

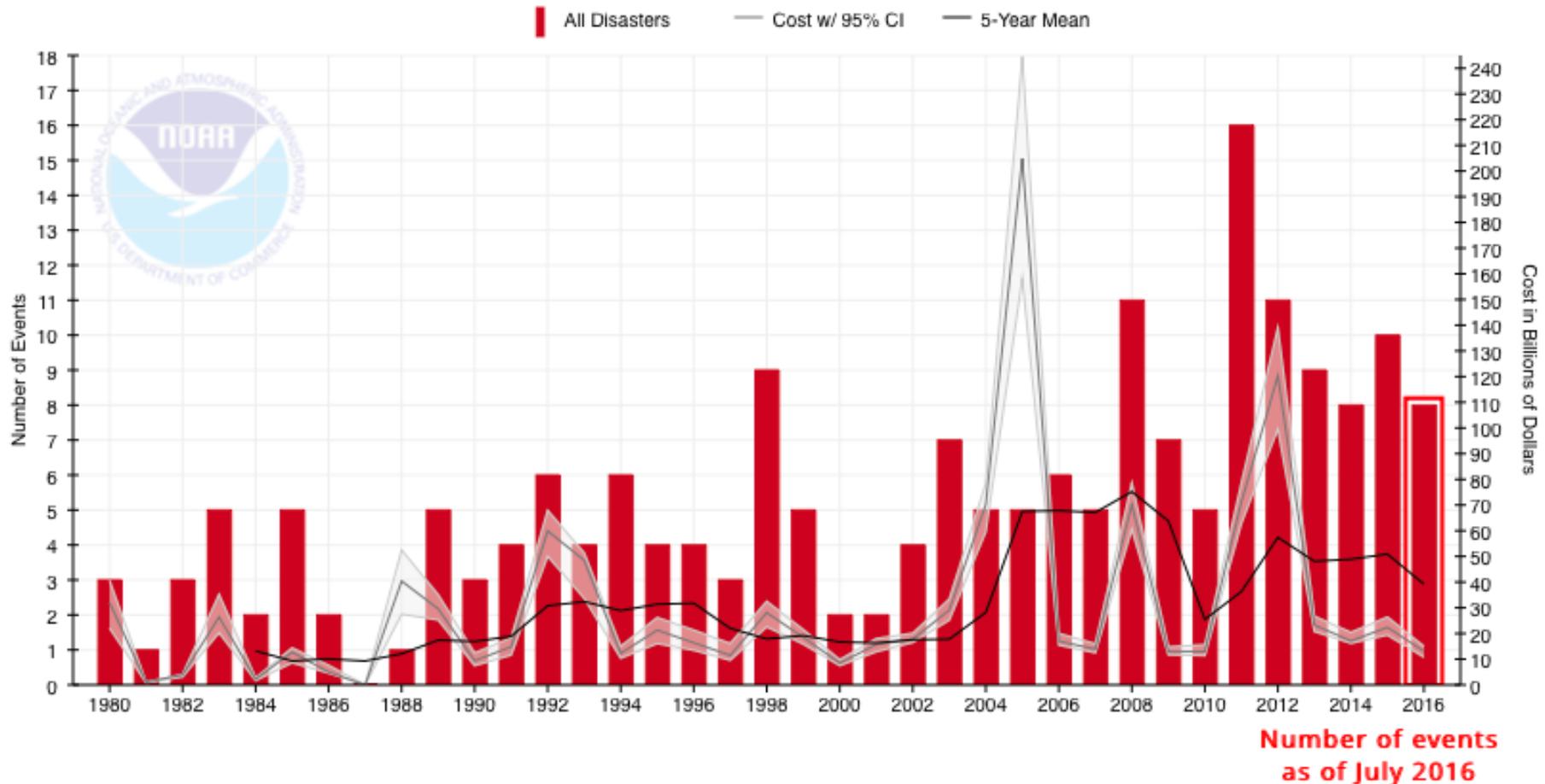
A rural landscape featuring a vibrant green field in the foreground, a wooden fence, and a line of trees in the distance under a clear blue sky. The scene is bright and sunny, with shadows cast on the grass.

Building Resilience in Missouri Communities

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According to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the United States has sustained **196 severe weather and climate disasters since 1980**, with total costs exceeding **\$1.1 TRILLION &** an estimated **9,515 deaths**.

Billion-Dollar Disaster Event Types by Year (CPI-Adjusted)



Definitions of Resilience

- “Resilience is the capacity of a social-ecological system to **absorb** or **withstand** perturbations and other **stressors** such that the **system remains** within the same regime, essentially **maintaining** its **structure** and **functions.**”

—Resilience Alliance

- “The capability of a community to **anticipate risk**, **limit impact**, and **recover rapidly** through survival, **adaptation**, **evolution**, and **growth** in the face of **turbulent change.**”

—White, Edwards, Farrar, Plodinec

“A Practical Approach to Building Resilience in America’s Communities”

What makes a community resilient?

