

# EJSCREEN EPA's Environmental Justice Screening Tool



EJSCREEN

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EPA'S ENVIRONMENTAL  
SCREENING TOOL

# | Overview of the Presentation

EJSCREEN Background

Data in EJSCREEN

EJSCREEN Maps and Reports

How is EJSCREEN Used?

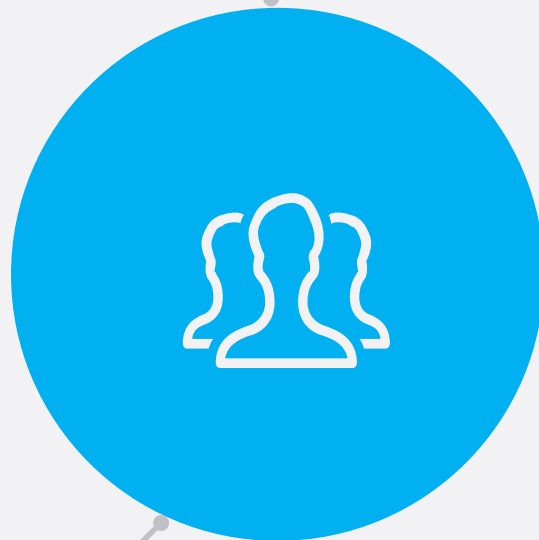
Future of EJSCREEN

Demo of New features in the tool

# About Vulnerability

How we...

are born  
grow  
live  
learn  
work  
play



distribution factors

Race  
Ethnicity  
Social Standing  
Income  
Education

social  
determinants

# About Susceptibility

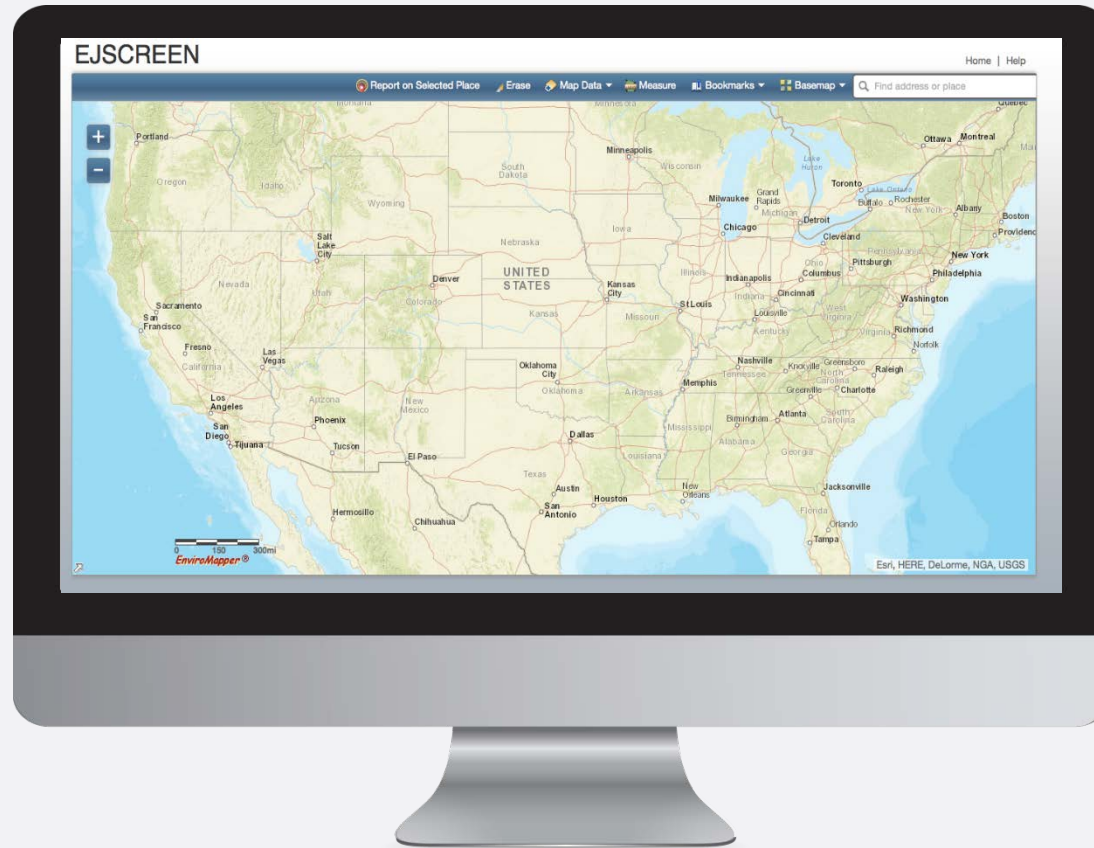


# Vulnerability factors shape susceptibility



# EJSCREEN

## Key Features



### EJ Indexes

Combine demographic and environmental data to highlight vulnerable/susceptible populations



