

## What is EJScreen?

- EPA's web-based GIS tool for nationally consistent EJ screening and mapping
- Combines environmental and socioeconomic data to highlight areas where vulnerable populations may be disproportionately impacted by pollution
- Starting point for agency considerations of environmental justice



## **Caveats & Limitations**

EJScreen does not cover all environmental or EJ issues

Environmental indicators are mostly screening-level proxies for actual exposure or risk

Indicators vary in vintage

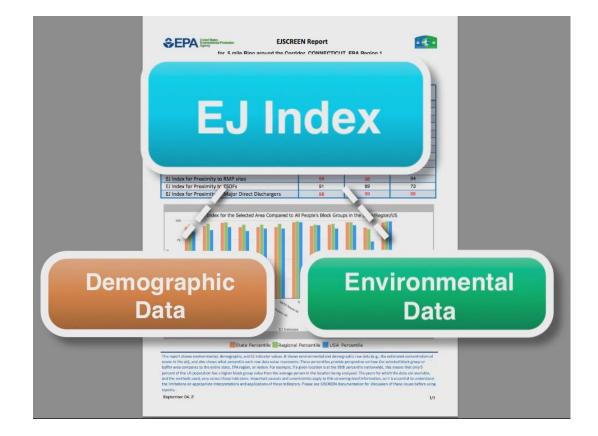
Census data has limitations and can obscure small communities

Results should be verified on the ground when possible

**EJScreen is NOT a designation tool** 

## **Primary EJScreen Datasets**

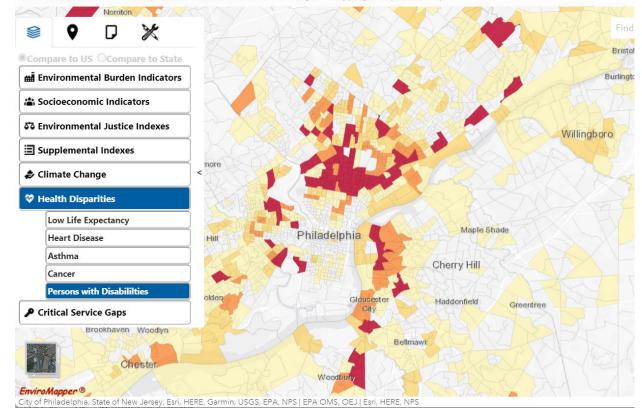
- Environmental (13 indicators)
- Socioeconomic (7 indicators)
- 13 EJ Indexes
- 13 Supplemental Indexes
- Health (5 indicators)
- Climate (5 indicators)
- Critical Service Gaps (5 indicators)



## **EJScreen Key Features**

- Annually updated environmental data
- Annually updated demographics from most recent U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey (ACS)
- Highest resolution data available
- Locations of community interest can be overlayed via the "Places" tab
- Produces maps, graphs & reports
- Ability to download data
- Accessibility / ease of use

SEPA EJScreen EPA's Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool (Version 2.3)



% Persons with Disabilities – Philadelphia Metro Area

# Main EJScreen v2.3 Updates

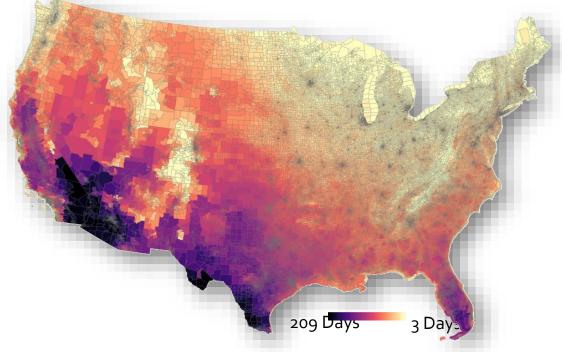
### New Indexes & Indicators

- Drinking water health-based noncompliance
- Satellite NO2 data
- New Map Layers
  - Superfund Boundaries
  - Extreme heat
  - Private domestic wells
  - DW service area boundaries
  - EJ Grants
- Calculation Changes
  - Disabilities included in the Supplemental Index

### Interface Enhancements & Other Changes

• Revamped Website & Enhanced Popups

## Extreme Heat



## UNITS OF ANALYSIS

**United States** 

### State

primary governmental divisions of the United States.

