

MOST VULNERABLE IN NEW JERSEY AT RISK FOR FLOODING

A year after Sandy hit the coast of New York and New Jersey, a new analysis by Climate Central shows projected sea level rise and coastal flooding would impact critical infrastructure and vulnerable populations in both states – in very different ways.

The research looked at more than 100 infrastructure, property and population variables from 1-10 feet above the high tide line. Superstorm Sandy registered nine feet above the high tide line in New York City, and destroyed the tide gauge at Sandy Hook, NJ, as waters rose above eight feet. The New York City Panel on Climate Change (NPCC) has projected 1-2 feet of sea level rise as most likely by 2050 in the area.

The analysis was pulled from the organization's zip-searchable Surging Seas Risk Finder for New Jersey (<http://sealevel.climatecentral.org/ssrf/new-jersey/>), which used high-resolution, high-accuracy lidar elevation data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), allowing for much finer, more local analysis. This is the organization's second generation of sea level risk tool, specifically geared to planners and policymakers.

Across both states, \$356 billion in property value rests on land less than 9 feet above the high tide line.

In New Jersey:

- The socially most vulnerable are twice as likely to be flooded by the next Irene or Sandy as the population as a whole.
- 584,000 New Jersey residents live on land less than 9 feet above the high tide line. 17 percent of them live in three zip codes: for Atlantic City, Hoboken, and Kearny. These are just 1% of the total number of affected zip codes.
- 3,800 miles of road, 119 schools, and 95 houses of worship are on land below the same level.

Please let me know if you would like to speak to Ben Strauss, the lead researcher, for more information.

Jen Tucker
215-266-2929
Climate Central