Informed

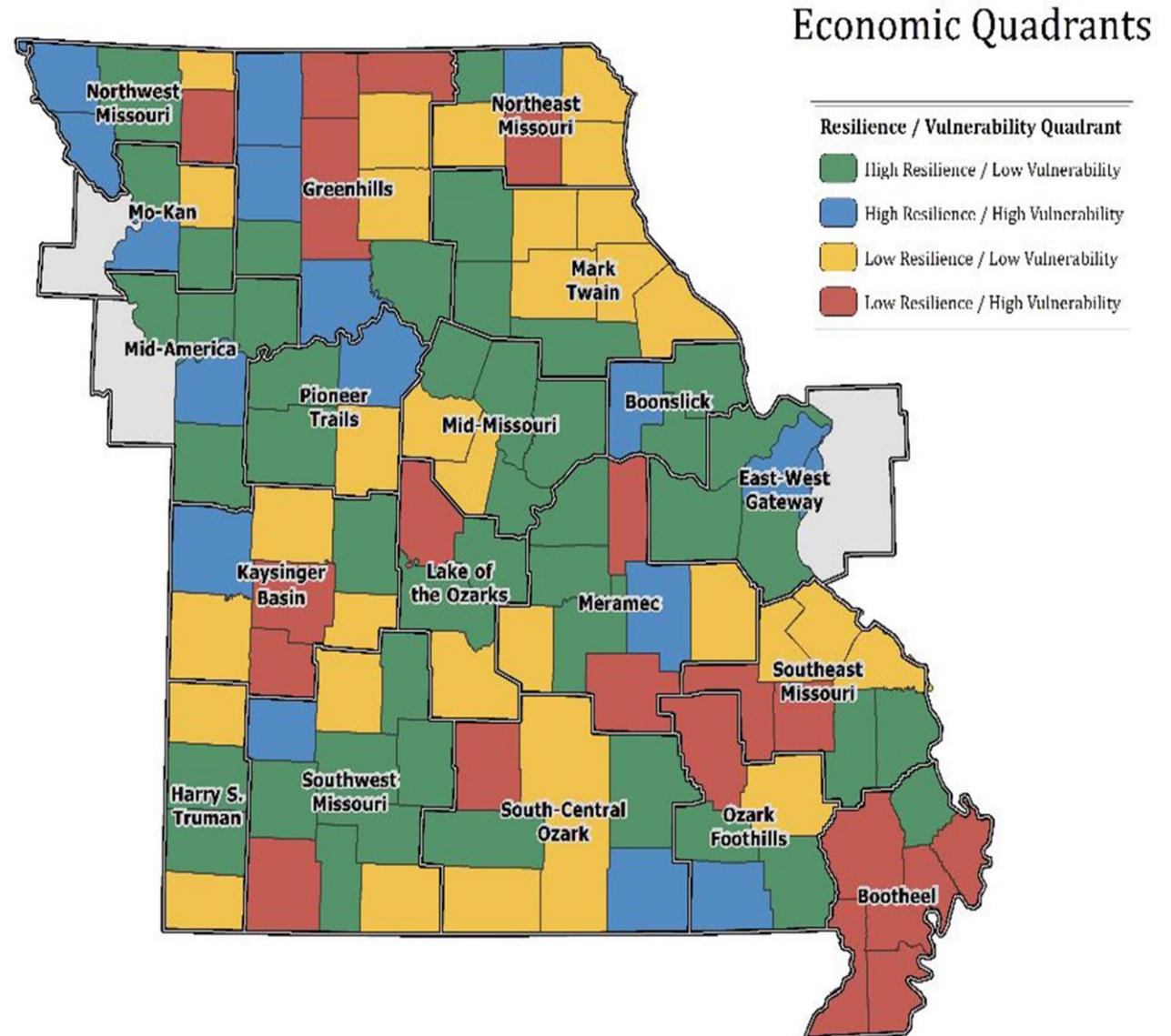
**Flexible and
Adaptable to New
Environments**

**Diverse and
Redundant
Resources**

**Administrative
Body Oversees
Resilience Building
Process**

Informed

- Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to community's development goals
 - How is current environment preventing community from reaching goals and becoming resilient?
- Understanding of current ability to plan and respond to long and short-term disaster events
- Inclusion of diverse group of stakeholders in planning and implementation processes.



