

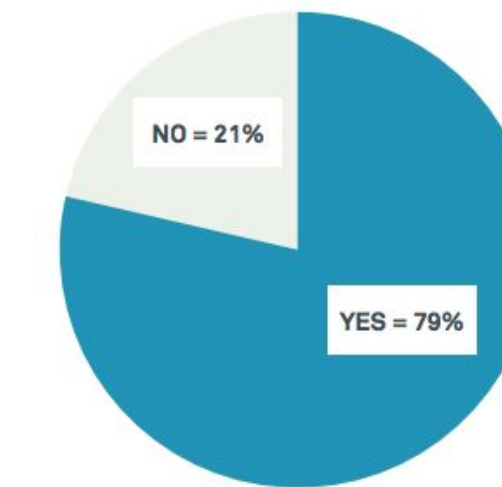
CLIMATE RESILIENCE LEADERSHIP LAB

A Localized Strategy to Increase Emergency Preparedness at The Washington Houses

Goal: Creating an Emergency Preparedness Pocket Guide for the Washington Houses

The aim of this project is to involve a variety of community members in East Harlem – including students from DREAM Charter School, seniors from the NYCHA Washington Houses, and local non-profit organizations – in a collaborative process to create an emergency preparedness pocket guide that is designed with the unique needs of the Washington Houses community in mind. The pocket guide will include information about the kinds of risks faced by this community, how to prepare for an evacuation, and what residents with specific needs – including disabled individuals, seniors, and youth – need to do in an emergency. Building climate resilience in East Harlem is important because much of this area of upper Manhattan lies in a historic floodplain, and therefore is particularly exposed to storm surge in hurricanes and flooding in future cloudburst events. The activities in this project have included a survey by DREAM Charter School students; presentations to Washington Houses residents by New York City Emergency Management staff, Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD), and the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT); and a movie night and discussion with residents. By facilitating a collaboration between the groups involved in this project, there is an opportunity to increase awareness of emergency preparedness and climate change risks among NYCHA residents and to strengthen connections between NYCHA residents and local institutions and organizations that are promoting climate resilience in East Harlem.

