

Environmental (in)justice

Modified for Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force – July 28, 2021
Presented by Karl Rains

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Environmental Justice & Title VI Senior Advisor



“People from disadvantaged populations are more likely to be employed in occupations with higher levels of exposure and to live in more highly contaminated communities.”

https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice

United States Environmental Protection Agency

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Environmental Justice

CONTACT US

Environmental Justice at the EPA

Read the [Annual Environmental Justice Reports](#) to learn how the Agency's programs and resources serve vulnerable communities across the country. Read the report and stay connected through our [ListServe](#) to find out how you can stay involved!

Environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. This goal will be achieved when everyone enjoys:

- The same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards, and
- Equal access to the decision-making process to have a healthy environment in which to live, learn, and work.

Still have questions? [Contact your Regional Staff](#).

[Read the Factsheet about the EPA's Office of Environmental Justice.](#)

EJSCREEN
Check out EPA's environmental justice screening and mapping tool today!
Enter a location:
e.g. city, state, zip
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[Grants and Resources](#) | [Strategic Planning](#) | [Collaborative Partnerships](#)

The Mapping Inequality Project

EPA Environmental Justice and Systemic Racism Speaker Series

A Conversation with Co-Founders Robert Nelson and LaDale Winling



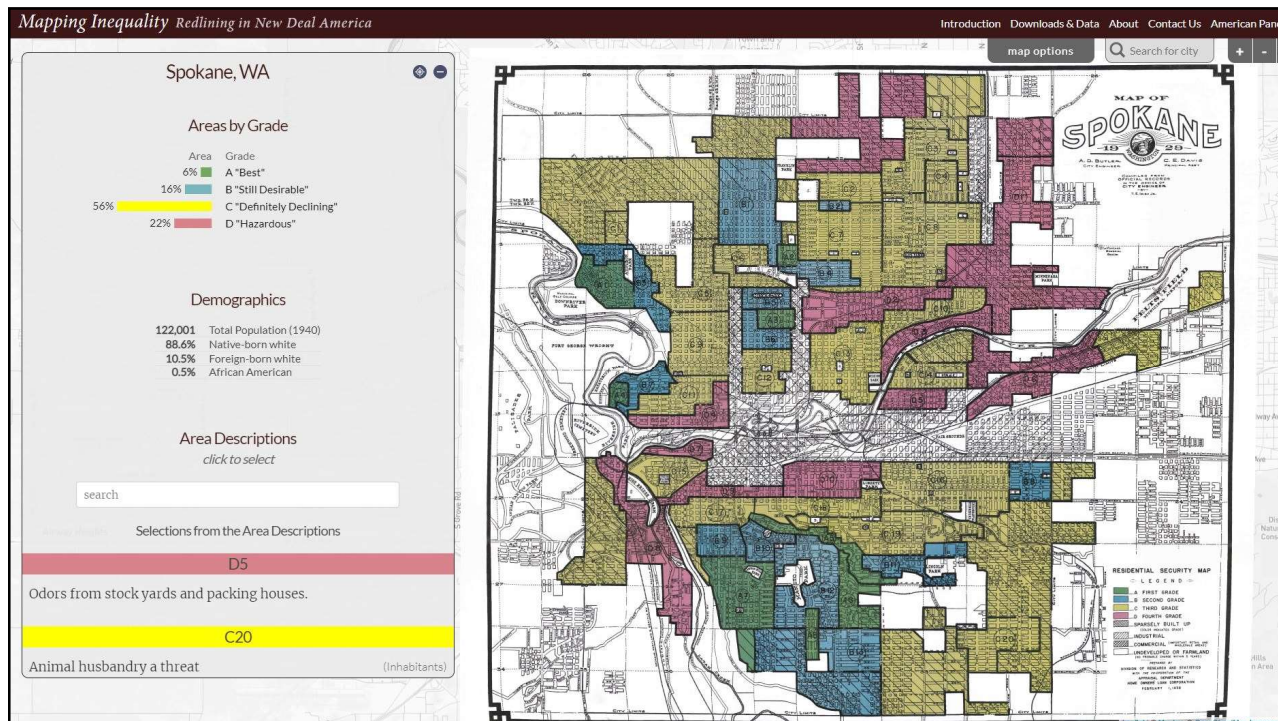
Moderated by Charles Lee
March 4, 2020

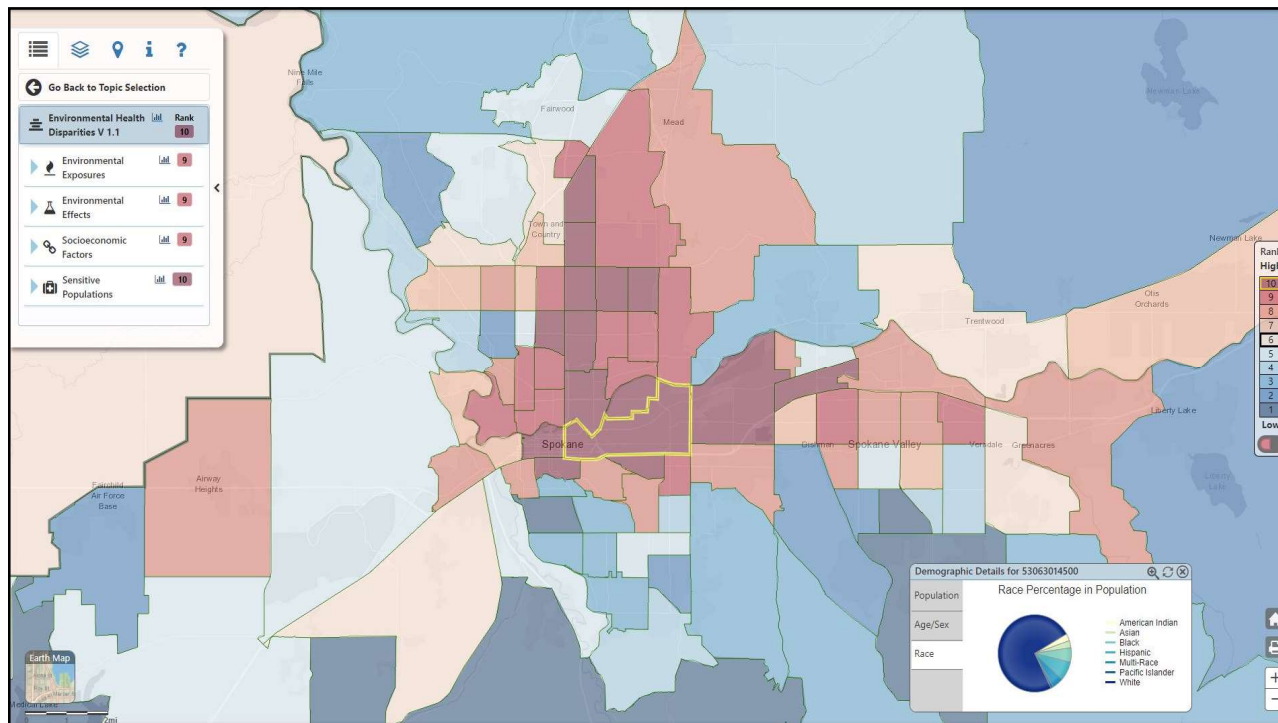
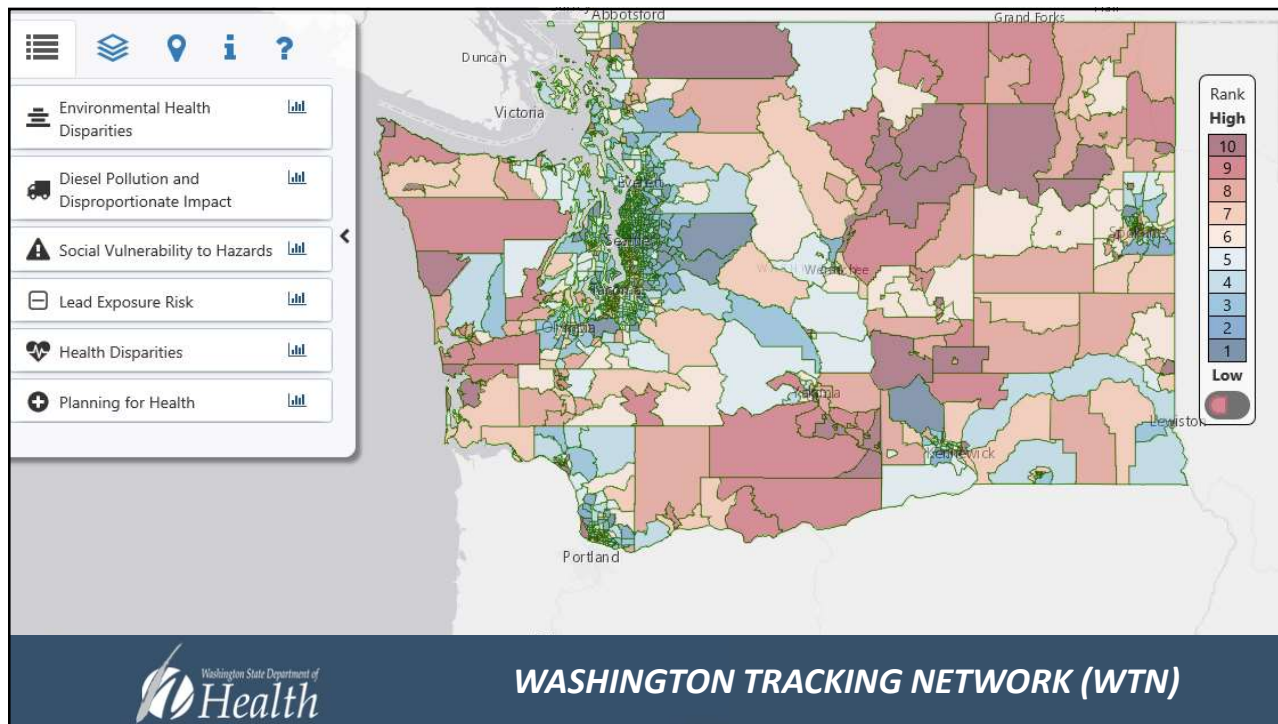


