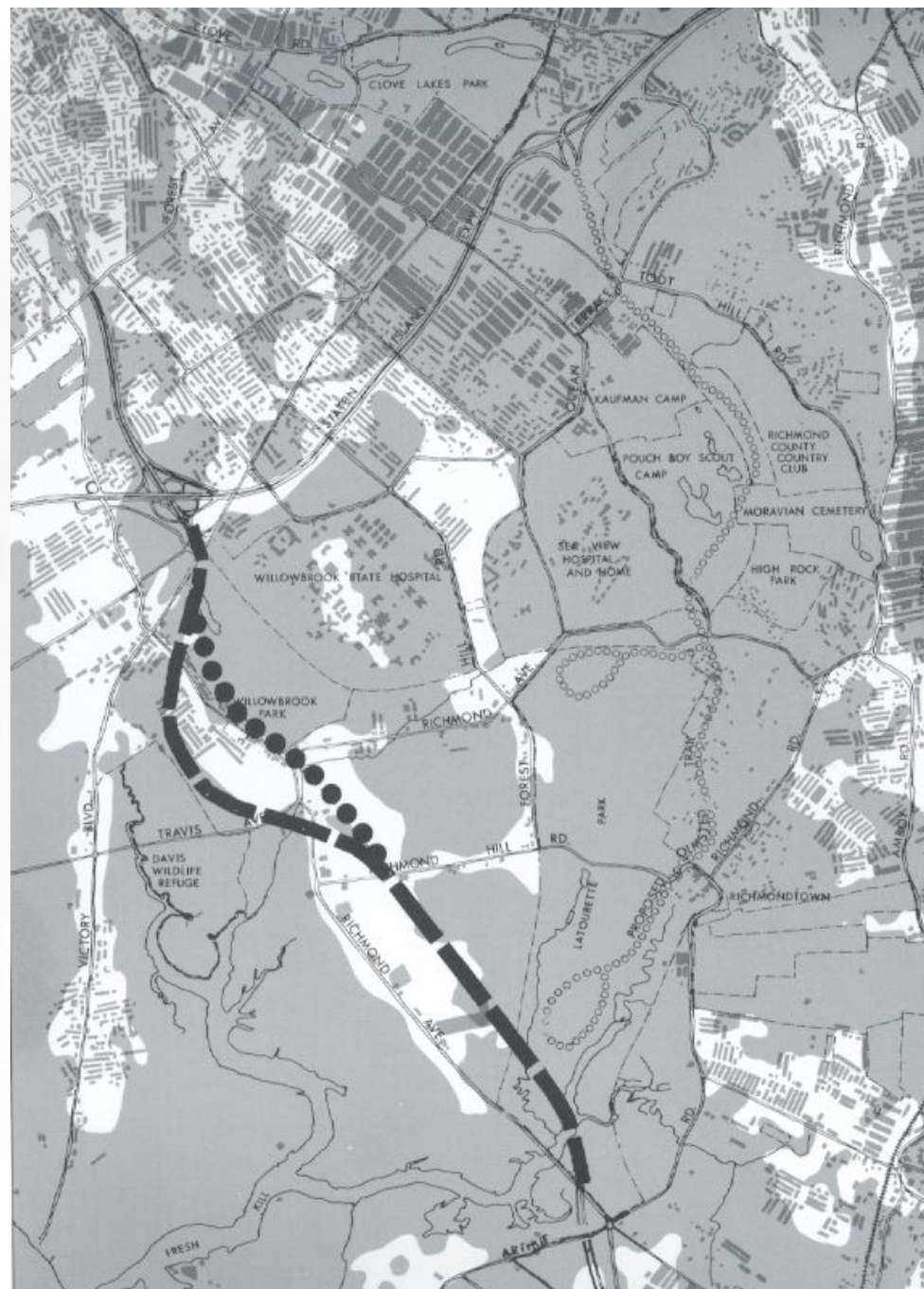


INSTITUTIONAL VALU





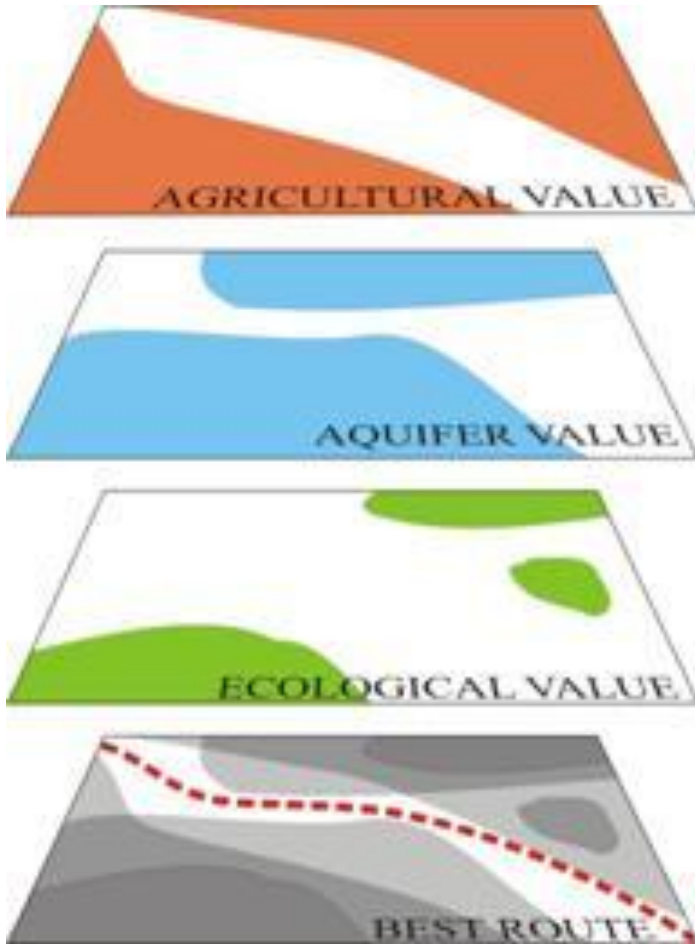
EVALUATION OF ALIGNMENTS



McHarg (1969)



McHarg's "Ecological Method"



Randolph, 2012

Until GIS came into use for many of the combination procedures, this hand drawn overlay technique was the most used land suitability method. It has two inherent problems, however.

First, it adds together factors influencing land suitability, assuming they are of equal importance, when in fact one may be more important to a particular use than another.

Second, this method assumes that individual factors are completely independent.



Independent Factors?

Exposure

Hot/heatwave days
Consecutive hot days
Min/Mean/Max temp.
Land surface temp.
Impervious surfaces
Vegetation
Urban density
Land cover
Land use
Homes w/o AC
Population density

Sensitivity

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Respiratory
Obesity

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Cognitive impairment
Mobility / Transportation

Vulnerability



HVI Construction Methods

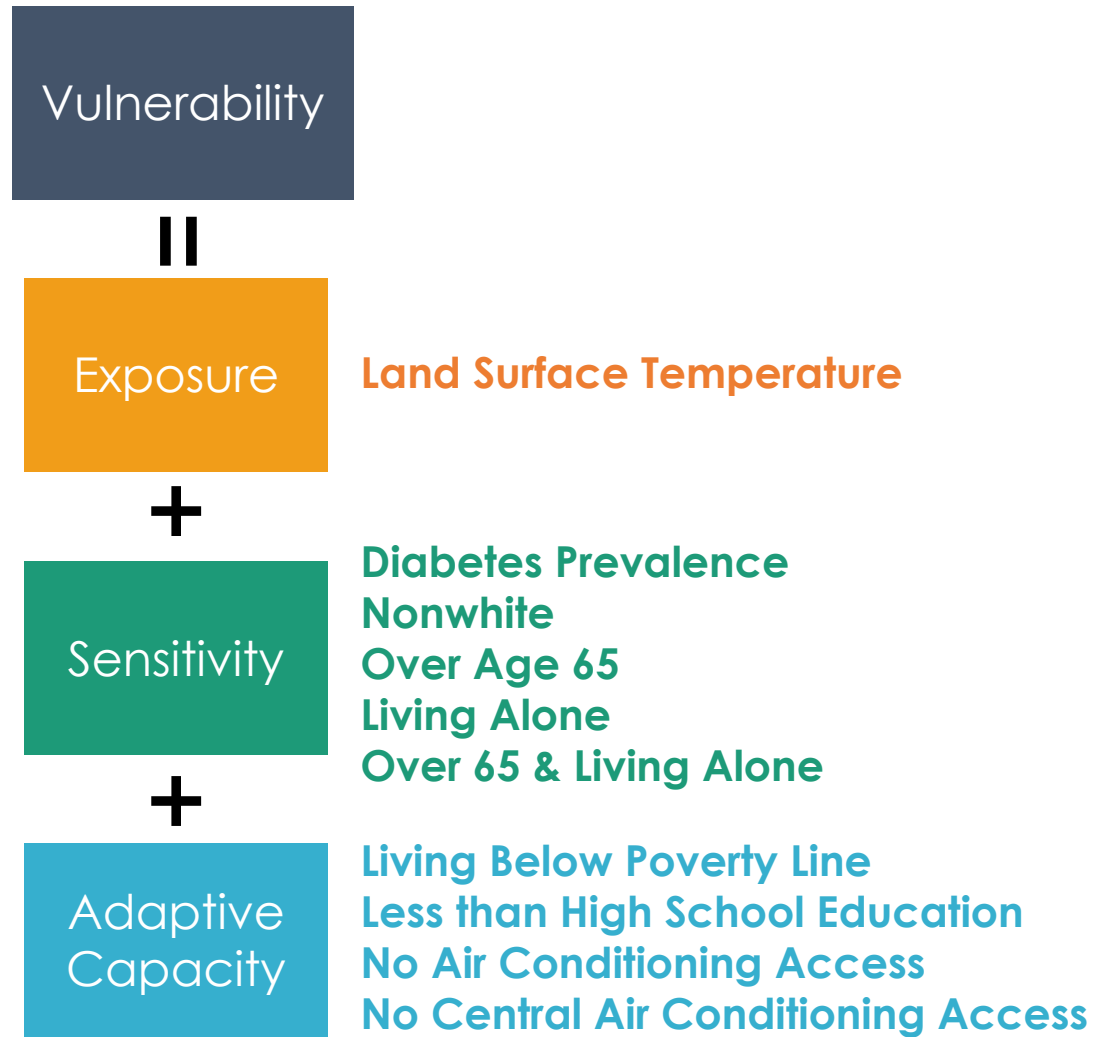
- Normalization and aggregation
 - Normalize individual indicators, e.g. proportions 0 to 1
 - Aggregated with increasing vulnerability to generate score
- Equal weight
 - HVI indicators left unweighted, assumed equal contributions to vulnerability
- Weighted
 - Weight HVI indicators differently based on expert judgment or “bottom-up” approach
- Principal Components Analysis
 - Dimension reduction technique to reduce potential for autocorrelation
 - Produces statistically independent factors associated with vulnerability components

