

# Capacities that Promote Community Resilience

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STUDY OF TERRORISM AND RESPONSES TO TERRORISM**

A CENTER OF EXCELLENCE OF THE  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY  
BASED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

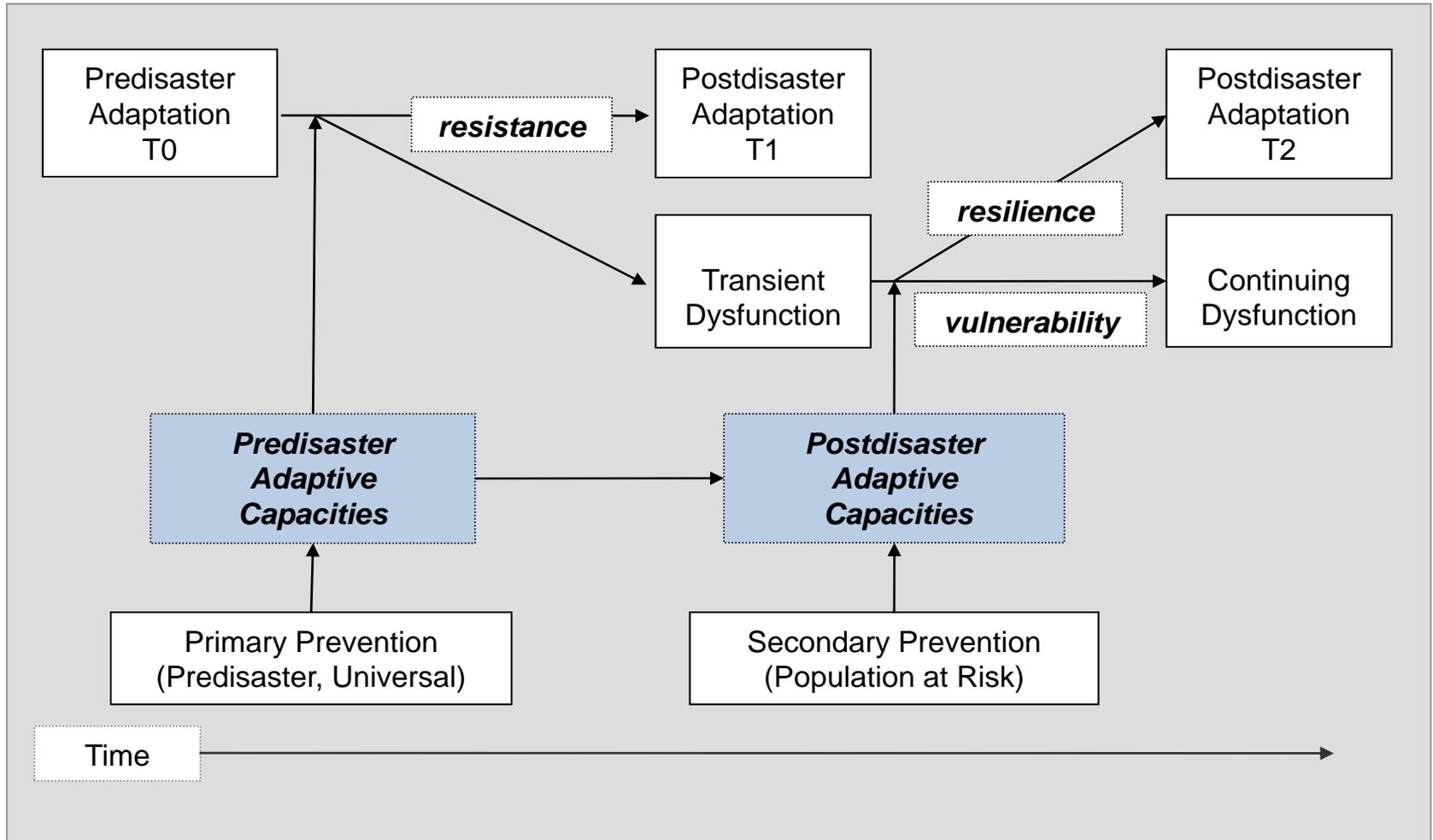
# Community resilience:

## What we've learned so far

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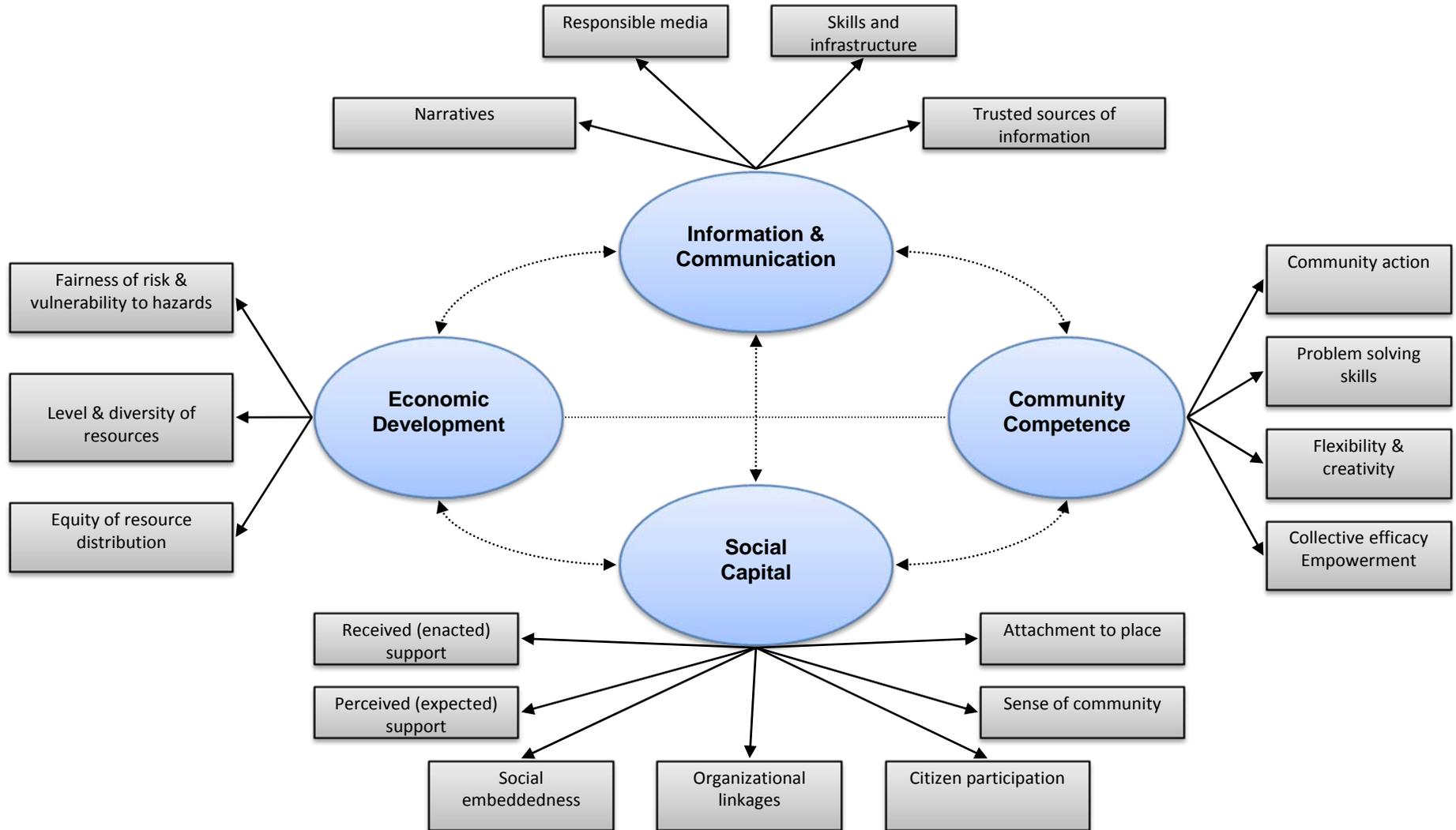
- Across levels of analysis, resilience can be understood as a positive trajectory of adaptation after a disturbance, stress, or adversity. Key is adaptability, not stability.
- Community resilience emerges from *adaptive capacities*, i.e., pre-existing community resources.
- It is possible to measure capacities for community resilience with social indicator and archival data.

