

# Irrelevant & Sensitive

## 4.3. Vulnerable Groups Guidance

As risk owning departments, when you start developing the RWCS for any given risk, and as part of thinking about the impacts of the risk, you should also consider the disproportionate impact the risk may have on vulnerable groups. The groups who may be disproportionately impacted by a risk, and therefore who is more vulnerable to it, will vary depending on the risk, making it challenging for CCS to give a prescriptive list of groups who should be considered. We are also cognizant that as risk owners, you will have a much clearer understanding of the specific and broad ranging impacts of your risk. However, as a starter, risk owning departments should consider the below vulnerable groups, including protected characteristics under the 2010 equalities and using the CCS guidance for identifying people who are vulnerable in a crisis<sup>3</sup> as a reference:

- Protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex;
- Physical: includes the chronically ill and physically disabled, and persons living with immunodeficiency;

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<sup>3</sup> Identifying People Who Are Vulnerable in a Crisis: Guidance for Emergency Planners and Responders” Civil Contingencies Secretariat - February 2008 ([https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/61228/vulnerable\\_guidance.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/61228/vulnerable_guidance.pdf) )

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- Psychological: include those with chronic and non-chronic mental conditions which may impair judgement in a crisis; attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, as well as those with a history of alcohol and/or substance abuse and those who are suicidal or prone to homelessness.
- Social: include those living in abusive families, the homeless, immigrants, and refugees, those living in poverty and suffering from its common consequences

It should be noted that as part of the NSRA, this assessment should only consider first degree impacts resulting from a risk. However, departments should take account of secondary and tertiary impacts.

For example, for the RWCS of coastal flooding, the edlerly are noted as being particularly vulnerable owing to reduced mobility. The secondary impacts of flooding include damage to coastal and tourism infrastructure i.e. cafes and bars, leading to a loss of seasonal jobs, subsequently leading to higher unemployment, and therefore risks falling into poverty, and an exposure to its common consequences. Whilst these aspects should be considered by risk owners, they should not be submitted as part of the NSRA process. The purpose of the NSRA is to allow HMG and LRFs to identify the common consequences of risks occurring, encourage contingency planning and planning enabling plans and to identify the identity and the type of response and recovery capabilities required.

On next steps, once RWCS have been developed by risk owners, work can take place, as part of National Resilience Planning Assumptions work, to identify the common consequences of risks on vulnerable groups. This can inform any specific planning assumptions and capabilities which should be put in place to mitigate and respond to risks.

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