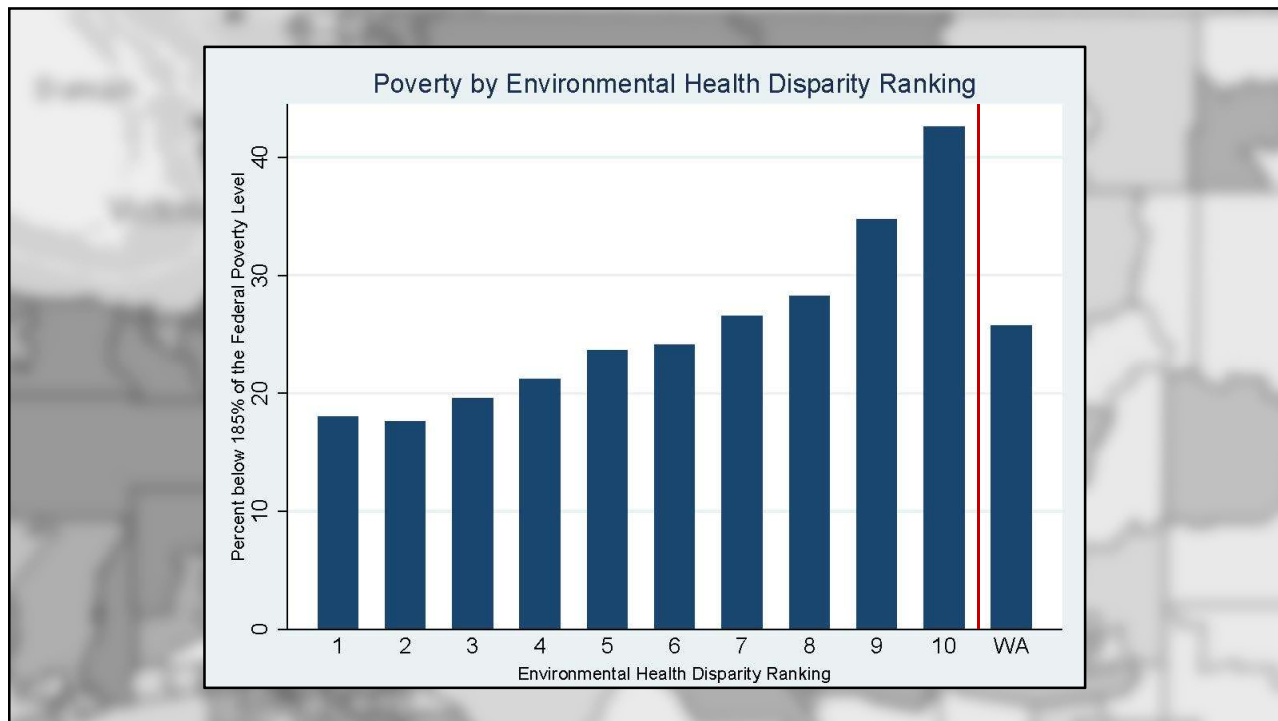
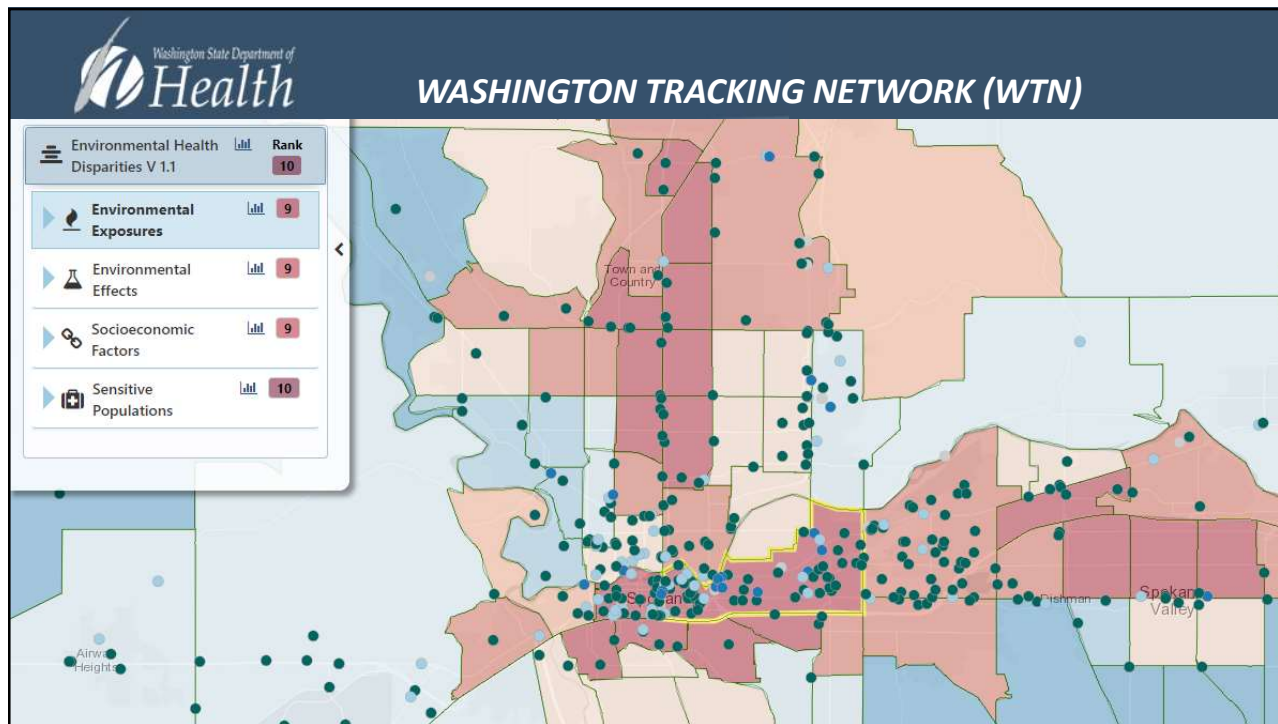


