
1 Understanding Social Vulnerability

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1.1 CHAPTER PURPOSE

This opening chapter provides an overview of why understanding social vulnerability matters for the practice and research of disaster management. The chapter content contrasts the historically dominant hazards paradigm with that of the social vulnerability paradigm and concludes with an overview of upcoming sections and chapters.

1.2 OBJECTIVES

At the conclusion of this chapter, readers should be able to:

1. Understand basic terms relevant to social vulnerability
2. Understand the dominant hazards paradigm