The primary goal of this project is to identify localities highly vulnerable to terrorism in the West Bank. For the purposes of this project, terrorism is defined as “the threatened or actual use of illegal force, and violence by a non-state actor to attain a political, economic, religious, or social goal through fear, coercion, or intimidation” (Global Terrorism Database).

Building on previous research looking at special variation in risk, this project analyzes risk of terrorism at the locality level based on five indicators: proximity to international or domestic border, location of governorate capitals, population density, religious composition, and location of terrorist attacks from 2006 to 2012.

In addition, data on the location of checkpoints was used to look at the correlation between risk of terrorism and physical security measures to determine vulnerability to terrorist attacks. Localities at the highest risk of terrorism and farthest from a checkpoint are ranked most vulnerable and localities at the lowest risk of terrorism and closest to a checkpoint least vulnerable.

Proximity to Border
- Closest to border (0 - 3)
- Farthest from border (>15)
Governorate Capitals
- Locality with a capital
- Locality without a capital
Population Density (people/km)
- Highest density (>33.43)
- Lowest density (0 - 2.3)
Religious Composition
- Any Jewish population
- No Jewish population
Terrorist Attacks (total number)
- Most attacks (24 - 26)
- Least attacks (0)

Distance from checkpoints was determined using the Euclidean distance tool to calculate the average distance of each locality from a checkpoint. Zonal statistics were then used to generate a table of values with the average distance of each locality from a checkpoint, ranging from 0 to 17 km.

The final vulnerability index compares the overall risk of terrorism to distance from a checkpoint, at the locality level:

\[
\text{Vulnerability} = \text{Risk of terrorism} / \text{Distance from checkpoint}
\]

Results
As seen in the map below, localities at the highest risk of terrorism tend to be located along the border or have a governorate capital. When looking at how risk of terrorism is correlated with checkpoints, Jerusalem, Qalqilya, and Tulkarm appear to be at relatively lower risk because of the number of checkpoints along the border.

According to this analysis, Hebron, Nablus, Jenin, and Salfit are at the greatest risk of terrorism.

Limitations
One of the key limitations of the analysis is the variation in when the data was collected. The data for terrorist attacks is from after the Second Intifada (2006-2012), population demographics are based on 2004 data, and the location of checkpoints is based on 2008 data, making it difficult to generalize the results of the analysis.

The use of checkpoints as a proxy for security investments is limited in that it only captures one form of physical security measure and does not include any other form of security investment. This analysis cannot determine how the placement of checkpoints affects location or frequency of terrorist attacks, but begins to explore the correlation between terrorism and physical security measures.