

Environment Committee Meeting Environmental Justice

Metropolitan Mayors Caucus – October 17, 2023

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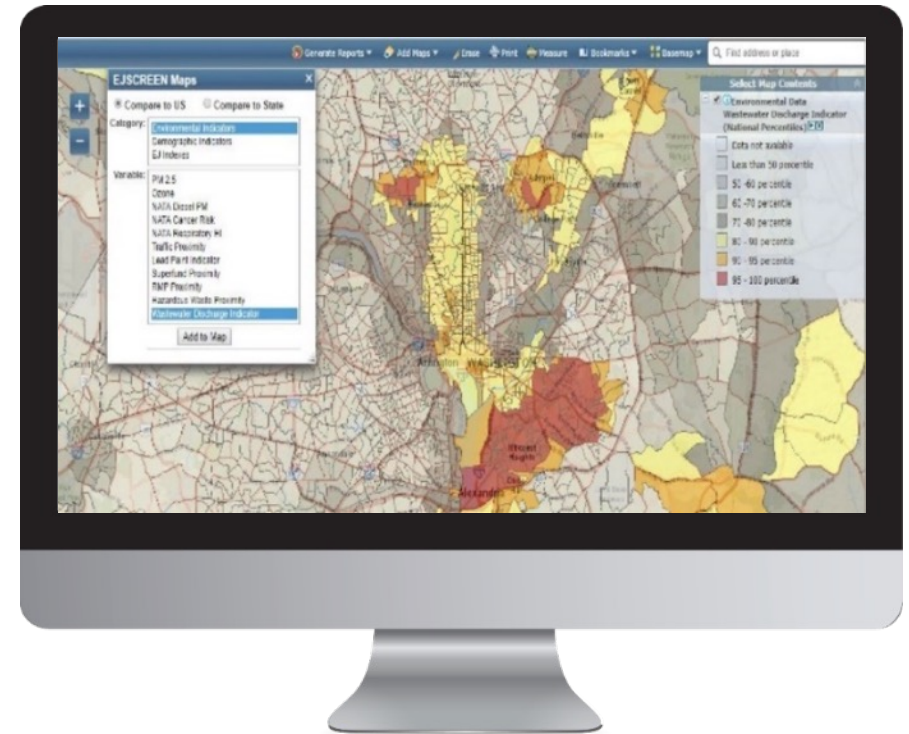
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Overview

- EPA's Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool (EJScreen)
- CEQ's Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST)
- Similarities and Differences
- Upcoming Webinars and Useful Links
- Demo

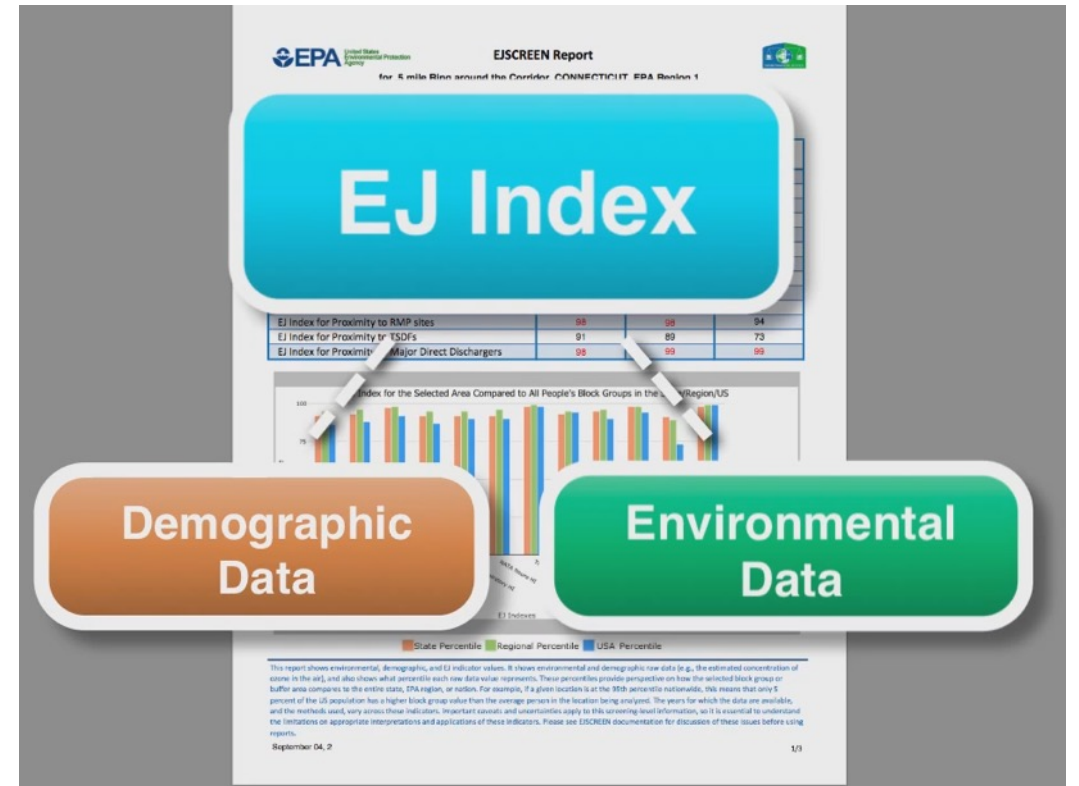
EPA's EJScreen

- Combines environmental and demographic data to highlight areas where **vulnerable populations** may be **disproportionately impacted** by pollution
- Allows users to access high-resolution environmental and demographic information for locations in the U.S. and compare their selected locations to the rest of the state or nation.
- EJScreen is not a labeling tool; does not label “EJ communities”



EJScreen Datasets

- **Socioeconomic** (7 indicators)
- **EJ Indexes** (13)
- **Supplemental Indexes** (13)
- **Pollution and Sources** (13 indicators)
- **Health Disparities** (5 indicators)
- **Climate Change Data** (4 indicators)
- **Critical Service Gaps** (5 indicators)



Environmental Indicators (Pollution and Sources)

Potential health effects:

1. Air Toxics Cancer Risk
2. Air Toxics Respiratory Hazard Index
3. Toxics Releases to Air

Potential exposure:

4. Diesel Particular Matter
5. Particulate Matter 2.5
6. Ozone
7. Lead Paint

Proximity:

8. Traffic
9. Wastewater Discharge
10. Superfund sites
11. Hazardous Waste Proximity
12. Risk Management Plan Facilities
13. Underground Storage Tanks

CEQ's CEJST

The Justice40 Initiative seeks to direct 40% of the overall benefits of certain Federal investments to disadvantaged communities in the following areas:

- Climate Change
- Energy
- Health
- Housing
- Legacy pollution
- Transportation
- Water and wastewater
- Workforce development