### County

Largest divisions within states.

### Census Tract

Collection of Census block groups, mostly between 1,200 and 8,000 people.

### **Block Group**

Collection of residential blocks, mostly, between 600 and 3,000 people.

### Block

Residential block, bounded on all sides by streets.



## **Environmental Indicators**

Indicator	Description	Year
Particulate matter 2.5	Annual average of PM 2.5 levels in the air	2020
Ozone	Average of the annual top ten daily maximum 8-hour ozone concentrations in air	2020
Diesel particulate matter	Diesel particulate matter level in air	2020
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2)	Annual concentration of NO2 levels in air	2020
Toxic Releases to Air	RSEI modeled toxicity-weighted concentrations in air of TRI listed chemicals.	2021
Traffic proximity and volume	Count of vehicles on major roads, divided by distance in meters	2020
Lead paint	Percent of housing units built pre-1960, as indicator of potential lead paint exposure	2018 - 2022

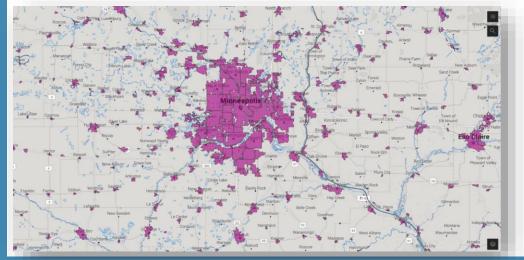
## **Environmental Indicators (cont'd)**

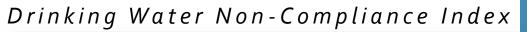
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Indicator	Description	Year
Superfund proximity	Count of Superfund sites (proposed and final NPL sites and SAA sites) within 10 km, each divided by distance in km	2024
Risk management plan facility proximity	Count of RMP (potential chemical accident management plan) facilities within 10 km, each divided by distance in km	
Hazardous waste proximity	Count of hazardous waste management facilities (TSDFs and LQGs) within 10 km, each divided by distance in km	2024
Underground storage tanks (UST) and leaking UST (LUST)	Count of LUSTs (multiplied by a factor of 7.7) and the number of USTs within a 1,500-foot buffered block group	2024
Wastewater Discharge Indicator	RSEI modeled toxicity-weighted concentrations of TRI listed chemicals in water stream segments within 500 meters, divided by distance in km	2021
Drinking Water Non- Compliance	Number of SDWA violations not returned to compliance that community water systems have received over the past five years; violations are weighted based age and severity	2023

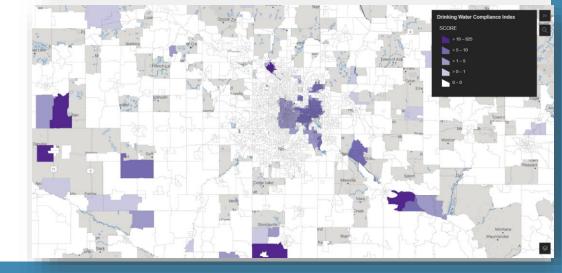
# **Drinking Water Non-Compliance**

- Score based on number of Safe Drinking Water Act violations not returned to compliance that community water systems have received over the past five years; violations are weighted based age and severity.
- Leverages the first national dataset on community water system service areas
- Uses OECA Enforcement Targeting Tool for curating SDWA violations in creating a single metric, from hundreds of violations types, that broadly describes public drinking water quality

