Environmental Health Disparities (EHD) Map

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2022 Northwest Remediation Conference

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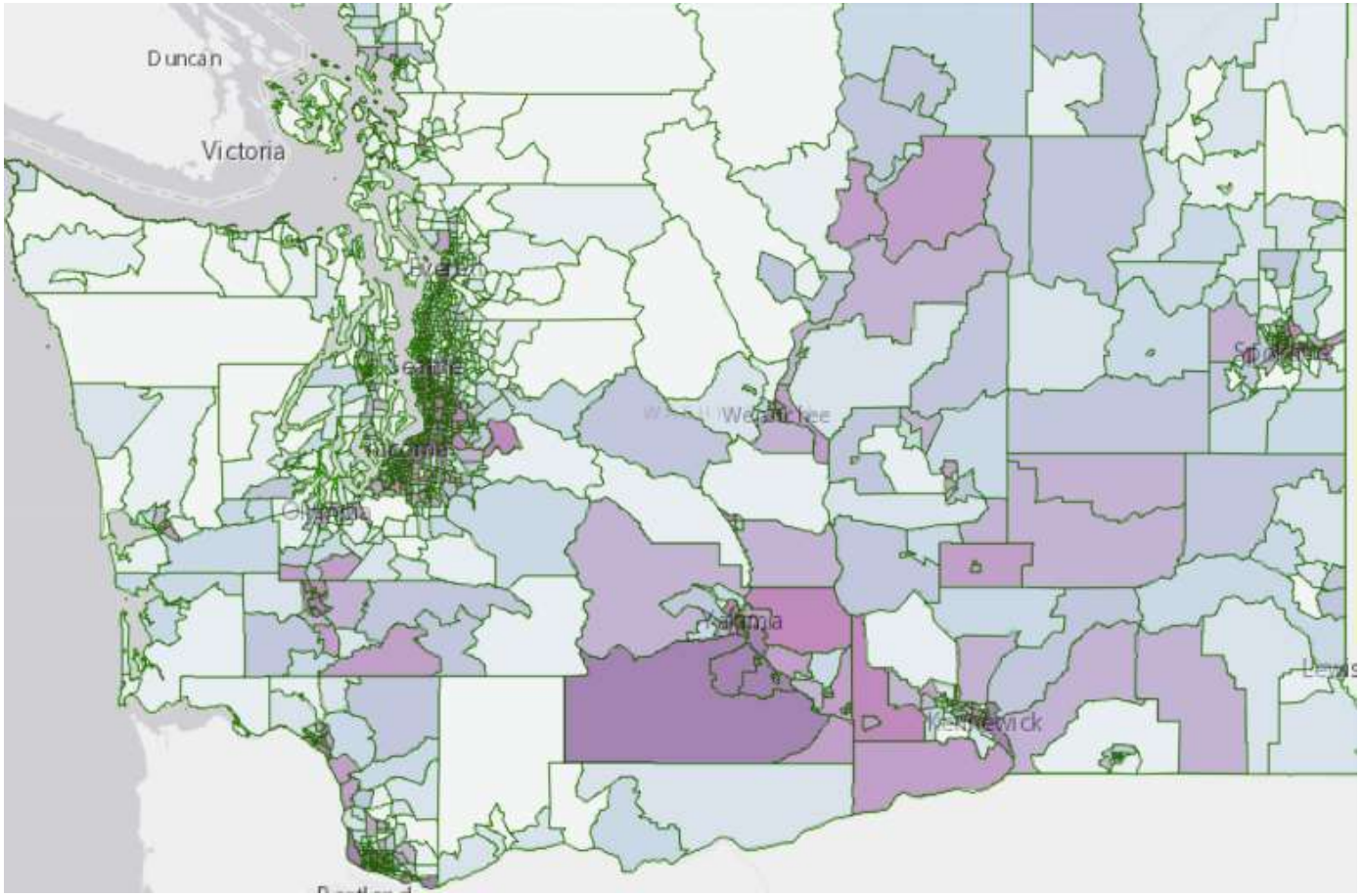
Objectives

1. History of the Environmental Health Disparities (EHD) map
2. EHD map methodology and cumulative impact model
3. Policy and programmatic uses of EHD map
4. EHD map demo