Range of Z-Score	HVI Component Score
-2 or lower	1
-2 to -1	2
-1 to 0	3
0 to 1	4
1 to 2	5
2 or higher	6

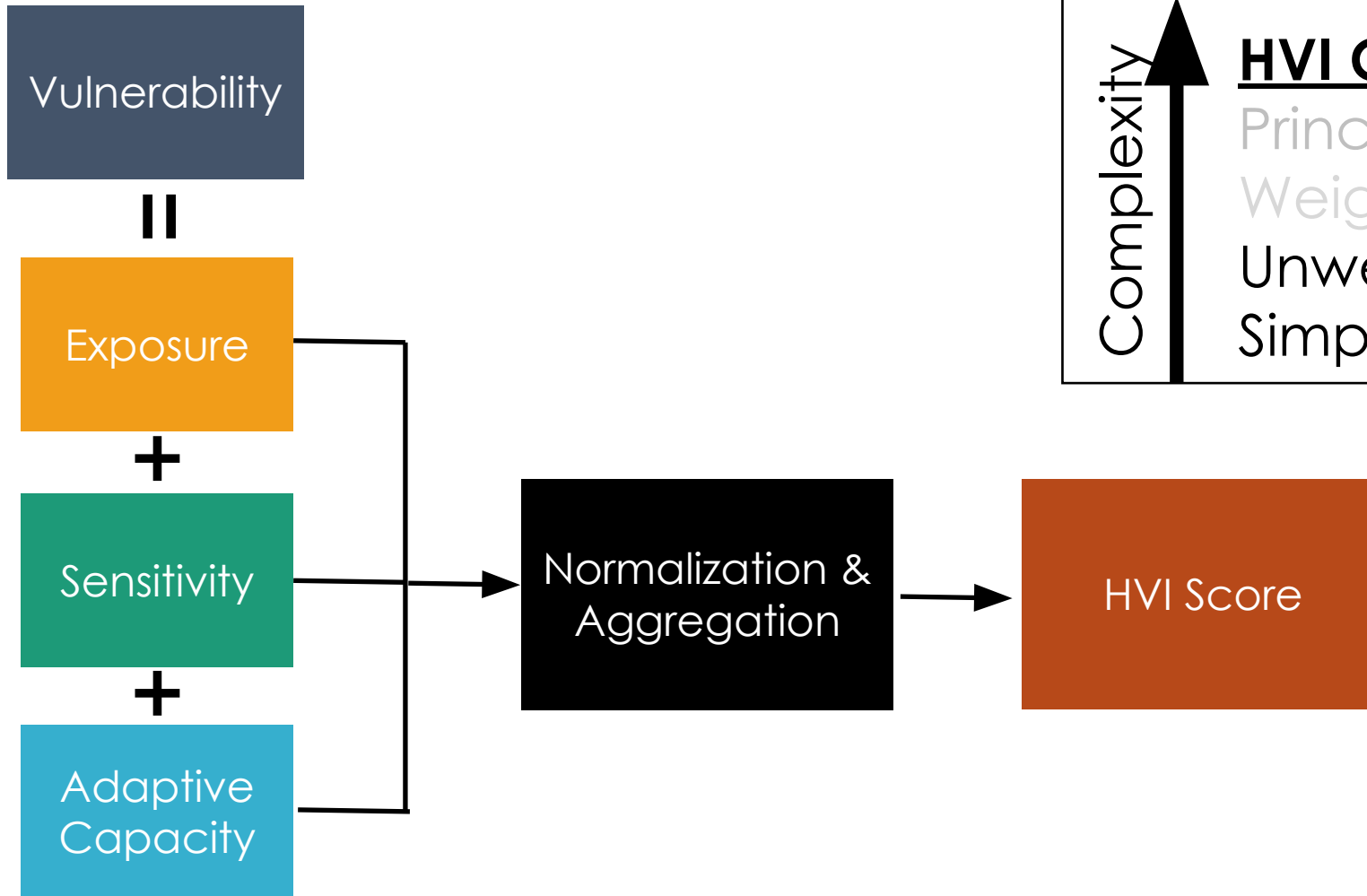
Reid et al. (2009)