Modeled Service Boundaries

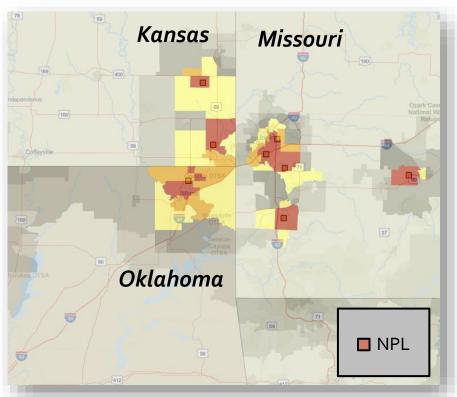






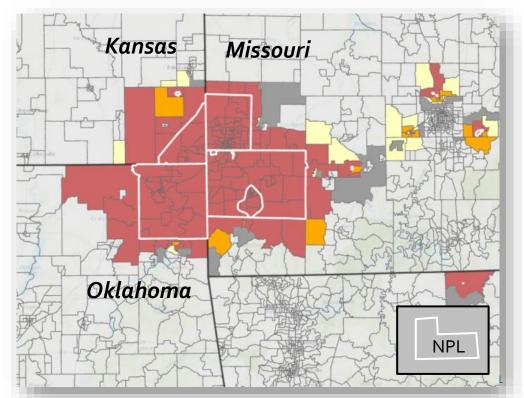
# Use of Polygons for NPL Sites

- Formerly, EJScreen used superfund point locations
- Some NPL sites can cover large swaths of states, which is not well represented by a point
- The use of superfund polygons provides more accurate representation of potential risk



Superfund Proximity (using points)

#### Superfund Proximity (using polygons)



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

## **Socioeconomic Indicators**

Indicator	Definition
People of color	Individuals who list their racial status as a race other than white alone and/or list their ethnicity as Hispanic or Latino
Low-Income	Households income is less than or equal to twice the federal "poverty level"
Unemployment	All those who did not have a job at all during the reporting period, made at least one specific active effort to find a job during the prior 4 weeks, and were available for work (unless temporarily ill).
Limited English Speaking	Households in which all members age 14 years speak English less than "very well" (have difficulty with English)
Less than high school education	People age 25 or older whose education is short of a high school diploma
Under age 5	People in a block group under the age of 5
Over age 64	People in a block group over the age of 64

All Socioeconomic Data comes from the **2018-2022 ACS** 

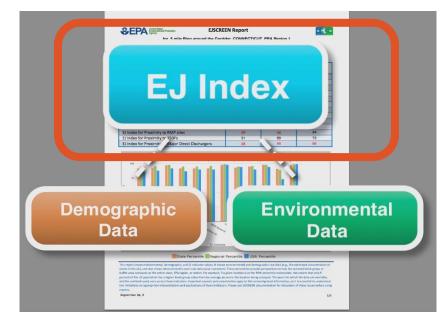
## **Demographic Indexes**

 EJScreen now features two different indexes based on socioeconomic & health data



Indexes offer different perspectives on vulnerable communities

## What do the indexes help identify?



Indexes helps identify areas that may have **higher pollution burdens** and **vulnerable populations** present

# $EJ Index = \frac{Environmental}{Indicator Percentile} \begin{array}{l} x & D \\ \end{array}$

Demographic Index (Standardized using z scores)

Applies to both **EJ Indexes** and **Supplemental Indexes** 

## **Health Indicators**

Indicator	Definition
Low Life Expectancy	Average life expectancy
Heart Disease	Heart disease prevalence among adults aged 18 years or older
Asthma	Asthma prevalence among adults aged 18 or older
Cancer	Cancer (excluding skin cancer) prevalence among adults aged 18 or older
Persons with Disability	Percent of all persons with disabilities