Prioritizing Health Equity and Environmental Justice



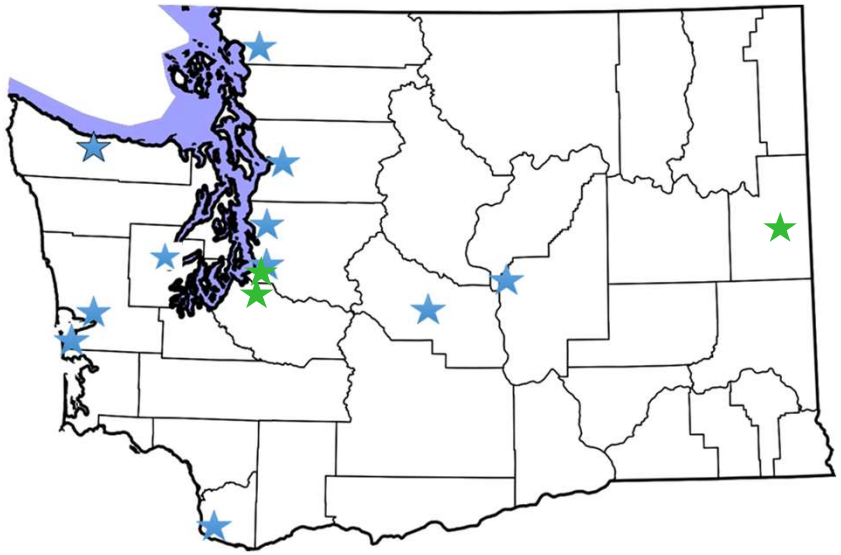
WA Environmental Health Disparities (EHD) Map

Centered Around Environmental and Climate Justice

Partnership

Listening Sessions & Community Conversations

- Communities of color
- Households with lower incomes
- Immigrants and refugees
- Linguistically isolated groups



★ 2017 Listening Sessions
★ 2020 Community Conversations

The Indicators

Environmental exposures

Diesel emissions

Ozone

Particulate matter 2.5 (PM2.5)