# Model of resilience



from Norris et al. (2008)

# Four sets of adaptive capacities



*from Norris et al. (2008)*

# Key elements

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- Economic Development
  - Resource level
  - Resource equity
  - Resource diversity
- Social Capital
  - Social support
  - Social participation
  - Community bonds, roots, and commitments
- Info & Communication
  - Infrastructure
  - Trusted info sources
  - Responsible media
- Community Competence
  - Collective action and decision making skills
  - Collective efficacy
  - Empowerment

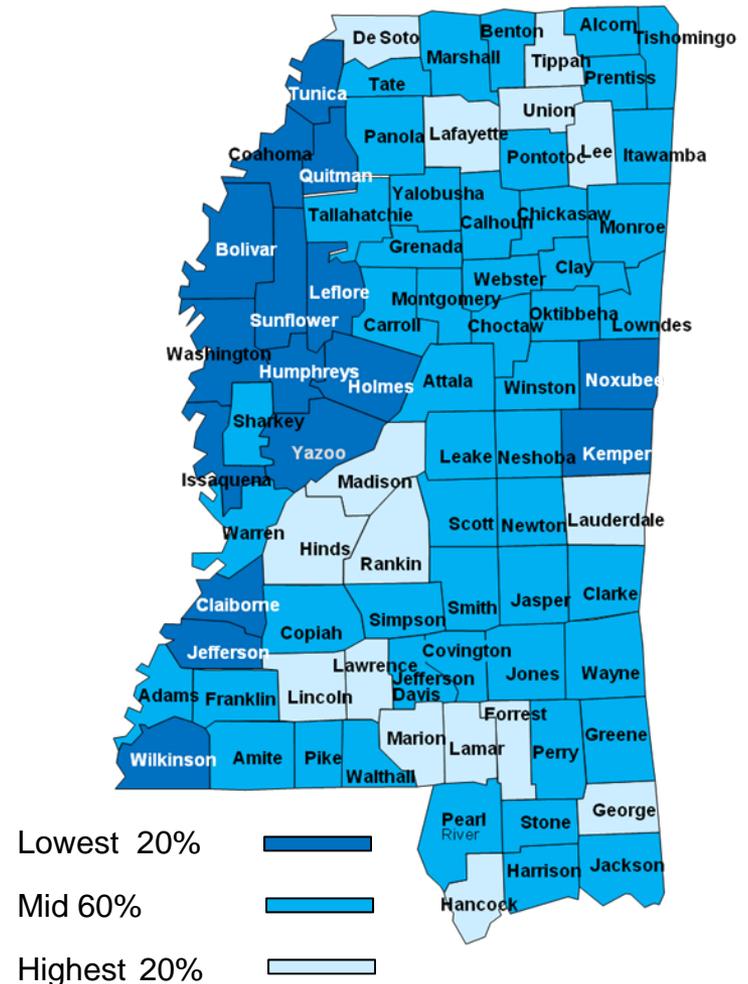
# Implications of the framework

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- Broadly, what this conceptualization means is that resilience to disaster and terrorism rests not only or even primarily on traditional preparedness activities but on building *economically strong* communities whose members can *work together* and *use information to make decisions and act*.

# Assessing capacities for resilience

- It is possible (though not simple) to measure selected capacities for resilience with social indicator and archival data.
- Piloted approach in Mississippi, with county as unit of analysis.
- Index correlated highly with survey measures of social cohesion, collective efficacy and quality of life.



from Sherrieb et al. (2010)