Understanding Local Assets and Needs: Summer 2018 DREAM School Students' Survey

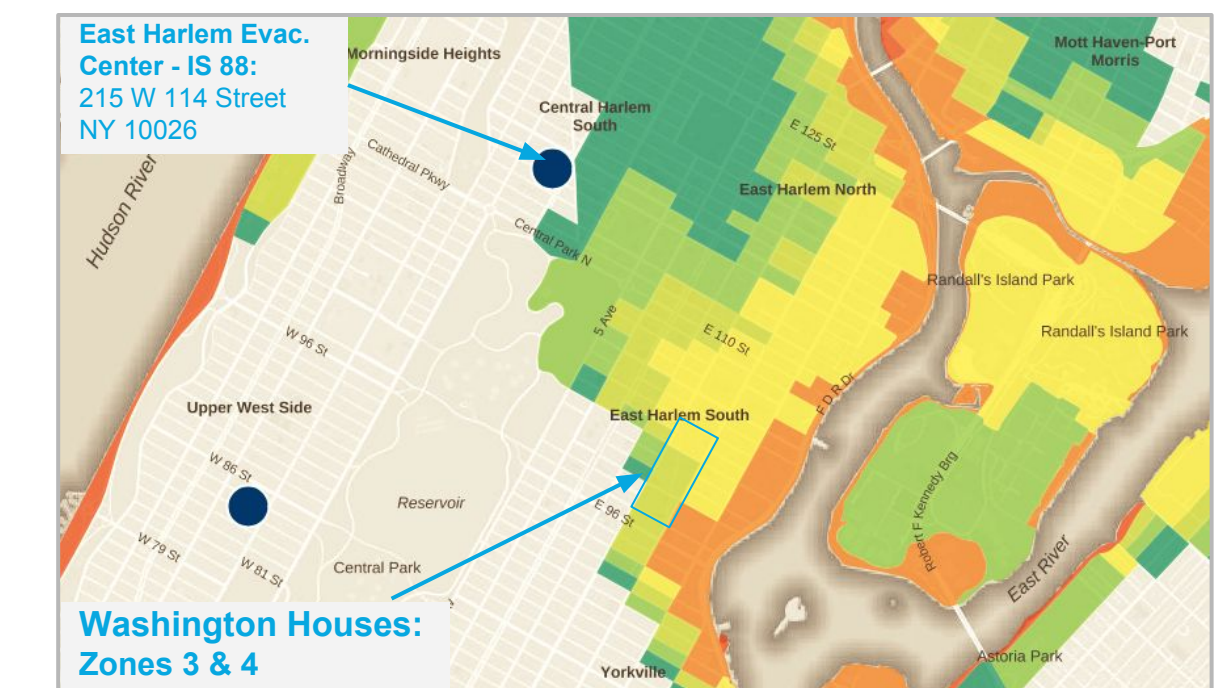
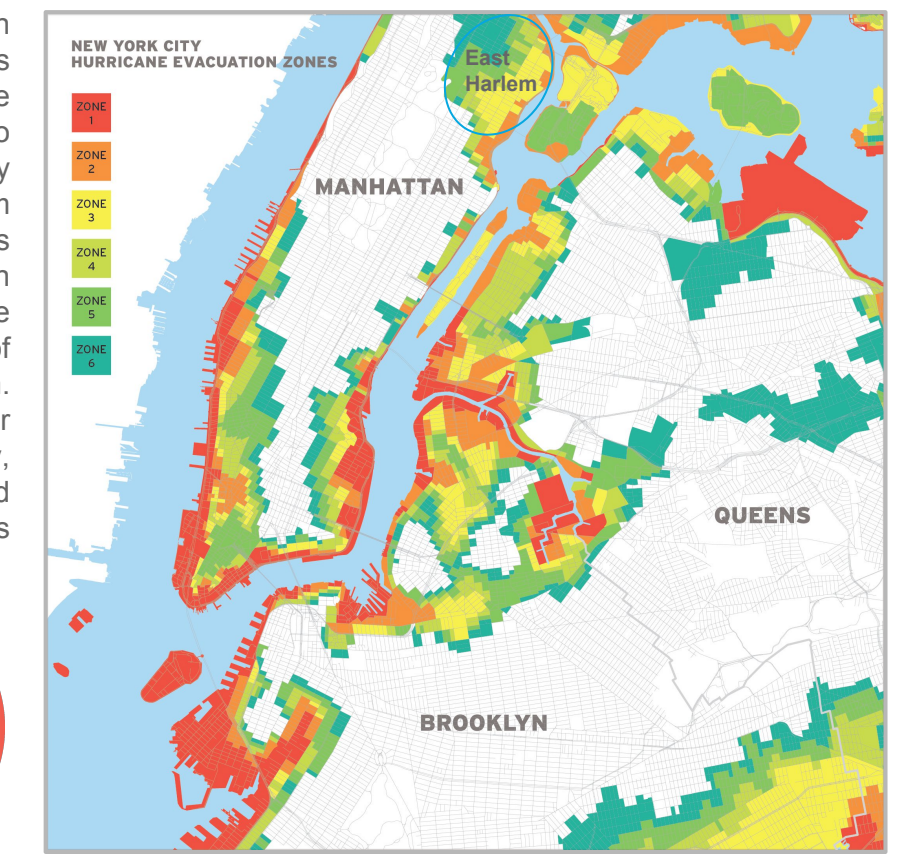
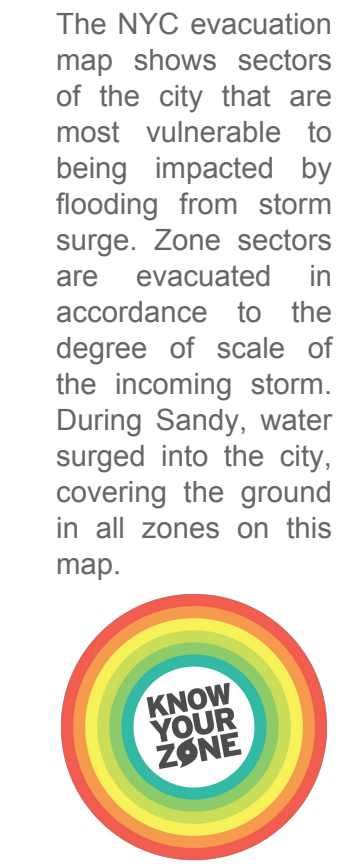


26 of 35 household surveyed said they would need to go to a city provided shelter during an evacuation event.

In order to document the existing assets and needs of the Washington Houses community, the team worked with DREAM Charter High School students to conduct a survey about emergency preparedness in summer 2018. The students identified key information that would be important to investigate about the status of residents and the challenges that are being experienced. The students interviewed 35 community members, and, through the survey, collected information about age, health and disability, previous experience with emergencies, and interest in emergency preparedness.

The survey results show that close to 50% of apartments have children under three and at least one disabled or senior resident; about 25% of apartments do not AC units; about 80% would require transportation assistance during an evacuation event; and over 90% had a desire to purchase necessary items to prepare a "go-bag," if properly informed about what to get. The results of the survey have informed the team in its next step of creating an emergency preparedness pocket guide in spring 2019.

East Harlem Storm Exposure



How Can A Community Prepare, Respond, and Recover?



The Bigger Picture: Community-based Emergency Preparedness



Climate Resilience Curriculum at DREAM



During summer 2018, six students at DREAM Charter School participated in a three-week curriculum, through which they studied community emergency planning methods and strategies, and how climate change will continue to impact the East Harlem neighborhood. These students designed and implemented a community survey in the Washington Houses and have been involved in the design of the emergency preparedness pocket guide.

Project Contributors:

- ❖ Washington Houses Tenants' Association
- ❖ DREAM Charter School
- ❖ Starr Whitehouse Landscape Architects & Planners
- ❖ ONE Architecture & Urbanism
- ❖ J.R. Zuckerberg (Pratt '17, pocket guide illustrator)
- ❖ NYC Emergency Management
- ❖ East Harlem COAD
- ❖ East Harlem CERT