Toxic releases from facilities

Traffic density

Environmental effects

Lead risk and exposure

Proximity to hazardous waste generators and facilities

Proximity to Superfund sites

Proximity to facilities with highly toxic substances

Wastewater discharge

Sensitive populations

Cardiovascular disease

Low birth weight

Socioeconomic factors

Low educational attainment

Housing burden

Transportation expense

Linguistic isolation

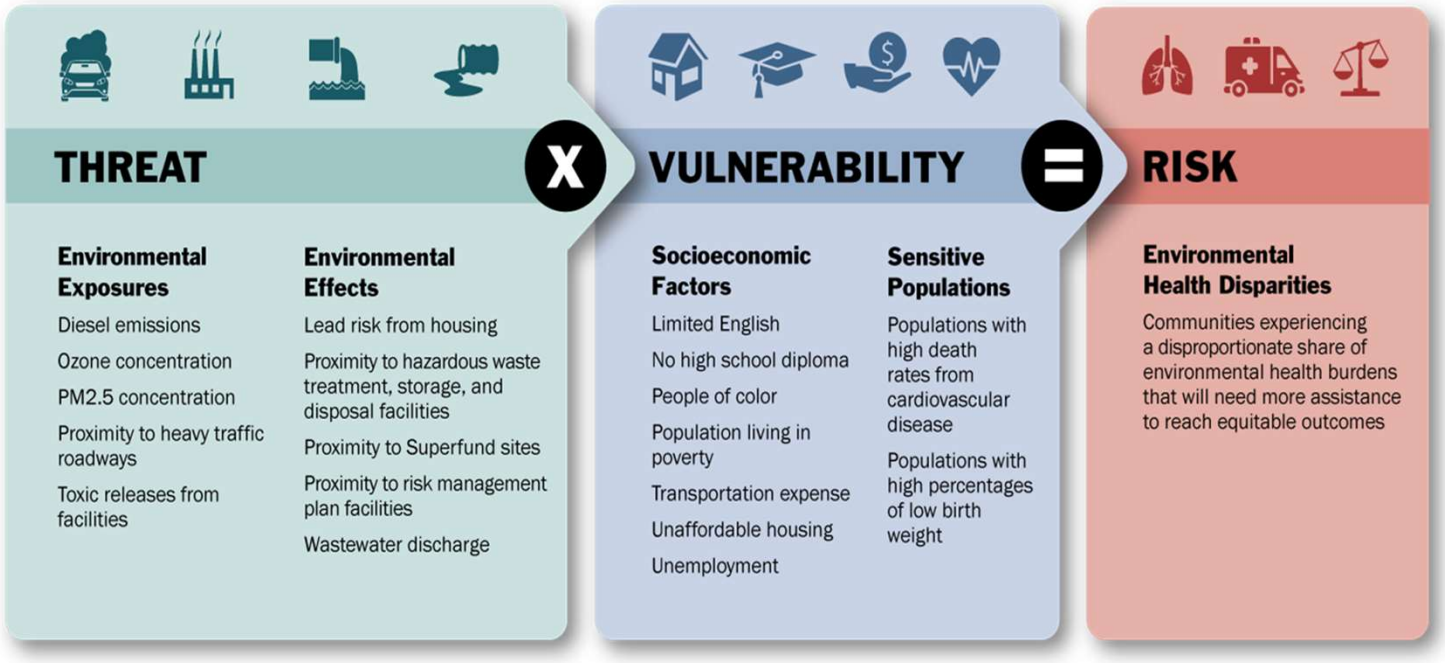
Poverty

Race (people of color)