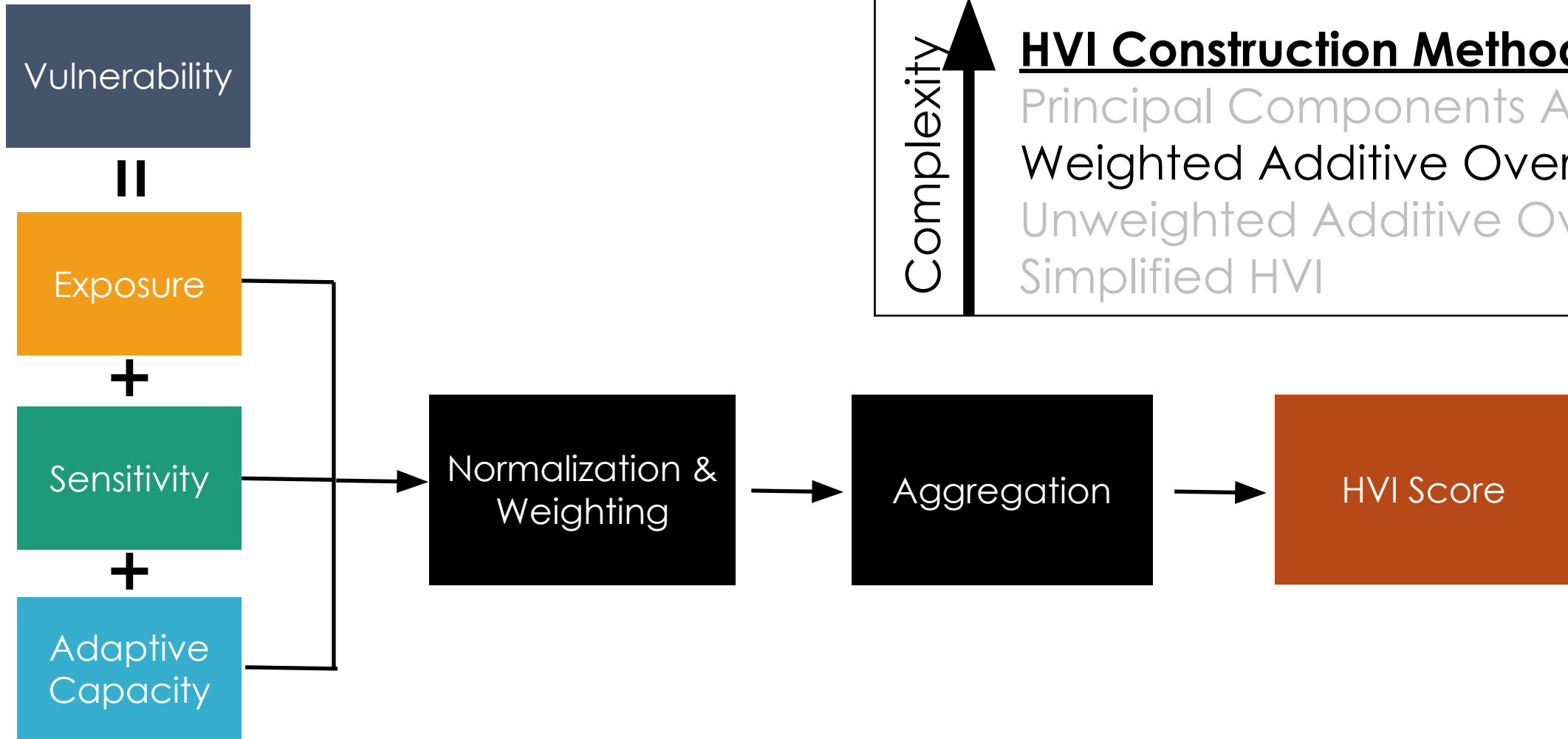
Considerations in Weighting



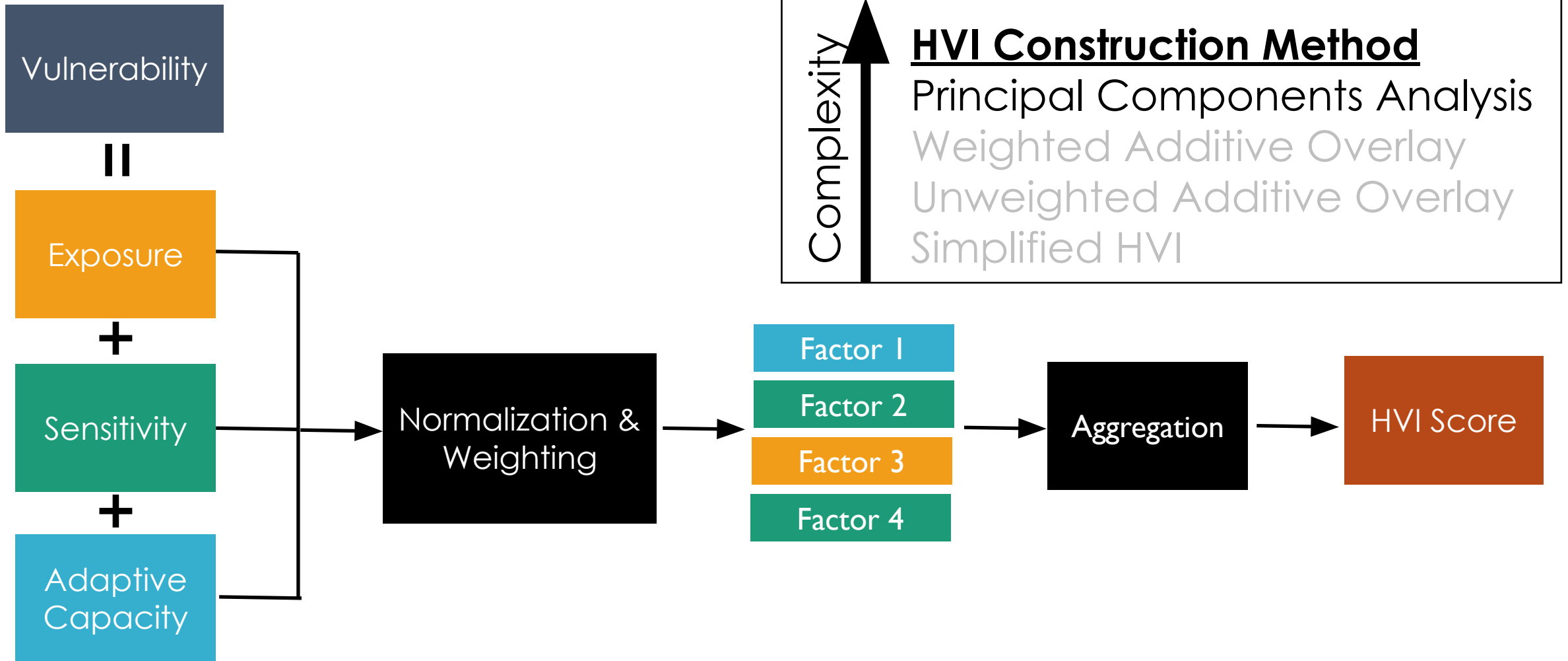
HVI Construction



HVI Construction



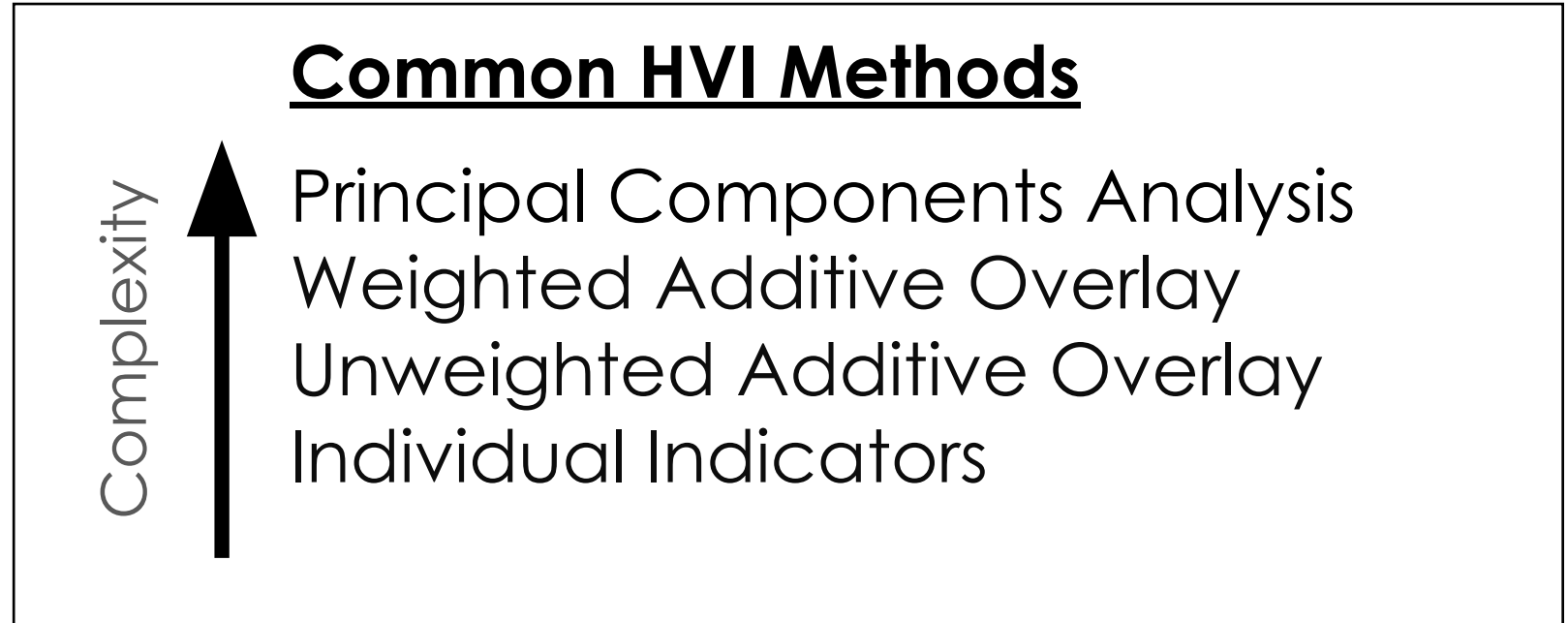
HVI Construction



HVI Construction

Important! Input variables:

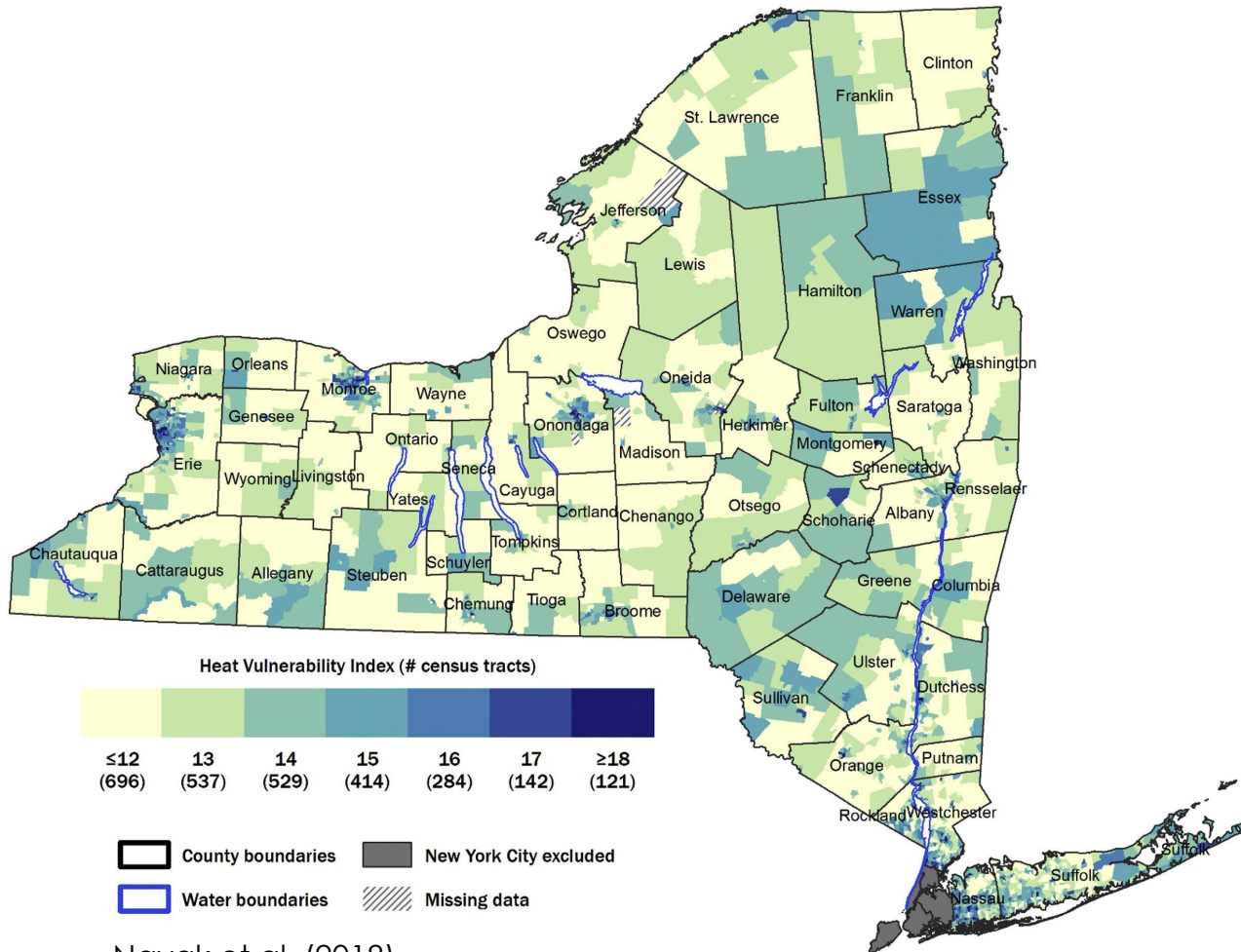
- Unidirectional
- Confer vulnerability



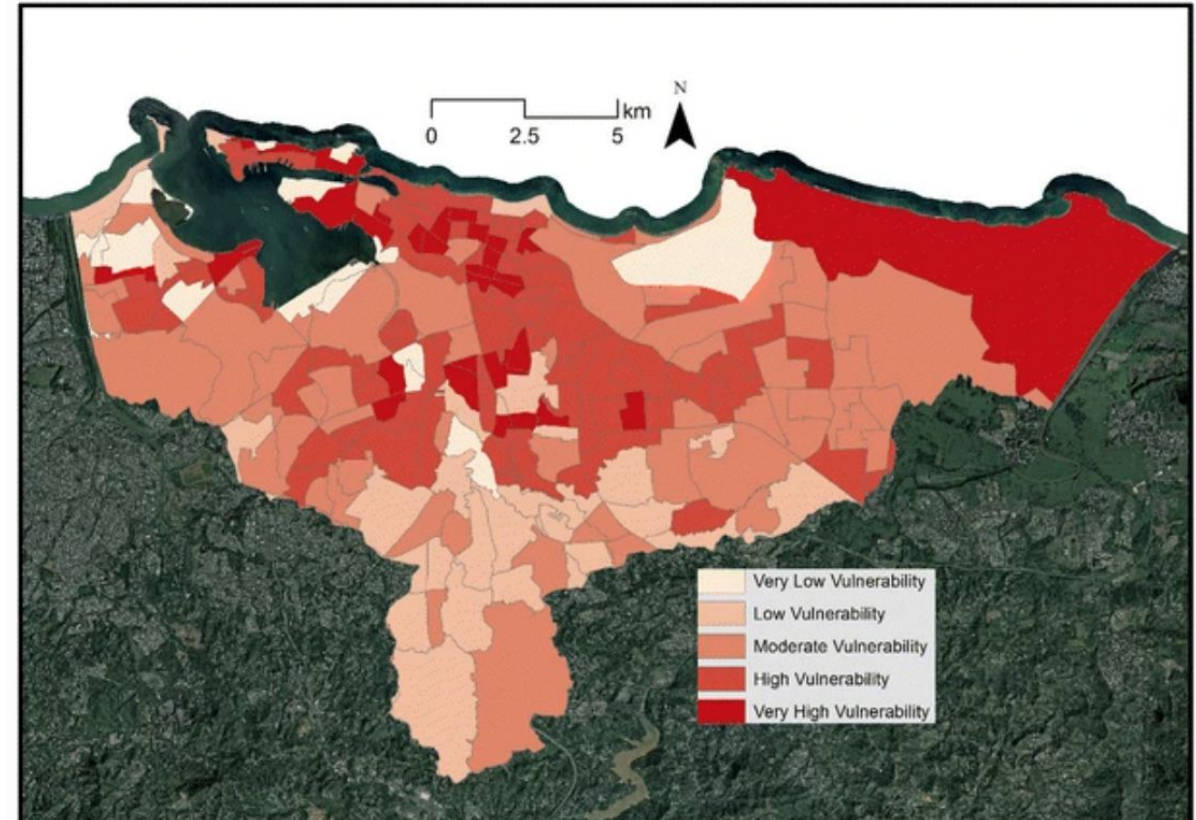
Remember: An increase in your indicators should lead to an increase in vulnerability



HVIs Show Relative Priority at Any Scale



Nayak et al. (2018)



Méndez-Lázaro et al. (2018)



HVI Sensitivity

HVIs are sensitive to:



Inputs



Construction Method



Scale



Pure Detroit



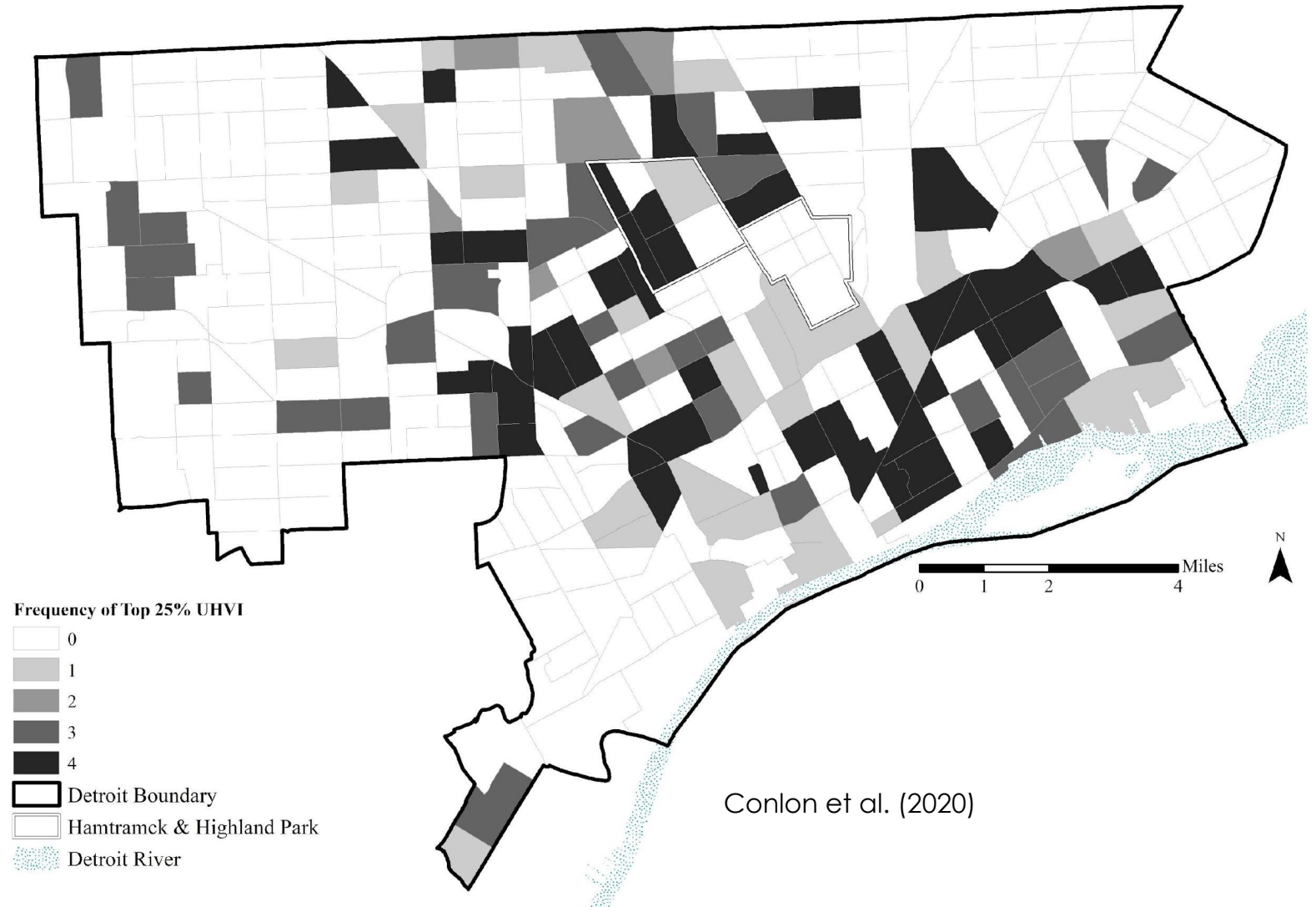
HVI Sensitivity to Inputs

Select your inputs carefully.

Indicator selection will impact your outcomes.

Recommendation:

Use indicators relevant to your selected intervention.



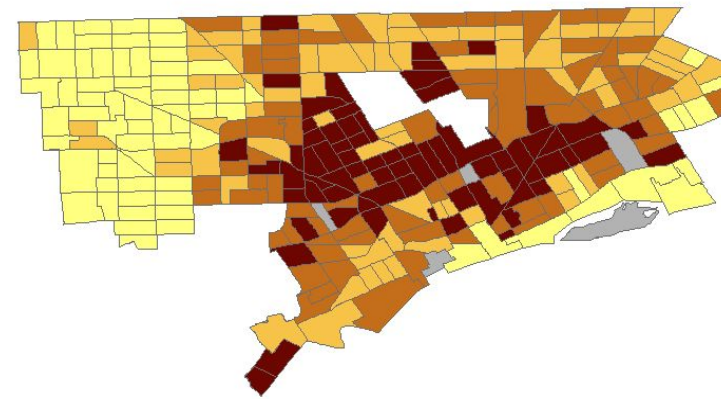
HVI Sensitivity to Construction Method

Complexity ↑

Common HVI Methods

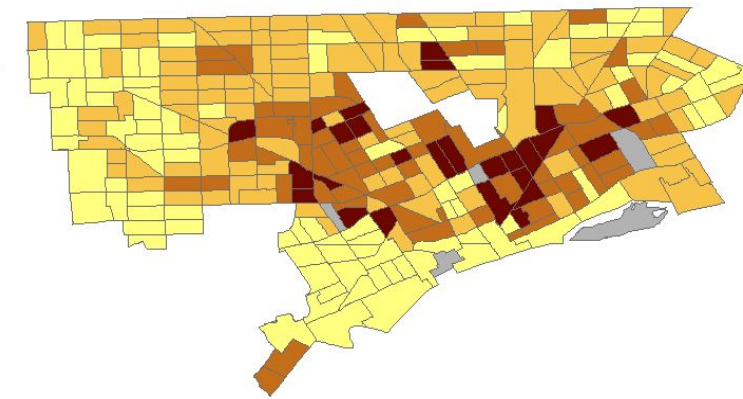
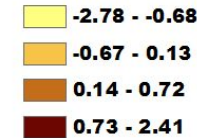
Principal Components Analysis
Weighted Additive Overlay
Unweighted Additive Overlay
Simplified HVI

Even with common indicators,
method selection will impact
your outcomes.



