

Environmental Justice: Race, Poverty, and the Environment

Exploring environmental justice issues impacting Washington State communities and possible solutions

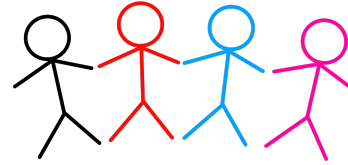
Edmund Seto

March 23, 2021

Cumulative Environmental Health Impacts

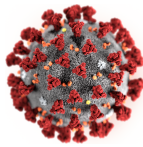


Environmental
Hazards,
Emissions,
Contamination,
and Exposures

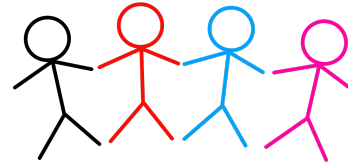


Health Impacts
on Individuals
and Communities

Cumulative Environmental Health Impacts

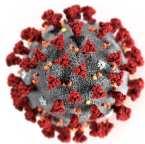


Environmental
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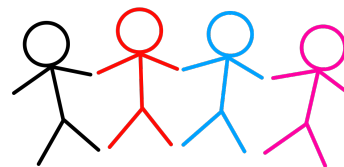
Health Impacts
on Individuals
and Communities

Cumulative Environmental Health Impacts



- Do these disproportionately impact certain groups?
- How vulnerable/resilient is the population?
- Do environmental policies and regulations offer protection?
- Can we mitigate these impacts?
- What was the history for why there's a source of pollution?

Environmental
Hazards,
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Health Impacts
on Individuals
and Communities

Partnerships, Inspirations, and Goals

- > Cumulative Impact Assessment
- > US EPA EJ Screen
- > CalEPA OEHHA CalEnviroScreen
- > Creating a policy-relevant tool
- > Avoiding stigma, but moving towards data transparency and collective action
- > Statewide interactive mapping tool of environmental health determinants at the census tract level
- > Grassroots, bottom-up driven to better reflect the lived experience of our communities



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A Community-Engaged Approach

- > Esther Min, PhD student, UW DEOHS
- > 11 community listening sessions in different parts of the state



Front and Centered

2017 Community Listening Sessions:

Pollution, Climate Change, and the Puget Sound



Listening Sessions

- > **Involved Front & Centered Partnering Organizations**
- > **Multi-cultural/lingual conversations about pollution, climate change, sensitivity, and resilience.**

What kinds of pollution, if any, are impacting your life or work and that of your family and community?

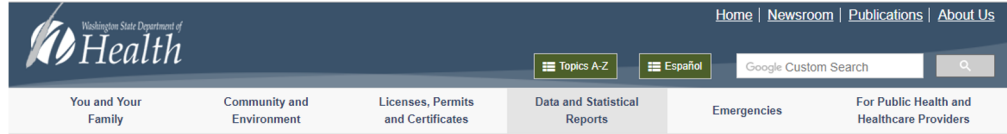
What factors best show if your community is healthy or doing well compared to other communities?

Organization	Date	Location	Participant Information	Participant Count	Language	Issues
OneAmerica	7/31/2017	Vancouver	Latinx from Fruit Valley and surrounding neighborhoods	20	Spanish/English	Pollution, Climate, Puget Sound
Chaplains on the Harbor	8/15/2017 8/20/2017	Westport & Aberdeen	Homeless, Incarcerated, Native, Latinx, from Grays Harbor County	9	English	Pollution, Climate, Puget Sound
Community to Community	8/17/2017	Bellingham	Farm Workers, Latinx, Youth from Whatcom and Skagit County.	15	Spanish	Pollution, Climate, Puget Sound
Latino Community Fund	8/18/2017	Ellensburg	Latinx youth, from central Washington	29	Spanish/English	Pollution, Climate, Puget Sound
Entre Hermanos	8/23/2017	Seattle	Latinx from Seattle metropolitan area	12	Spanish	Pollution, Climate, Puget Sound
Na'ah Illahee Fund	8/25/2017 9/7/2017	Port Angeles & Yakima	Native, from Peninsula, central and eastern Washington	7	Various/English	Pollution, Climate, Puget Sound
Mother Africa	8/25/2017	Kent	North African / Arab from south King County	12	Arabic/English	Pollution, Climate
NAACP Snohomish	9/9/2017	Everett	African American, various from Snohomish County	10	English	Pollution, Climate
Asian Pacific Cultural Center	11/13/2017	Pierce County	Asian Pacific Islanders from Pierce County	44	Korean/English	Pollution, Climate, Puget Sound

THE 18 INDICATORS

Environmental exposures	Environmental effects	Sensitive populations	Socioeconomic factors
Diesel emissions Ozone	Lead risk and exposure	Cardiovascular disease	Low educational attainment
Particulate matter 2.5 (PM2.5)	Proximity to hazardous waste generators and facilities	Low birth weight infants	Housing burden
Toxic releases from facilities	Proximity to Superfund sites		Transportation cost
Traffic density	Proximity to facilities with highly toxic substances		Linguistic isolation
	Wastewater discharge		Poverty
			Race (people of color)
			Unemployment

Washington Tracking Network



★ [Data and Statistical Reports](#) > [Environmental Health](#) > [Washington Tracking Network \(WTN\)](#)

Washington Tracking Network (WTN)

Air Quality

Asthma

Biomonitoring

Birth Outcomes

Body Mass Index

Cancer

Carbon Monoxide

Climate Change

Community Characteristics

Drinking Water

Heart Attack

Heat Stress

Information by Location

Washington Tracking Network (WTN)

Welcome to WTN, your source for environmental and public health data.

[Search WTN Data](#)

Sort, export, chart and map data for environmental and public health measures. [Search data](#) now



[Information by Location \(IBL\)](#)

Explore community rankings for topics such as health disparities (differences) and lead exposure risk. View [Information by Location](#) tool now.



[WTN Dashboards](#)

View WTN data in a new way. Like our current tools, these [dashboards](#) have maps, charts and graphs. You can see these features in the same view.



[WTN On The Go](#)

Use your phone or tablet to view our new [tool](#) for environmental health topics, such as radon. Touch the maps to see data for your community.



Find it at:

<https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/wtn/WTNIBL/>

Go Back to Topic Selection

Environmental Health Disparities V 1.1

lhl

Environmental Exposures

lhl

Environmental Effects

lhl

Socioeconomic Factors

lhl

Sensitive Populations

lhl

Map of Washington state showing Environmental Health Disparities V 1.1. The map is color-coded by rank, with a legend on the right showing ranks 1 to 10. The map shows various counties and cities, with a scale bar at the bottom left and a 'Go Back to Topic Selection' button at the top left.

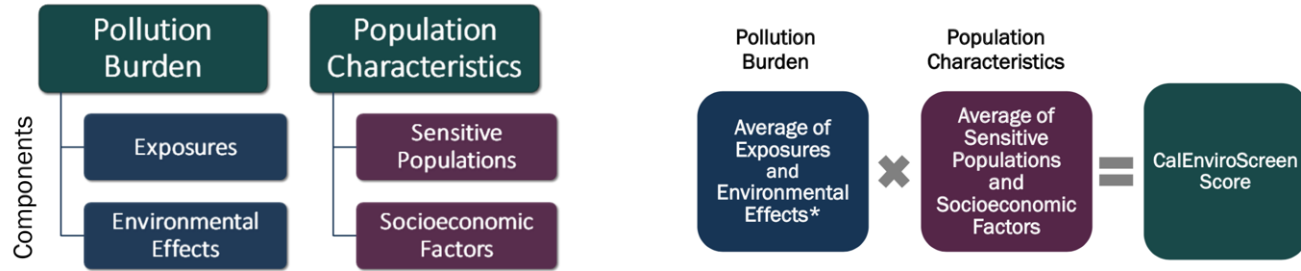
Legend: Rank High (10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1) Low

Scale: 0 15 30mi

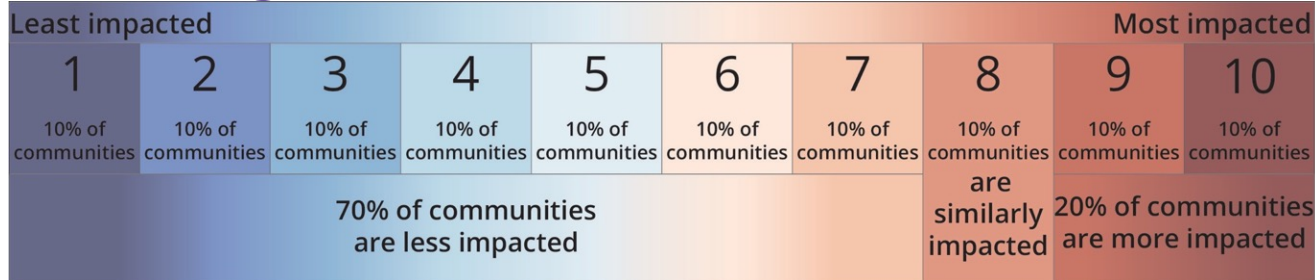
Earth Map

Cumulative Impacts Approach

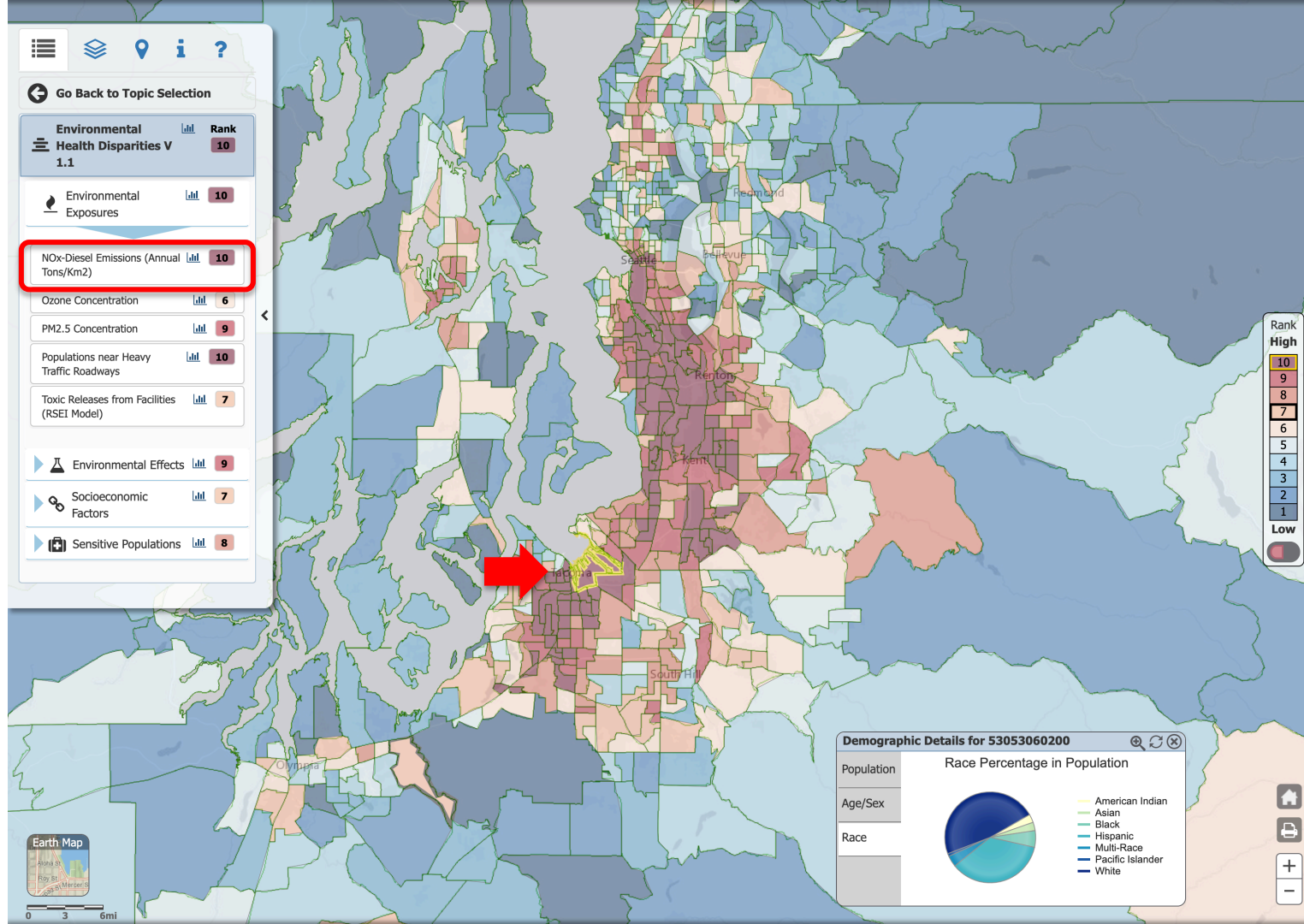
- Similar to CalEnviroScreen, the WA Environmental Health Disparities Map uses a cumulative impacts approach:



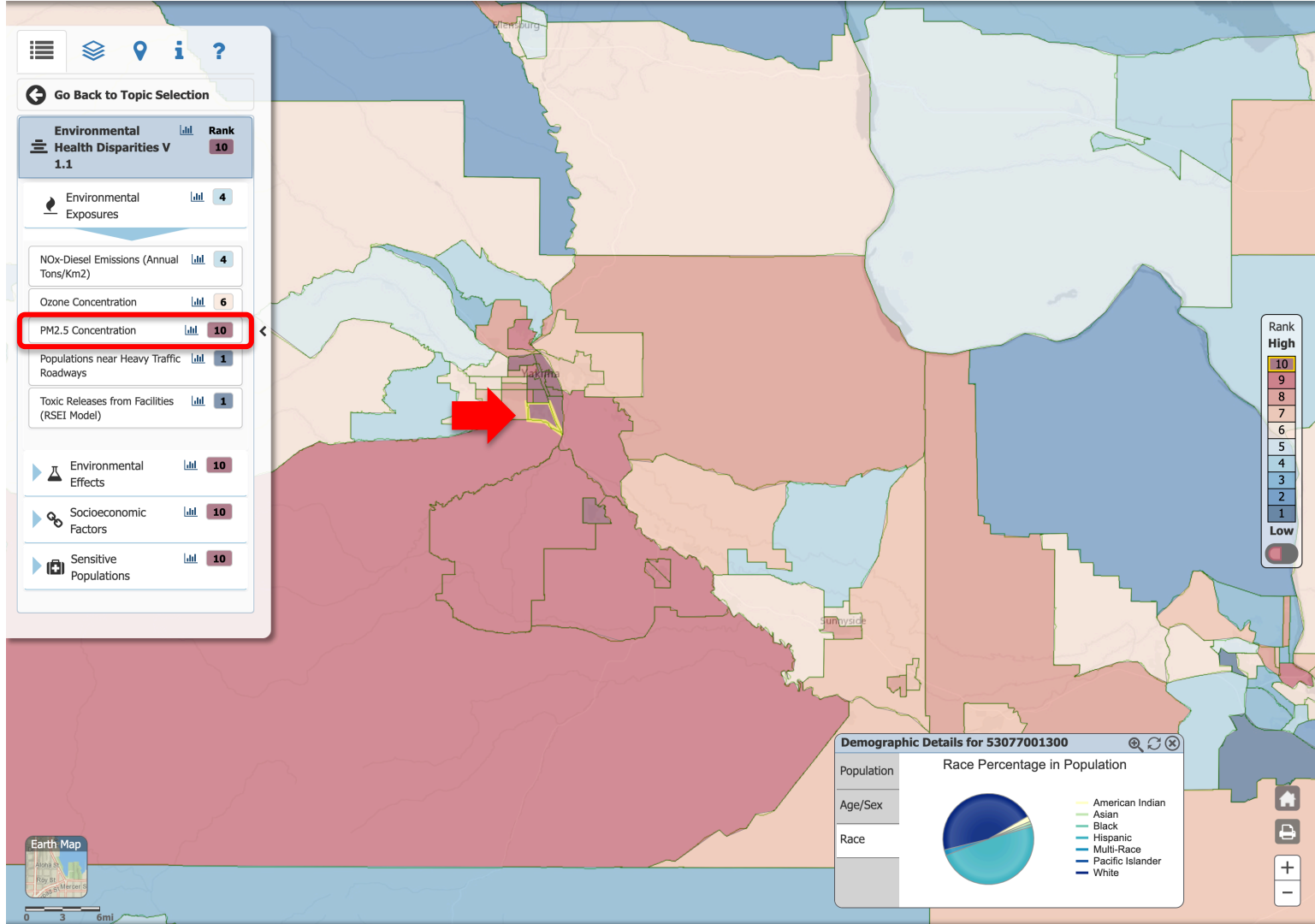
Ranking



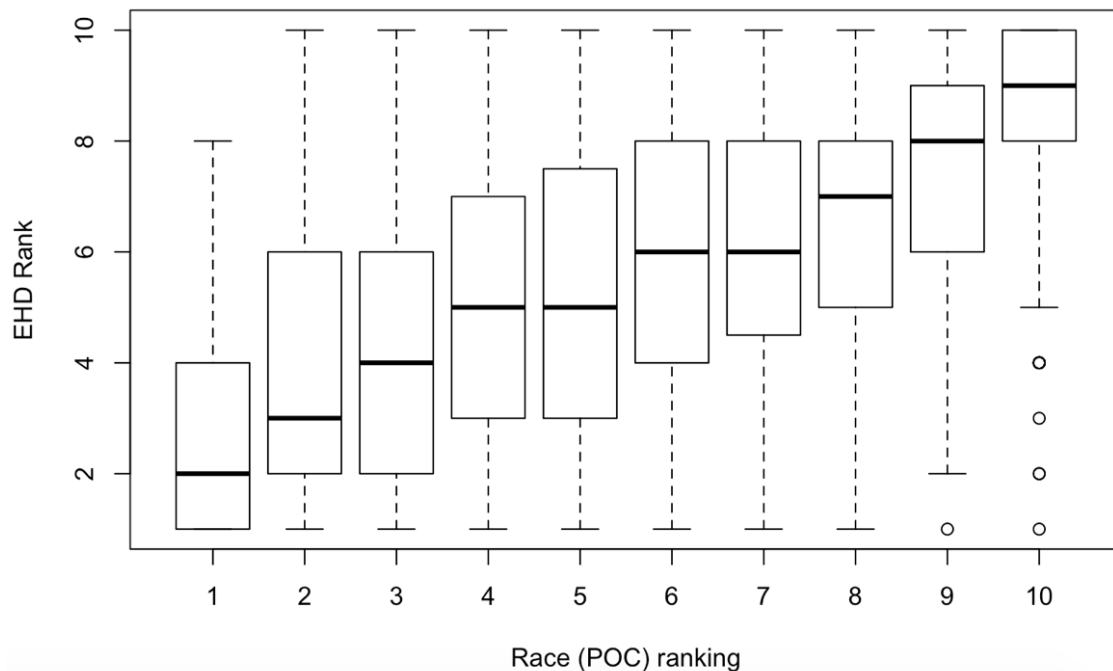
A census tract in Tacoma



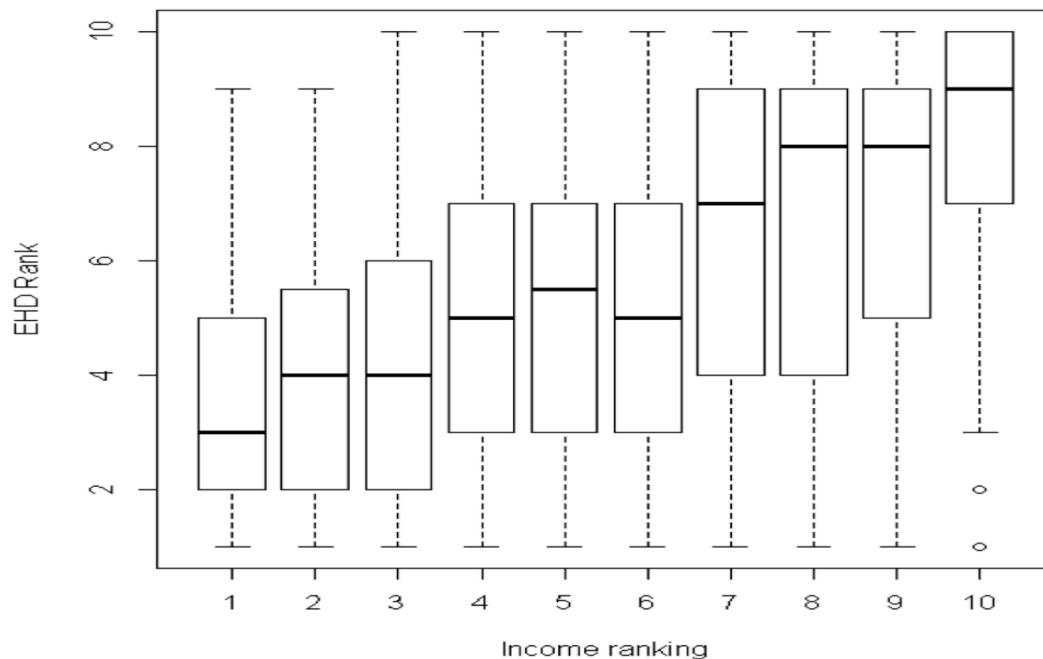
A census tract in Yakima County



WA Environmental Health Disparities Impact on People of Color (POC)



WA Environmental Health Disparities Impact on Low Income Populations



Thank you

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