

APPENDIX A - SOURCES

Data Sources and Limitations
Bibliography

Data Sources and Limitations

An extensive list of data sources was used to develop the 2018 Plan as provided in the Bibliography. Sources used for the Plan include national, state and county data as well as published material.

Primary sources of data for The Region section include the U.S. Census Bureau for population and demographic data. The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission (LVPC) provided data on population and employment projections, development trends and transportation infrastructure. Existing GIS layers from the LVPC were used to create the mapping. Data from the 2013 Plan was reviewed and updated as appropriate with the best available data.

For the risk assessment, loss estimates, exposure assessments and hazard-specific evaluations relied on the best available data and methodologies. Lehigh and Northampton counties provided existing spatial data, including tax parcels and building footprints for the hazard vulnerability assessments. Building footprints were not available from Northampton County for the 2013 Plan. RS Means 2018 building valuations were used to estimate replacement cost values for buildings.

To assess the vulnerability of different jurisdictions to hazards, historical disaster event data was obtained from a variety of sources, including the National Climatic Data Center, Lehigh and Northampton County Knowledge Center databases and Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, among many others. The most current countywide FEMA flood maps for Lehigh County (effective July 2004) and Northampton County (effective July 2014) were used in the flood hazard risk assessment to evaluate exposure and determine potential future losses. Preliminary flood mapping (2011) for Northampton County was used in the 2013 Plan. FEMA is in the process of developing new flood mapping for the Lehigh River Watershed, however, the mapping is not available for this 2018 Plan. Preliminary mapping is anticipated to be available by September 2019.

As additional data becomes available, estimates of vulnerabilities to natural and non-natural hazards can be refined for future plan updates.

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