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Surgo Ventures and Covid Act Now Announce Data Partnership to Raise Awareness of Community Vulnerability and Equitable Solutions

WASHINGTON, March 4, 2021—Surgo Ventures today announced a data partnership with the non-profit [Covid Act Now](#), one of the most widely-used public resources for up-to-date COVID-19 health data, to raise awareness about which U.S. communities are most vulnerable to the negative impacts of COVID-19 and inequities, and inform response and vaccination efforts accordingly.

As part of the collaboration, Covid Act Now has integrated Surgo's [COVID-19 Community Vulnerability Index \(CCVI\)](#) into its data platform, meaning that **a vulnerability score for every U.S. state, metro area, and county is now available at covidactnow.org.**

Surgo's CCVI—which was inspired by the [CDC's Social Vulnerability Index](#) and is [featured as a CDC resource](#)—ranks U.S. communities in terms of their vulnerability to COVID-19 based on seven key factors: socioeconomic status; household and transportation; minority status and languages spoken; epidemiological factors; healthcare system factors; high-risk environments; and population density.

To illustrate how the vulnerability data can be used to drive localized support and response efforts, Surgo Ventures and Covid Act Now released a list of the **Top 10 Most Vulnerable Counties in the United States**:

Top 10 Most Vulnerable* Counties in the United States

*Vulnerability is defined by the [COVID-19 Community Vulnerability Index](#), which assesses how well any U.S. county could respond to the health, economic and social consequences of COVID-19 without appropriate response and additional support. It combines indicators of social vulnerability, such as socioeconomic status or language barriers, with indicators of vulnerability unique to the COVID-19 pandemic, such as access to healthcare and the prevalence of comorbidities among the population.

Ranking	County	State
1	Lenoir County	North Carolina

2	Robeson County	North Carolina
3	Scotland County	North Carolina
4	Petersburg City	Virginia
5	Duplin County	North Carolina
6	Wilson County	North Carolina
7	Vance County	North Carolina
8	Sampson County	North Carolina
9	Scott County	Mississippi
10	Montgomery County	Alabama

“Today, people living in highly vulnerable communities in the United States are significantly more likely to have died from COVID-19 than those living in low vulnerability communities because they do not have equitable access to health care, live in densely populated and crowded settings, work in essential positions where the risk of exposure is high, and may experience higher rates of pre-existing conditions,” said Dr. Sema Sgaier, Co-Founder and CEO of Surgo Ventures and Adjunct Assistant Professor at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. “I’m grateful for this partnership with Covid Act Now and how it will help us raise awareness about how and why communities are vulnerable, so we can develop precise, localized solutions to help them.”

“As the country navigates the pandemic, vulnerability data can provide us with a moral and practical compass, guiding us to solutions that include everyone,” said Igor Kofman,

Founder and CEO of Covid Act Now. “This is especially important as we enter this phase of COVID vaccine distribution: by leveraging data from Surgo’s COVID-19 Community Vulnerability Index, we can ensure more efficient, equal access for all communities.”

To learn more, visit covidactnow.org.

About Surgo Ventures

Surgo Ventures is a nonprofit organization dedicated to solving health and social problems with precision. We do this by bringing together all the tools available from behavioral science, data science, and artificial intelligence to unlock solutions that will improve and save lives. We work globally: in the United States, the United Kingdom, and in low- and middle-income countries on issues like COVID-19, tuberculosis, maternal and child health, housing, and more.

About Covid Act Now

Covid Act Now is an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit founded by volunteers in March 2020. We help people make informed decisions by providing timely and accurate COVID data in every U.S. state, metro, and county, and two U.S. territories. Our multidisciplinary team draws on expertise in technology, design, data science, epidemiology, public health, and policy. We partner with Georgetown University Center for Global Health Science and Security, Stanford University Clinical Excellence Research Center, and Harvard Global Health Institute.

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