### Annually Updated Data

from most recent U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey (ACS).



### Accessible and Intuitive

Standard printable reports, maps, and bar graphs



### High Resolution Data

Census block group and tracts for units of analysis

# Timeline on EJSCREEN Development

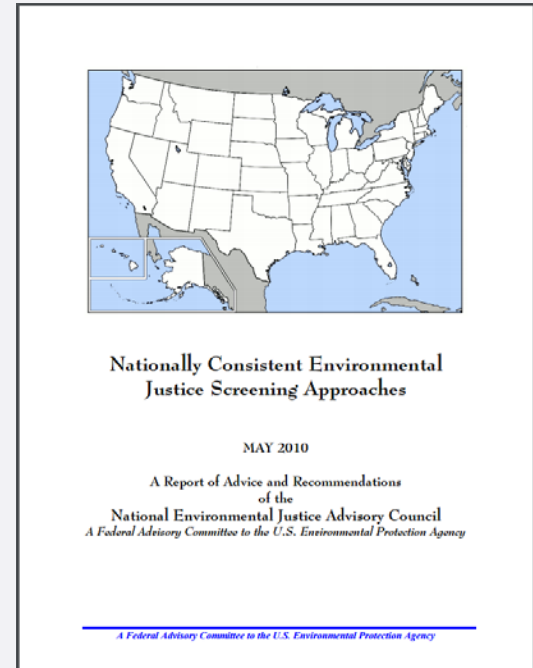
**2010:** EPA begins building nationally consistent EJ screening tool

**2011:** Commitment made in [Plan EJ 2014](#)

**2011:** National Environmental Justice Advisory Committee report released on EJ screening methods

**2013:** Peer reviewed by experts in 2013

**2015:** Released to public in 2015



*Click to read the full NEJAC report*



# EJSCREEN Post Release Public Engagement

- Collected hundreds of public comments
- Engaged extensively with stakeholders and experts
- Presented at conferences, workshops, trainings
- All changes to tool grounded in feedback from public



*EPA's Chuck Swanson presenting EJSCREEN to EJ stakeholders*

## | Understand these caveats before using

- EJSCREEN does not identify “EJ communities.”
- Environmental indicators are mostly screening-level proxies for actual exposure or risk.
- Indicators vary in vintage. Estimates are based on historical data. and may not reflect current or future conditions.
- EJSCREEN does not cover all environmental issues.

