

Using CDC's Environmental Public Health Tracking Program Tools to Investigate Environmental Justice Issues in the United States

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Background/Objectives. Environmental justice seeks to advance health equity and eliminate environmental health disparities through the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people in environmental health policies, research, and programs and ensuring equal access to a healthy environment. The CDC *Environmental Public Health Tracking Program* (Tracking Program) provides accurate, standardized environmental health data for the United States by collecting, integrating, analyzing and disseminating non-infectious disease, environmental, and socioeconomic data from a collective of national, state, and local partners.

Approach/Activities. In 2021, the Tracking Program [\[GA\(\(1\]](#) introduced the Environmental Justice (EJ) Dashboard which provides tools that can be used to identify communities vulnerable to environmental exposures, understand characteristics of a community, understand the health burden of a community, to identify and address environmental and health inequities, and allocate resources and inform policy decisions to achieve environmental justice. This Dashboard is built on top of CDC's Environmental Health Tracking Section's (EHTS) Data Explorer Platform. The Data Explorer is a web-based data visualization tool allows users to visualize tables, maps and charts on over 500 environmental and public health measures. Battelle Memorial Institute has been working with CDC's EHTS since 2008. Battelle has designed, implemented, deployed the Data Explorer and EJ Dashboard as well as maintained the data pipelines that fuels these tools. Beyond the visualization tools, users can download data to perform additional analysis.

Results/Lessons Learned. This presentation will (1) provide an overview of the Tracking Program's Data Explorer Platform, (2) describe measures available in the EJ Dashboard, (3) show how to create customizable maps, charts, and tables including layering of social and environmental measures, and (4) display how to download data on social vulnerability and environmental justice [\[GA\(\(1\]](#) . Results can be used by researchers and policy makers to examine patterns and trends in environmental justice measures over time and across geography.