All Health indicators are at the Census tract level

## **Climate Indicators**

Indicator	Definition
Wildfire Risk	Wildfire exposure for any specific location in the contiguous US, today and with the future climate change.
Flood Risk	Flood model that shows the risk of flooding due to rainfall, riverine flooding, and coastal surge flooding.
100-year Flood Estimates	Estimated 100-year floodplains for the Conterminous US for 2016
Sea Level Rise	Land at risk of permanent flooding when sea level rises.
Extreme Heat	Average Annual Days above 90° (over the past 5-years)

## **Critical Service Gaps Indicators**

Indicator	Definition
Food Desert	Low income and low access to food from USDA
Lack of Health Insurance	Percent of all persons without Health Insurance Coverage
Broadband Internet Gaps	Areas where less than 50% of population has broadband
Housing Burden	Share of households that are both earning less than 80% of HUD's Area Median Family Income and are spending more than 30% of their income on housing costs.
Transportation Access	Average of four transportation-related indicator percentiles, including Transportation Cost Burden, National Walkability Index, Percentage of Households with No Vehicle Available, and Mean Commute Time to Work

## **Results are Ranked as Percentiles**

- Percentiles put indicators into common units of o 100.
- A place at the 8oth percentile nationwide means 20% of the US population has a higher value.
- Ranking values as percentiles allows comparison of indicators measured with different units. <u>It does not mean</u> <u>the risks are equal or comparable</u>.

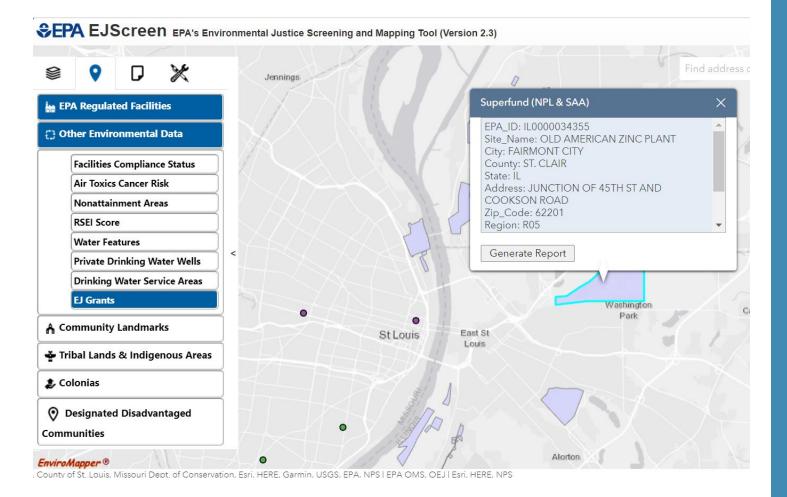


## **EJScreen Places**

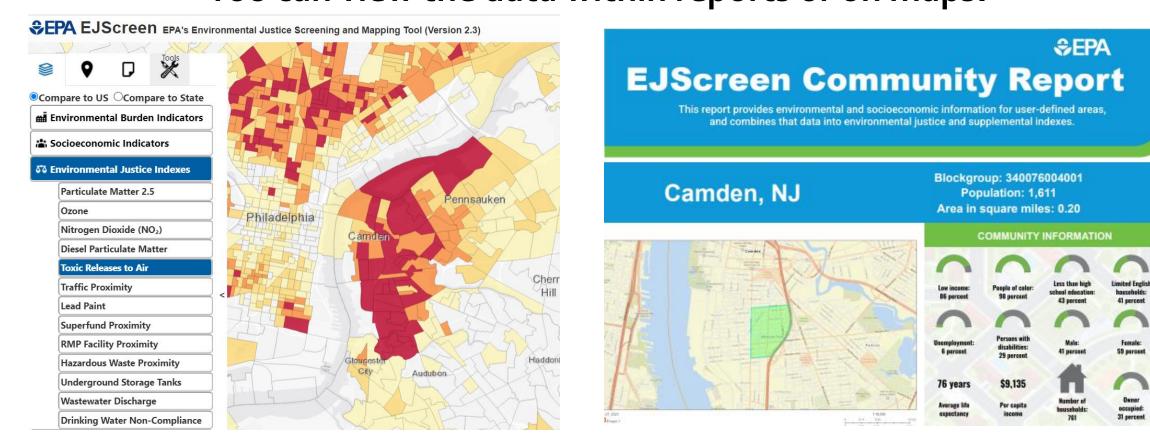
## Locations of community interest can be overlayed on the maps