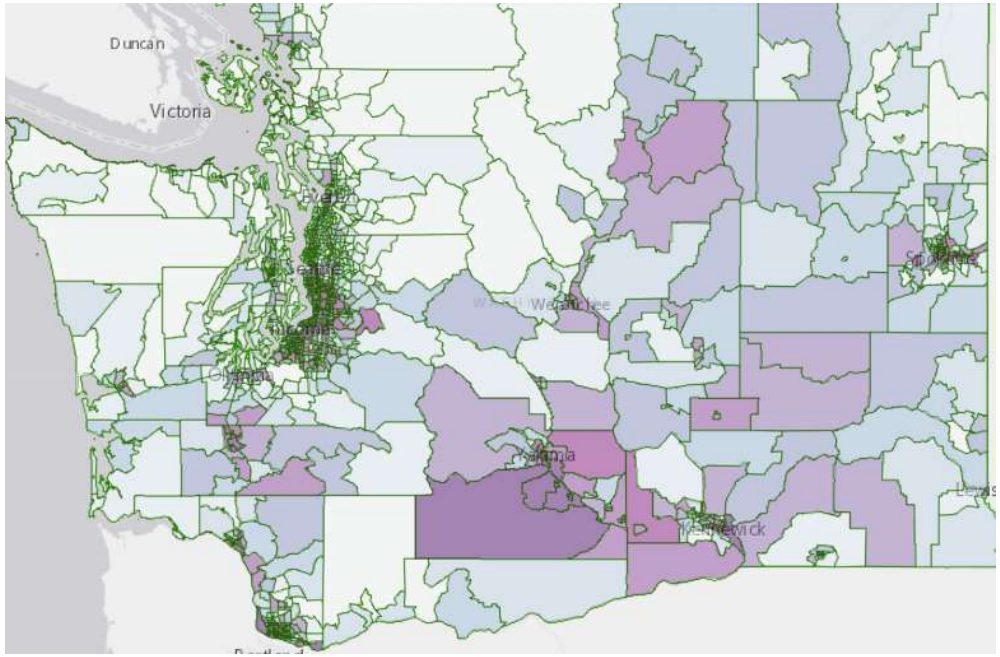
Unemployment

Model for EHD Map

Threat x Vulnerability = Risk

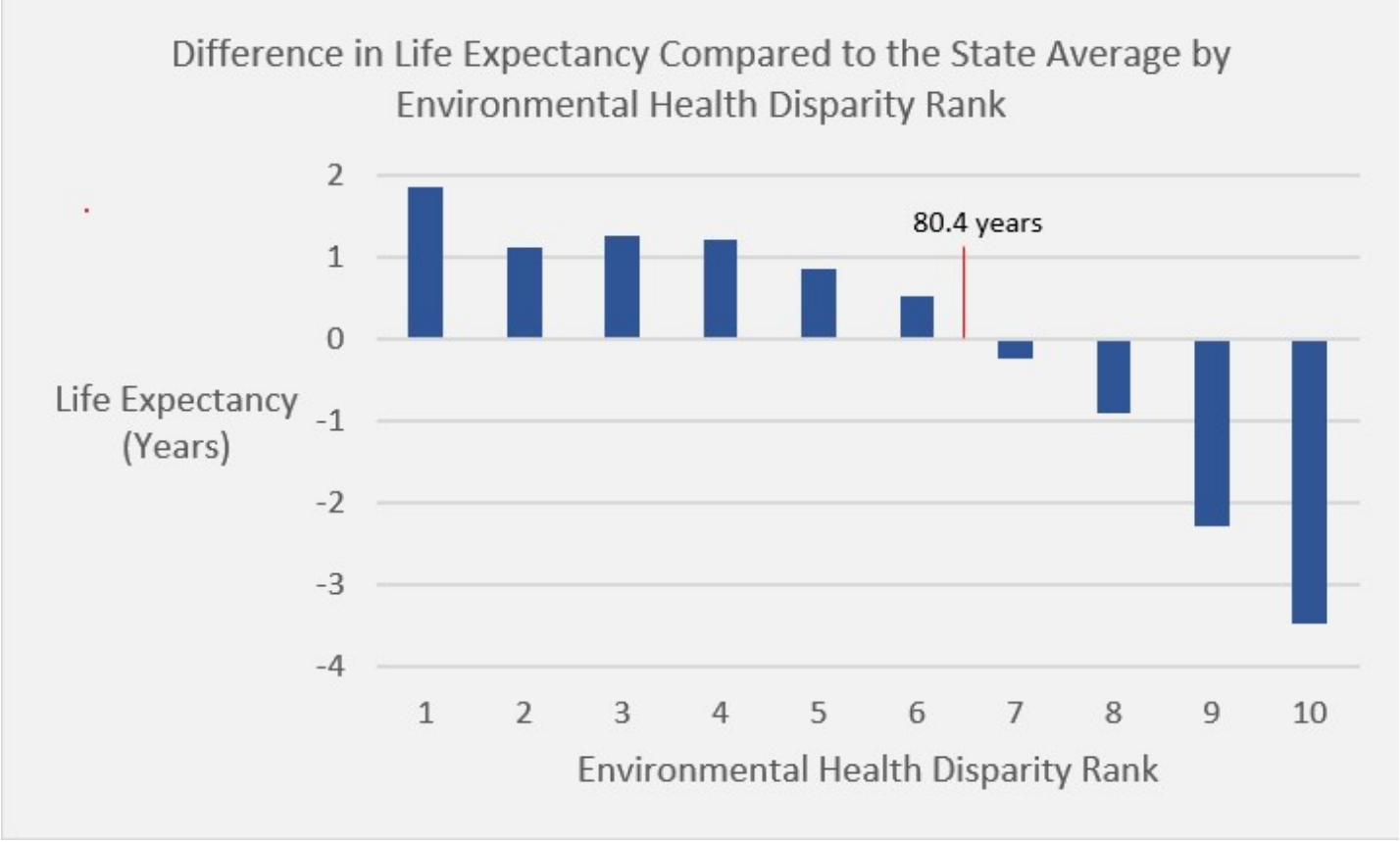


EHD Map Ranking



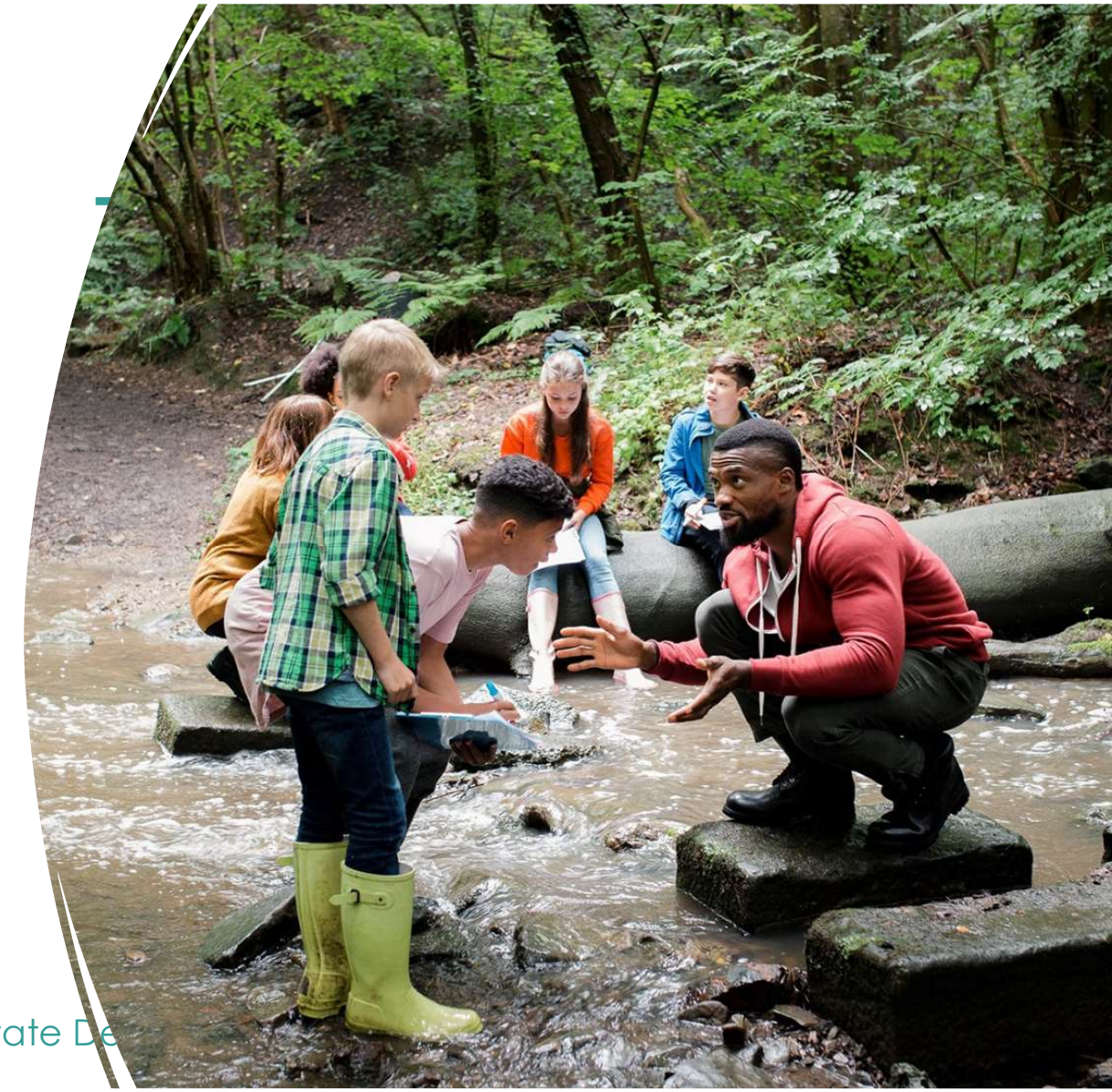
Least impacted									**Most** impacted
1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10**
10% of communities	10% of communities	10% of communities	10% of communities	10% of communities	10% of communities	10% of communities	10% of communities	10% of communities	10% of communities