Explore the map

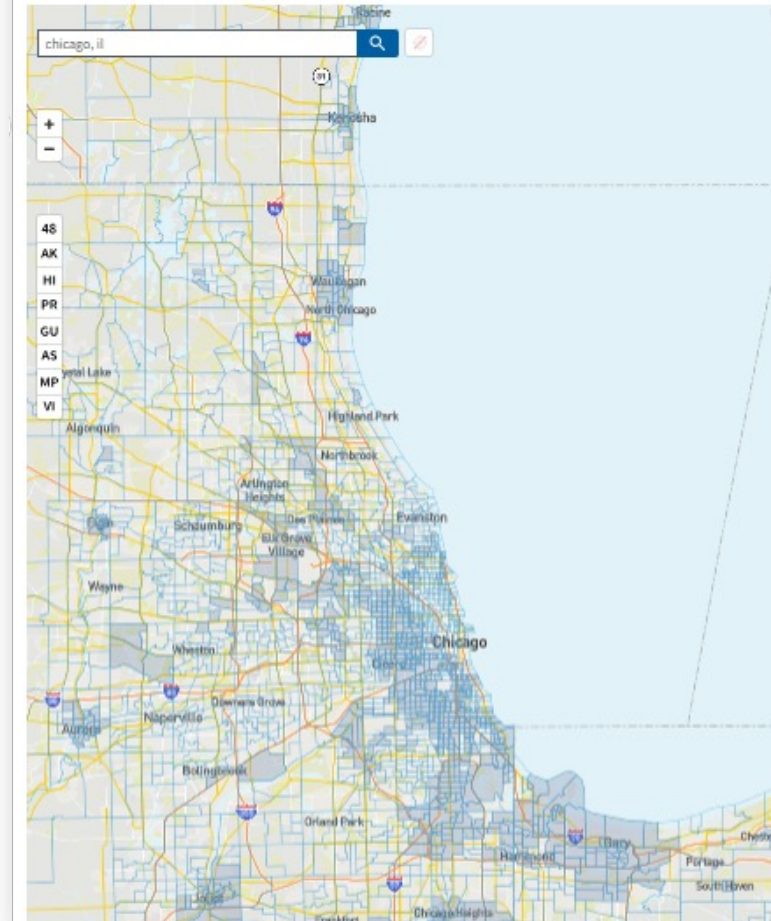
Share data sources with CEQ

Census tracts that are overburdened and underserved are highlighted as being disadvantaged on the map. Federally Recognized Tribes, including Alaska Native Villages, are also considered disadvantaged communities.




Zooming in and selecting shows information about each census tract.

Get the data



Download the data with documentation and shapefile from the [downloads](#) page.





How to use the map:




Zoom in , search , or locate yourself  and select to see information about any census tract.


Things to know:

The tool uses census tracts . Census tracts are a small unit of geography. They generally have populations  of between 1,200 - 8,000 people.

Communities that are disadvantaged live in tracts that experience burdens. These tracts are highlighted  on the map.

The tool ranks most of the burdens using percentiles . Percentiles show how much burden each tract experiences when compared to other tracts.

Thresholds , or cutoffs, are used to determine if communities in a tract are disadvantaged. Certain burdens use percentages  or a simple yes/no .

Land within the boundaries of Federally Recognized Tribes and point locations for Alaska Native Villages are highlighted  on the map. These communities are also considered disadvantaged.

Categories of Burdens

Climate change

Communities are **identified as disadvantaged** if they are in census tracts that:

ARE at or above the 90th percentile for [expected agriculture loss rate](#) OR [expected building loss rate](#) OR [expected population loss rate](#) OR [projected flood risk](#) OR [projected wildfire risk](#)

AND are at or above the 65th percentile for [low income](#)

Energy

Communities are **identified as disadvantaged** if they are in census tracts that:

ARE at or above the 90th percentile for [energy cost](#) OR [PM2.5 in the air](#)

AND are at or above the 65th percentile for [low income](#)

Health

Communities are **identified as disadvantaged** if they are in census tracts that:

ARE at or above the 90th percentile for [asthma](#) OR [diabetes](#) OR [heart disease](#) OR [low life expectancy](#)

AND are at or above the 65th percentile for [low income](#)

Housing

Communities are **identified as disadvantaged** if they are in census tracts that:

Experienced [historic underinvestment](#) OR are at 90th percentile for [housing cost](#) OR [lack of green of indoor plumbing](#) OR [lead paint](#)

AND are at or above the 65th percentile for [low income](#)

Legacy pollution

Communities are **identified as disadvantaged** if they are in census tracts that:

Have at least one [abandoned mine land](#) OR [Formerly Used Defense Sites](#) OR are at or above the 90th percentile for [proximity to hazardous waste facilities](#) OR [proximity to Superfund sites \(National Priorities List \(NPL\)\)](#) OR [proximity to Risk Management Plan \(RMP\) facilities](#)

AND are at or above the 65th percentile for [low income](#)

Transportation

Communities are **identified as disadvantaged** if they are in census tracts that:

ARE at or above the 90th percentile for [diesel particulate matter exposure](#) OR [transportation barriers](#) OR [traffic proximity and volume](#)