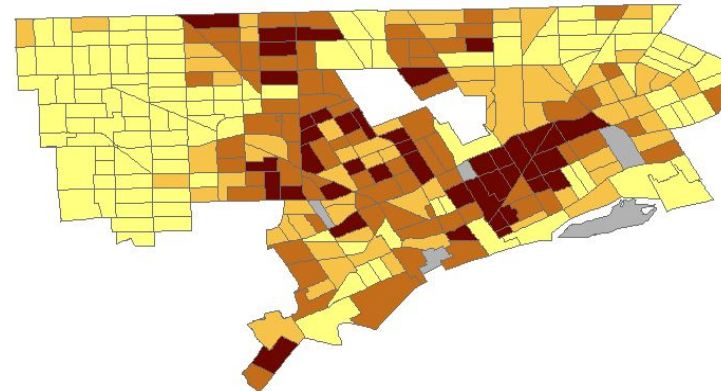
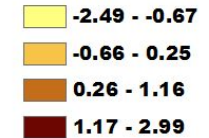
Weighted Overlay HVI

Z-Score



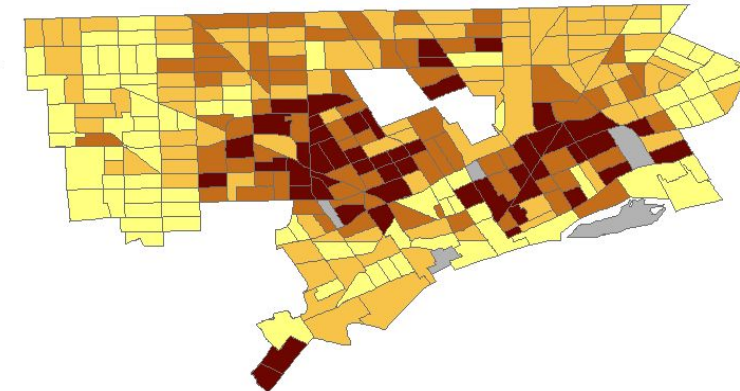
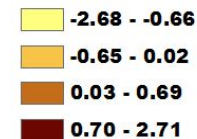
PCA HVI

Z-Score



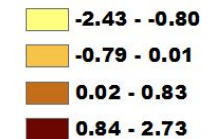
Simplified HVI

Z-Score

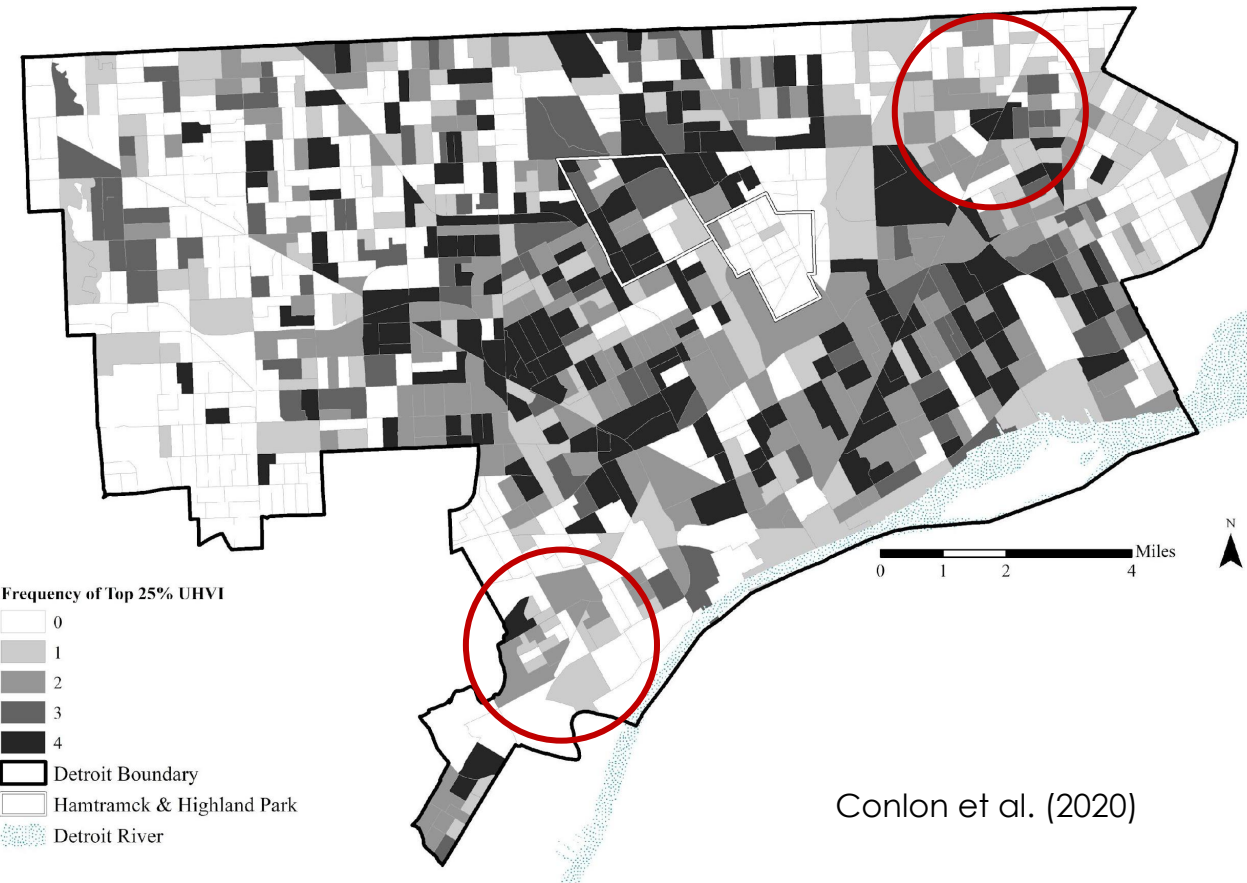


Unweighted Overlay HVI

Z-Score



HVI Sensitivity to Scale



Conlon et al. (2020)

Scale of analysis may substantially impact your results, even with common methods and indicators.



HVI Validation

Research evaluating HVI effectiveness to predict heat mortality is mixed.

Studies have found positive correlation between HVI score and mortality, but this is method-dependent.

Heat vulnerability index score	Heat stress cases ^a	Census tracts	Age-adjusted prevalence rate ^b	Age-adjusted prevalence ratio
≤12	1462	543	9.88	Ref
13–14	2191	835	9.95	0.99 (0.86, 1.14)
15–16	1499	566	10.85	1.06 (0.91, 1.22)
≥17	627	209	12.94	1.29 (1.10, 1.51)

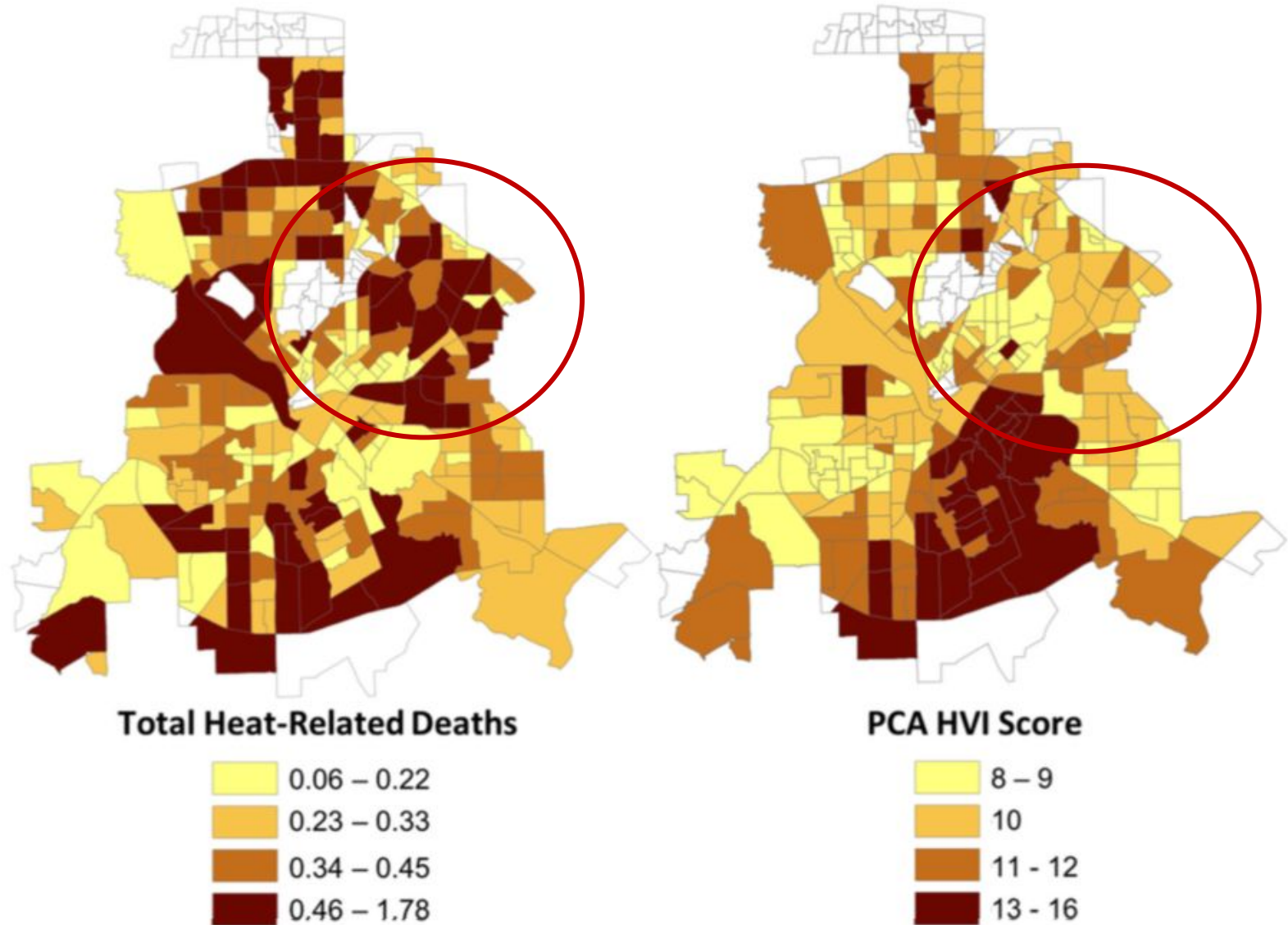
Nayak et al., 2018

Bao et al., 2015; Maier et al., 2014; Wolf et al., 2015



Model Comparison: Dallas, TX

R-Square: 0.04



Model Comparison: Dallas, TX

Multivariate spatial regression results between total deaths (dependent) and individual HVI indicators.