70% of communities are less impacted							are similarly impacted	20% of communities are more impacted	

Addressing EJ Means Addressing Health Inequities



Policy and Programmatic Uses of EHD Map

- Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA)
- Healthy Environment for All (HEAL) Act
- Climate Commitment Act



Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA)

CETA commits Washington to an **electricity supply free** of **greenhouse gas** emissions by 2045.

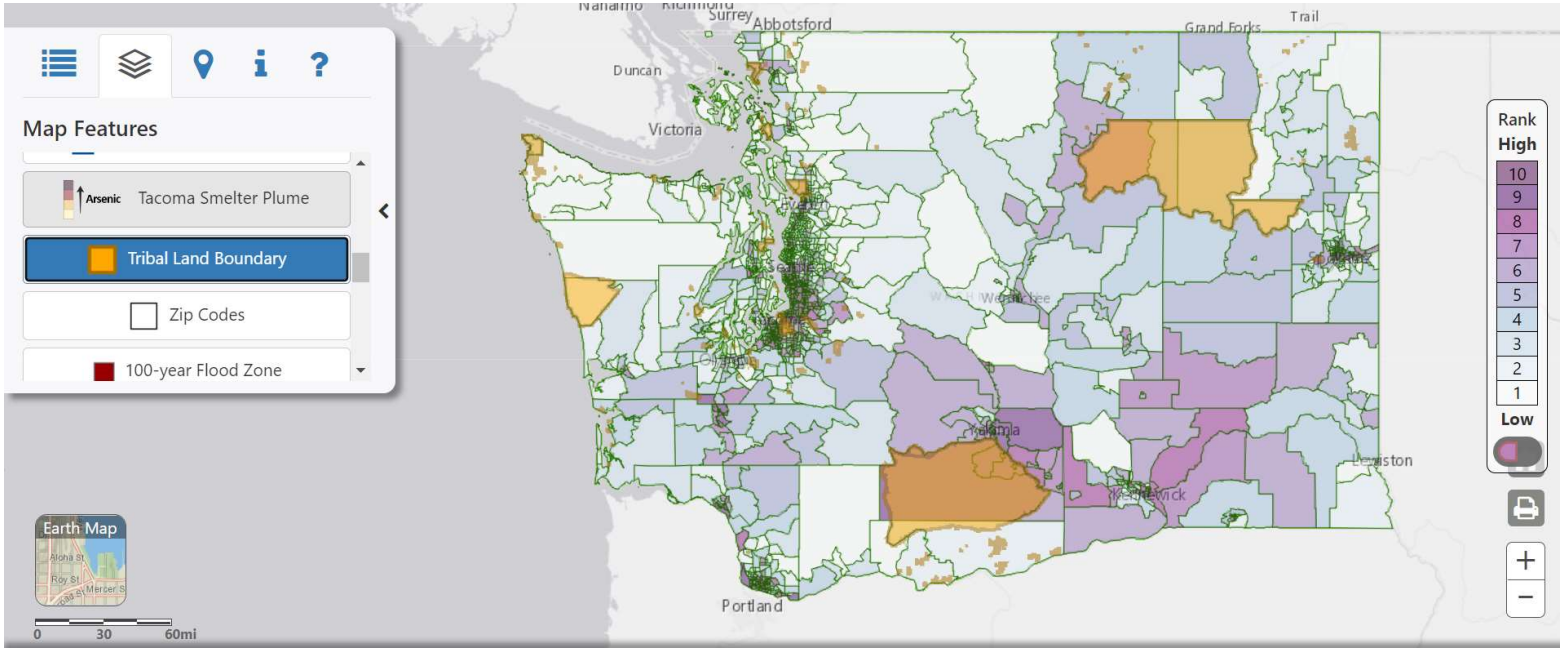
RCW 19.405.140 states:

"By December 31, 2020, the department of health must develop a cumulative impact analysis to **designate the communities highly impacted** by fossil fuel pollution and climate change in Washington.

CIA Goal: Highlight communities that are currently experiencing a **disproportionate share of environmental risk factors** of **environmental risk factors** and that must, according to CETA, **benefit equitably** in the transition to clean energy economy.

Definition of Highly Impacted Community

- The census tract is covered or partially covered by ‘Indian Country' as defined in and designated by statute.
- The census tract ranks a 9 or 10 on the Environmental Health Disparities Map, as designated by the Department of Health (DOH).



Recommendations for how to use the EHD Map to Identify Overburdened Communities

Use the overall EHD map rank 9 and 10 as a starting point to identify overburdened communities.

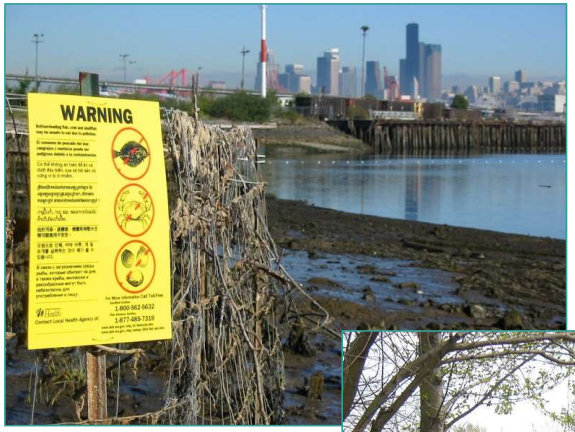
Develop **technical guidance** for practitioners.

Adopt equity tools and analyses in agency practices.

Set environmental **health disparity reduction goals** and **track progress** towards those goals.

Healthy Environment For All (HEAL) Act SB 5141 (2021)

Reduce environmental and health disparities and improve the health of all people of Washington state by implementing the recommendations of the environmental justice task force



