Climate Action and Social Vulnerability

CLIMATE CORPS

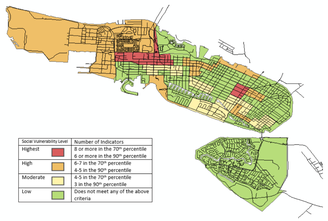
City of Alameda

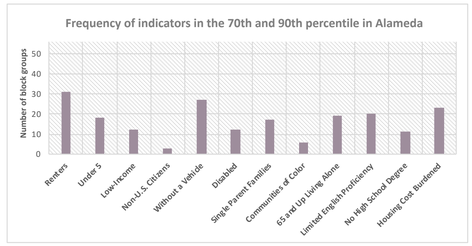
Climate Corps 18-19

Project Overview

Social Vulnerability Assessment

To inform the city's plan for reducing emissions and boosting resilience, I conducted a social vulnerability assessment. Distinct from the physical vulnerabilities of assets like roads, infrastructure and the built environment, social vulnerability focuses on the social and economic factors of individuals and communities that affect one's ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from a natural hazard.





Process: With publically available data, I used 12 indicators contributing to vulnerability. Indicators were viewed on their own and in conjunction with other indicators.

Goal: Provide an equity lens to the City's Climate Action and Resiliency Plan and provide a visual for better communication, outreach and resource allocation.

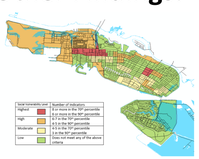
Examples:

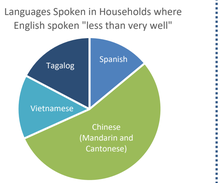
Figure 1: Transit-dependent (yellow)

Figure 2: Transit-dependent (yellow); Low-income (purple); Transit-dependent x Low-income (orange)

Figure 3: Renters

Other Findings:





Additional Work

Conducted outreach and engagement

- Spoke with dozens of residents at the local farmers market
- Presented at a book signing event at a local tea house
- Met with residents from various community groups and high schools

Expanded Geospatial Information Services (GIS) skills

- Creation of maps allowed for the exploration of basic ArcMap functions and general data input
- Attended GIS workshops at UC Berkeley's Geospatial Innovation Facility lab
- Received x certificate from ESRI's *Earth Imagery at Work* online course

Lessons Learned and Implementation

1. Highly vulnerable people will have a harder time responding to the impacts of climate change. While this is true for places across the state, country, and world, placing it in context to Alameda highlights the issue as a local one too.
2. It is important to not only create programs and services for climate resilience, but also to ensure that residents know about them, trust them, and know how to use them.
3. Local efforts by the City and by community-based organizations are both highly important and necessary for a more sustainable present and future.

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Marisa Johnson

Marisa is a 2018 graduate of UC Berkeley with a degree in Ethnic Studies where she focused on the nexus between race, history and environment. She looks forward to working in the field of sustainable farming and equitable food systems and plans to explore that in the Bay Area, her hometown in the Central Valley, and in the American South and Mexico.

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