Variable	Coefficient	Std. error	t-Statistic	Probability
Constant	0.15	0.10	1.52	0.13
No greenspace	0.01	0.08	0.16	0.87
Over 65**	2.66	0.29	9.05	0.00
Nonwhite	0.13	0.09	1.42	0.16
Living alone	− 0.24	0.17	− 1.35	0.18
Less than HS education**	0.30	0.13	2.32	0.02
Living below poverty line	− 0.01	0.15	− 0.07	0.94
Diabetes*	− 1.14	0.67	− 1.71	0.09
No Full AC*	− 0.12	0.07	− 1.77	0.08

** Significant at $\alpha = 0.05$.

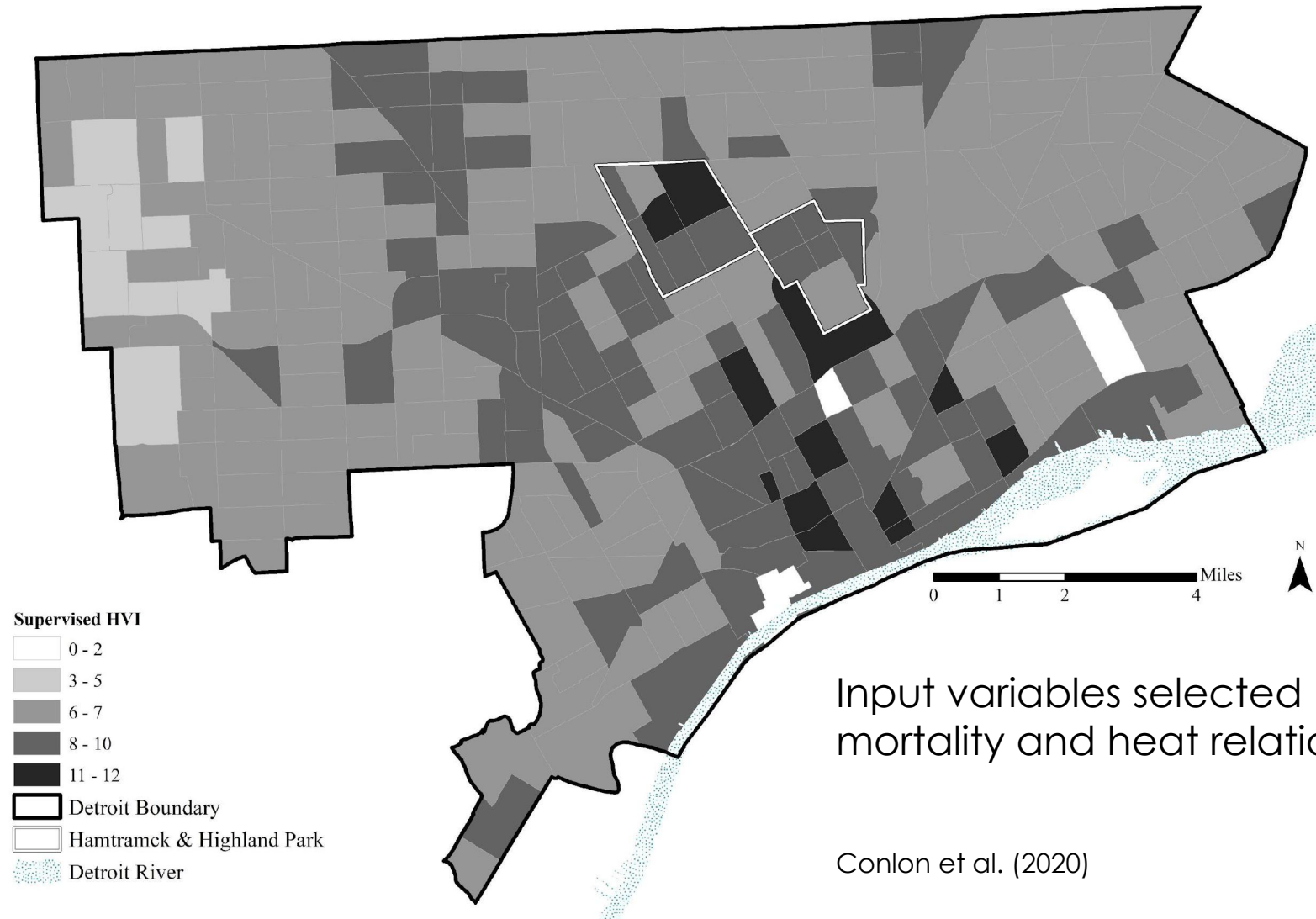
* Significant at $\alpha = 0.1$.

Resulting R-Square from bivariate and multivariate regressions.

	Total deaths
Bivariate HVI	0.03
Multivariate	0.4



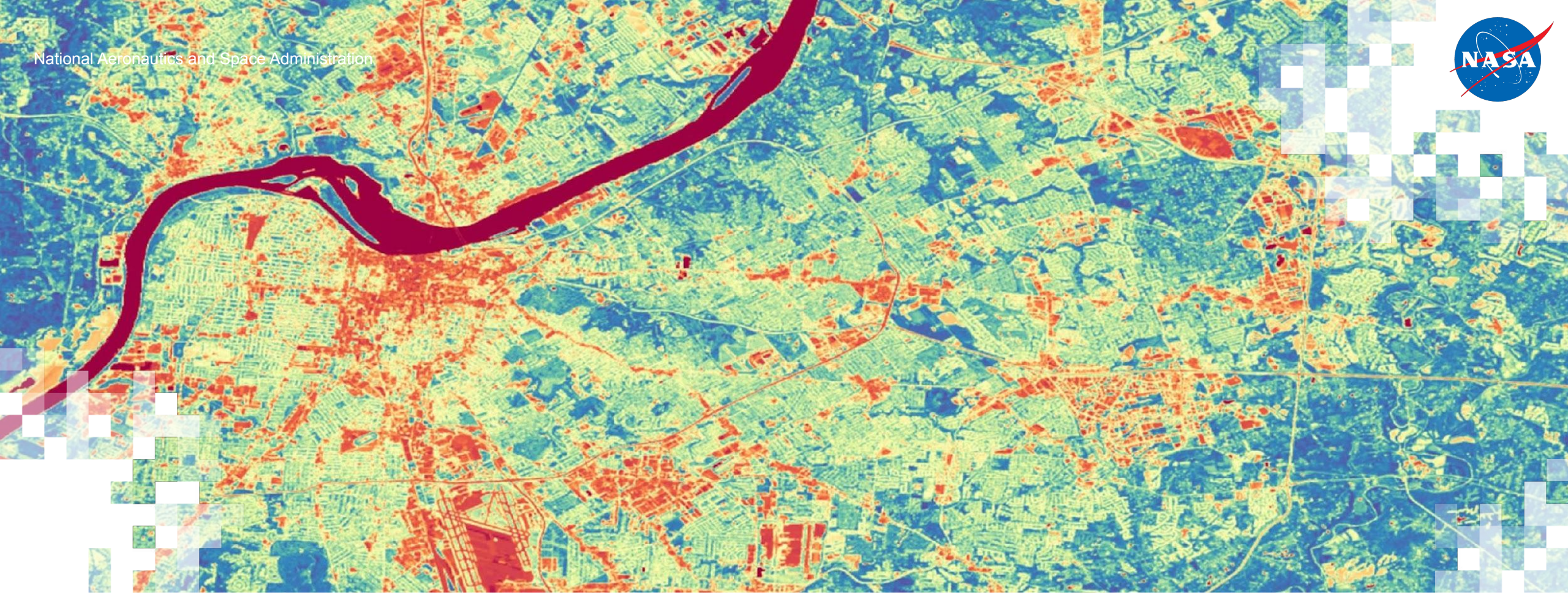
Supervised HVI



Input variables selected based on mortality and heat relationship

Conlon et al. (2020)





Putting Heat Vulnerability Indices Into Practice

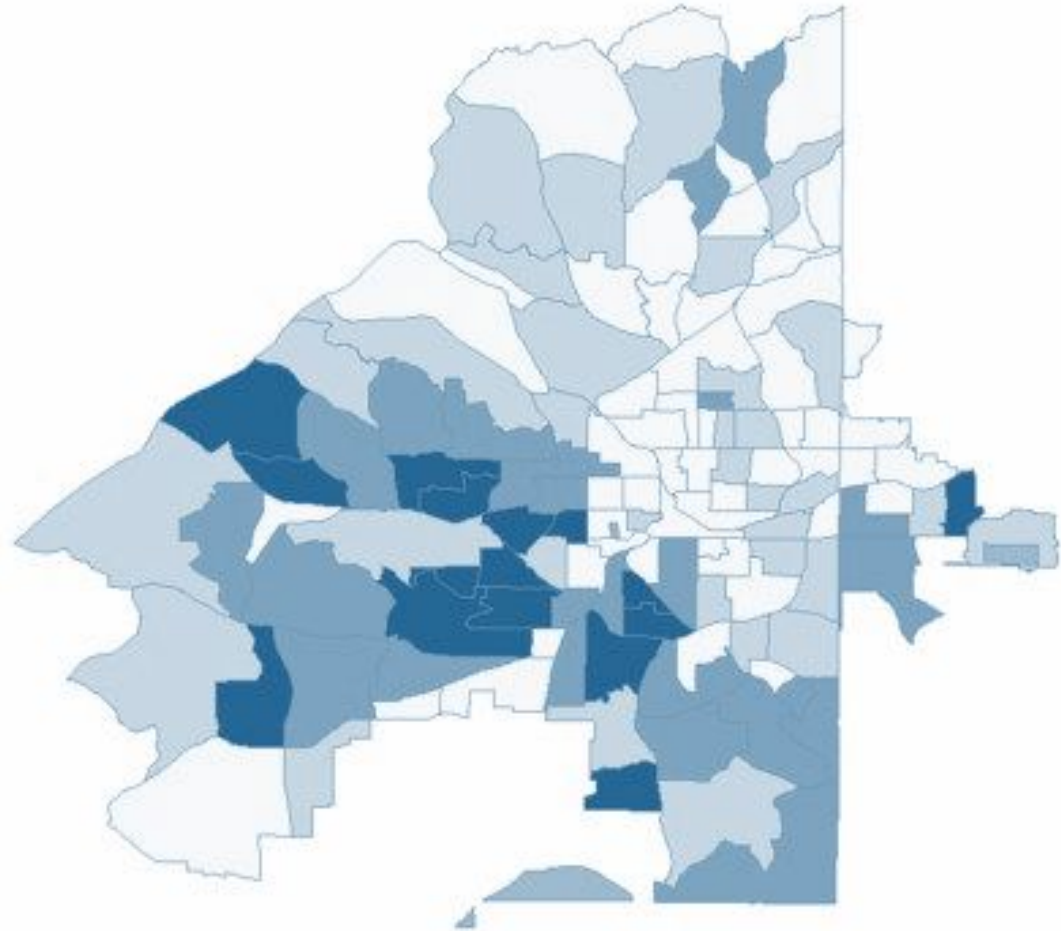
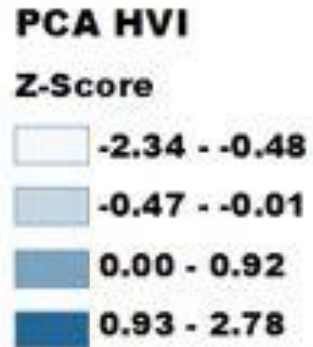
HVIs in Practice