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HEAL ACT: EHD Map

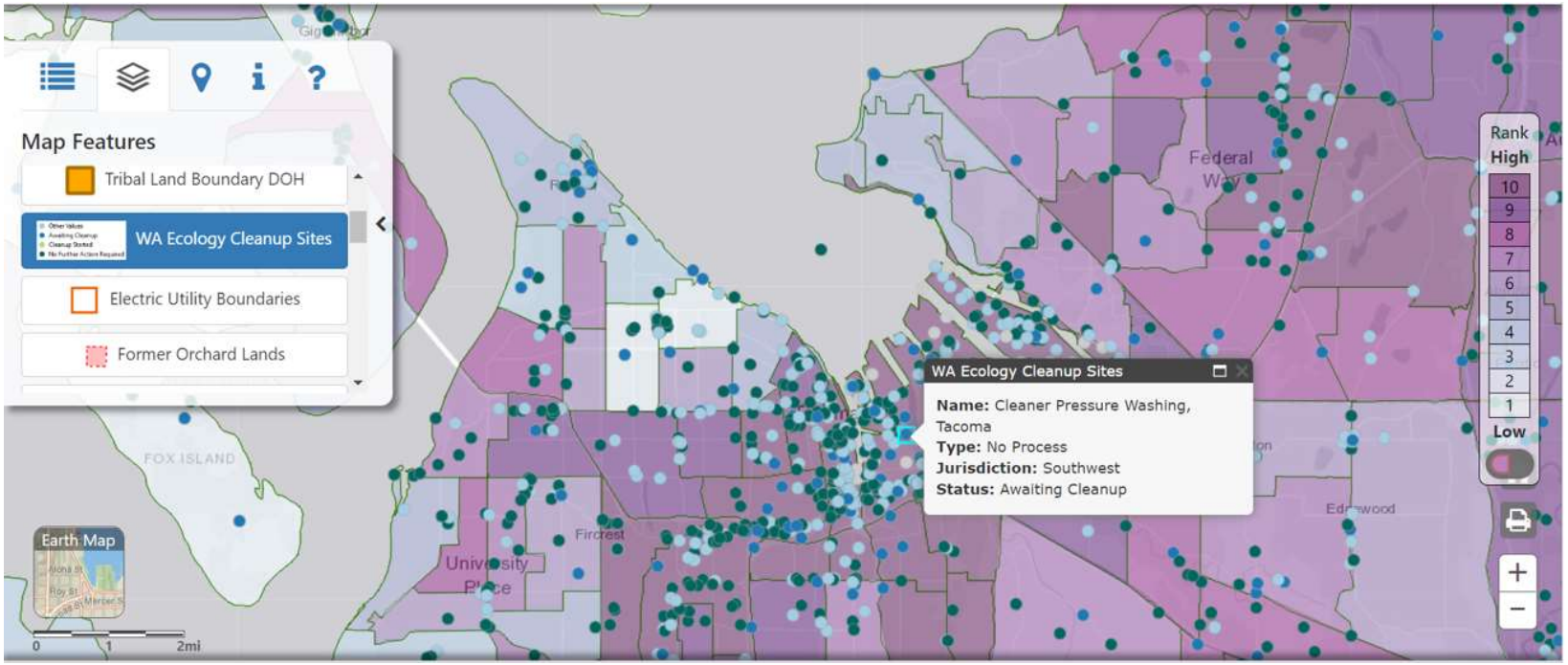
- Track changes in disparities over time.
- Further develop the EHD map engaging with communities, tribes, researchers, and EJ Council.
- Perform a comprehensive evaluation every three years.
- Expand online video training on how to use the EHD map.
- Provide support and consultation to state agencies on how to use the EHD map.

Climate Commitment Act

- Caps and reduces greenhouse gas emissions and other criteria air pollutants.
- Puts environmental justice and equity at the center.
- Aligns with requirements of HEAL Act.

Prioritizing Cleanup Sites Using EHD Map

- Add map overlay of Ecology Cleanup Sites to EHD map
- Prioritize clean up sites in highly impacted communities (EHD rank 9 or 10 or on tribal lands)
- Engage communities in decision-making process



EHD Map Demo

QUESTIONS or FEEDBACK?

EHDMap@doh.wa.gov

@WADeptHealth

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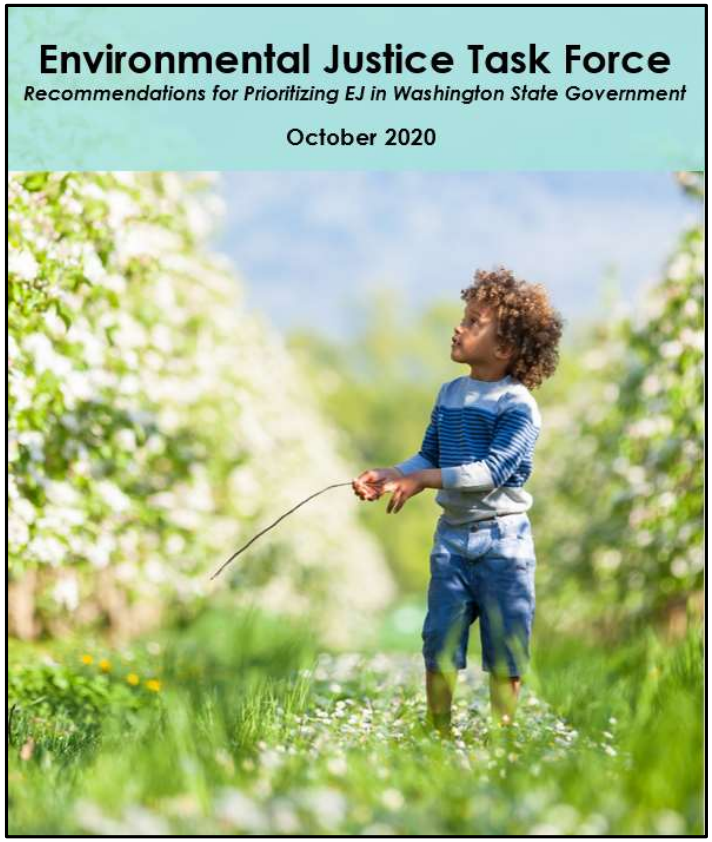
EHD Map Next Steps