# 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.



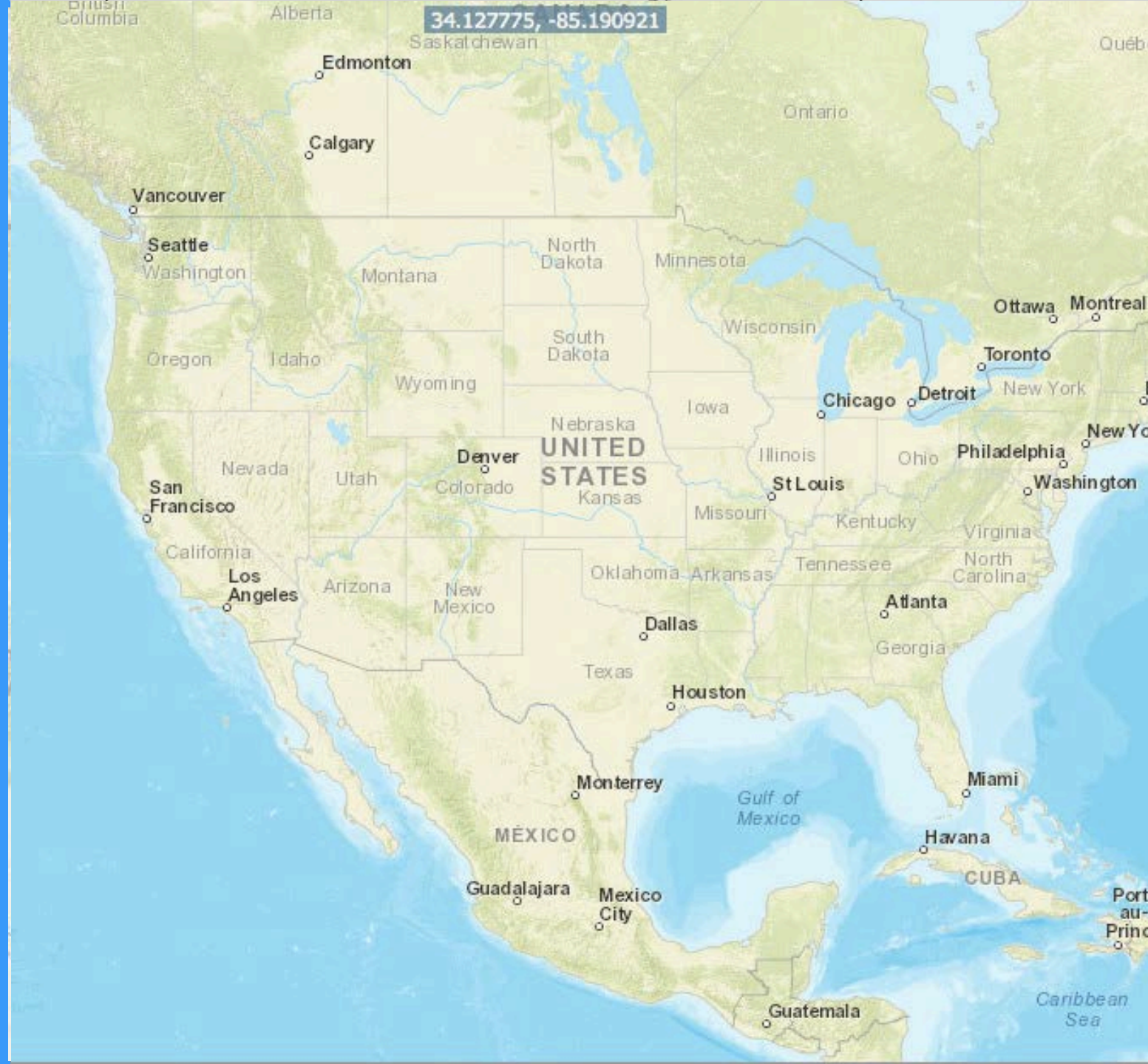
Block Group

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

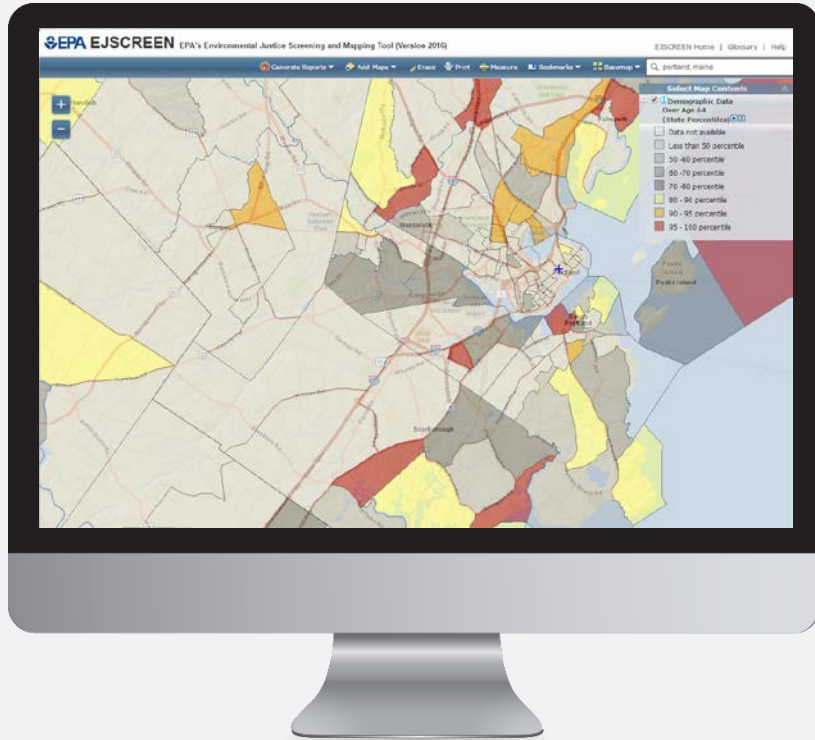


Block

Residential block, bounded on all sides by streets.



# Demographic Indicators



**Indicator:** Individuals over age 64

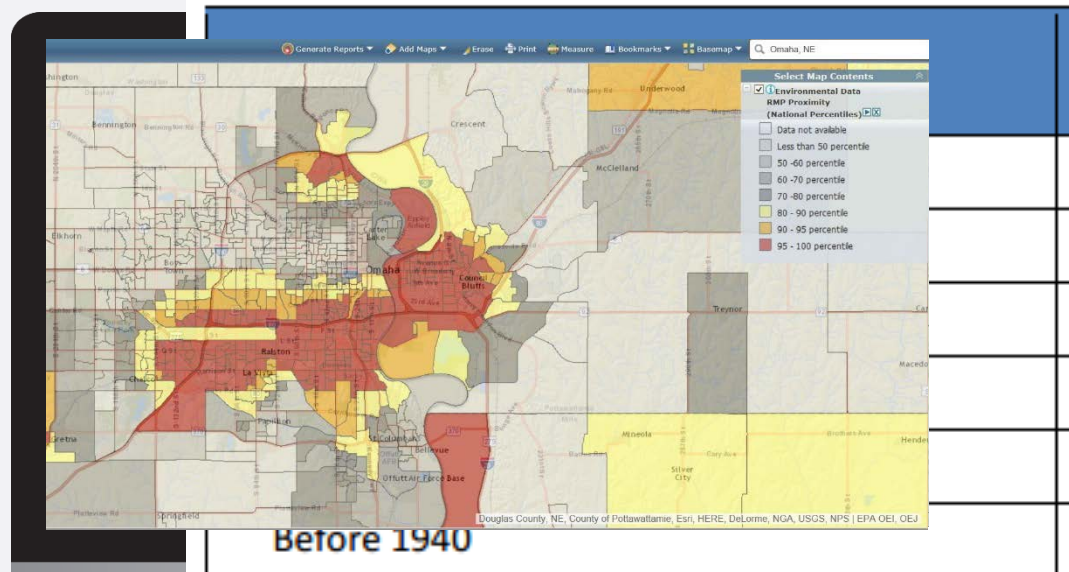
**Date:** 2010 - 2014

**Definition:** People in a block group over the age of 64.



# Environmental Indicators

Table 3. Likelihood of Lead-Based Paint Hazards b



Source: Jacobs et al. (2002). A "significant lead-based paint hazard" is defined as lead levels in paint exceeding 0.06% by weight. The map shows areas with lead-based paint hazards at minimis levels as defined in U.S. EPA and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) criteria.

**Indicator:** Proximity to Risk Management Plan Facilities (RMP)

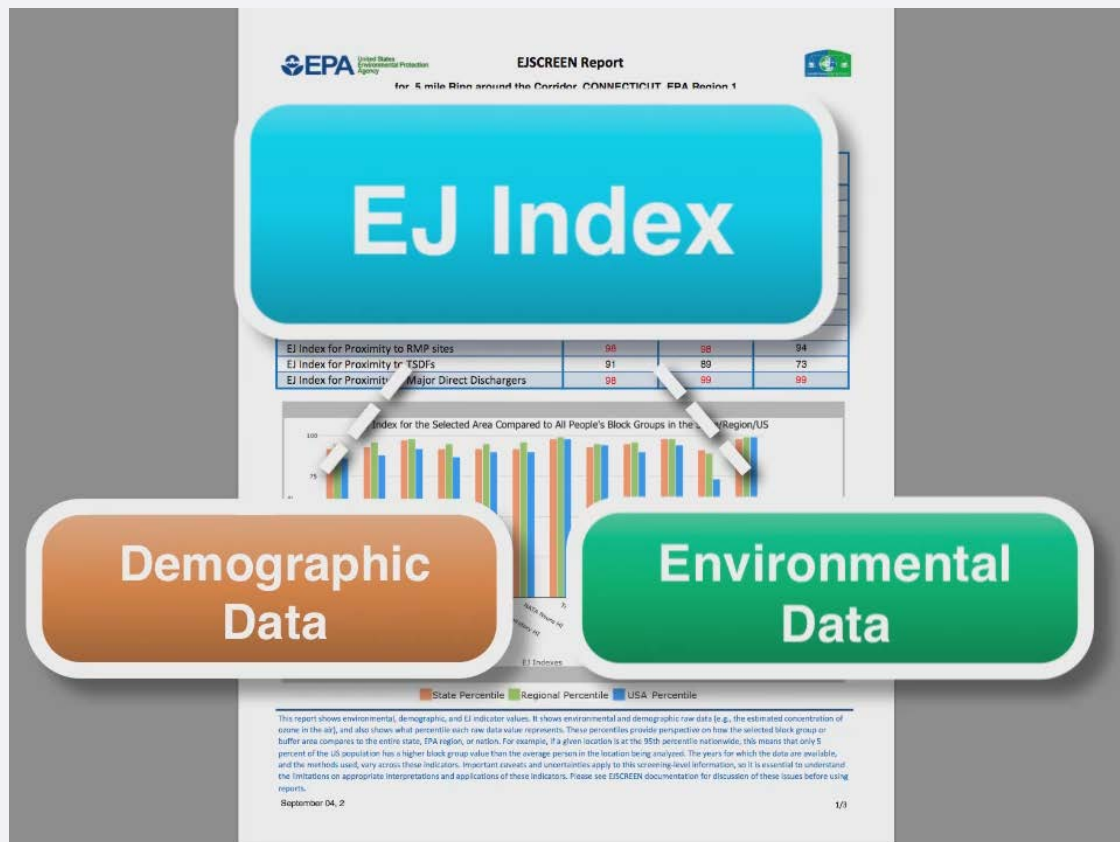
**Date:** 2015

**Description:** The environmental indicator for "RMP facilities" is for facilities required to file risk management plans

**Source(s):** Industrial facilities storing substances regulated because of acute toxicity or because of their flammable or explosive potential

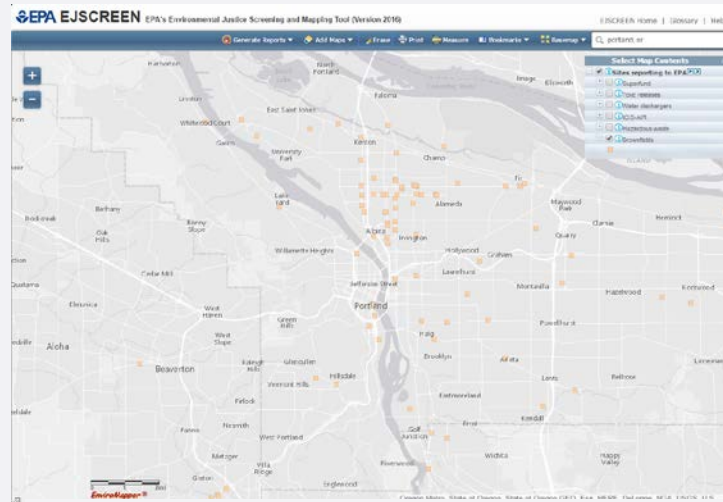
**Public Health Issue:** Populations living in close proximity to RMP facilities may be more vulnerable to accidental releases of toxic substances and incidents involving fires and explosions can result from the production, use, or transport of industrial materials. Evacuations, injuries and deaths have resulted in some cases

# EJ Indexes

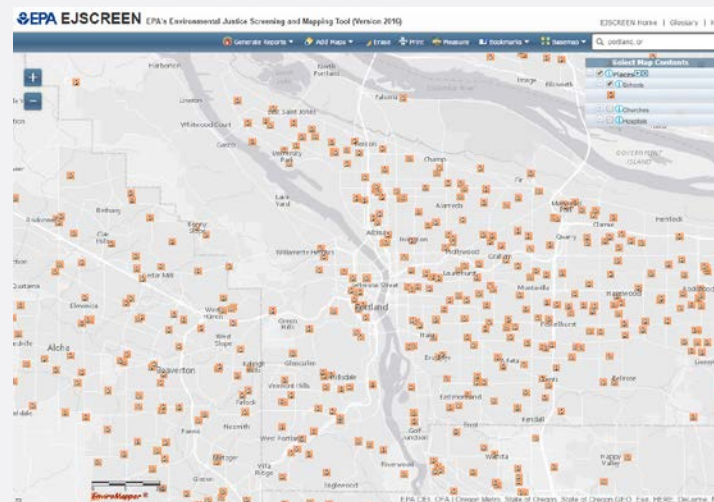


EJ indexes combine **environmental** and **demographic** data to highlight areas where vulnerable/susceptible populations may be disproportionately impacted by pollution.

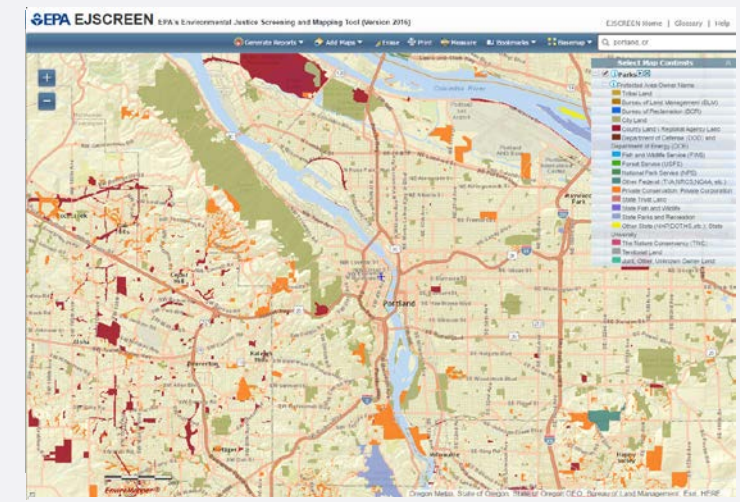
# EJSCREEN Maps and Map Layers



EPA designated brownfield sites

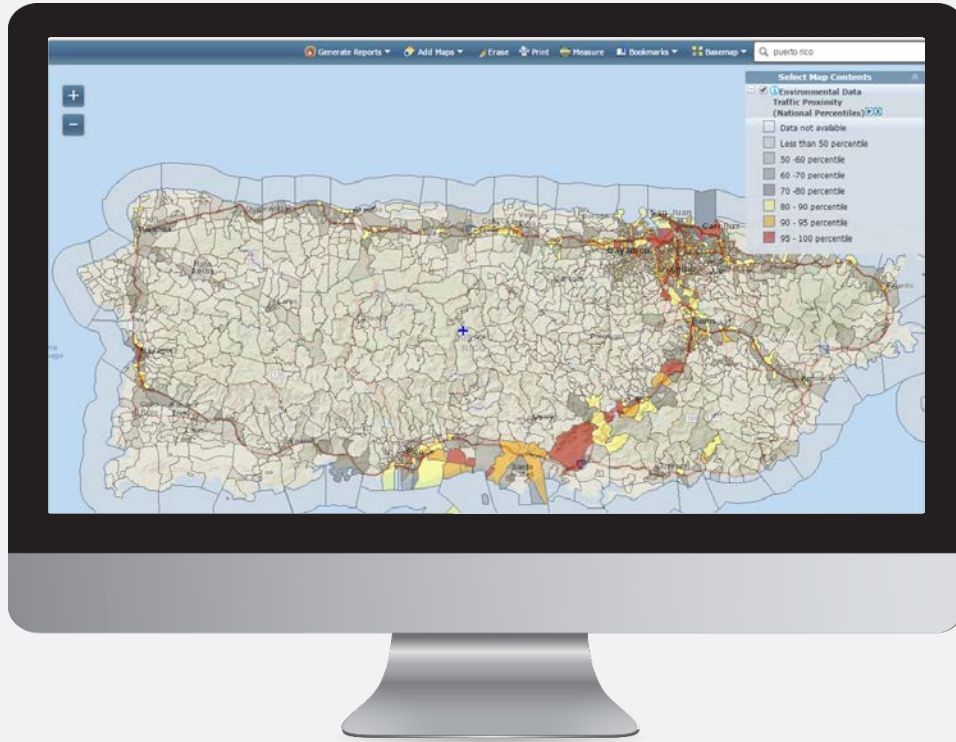


Map of buildings used as an institution for study, teaching, and learning



Map of Parks

# Additional New Features in EJSCREEN



*Traffic proximity in Puerto Rico mapped*

- Added Puerto Rico environmental and demographic data (but not compared to the U.S.)
- Improved glossary (hover-able definitions)
- Multiple changes to improve the interface and usability
- Button to print screen or save as an image file
- Added ability to save work in progress
- Allows user to view/compare two locations or reports on locations side-by-side
- Statistics reported for tracts and counties
- Custom cut-offs for demographics
- Scalable maps, from block groups to counties
- Maps now compare to the state as well as rest of country
- Reports for counties or multiple block groups



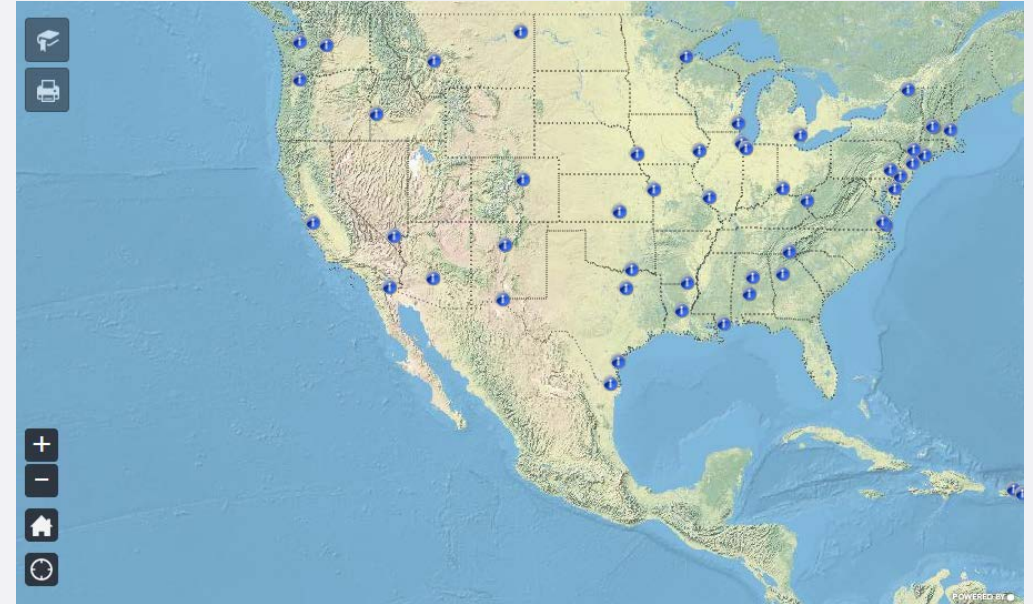
# EJSCREEN in Action at EPA

EJ analyses

Prioritization

Community outreach

Evaluating areas for place-based  
work



*Click to see the locations of the 50 MVD  
communities*

# EJSCREEN Case Use Challenge



The U.S. EPA invites you to participate in the upcoming

# EJSCREEN | 2016 IMPACT SURVEY

## What?

With the release of EJSCREEN 2016, the Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ) at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is excited to announce the launch of the EJSCREEN Impact Survey! The goals of this survey are twofold: 1.) To capture and highlight how the public is using EJSCREEN to support their analysis of potential environmental justice concerns; and 2.) To identify opportunities for improvement to EJSCREEN. Your support and continued feedback on EPA's environmental justice screening tool is invaluable, and so we want to hear from you on how EJSCREEN is impacting your work.

## When?

Submission Dates: 10 am EST, July 1, 2016 – 12 am EST, August 15, 2016

## How do I register?

Stay tuned by following the Environmental Justice ListServ and we will post more details soon!



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## Future of EJSCREEN

- Continued public engagement and evaluation
  - EJSCREEN Impact Survey
- Continue incorporating into EPA programs, activities, resources
  - i.e. EJ 2020, CPP, MVD
- Support partners looking to use EJSCREEN to consider environmental justice
- Improved training and access to learning materials

# List of EPA EJSCREEN Contacts

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