Informing Interventions

Indicators

Land Surface Temperature
Over 65
Living Alone
Over 65 and Living Alone
Living Below Poverty Line
Nonwhite Population
Less than High School
Diabetes Prevalence
No Central AC Access
No AC Access



Exposure

Sensitivity

Adaptive
Capacity

Vulnerability



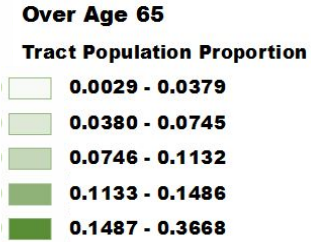
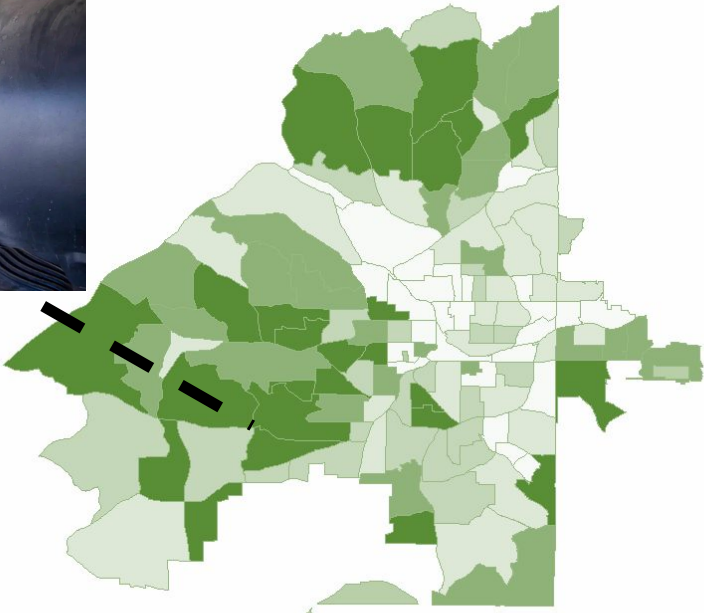
Intervention Design



Sensitivity



Cooling Centers



Intervention Design

Sensitivity

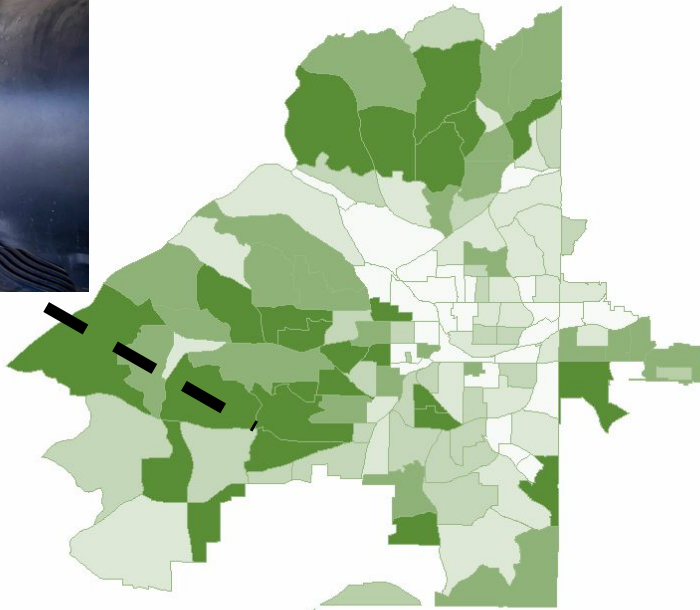
Exposure

Las Vegas Review-Journal



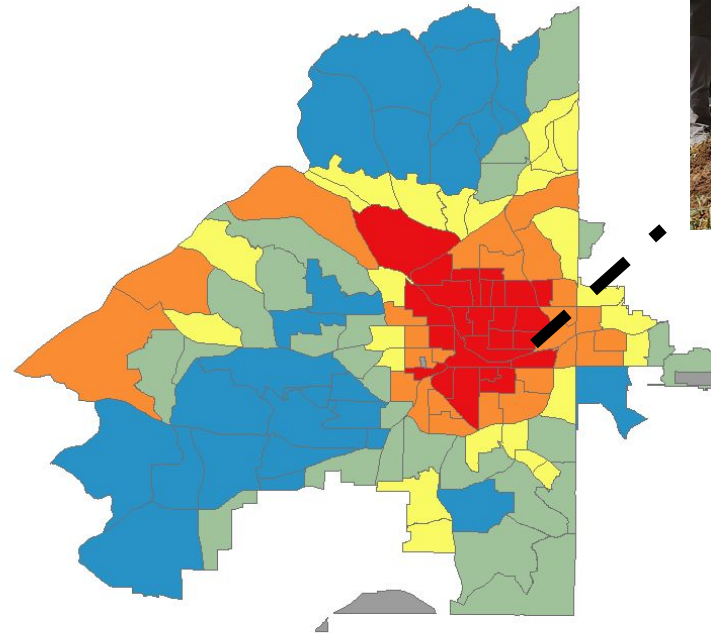
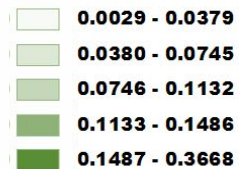
Tree Planting

Cooling Centers

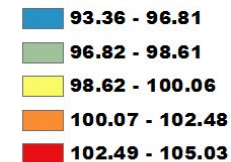


Over Age 65

Tract Population Proportion



Average Land Surface Temperature (°F)



Intervention Design

Sensitivity / Adaptive Capacity

- Shorter-term, emergency response
- Community-based adaptations
- Cooling centers, phone trees

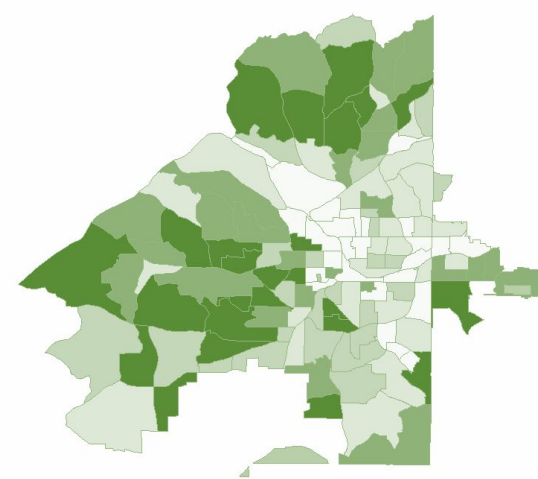
Exposure

- Longer-term, heat mitigation response
- Tree-planting priority
- Cool materials

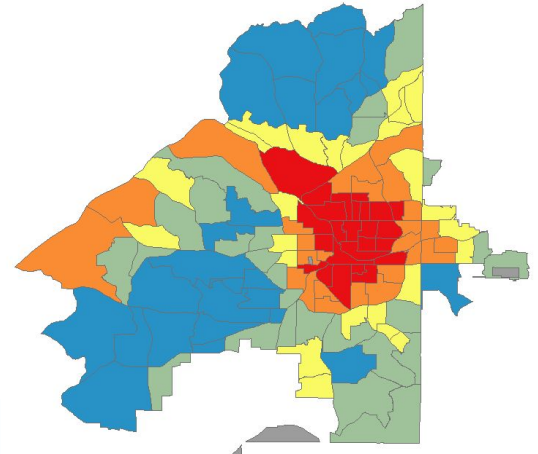
Vulnerability

- All-of-the-above response
- Highest priority, pilot projects here
- Identify local stakeholders / champions