- EPA regulated facilities
- Environmental Data
  - Cancer Risk
  - EJ Grants
- Community Points of Interest
  Places of worship

  - Hospitals
  - Parks
  - Public housing
- Tribal lands
- Colonias
- Justice40/IRA Layers



## Viewing EJScreen Data You can view the data within reports or on maps.



A map gives you one indicator at a time, for each of the block groups within a larger geography A Community report gives you all the indicators at once for a single specified location

# **EJScreen Community Report**

- Four 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	1	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

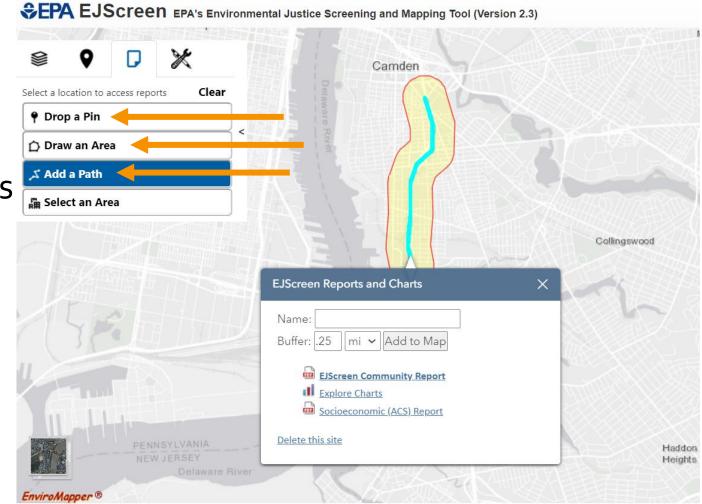
CRITICAL SERVICE GAPS					
INDICATOR	HEALTH VALUE	STATE AVERAGE	STATE PERCENTILE	US AVERAGE	US PERCENTILE
Broadband Internet	36%	10%	96	14%	93
Lack of Health Insurance	13%	7%	82	9%	п
Housing Burden	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Transportation Access	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Food Desert	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

otnotes

Report for Blockgroup: 340076004001

# **Generating a Report**

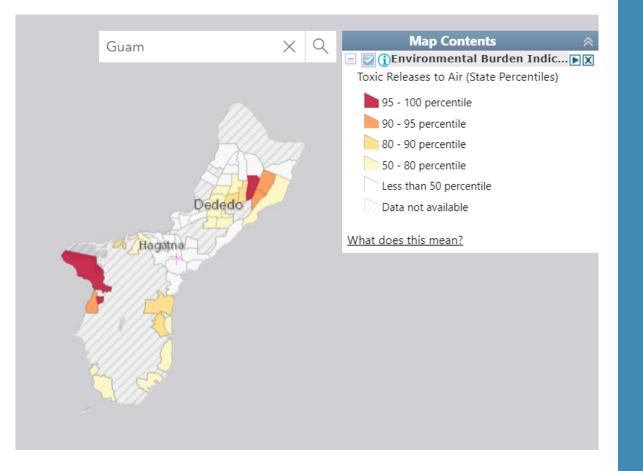
- Ability for user to define area of assessment
  - Buffer around a pin
  - User-drawn areas/polygons
    - Plumes of pollution, routes of exposure
  - User-drawn paths
    - Impaired waters, highway segments



City of Philadelphia, State of New Jersey, Esri, HERE, Garmin, GeoTechnologies, Inc., USGS, EPA | Esri, HERE