AND are at or above the 65th percentile for [low income](#)

Water and wastewater

Communities are **identified as disadvantaged** if they are in census tracts that:

ARE at or above the 90th percentile for [underground storage tanks and releases](#) OR [wastewater discharge](#)

AND are at or above the 65th percentile for [low income](#)

Workforce development

Communities are **identified as disadvantaged** if they are in census tracts that:

ARE at or above the 90th percentile for [linguistic isolation](#) OR [low median income](#) OR [poverty](#) OR [unemployment](#)

AND more than 10% of people ages 25 years or older whose high school education is less than a [high school diploma](#)

Similarities and Differences

Similarities

- Empowers communities, resident, researchers, policy makers with spatial data
- Aims to identify disadvantaged communities and communities with environmental justice concerns
- Considers the distribution of environmental burdens, such as pollution sources and health risks, among different populations
- Increases transparency and public engagement

Differences

Geographic Scope:

- Primary unit in EJScreen is the Census block group
- Primary unit in CEJST is the Census tract

The tools handle race/ethnicity differently:

- EJScreen incorporates race/ethnicity
- CEJST does not incorporate race/ethnicity

Desktop analysis purposes:

- EJScreen data can clarify potential EJ concerns
- CEJST is a yes-no tool that labels communities as “disadvantaged” per Justice40

Upcoming Webinars and Links

- EJScreen Office Hours & Training

- <https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen/ejscreen-office-hours-training>

[Join: October 18, 2023 at 12 p.m. E.T.](#)
[EJScreen Office Hours](#)

- CEJST Public Engagement Opportunities

- <https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/en/public-engagement>

- EJScreen - [EJScreen Tool](#)

- [EJScreen: FAQs](#)
- [EJScreen: Technical Documentation July 2023](#)
- [EPA EJScreen YouTube panel review \(1:59:-2:22\)](#)

- CEJST – [CEJST Tool](#)

- [CEJST: FAQs](#)
- [CEJST: Technical Support Document Nov. 2022](#)
- [CEQ YouTube version 1.0 CEJST \(18 mins\)](#)

Justice40 Initiative Covered Programs

List of Federal Agencies and their programs that make covered investments in any one of the eight categories: [Justice40 Initiative Covered Programs List](#)

EPA's 73 covered programs: [J40 Initiative Covered Programs List for EPA](#)

EJScreen Community Report

- EJScreen Standard Report rebranded the EJScreen Community Report
- 4 pages of data and features in one new report
- Data featured includes:
 - Community Socioeconomics
 - Breakdown By Race & Age
 - Language Spoken at Home
 - Limited English-Speaking Breakdown
 - EJ & Supplemental Indexes
 - Environmental and Socioeconomic Raw Data
 - Sites Reporting to EPA
 - Community Features
 - Health, Climate & Critical Service Gaps Data

EJScreen Environmental and Socioeconomic Indicators Data

HEALTH INDICATORS					
INDICATOR	HEALTH VALUE	STATE AVERAGE	STATE PERCENTILE	US AVERAGE	US PERCENTILE
Low Life Expectancy	22%	18%	88	20%	78
Heart Disease	7	5.6	90	6.1	69
Asthma	14.1	9.5	98	10	98
Cancer	4	6.1	10	6.1	11
Persons with Disabilities	23%	10.6%	96	13.4%	92

CLIMATE INDICATORS					
INDICATOR	HEALTH VALUE	STATE AVERAGE	STATE PERCENTILE	US AVERAGE	US PERCENTILE
Flood Risk	4%	11%	44	12%	33
Wildfire Risk	0%	6%	0	14%	0

CRITICAL SERVICE GAPS					
INDICATOR	HEALTH VALUE	STATE AVERAGE	STATE PERCENTILE	US AVERAGE	US PERCENTILE
Broadband Internet	36%	10%	96	14%	93
Lack of Health Insurance	13%	7%	82	9%	77
Housing Burden	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Transportation Access	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Food Desert	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Footnotes

Report for Blockgroup: 340076004001