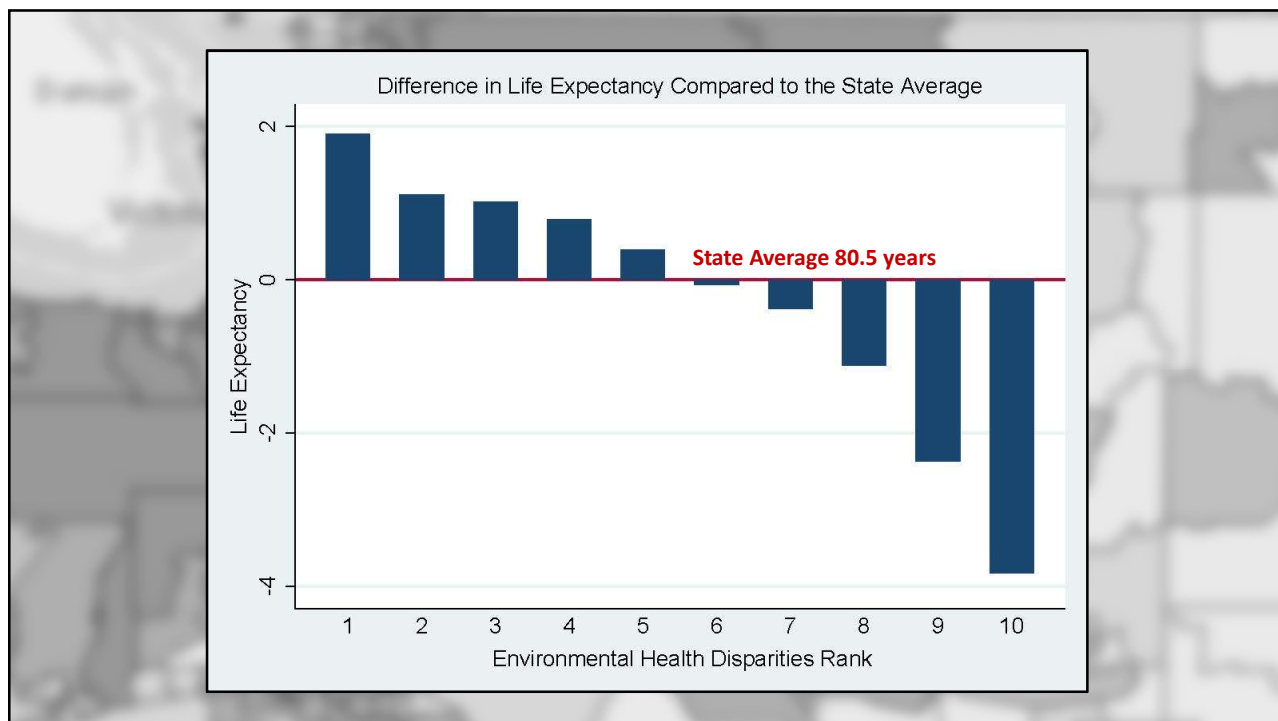
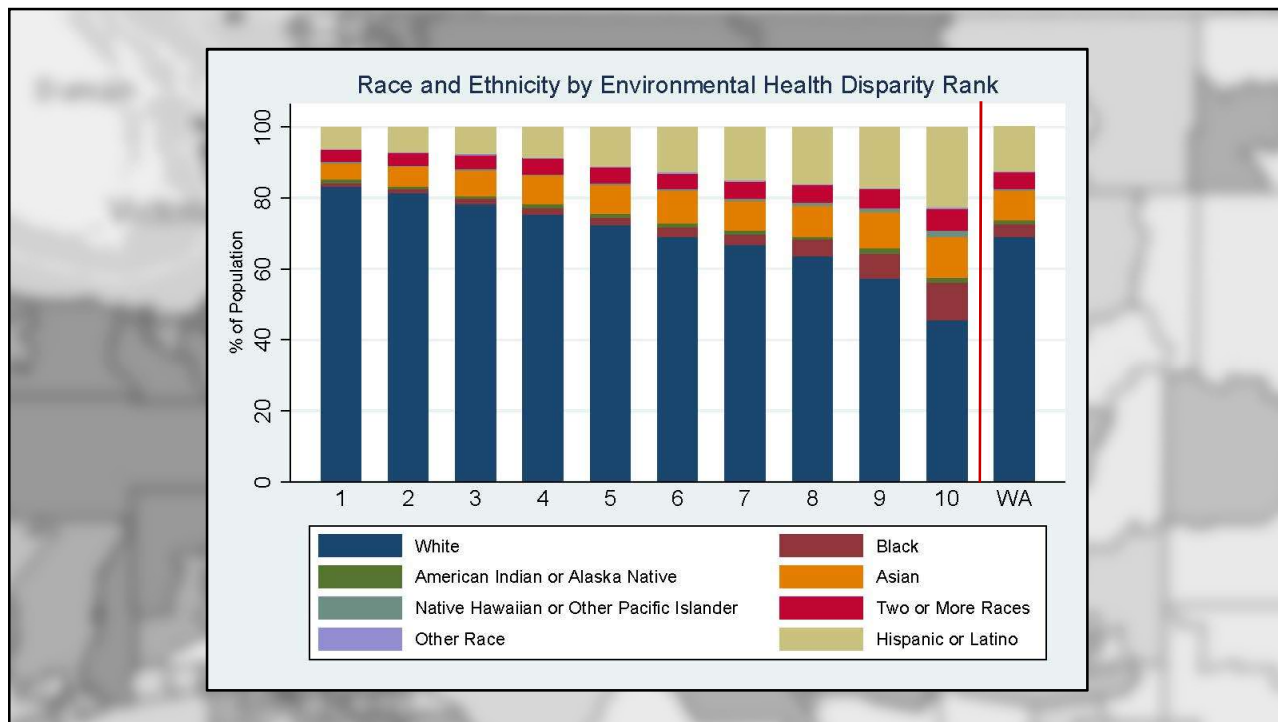
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CC Settings Full Screen











United States Environmental Protection Agency

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EJSCREEN: Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool

Share Contact Us


Launch the EJSCREEN Tool

[Explore EPA's environmental justice screening and mapping tool](#)

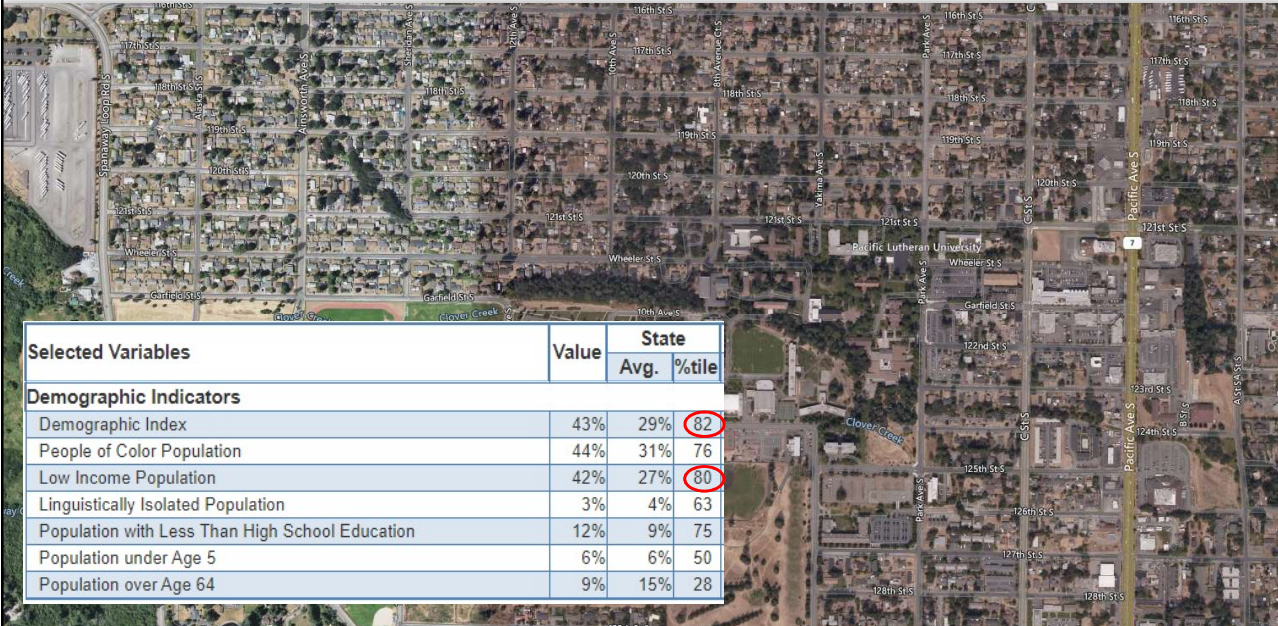


