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[Abstract Title]

Choosing a Resilience Partner: A Comparative Study of U.S. Regional Natural Hazard Preparedness

[Abstract]

My research examines U.S. natural hazard preparedness conditions across the urban-rural continuum to better understand how the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) policy to ensure that vulnerable communities are partnering with communities that are more prepared than they are is activating regional resilience partnerships that are both near and far afield. I highlight an opportunity to assist decisionmakers by providing examples of how urban, suburban, and rural counties inform regional preparedness conditions. I evaluate how regionalism within states via the urban-rural dynamic, and the extent of state hazard regulations, inform community natural disaster resilience through an examination of inferential and spatial statistics further informed by interviews with FEMA Federal Preparedness Coordinators. I use county-level cross-sectional data with a natural hazard resilience and vulnerability measurement tool, the Missouri Transect Project (MTP) that was developed by the University of Missouri with National Science Foundation (NSF) funding, as my model dependent variables. The MTP is available online and includes county level data for four variables: economic; environment; infrastructure; and social natural hazard resilience and vulnerability conditions. The nature and extent of resilience as compared to the vulnerability of a county serves as proxy for establishing the level of statewide, regional, and neighboring county preparedness in the event of a natural hazard occurrence.



[Keywords]

regional resilience, community preparedness communication