Flexible and Adaptable to New Environments

- Plans need to be updated with time, and information received through feedback loops offer insight to adapt plans for new and changing circumstances.
- Unintended consequences may result, which is important feedback to have and use to adapt original plans.
- We're seeing an increase in the intensity and frequency of weather events, and referring to plans from the past may not be effective for future events. Reviewing information received through feedback loops can improve plans for, and response to, future events.

Diverse and Redundant Resources

- Redundancy is harder to justify and may seem less efficient in times of normalcy, but will be valuable in times of disaster.
 - Multiple staff throughout community with similar training
 - Multiple exit routes in case of disaster event
 - Several community meeting areas
- Diversity in resources may be easier to justify and implement
 - Multiple modes of communication (reverse-911, radio announcements, etc.)
 - Diversified economy

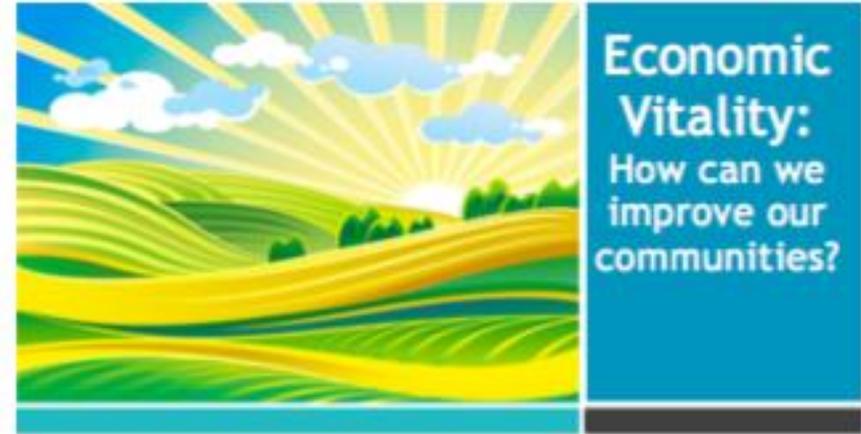


Identified Administrative Body to Oversee Efforts

- Easy to overlook the necessity of resiliency in systems when distracted by daily operational responsibilities. Having an administrative body oversee this process can ensure that stronger systems are developed.
- Disasters often occur across jurisdictional boundaries, which means building resiliency into systems is best done at the regional level
 - Regional Development Organizations
 - Missouri's State Recovery Framework

Resilience Building Tool Kit

- Designed for use by Regional Community Leaders
- Provides Step by Step Facilitation Guide for Resilience Building Discussion
- End goal: Provide local communities with the knowledge and tools necessary to build resilience into current and future systems.



What is economic vitality?

Many describe a vital community as one that has a combination of some of the following characteristics: it is comfortable and safe, with good quality housing and infrastructure and low crime rates; has "good" jobs with benefits; is experiencing growth in population, jobs and wages; has strong civic organizations; is proactive; and is diverse and flexible enough to withstand economic change. At the same time, they often say vitality is as much a sense of a community feeling "alive" as it is a list of numbers.

Despite positive signs in terms of overall economic growth, the economy remains a key concern among many Americans. According to a Harris poll conducted in January 2015, about one in four U.S. adults believe the economy will improve in the coming year, but one in three believe the economy will actually get worse. Southerners were the most pessimistic.

Many in the South can relate to the experiences of communities such as Erwin, North Carolina and Griffin, Georgia.

Once known as the "Derim Capital of the World," Erwin grew up around a textile mill that employed over 3,000 people at its peak. The mill closed its doors in 2001, followed by the community's second largest employer, Good Hope Hospital, four years later. "The only thing we can rely on right now is Triton High School," former Erwin Mayor George Joseph, Jr. told the Raleigh News and Observer in late 2014. "They're the largest industry we have in town." Griffin, Georgia, a former textile-manufacturing hub, has suffered similar economic setbacks. "Workers are tearing down the old factories and shopping plazas along the road from Atlanta are empty, with no trace of the stores once located there," described The Atlantic magazine in 2015.

While those in high-growth areas experience their own pressures in terms of keeping pace with infrastructure demands and needs, those in rural communities are particularly concerned about the other side of the coin—economic decline. Figures from the U.S. Department of Agriculture showed the nation's rural areas as a whole losing population in 2014, continuing a four-year trend. And, on the job front, rural areas have lagged behind urban areas in terms of replacing jobs lost during the recession.

However, community vitality is not just about jobs. From 2008-2011, the Knight Foundation and Gallup interviewed 43,000 people in 28 communities across the country (including 12 in the South), to find out what makes communities a desirable place to live and why people feel attached to their communities. What they found was that the economy was not a key factor affecting residents' connection to a place. Instead, social