Links

- [Environmental Justice at EPA](#)
- [Grants and Other Funding Opportunities](#)
- [EPA's Environmental Justice in Action Blog](#)
- [Sign up to receive updates on EJSCREEN](#)



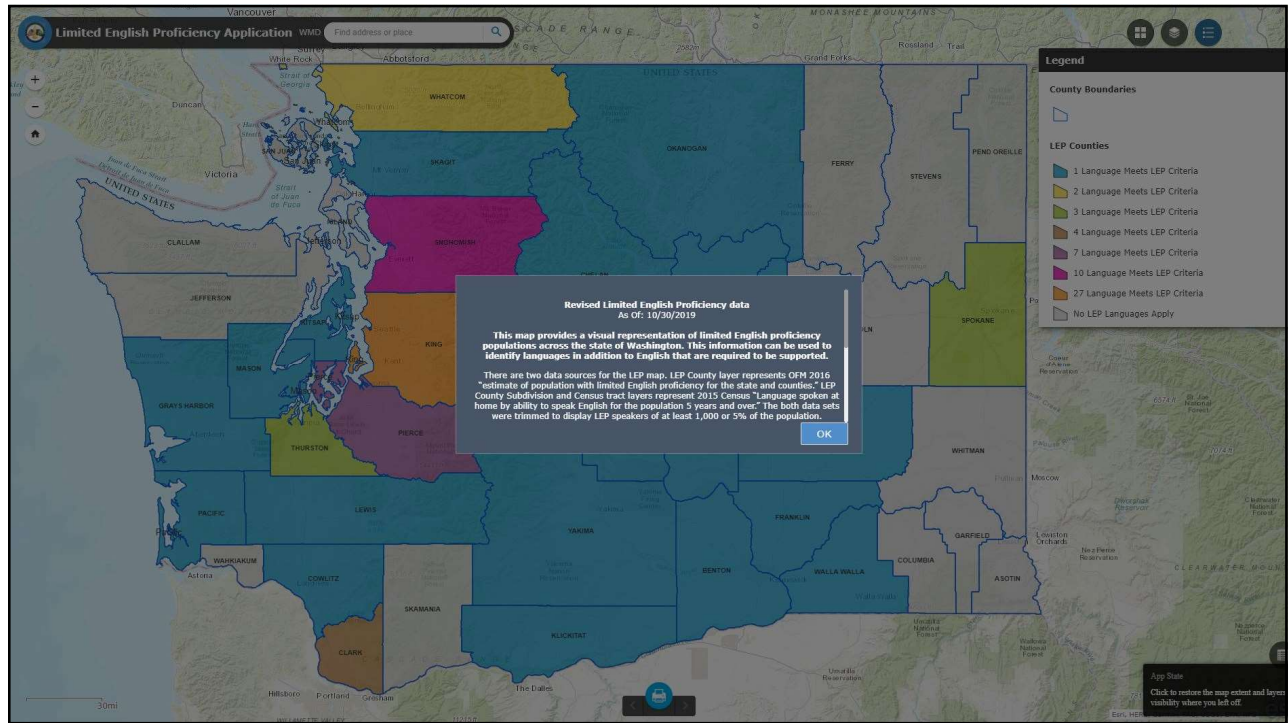
EPA's Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool





Selected Variables	Value	State	
		Avg.	%tile
Demographic Indicators			
Demographic Index	43%	29%	82
People of Color Population	44%	31%	76
Low Income Population	42%	27%	80
Linguistically Isolated Population	3%	4%	63
Population with Less Than High School Education	12%	9%	75
Population under Age 5	6%	6%	50
Population over Age 64	9%	15%	28



The figure is a screenshot of the Department of Ecology website. At the top left is the logo for the "DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY State of Washington". To the right are navigation links: "Regulations & Permits", "Research & Data", "Blog", and "Contact Us". Below the logo is a horizontal menu with "Home", "Air & Climate", "Water & Shorelines", "Waste & Toxics", and "Spills & Cleanup". The main heading is "Environmental Justice at Ecology". On the left is a sidebar menu under "Accountability & transparency" with items: "Environmental Justice", "Language services", "Accessibility", "Non-discrimination", "Results Washington", "Our website", "Public records requests", and "Customer survey results". The "Environmental Justice" item is highlighted. To the right of the sidebar is a photograph of four children playing in a garden, digging in the soil with yellow buckets. Below the photo is a paragraph of text: "Pollution and environmental contamination can affect everyone living in Washington, but some people are significantly more burdened than others. Research shows that people of color, low-income









¿Genera mi empresa residuos peligrosos?

Una guía para generadores de cantidades pequeñas

¿Cuántos desperdicios peligrosos puedo generar por mes?



Por mes de desperdicios peligrosos



Por mes de desperdicios extremadamente tóxicos

Hay límites sobre cuanto usted puede generar y almacenar en sitio. Generadores de cantidades pequeñas pueden generar hasta 220 libras de desperdicios peligrosos por mes y acumular hasta 2,200 libras.

220 libras es como la mitad de un contenedor de 55 galones con agua.

Algunos tipos de desperdicios son más

peligrosos que otros y tienen límites más bajos. Usted no puede tener más de 2.2 libras de estos desperdicios. Estos incluyen ciertos:

- Productos químicos sin usar.
- Desperdicios de la manufactura de pesticidas, herbicidas, y fungicidas.
- Desperdicios que matan peces y otros animales.
- Otros desperdicios extremadamente tóxicos.

Publicación de Ecología Número 16-04-027ES
Para solicitar acomodación ADA incluyendo materiales en un formato para personas con discapacidad de visión, llame a Ecología al 360-407-6700. Personas con discapacidad para escuchar pueden llamar el Servicio de Retransmisión de Washington al 711. Personas con discapacidad de habla pueden llamar a TTY al 877-833-6341.



DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

Filtro de calefacción de 20 pulgadas

개인용 공기정화 장치

0:00 / 1:03

The video player shows a close-up of a HEPA filter in the foreground. In the background, a woman in a red shirt is shown in a kitchen-like setting, holding a large purple HEPA filter. The video player interface includes a play button, a progress bar at 0:00 / 1:03, and various control icons at the bottom.



WASHINGTON STATE
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE
TASK FORCE

DECEMBER 3, 2020

A young child with curly hair, wearing a blue and white striped shirt and blue pants, stands in a field of tall grass and white flowers, looking up towards the sky. The background is a soft-focus landscape of green trees and a blue sky.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- EJ in Strategic Plans
- Required EJ analysis
- Accessible Environmental Reporting
- Supplemental Environmental Projects

