

## Community-Wide Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (CVCA)

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### Organisation

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Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada  
Mission: Enhance the safety and security of Canadians  
Vision: A safer, more secure Canada

Website: [www.psepc-sppcc.gc.ca/abt/index-en.asp](http://www.psepc-sppcc.gc.ca/abt/index-en.asp)

### Bibliographical details

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### Abstract

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The aim of the CVCA is to help emergency managers and municipal planners to better understand and be able to meet the needs of their vulnerable populations, especially in emergency situations. The model is meant to be part of a larger analysis, and not as a complete process.

The document also aims to enhance existing hazard or risk analysis approaches by providing the context and tools for incorporating a perspective of vulnerability and capacity.

### Intended end users

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The CVCA model presented is intended to help **emergency managers** and **planners** to better understand and meet the needs of their vulnerable populations, especially in emergency situations.

## Geographical focus

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The CVCA model is developed in **Canada** but is intended to be applicable universally across diverse cultures, community sizes, geographic locations, or resource levels.

## Type of Material

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The CVCA document is a **comprehensive manual** focusing on three questions: Who are the 'most vulnerable'; where do they generally reside; and what is their capacity to respond or recover?

The model is based on an 18 step process and includes:

- ◆ Conceptualizing the concept of vulnerability and provides definitions of key concepts.
- ◆ Provides detailed instructions at each of the steps of the general model of the CVCA.
- ◆ Section with appendices providing lists of potential 'vulnerable groups, a full example of a completed CVCA, templates which may be needed, list of key models of hazard assessments.

## Language

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This document is in English.

## Scale of assessment

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The scale of assessment is focused at the **community**-level.

## Type of assessment

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This model falls into the Hazard-Risk-Vulnerability (HRV) Assessment processes and really only gives a 'slice of reality'. It should actually be used within other larger analyses. It gives detailed explanation of 18 steps in the Community-Wide Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (CVCA) model starting with creating the planning team and gathering relevant information to identifying groups/issues for further consideration.

## Analytical methods

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While a step-by-step process is provided to undertake the **Community-Wide Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (CVCA)** model, only key instruments and *methods* with respect to **Hazard Risk Vulnerability (HRV)** assessments are provided.

The preparatory and planning consists of creating the planning team, setting their parameters, collecting baseline data.

Various *models and methods* for HRV assessment are also described in the appendices.

## Tools

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The *tools* mainly include tools for assessing hazards and vulnerability within a defined area. A 'CVCA model' suggests a few tools through its steps:

- ♦ **Risk Mapping**
- ♦ **Semi structured interviews** with key institutions and local organisations
- ♦ Templates and matrices for degree of hazard by vulnerable group within each sector and potential needs.

These are provided in the appendices for this purpose.

The tools however are not described in detail, but a description of the process to be used in each step of the CVCA is described.

## Notes on methods

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The manual uses the HRV model, which does not provide detailed methods and tools to conduct most of the analysis. For instance, baseline data is to be collected but the tools in order to do so are not provided, therefore it would be difficult to conduct a thorough assessment without previous knowledge of the field.

## Case studies / practical examples

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The document contains in Appendix B a fictitious example of how the CVCA model could be applied in practice.

## Resource people

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## Author of guidance note

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