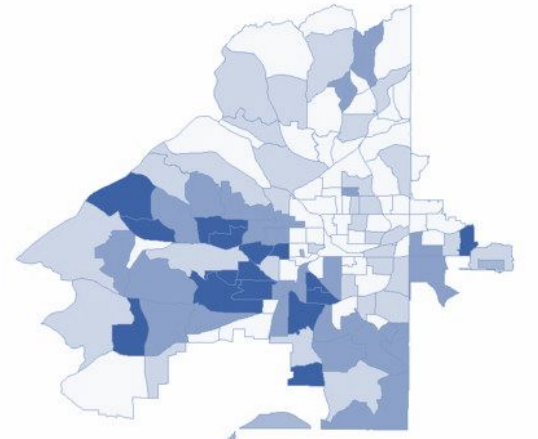
Sensitivity



Exposure



Vulnerability



Intervention Design

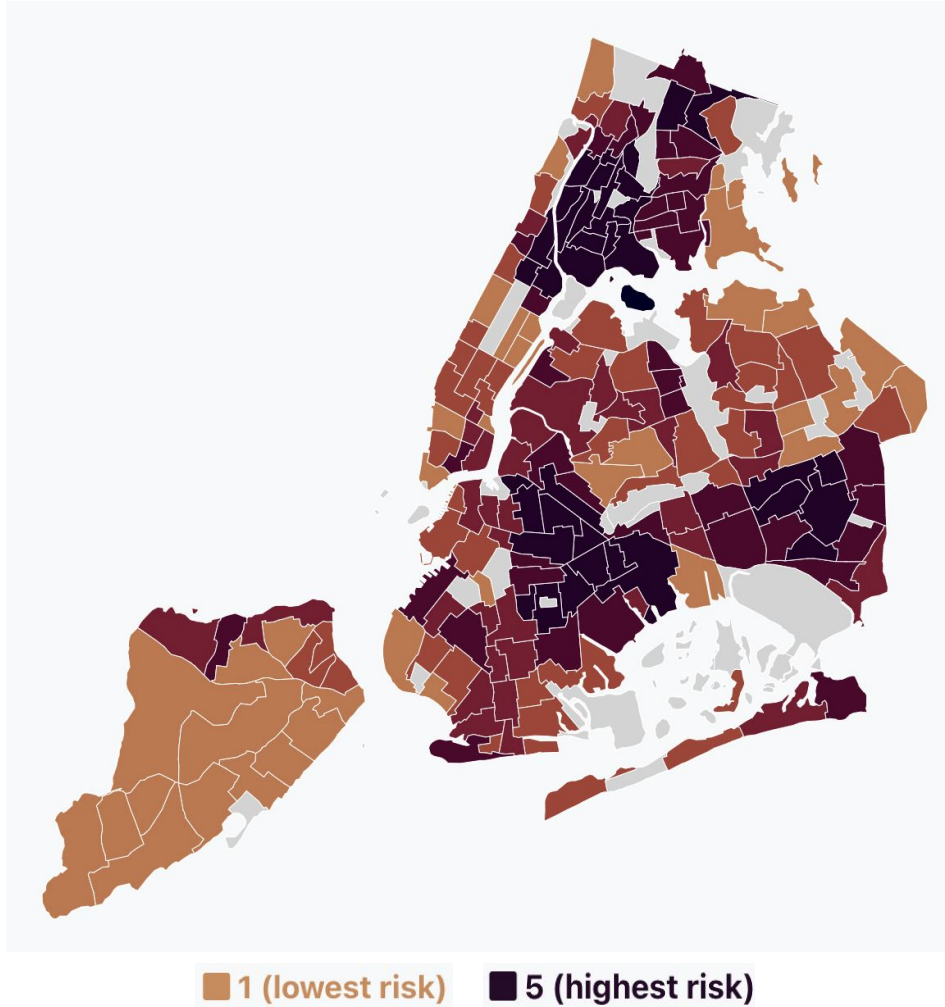
- Community engagement can help inform local needs, concerns, and barriers to adaptation.
- Use mapping techniques as communication tool
- Co-produce strategies with community members to encourage behavioral change and build social capital



Beltline.org



New York City, NY – Be A Buddy



<https://a816-dohbsp.nyc.gov/IndicatorPublic/HeatHub/hvi.html>

Connects climate-susceptible residents with local volunteer "buddies" to foster intercommunity relationships

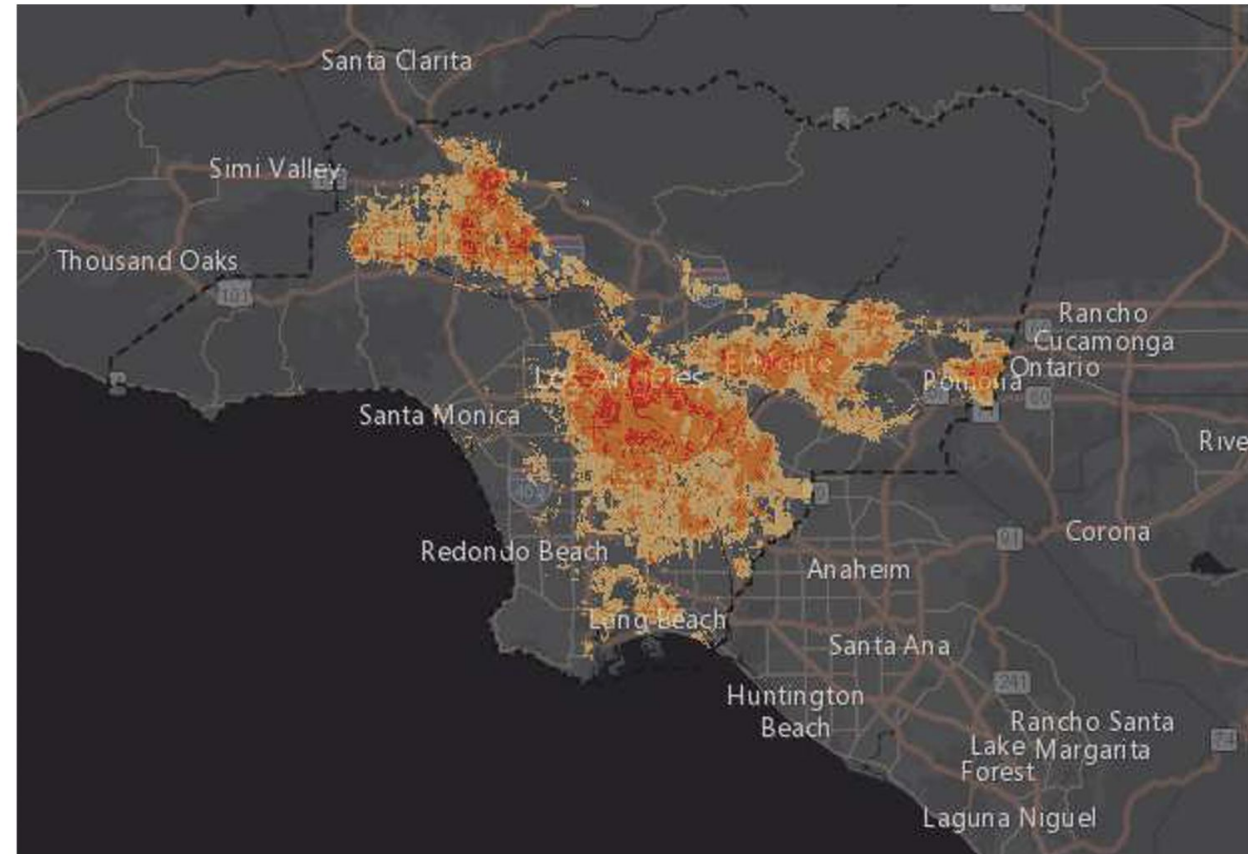
- Partnering neighborhood-based organizations
- Volunteers conduct wellness checks on 'high-risk' neighbors.
- HVI comprised of:
 - Surface temperature, green space, access to home AC, % of residents who are low-income or non-Latinx Black.
- Initial findings:
 - Increased community connectivity
 - Increased community capacity



Los Angeles County, CA – Climate Smart LA

Decision Map for Prioritizing Green Infrastructure Investment to:

- Connect
- Cool
- Absorb
- Protect



Credit: County of Los Angeles



Considerations for HVI Implementation

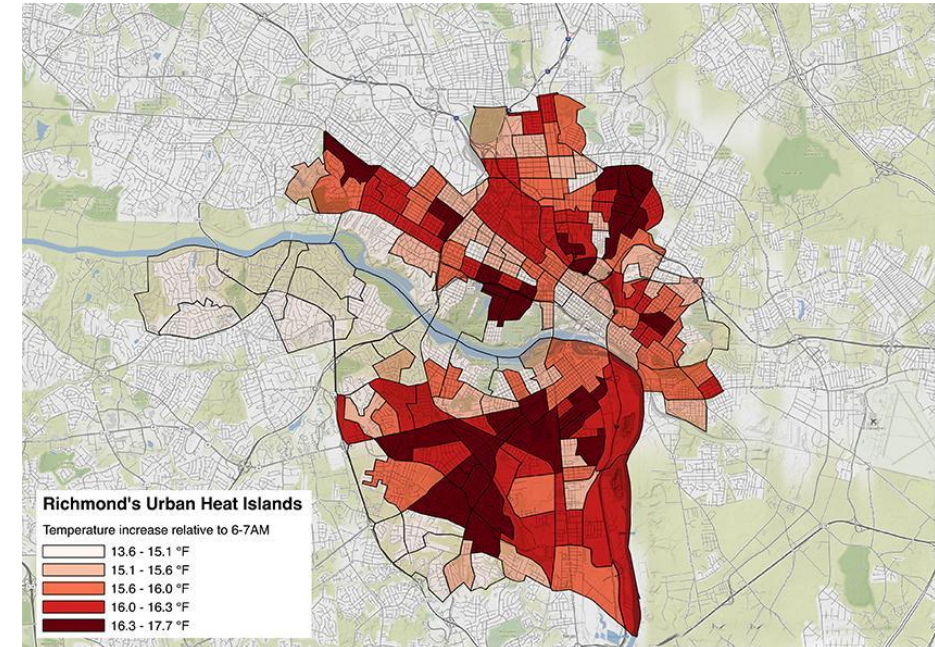
HVI results may significantly vary depending on:

- 🌡 Inputs Selected
- 🔧 Construction Method
- 📏 Scale

Carefully selected methods and indicators can inform effective and efficient heat interventions

- HVIs are a balancing act between inputs, interpretation, and implementation

HVIs are communication tools – engage and iterate



Credit: [Jeremy Hoffman](#)



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Questions?

- Please enter your questions in the Q&A box. We will answer them in the order they were received.
- We will post the Q&A to the training website following the conclusion of the webinar.



Credit: [NASA](#)



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[d](https://appliedsciences.nasa.gov/join-mission/training/english-arset-satellite-remote-sensing-measuring-urban-heat-islands-and)
- ARSET Website:
 - <https://appliedsciences.nasa.gov/what-we-do/capacity-building/arset>





Thank You!