Federal

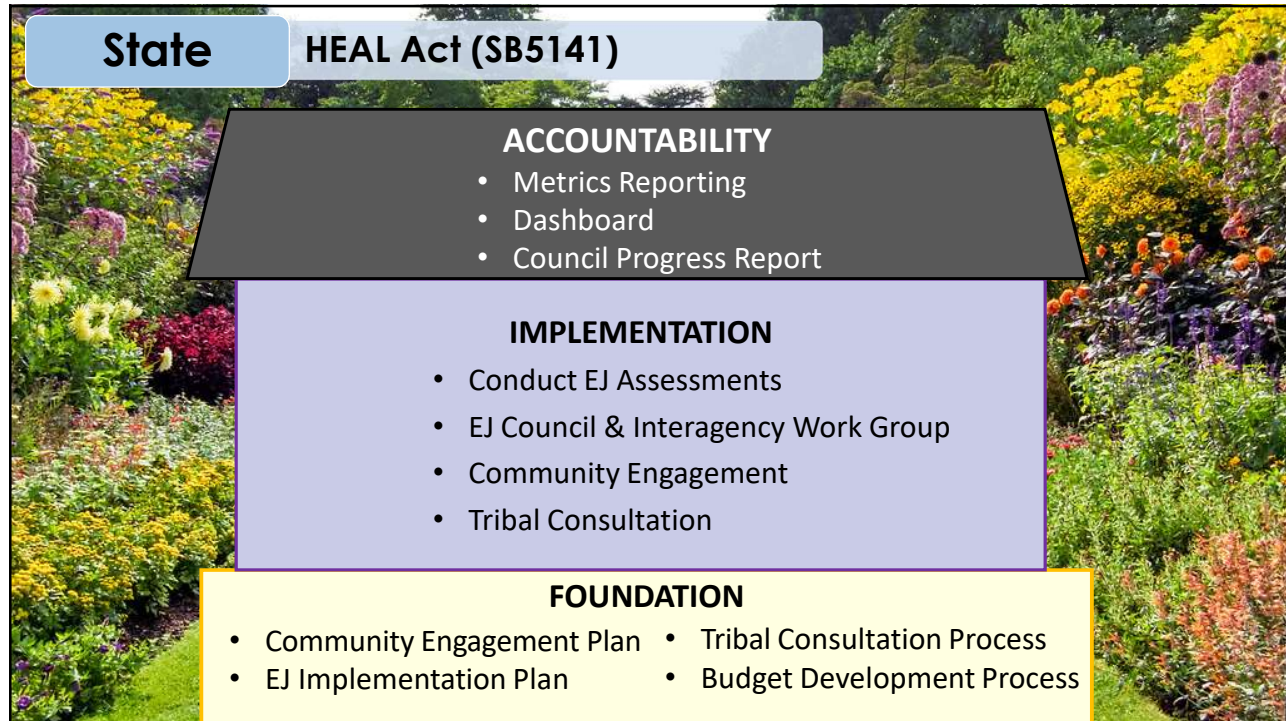
- Executive Order 12898
- Title VI Civil Rights Act

State

- 2021 HEAL Act (SB5141)

Ecology

- Executive Policy



Foundation -- Planning Requirements

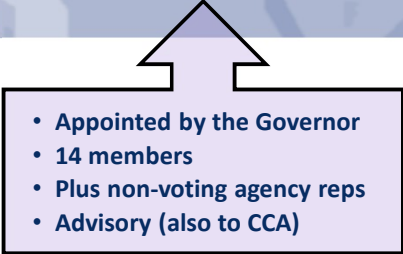
- ❖ **Community Engagement Plan** that describes and prioritizes planned engagement with overburdened communities and vulnerable populations 7/1/2022
- ❖ **EJ Implementation Plan** that includes goals, performance measures, methods, and strategies ensuring compliance with EJ laws and policies 1/1/2023
- ❖ EJ principles in **budget development**, expenditures, and benefit decisions
 - Equitably distribute funding
 - Public involvement in budget decisions
 - EJ goals & assessment metrics
 - Goal of 40% of expenditures for EJ benefits 7/1/2023

Foundation -- Tribal Consultation

- ❖ Develop consultation framework in coordination with Tribal governments
- ❖ Must offer consultation with Indian Tribes on:
 - Implementation plans
 - Community engagement plans
 - Significant agency actions affecting Tribes' rights and interests

Implementation -- EJ Council

- ❖ Forum for EJ public testimony
- ❖ Guidance on developing EJ assessment
- ❖ Recommend actions to be considered SAA
- ❖ How to identify & prioritize overburdened communities
- ❖ Co-develop guidance for EJ implementation
- ❖ Evaluate agency progress

- 
- Appointed by the Governor
 - 14 members
 - Plus non-voting agency reps
 - Advisory (also to CCA)



1/1/2022

Implementation -- Interagency EJ Workgroup

- ❖ Provides technical assistance to support agency compliance
- ❖ Identifies goals and metrics
- ❖ Identifies policies, priorities, and projects
- ❖ Develops guidelines for state agencies

Implementation -- EJ Assessments

Significant Agency Actions triggering EJ Assessments are limited in scope (initially):

1. Significant legislative rule development
2. New grant and loan programs
3. Capital projects, grants or loans of at least \$12 million (Transportation projects, grants, or loans of \$15 million)
4. Agency request legislation

Note: ECY must file notices with OFM for all actions undergoing an assessment (OFM must post weekly)

EJ Assessments

7/1/2023

Conduct:

- Aspire to complete EJ assessments without delaying the completion of the underlying agency action.
- Obligation of a covered agency to conduct an EJ assessment is satisfied by the completion of a checklist developed by each agency.

Results:

- Seek to reduce or eliminate any environmental harms and maximize any benefits to overburdened communities and vulnerable populations.
- If no ability or authority to avoid or reduce any estimated EJ harm, the agency must provide a clear explanation of that determination.

Environmental Justice

... who is involved & who isn't ?

... who benefits & who is burdened ?

**Does our work reduce disparities
for overburdened communities &
underserved populations ?**