- EHD map version 3.0 planning
  - EHD Map Technical Workgroup
  - Indicators under development
  - Consult with EJ Council
  - Community Engagement
  - Tribal Engagement

WA Environmental Justice Task Force Recommendations



RECOMMENDATIONS

That state agencies use the EHD data and map in agency activities…

- **Build** demographic & environmental context…
- **Conduct** EJ review & analysis routinely…
- **Center** EJ as the priority intended outcome in resource allocation…
- **Evaluate** and measure reductions in disparities…

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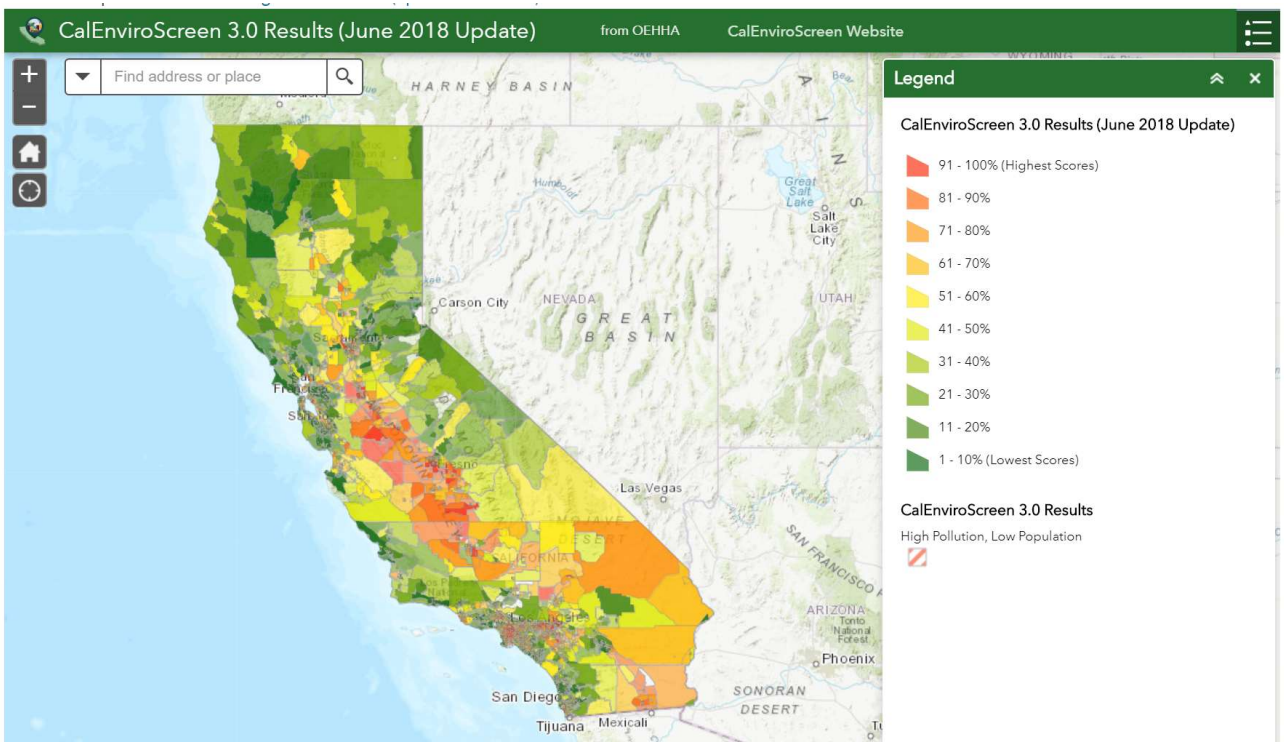
Learning from existing resources



Risk = Threat x Vulnerability