

Assess Vulnerability and Risk | Determine Assessment Type

WHO

This exercise is for the practitioner to complete in the Assess Vulnerability and Risk step.

WHAT

Not all impact pairs will have sufficient data to perform a spatial analysis. For these, a narrative assessment can be completed. This exercise will help inform the assessment task in the Assess Vulnerability and Risk step.

SUPPORTING RESOURCES

- Use [2.6 Potential Impacts Matrix - Worksheet](#) to outline the potential impacts for the project.
- Refer to [2.8 Spatial Data Collection - Worksheet](#) to determine if suitable spatial data is available or lacking.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Review the [types of assessments](#) and the [example](#) below.
- For every potential impact identified, use the questions provided and the space in this worksheet to determine the type of assessment (spatial or narrative) to be performed. Make copies of the worksheet pages if more space is needed.
- After answering the questions for each potential impact, return to the space at the beginning of the exercise to make a list of the spatial assessments and the narrative assessments.

What are assessment types?

Spatial assessments are performed at the asset or neighborhood-scale and are where spatial data can be used to assign classifications for each assessment factor. **Narrative assessments** provide some detailed history of the hazard and potential future impacts if there is a lack of modeled hazard data available.

Example

SPATIAL ASSESSMENTS	NARRATIVE ASSESSMENTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flood hazards; all property-based asset themes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drought; people

Potential Impact: <i>Flooding and hospitals</i>
Is there spatial data available for the hazard? If yes, at what scale is the data available?
<i>Flood data is available from FEMA for the county, it was updated last year. This will allow us to look at the 100-year, 500-year, and floodway within the city.</i>
Is there spatial data available for the community asset? If yes, what is the format (tabular, shapefile, other) and what is the scale at which the data is available?
<i>The city has point location data available for hospitals and other urgent care facilities. We should make sure it is the most up to date available before using. We also have building footprints from the county.</i>
Based on your answers about the scale, can both the hazard and community asset data be used at the parcel-level, or should they be used at the screening-level?
<i>The point data can be used with the city's parcel data.</i>
Based on your knowledge of the community asset data, is there information or supplemental data (tabular or otherwise) that allows you to differentiate levels of adaptive capacity, sensitivity?
<i>We will be able to tag the hospitals as medical facilities and determine if the parcels and building footprints are within the inundation extent. The parcel data has an effective year built attribute that can be used for adaptive capacity. We should check the data to see if there is a first floor elevation attribute, which would be great but is not required.</i>
Spatial or Narrative: <i>spatial</i>

Notes

Exercise

SPATIAL ASSESSMENTS	NARRATIVE ASSESSMENTS

Potential Impact:
Is there spatial data available for the hazard? If yes, at what scale is the data available?
Is there spatial data available for the community asset? If yes, what is the format (tabular, shapefile, other) and what is the scale at which the data is available?
Based on your answers about the scale, can both the hazard and community asset data be used at the parcel-level, or should they be used at the screening-level?
Based on your knowledge of the community asset data, is there information or supplemental data (tabular or otherwise) that allows you to differentiate levels of adaptive capacity, sensitivity, exposure?
Spatial or Narrative:

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Spatial or Narrative:

IMPLEMENTATION EXAMPLES

Determine assessment type for each potential impact

- The [Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment for the Coastal Resilience Partnership of Southeast Palm Beach County](#) provides a few details in the Executive Summary about hazards that were assessed with a full vulnerability and risk assessment, vulnerability-only, and narrative (page 5). For those that were narrative-based, the report provides excellent examples for how those were structured.
- The [City of Charleston All Hazards Vulnerability Assessment](#) contains many different hazard assessments (climate and non-climate). All of these were assessed spatially, with the exception of Water Storage, which is in narrative assessment format. You will find that, even for the spatial assessments, the detail provided about the hazard provides helpful context for the City.