# **Territory Data**

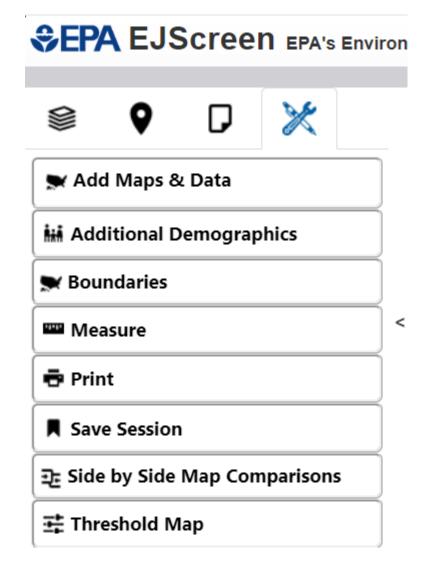
- EJScreen features data on US Virgin
   Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and
   Northern Mariana Islands
- Includes select environmental indicators, socioeconomics & associated indexes
- Important addition for the consideration of EJ in **all** places within the U.S.
- Data is compared at "state" level due to different censuses and available datasets



# **Territory Data** Available environmental datasets include:

	American Samoa	NMI	Guam	U.S. Virgin Islands
PM 2.5	No	No	No	No
Ozone	No	No	No	No
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO <sub>2</sub> )	No	No	No	No
Diesel Particulate Matter	No	No	No	No
Toxic Releases to Air	<mark>Yes</mark>	<mark>Yes</mark>	<mark>Yes</mark>	<mark>Yes</mark>
Traffic Proximity	No	No	No	No
Lead Paint	<mark>Yes</mark>	<mark>Yes</mark>	<mark>Yes</mark>	<mark>Yes</mark>
Superfund Proximity	No	No	<mark>Yes</mark>	<mark>Yes</mark>
<b>RMP Facility Proximity</b>	No	No	<mark>Yes</mark>	<mark>Yes</mark>
Hazardous Waste Proximity	No	<mark>Yes</mark>	<mark>Yes</mark>	<mark>Yes</mark>
Underground Storage Tanks	<mark>Yes</mark>	<mark>Yes</mark>	<mark>Yes</mark>	
Wastewater Discharge	No	No	No	No
Drinking Water Non- Compliance	No	No	No	No

## **EJScreen Tools**



 Tools built into EJScreen make for a user-friendly experience

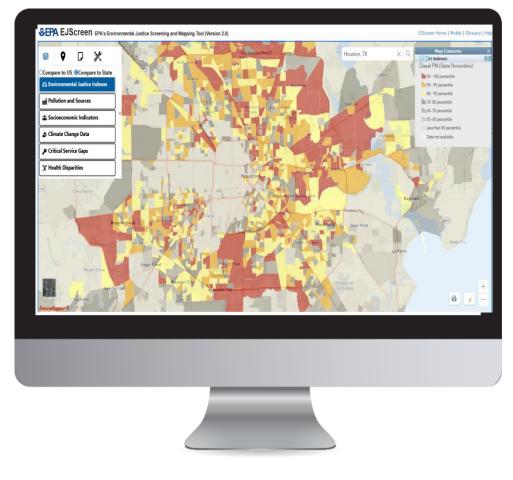
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## **EJScreen Resources**

## • EJScreen website

## • <u>Trainings and Office Hours</u>

- July 10<sup>th</sup> at 12pm EST (Public Training)
- July 17<sup>th</sup> at 12pm EST (EPA Training)
- July 24<sup>th</sup> at 12pm EST (Public Training)
- August 7<sup>th</sup> at 12pm EST (EPA Office Hours)
- August 14<sup>th</sup> at 12 pm EST (EPA Training)
- August 21<sup>st</sup> at 12pm EST (Public Office Hours)
- EJScreen Technical Document
- Download EJScreen Data
- EJScreen Map Services
- EJScreen API



Click to access EJScreen Tool

## **Questions?**

## **Contact Information**

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Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights