



MOM AND BABY ACTION NETWORK

REPORT:

Healthy Environment for a Healthy Start: Promoting Environmental Justice for Equitable Birth Outcomes



Written by members of the Mom and Baby Action Network's Environmental Justice Workgroup

Environmental justice seeks to reduce inequitable environmental burdens experienced by people of color, women, indigenous communities, and those living in economically disadvantaged areas.

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Vision

We aim to achieve birth equity by centering the voices and experiences of local communities and mobilizing partners, companies, organizations, subject matter experts, policy-makers, advocates, and leaders nationally around a common agenda and shared metrics of success.

Mi **MARCH**
OF DIMES[®]
MOM AND BABY ACTION NETWORK

Together we can achieve what we cannot achieve alone!

M-BAN evolved from the National Prematurity Collaborative by expanding the lens to maternal and infant health

Engages cross-sector partners to address root causes of maternal and infant health inequities

Orchestrates high alignment across multiple sectors to move from data to action

Leads broad changes in policy, research, programs, funding, and systems

National Equity Framework

RESULTS STATEMENT

All people are healthy before during and after pregnancy and if they give birth, they have healthy outcomes.

SHARED METRICS

Population indicators

Performance measures

STRATEGIES

Dismantle racism and address unequal treatment

Increase access to high quality health care

Promote environmental justice

Advance economic opportunity

Build safe and connected communities

SOLUTIONS

Policy and systems

Data and research

Programs and services

Communications and training

Funding

Environmental Justice Strategy Workgroup

- Kicked off 2020 with Co-Chairs:
 - Skye Wheeler
 - Sue Kendig
- New Co-Chairs named in 2023:
 - Viviana Alvarado Pacheco
 - Genesis Grenados
- Bi-Monthly Meetings
- >100 individuals and organizations





“We believe people should be able to get pregnant, have a healthy pregnancy and birth, breastfeed, and raise a family in a thriving community living in a dignified and healthy environment.”

~ Mom & Baby Action Network Environmental Justice Work Group
members

A Foundational Report

Healthy Environment for a Healthy Start: Promoting environmental justice for equitable birth outcomes

Data and key research connecting inequitable maternal and infant health outcomes and environmental health threats are presented.

- Air pollution
- Extreme heat
- Disasters and displacement
- Cosmetics
- Fossil fuel lifecycle

Full report includes key recommendations, examples, and resource lists.



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Report goals

- Build solidarity between people and organizations working to advance equity in maternal and infant health.
- Connect dots between the maternal health crisis in the US and environmental health inequities .
- See action from the US government, including funding, to address environmental health concerns and protect the most at-risk pregnant people.
- Realize protection for pregnancy health through robust government action on climate and other environmental health disasters to protect human health and life.

Environmental threats and the US maternal health crisis

Crisis is centered by unjust racial and ethnic disparities in MIH outcomes.



Pregnant people and infants are especially vulnerable to environmental health threats.



Protecting pregnant and birthing people and their infants from environmental harms requires using a reproductive justice lens.



Brief:

Air pollution worsens inequities in maternal and newborn health

Nearly 120 million people in the US are living in places with unhealthy levels of air pollution.

Air pollution plays a key role in the current US maternal health crisis and inequitable health outcomes that exist for Black, Indigenous, and people of color in this nation.

MATERNAL HEALTH

- Higher risk of hypertensive disorders of pregnancy, including preeclampsia, are associated with exposure to PM_{2.5}, NO₂, and PM₁₀.
- Higher risk of gestational diabetes is associated with air pollution exposure during pregnancy.

INFANT HEALTH

- PM_{2.5}, and ozone exposure during pregnancy is associated with higher risk for preterm birth, low birthweight, and stillbirth.
- Combustion-related air pollutants are linked to adverse effects on brain development, neurodevelopmental disorders, and reduced size of brain regions.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Identify communities living with significant air pollution and make special efforts to monitor and reduce exposure AND improve education and outreach to pregnant people and families.
- Join us: [IgnitingImpactTogether.org](https://www.ignitingimpacttogether.org)

Black and Hispanic people bear a pollution burden of 56% and 63% excess exposure.

High Level Overview

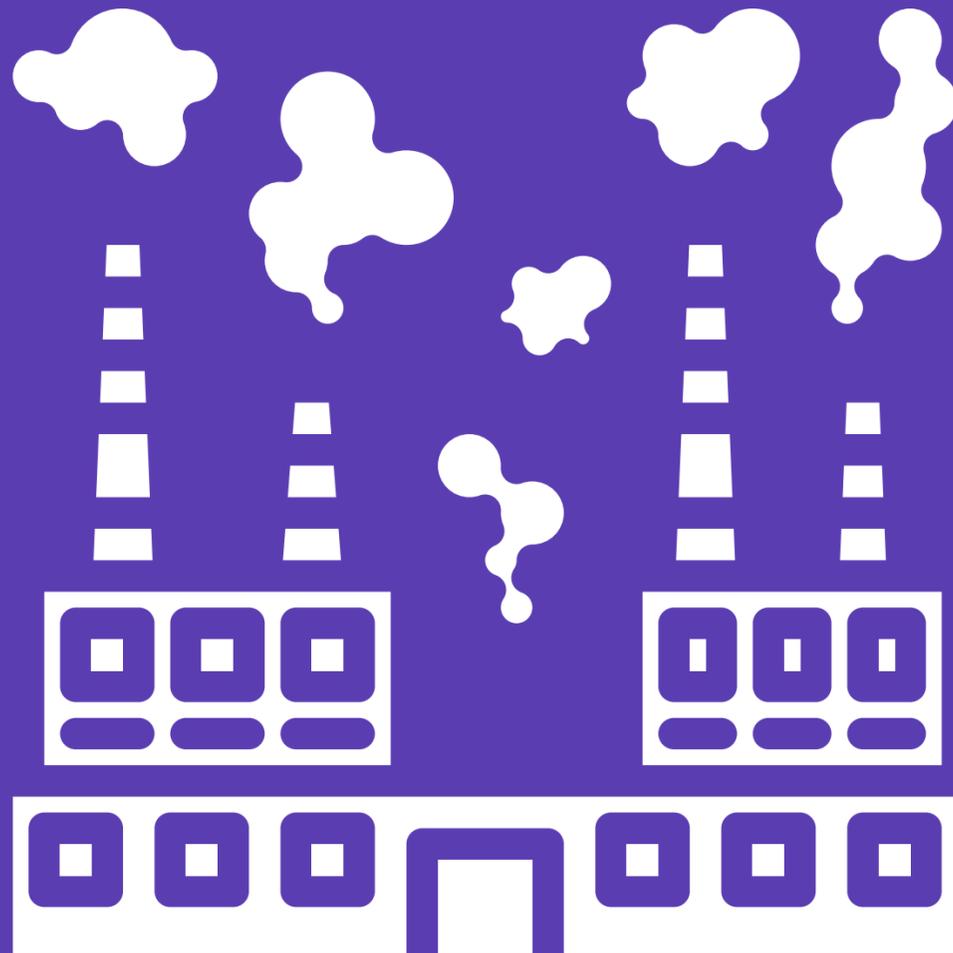
Air pollution

Air pollution is responsible for 63% of deaths from environmental causes.

Typical sources: vehicles, wildfires, agriculture and industrial combustions, cleaning supplies, pesticides, and paint.

Studies show for Black people there is an increased risk for preterm birth as a direct result of PM_{2.5} and ozone exposure.

Air pollution

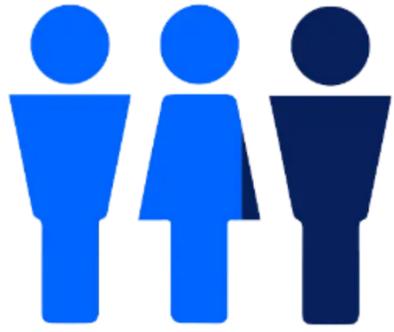


Maternal and infant health

- Increased risk of hypertensive disorders of pregnancy, including preeclampsia and gestational diabetes.
- Linked to higher rates of preterm birth, low birth weight, and stillbirth.
- Can disrupt brain development in utero, including neurodevelopmental disorders, developmental delays, and reduced size of brain regions.

Inequitable exposure

- Black Americans are three times more likely to live in areas with poor air quality than White Americans.
- Black and Hispanic people in the US bear a pollution burden of 56% and 63% excess exposure relative to their consumption.



More than 1 in 3 Americans live in places with unhealthy levels of air pollution.

Key facts: American Lung Association's State of the Air 2023 report

The American Lung Association's State of the Air 2023 reports ozone and PM2.5 exposures from 2019-2021.

- The number of people living in counties with failing grades for daily spikes in deadly particle pollution was 63.7 million, the most ever reported under the current national standard.
- Catastrophic wildfires are increasing the number of days and places with unhealthy levels of particle pollution and increasing the severity of pollution.
- People of color were 3.7 times more likely than White people to live in a county with failing grades for all three pollutants.



Climate change is making the job of cleaning up the air more difficult.

Increasing threats of wildfires

Climate change is increasing the number, intensity, and length of wildfire season in the US and Canada.



- MIH implications, including increased air pollution exposure, loss of homes and displacement, increased risk for those who work outdoors.
- Each additional day of wildfire smoke exposure raises the risk of preterm birth.
- There were 7,000 ADDITIONAL babies born preterm between 2007 and 2012.

What if air pollution is reduced?

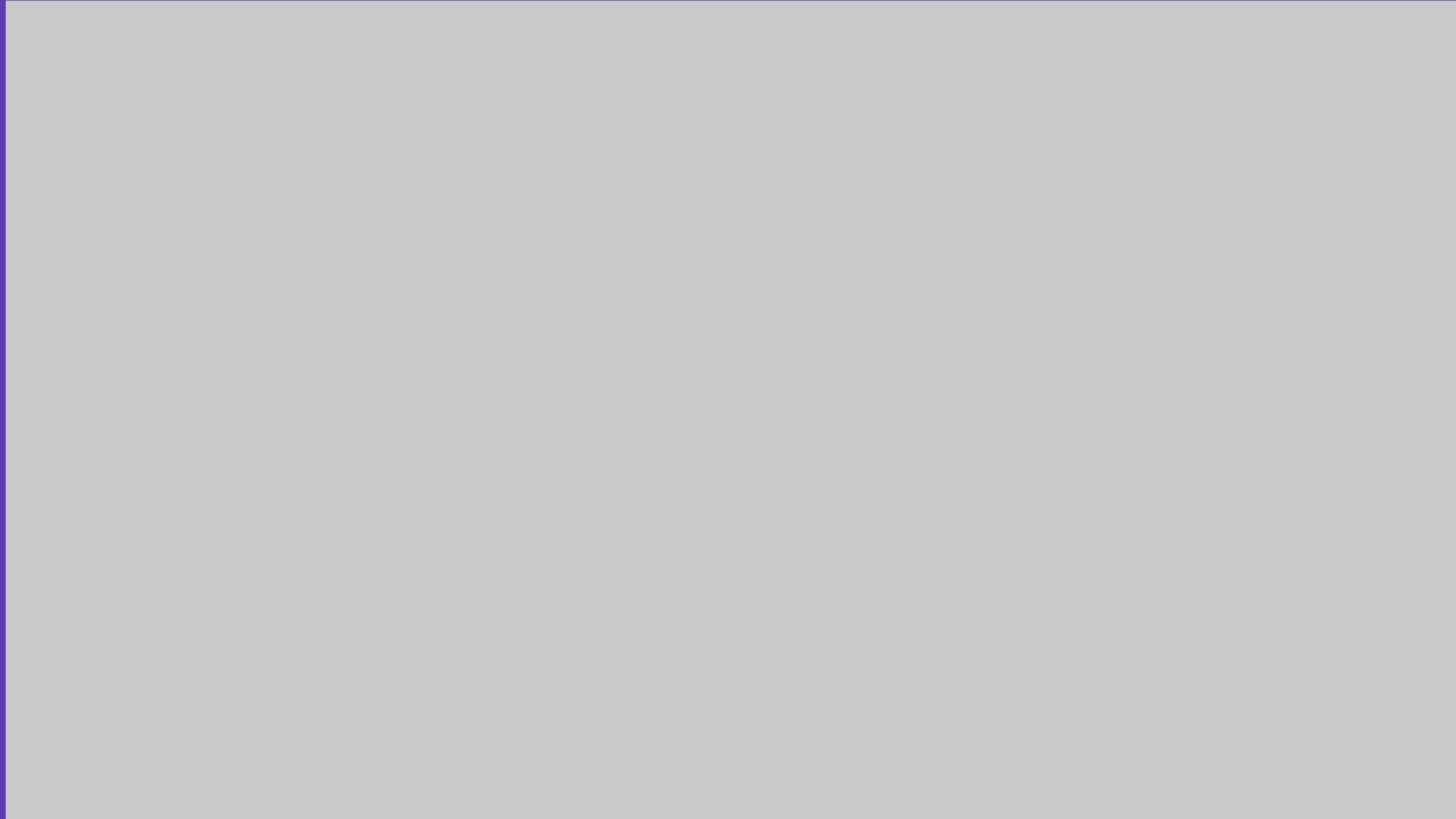
8 coal and oil power plants were retired in CA between 2001 and 2011...

Researchers found:

People living 0-5km from a power plant experienced a reduced preterm birth rate from 7.0% to 5.1%

Largest reductions were in Black and Asian people compared to non-Hispanic White people.

Air Alliance Houston Documentary





Brief: Extreme heat worsens inequities in maternal and newborn health

In the US, Black pregnant and birthing people are inequitably impacted by extreme heat.

Pregnancy health is often omitted from public health efforts to raise awareness about extreme heat in the US. And even where pregnant people are included in “vulnerable populations” lists, the reality that racial and other injustices make heat an inconvenience to some pregnant people but a serious health challenge to others is glossed over.

MATERNAL HEALTH

- Higher risk for gestational diabetes, hypertension, spontaneous abortion, and renal disease.
- Increased risk of maternal hospitalization and longer hospital stays during birth.

INFANT HEALTH

- Maternal heat exposure linked to higher risk of preterm birth, low birthweight, and stillbirth.
- Linked to birth defects including congenital heart defects, and neural tube defects.
- Increased infant death linked to increased temperatures.

By the end of the century, 42,000 additional babies will be born preterm every year due to extreme heat.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Include pregnant and birthing people and their infants in public awareness messaging re: heat, including resources like cooling centers.
- Ensure pregnant workers are aware of their rights—Pregnancy Workers Fairness Act.
- Join us: [ignitingImpactTogether.org](https://ignitingimpacttogether.org)

High Level Overview

Extreme heat

Studies done in the US show Black birthing people are inequitably impacted by extreme heat.

Marginalized communities, often communities of color, people with low-income, and outdoor workers experience an unfair burden of heat.

Pregnancy can create additional burdens on people with pre-existing conditions that are known to worsen with heat, including respiratory and circulatory problems.



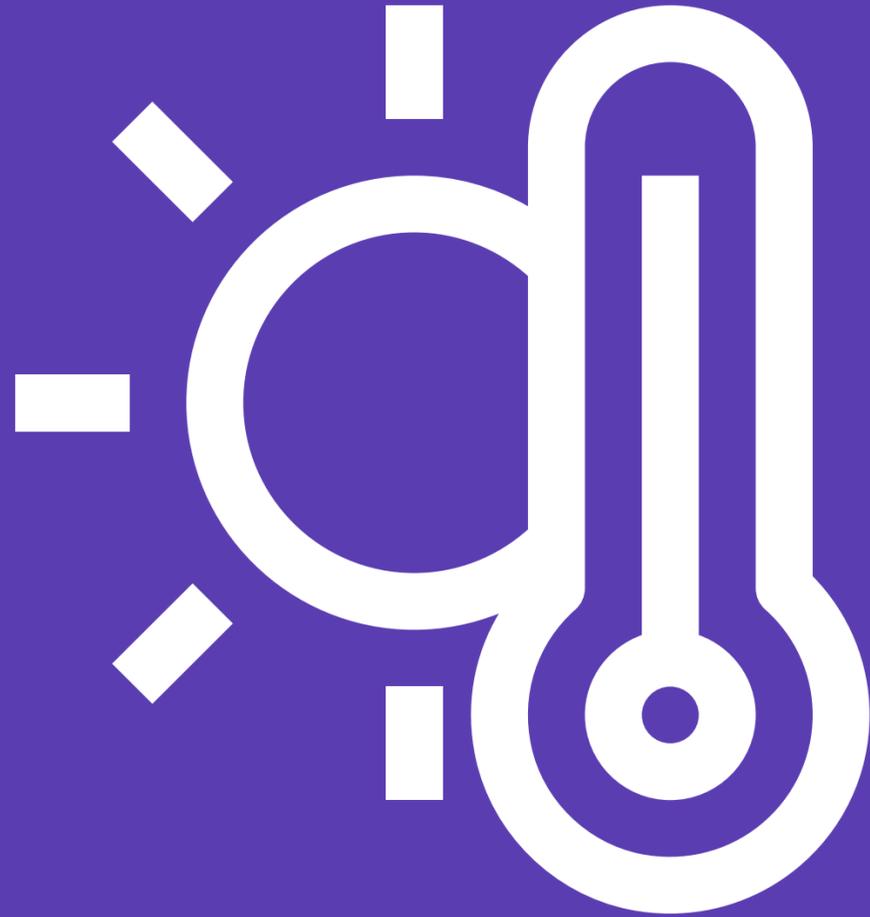
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Environmental Justice



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Extreme heat



Maternal and infant health

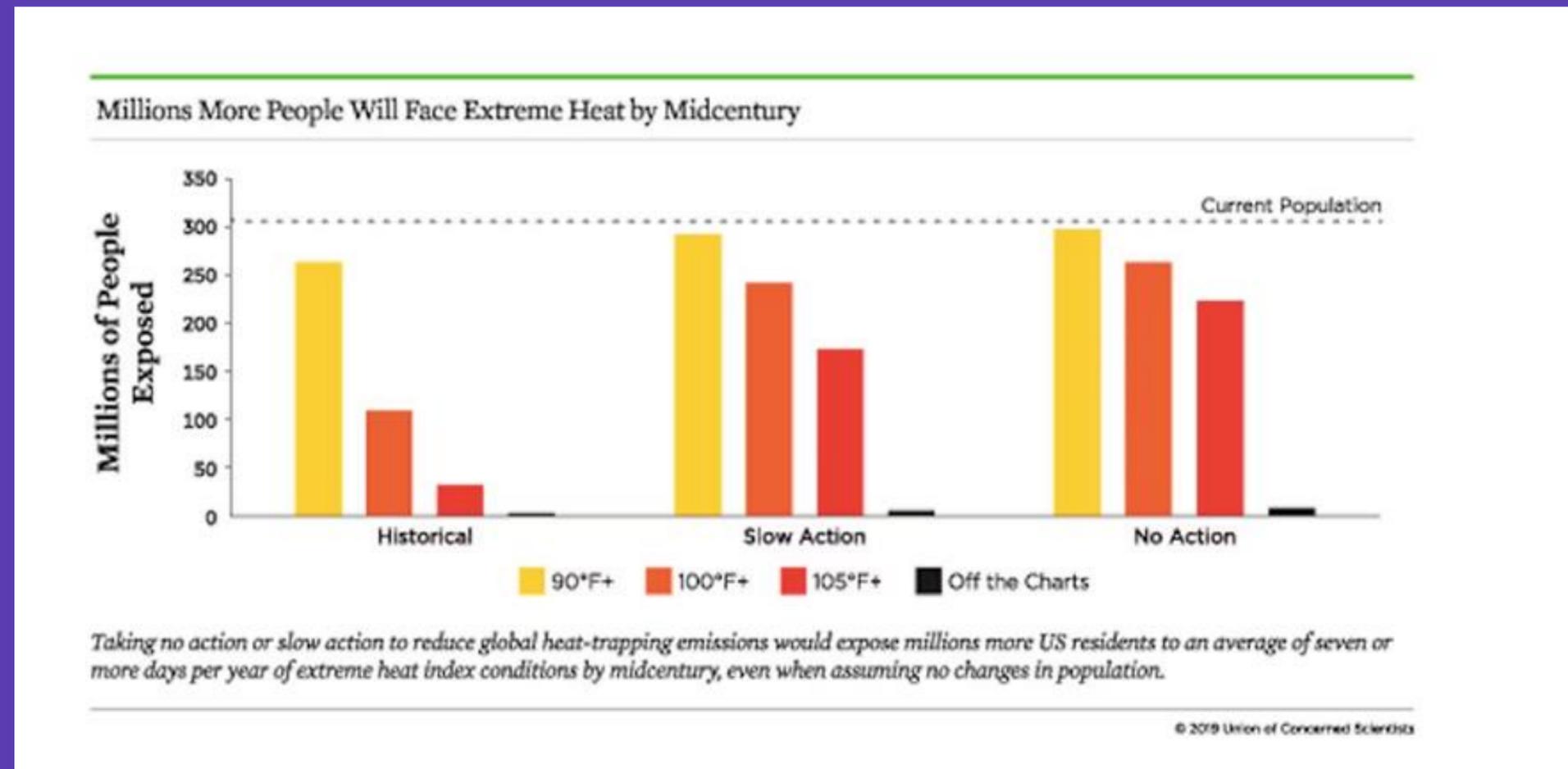
- Studies have shown a summer seasonal effect on gestational diabetes.
- Extreme heat exposure in early pregnancy is linked to severe hypertensive disorders.
- Heat exposure during pregnancy increased the risk for hospitalization and at childbirth is associated with longer hospital stays.
- Maternal heat exposure is linked to preterm birth, low birth weight, and still birth.

An uncertain future

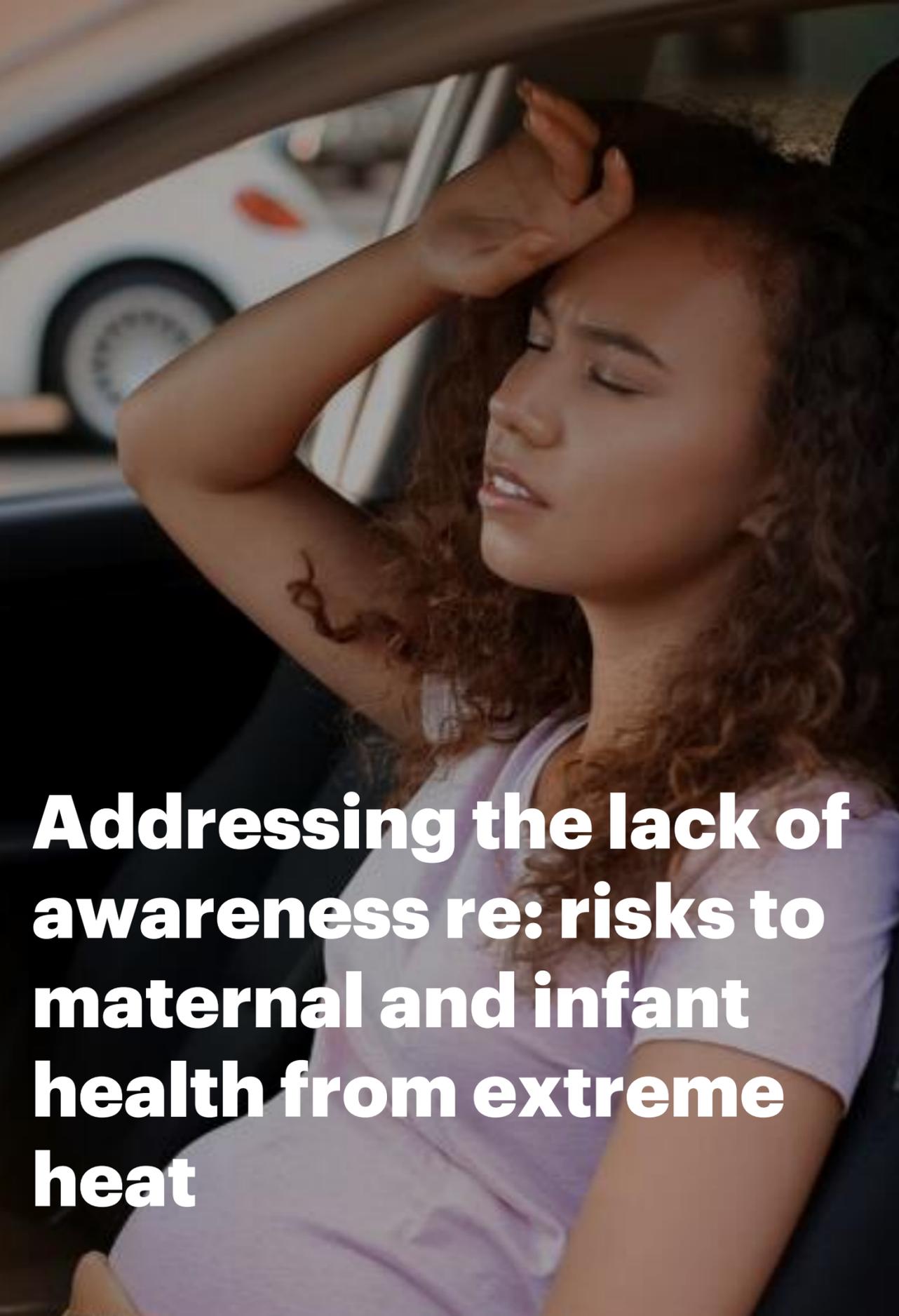
The report, Killer Heat from Union of Concerned Scientists, showed what may happen if we take little or no action to reduce global heat-trapping emissions.

By midcentury millions more US residents will be exposed to an average of 7 or more days per year of extreme heat conditions.

By the end of the century 42,000 additional babies will be born preterm every year due to extreme heat.



https://www.ucsusa.org/sites/default/files/2020-12/UCS_extreme_heat_report_190712b_low-res_corrected12-20.pdf



Addressing the lack of awareness re: risks to maternal and infant health from extreme heat

Miami Public Awareness Campaign

Women's Fund Miami-Dade led a cross-sector collaborative effort to raise the urgency to address extreme heat and pregnancy health in the Miami area.

A billboard was erected in 2021, a first of its kind awareness effort led by an NGO.

The effort also resulted in Miami hiring its first Chief Heat Officer!

WHAT SHOULD YOU KNOW ABOUT HEAT AND PREGNANCY?

Climate change is fueling increasing temperatures and more heat waves which pose dangerous risks to human health.

Extreme heat can make anyone sick, but pregnancy puts you at a higher risk for heat-related illness! Studies suggest exposure to extreme heat may lead to premature birth or low birth weight. If you are pregnant, keep hydrated and out of severe heat if you can.

The climate crisis threatens to **worsen inequities** in who gets to have a healthy pregnancy and a healthy baby in the United States.

Increasing heat threatens to worsen already high rates of illness during pregnancy and premature birth among:

- Low-income communities.
- Black, Indigenous, Latina, and other communities of color, linked to systemic racism and marginalization in healthcare quality and access.

Heat is a human rights issue, but some pregnant people are exposed to more heat than others:

- Some people work in hot environments. If you are pregnant and work in hot conditions—like outdoors or in a farm field or kitchen—ask your employer directly
- Some urban neighborhoods, often where communities of color live, are hotter than others.
- Some homes are hotter than others and air conditioning can be expensive. Check with your utility company or provider's office about low-income discounts or other assistance programs.
- People with pre-existing health conditions or taking certain medications may be more vulnerable to heat.

or your doctor or healthcare provider to help you get a "work accommodation". Call A Better Balance hotline for more info: 1-833-NEED-4BB or 1-833-633-3222.

DEMAND CLIMATE JUSTICE! DEMAND THAT REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE BE PART OF CLIMATE JUSTICE!

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH



Brief:

Disasters and displacement worsens inequities in maternal and newborn health

Disasters can lead to exposure to environmental pollutants, psychological stressors, and lack of healthcare access while also interacting with other social drivers of health.

Evidence shows that long-standing structural racism has led to increased vulnerability of lower income and racially and ethnically marginalized individuals to exposures to climate-related disasters.

MATERNAL & INFANT HEALTH

- Hurricanes, earthquakes, wildfires, and floods are associated with a range of pregnancy health implications including preterm birth, low birthweight, still birth, small for gestational age.

INTERGENERATIONAL IMPACTS

- Maternal exposure to disasters during pregnancy predisposes infants to chronic health conditions later in life, including obesity, allergies, and neurodevelopmental impairments.
- Prenatal maternal stress from disasters increases childhood risk for worse cognitive, motor, socio-emotional, and behavioral outcomes.

Native Americans are 6X more likely than other populations to live in wildfire-prone areas.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Include disaster planning for maternity services, resources, and transport for maternal-infant dyad.
- Support community-rooted organizations that serve pregnant and birthing people and their infants by providing disaster-related education and resources.
- Join us: [IgnitingImpactTogether.org](https://www.ignitingimpacttogether.org)



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High Level Overview

Disasters and displacement

Long-standing structural racism has led to increased vulnerability of low-income and racially and ethnically marginalized individuals to exposures to climate related disasters.

Disasters can lead to exposure to environmental pollutants, psychological stressors, and lack of healthcare access while also interacting with other social drivers of health.

Short and long-term effects can impact maternal and infant health, worsening already inequitable outcomes for the most vulnerable people and communities.



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Disasters and displacement

Maternal and infant health

- Disasters can increase risk for adverse pregnancy outcomes through a number of pathways—stress, environmental contamination, exacerbating pre-existing conditions, and disruption of healthcare services and utilities.
- Increased risk for preterm birth, still birth, low birthweight, small for gestational age, and severe maternal morbidity.

Inequitable exposure

- Low-income communities of color are often at the frontline, experiencing the most immediate and harmful impacts of climate change due to longstanding environmental inequities, exploitation, and unequal policy infrastructure.
- In the US, low-income people are less likely to have flood insurance, Black people are more likely to contract and die from [COVID-19](#), and Native Americans are six times more likely than other populations to live in wildfire-prone areas.
- Frontline communities are also underrepresented in disaster planning, policy, and funding decisions.



Future forecasting reveals inequitable impacts of climate change

EPA Report, Climate Change and Children's Health and Well-Being in the United States quantifies projected health effects to children from climate change revealing inequitable impacts to BIPOC, low-income and, non-English speaking households.

With **2° C** and **4° C** of annual warming, it's projected that there will be an additional **7,700** and **13,600** babies born preterm every year.

With a **50cm** and **100cm** global sea level rise, approximately **185,000** and **1.13 million** children, respectively, may be **at risk to lose their homes completely.**

Disasters fuel an Intergenerational cycle of vulnerability

Increased exposure of pregnant and birthing people to climate-related disasters can have consequences on the life and future health for generations.

Exposure to disasters during pregnancy can predispose infants to future chronic health conditions, including obesity, metabolic disorders, congenital defects, allergies, and neurodevelopmental and psychological impairments.

A 2017* study indicated that in utero infants and children suffer long-lasting effects, including worse health, less education, lower human capital accumulation, and increased child labor.

Caruso, Germán Daniel, 2017. "The legacy of natural disasters: The intergenerational impact of 100 years of disasters in Latin America," Journal of Development Economics, Elsevier, vol. 127(C), pages 209-233.



Brief: **Toxicants in cosmetics worsen inequities in maternal and newborn health**

Women of reproductive age use an average of 10 cosmetics in their daily routines, which may include hair products, toothpaste, soap, and makeup.

Pregnant people of color experience higher exposures to cosmetic-associated chemicals of concern compared to other racial/ethnic groups, exacerbating the inequities that already exist in maternal and infant health outcomes in the US.

Targeted marketing and beauty standards drive inequitable exposures to harmful ingredients experienced by Black and Hispanic women.

MATERNAL AND INFANT HEALTH

- Prenatal hair product utilization associated with gestational age at delivery.
- Exposure to parabens and antimicrobial compounds increase risk for preterm birth and low birthweight.
- Phthalate exposure can alter 38 genes within the placenta and is associated with gestational diabetes and excessive gestational weight gain.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Support legislation focused on maternal health and cosmetic product safety for consumers.
- Incorporate cosmetic chemical exposure as a maternal health issue in campaigns, briefs, and other materials.
- Discuss cosmetic ingredients of potential concern and recommendations with patients as appropriate.
- Join us: [IgnitingImpactTogether.org](https://www.ignitingimpacttogether.org)



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High Level Overview

Cosmetics

Cosmetic use and cosmetic-associated ingredients are linked to adverse pregnancy and birth outcomes such as gestational diabetes, preterm birth, and low birth weight infants.

Women of reproductive age use an average of TEN cosmetics in their daily routines, which may include hair products, toothpaste, soap, and makeup.

Pregnant people of color experience higher exposures to cosmetic-associated chemicals of concern compared to other racial/ethnic groups, exacerbating the inequities that already exist in maternal and infant health outcomes.



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Cosmetics



Maternal and infant health

- Daily use of hair oils during late-pregnancy is associated with, on average, an 8-day decrease in gestational age at delivery.
- Cosmetic ingredients such as parabens and triclocarban can increase the odds of preterm birth, low birthweight, and shorter body length.
- Exposure to mono-ethyl phthalates during the 2nd trimester is associated with an increased risk of impaired glucose tolerance and excessive gestational weight gain.



unique challenges created by added fragrances

The term “fragrance” may refer to a complex mixture of several ingredients-there are more than 3,000 fragrance compounds.

Fragrance compounds may include endocrine disrupting chemicals and other potentially harmful and hazardous ingredients.

California passed the first law in the US requiring the reporting of potentially harmful ingredients.

Beauty justice

Beauty and personal care products marketed to women of color often contain more toxic ingredients than products marketed to White women. As a result, women of color face greater exposure to toxic ingredients used in beauty and personal care products. This is unacceptable. Women of color deserve the same access to safer beauty products.

**84% of chemicals
detected in hair
products
marketed to
Black women are
not listed on the
label.**

Toxic chemicals in Dollar Store products*

CAMPAIGN FOR
**Healthier
Solutions**



TOXIC CHEMICALS IN DOLLAR STORE PRODUCTS:
2022 REPORT

2022 Report from the Campaign for Healthier Solutions

- > 50% of the 226 products tested contained 1 or more chemicals of potential concern.
- Detected chemicals included: phthalates, lead, and flame retardants.
- Many items tested are marketed to children.
- Raises concern regarding the differences in access to safe products across different store types, which may be more accessible by certain communities.



Brief:

The fossil fuel cycle worsens inequities in maternal and newborn health

Through a long legacy of environmental racism, the land and bodies of marginalized communities have been extracted from, dumped on, exploited, and sacrificed for fossil fuels.

Failing to see the connections between the health crisis for pregnant people, its disparities and continued fossil fuel use hinders our collective ability to advance meaningful change for birthing families.

MATERNAL HEALTH

- Fossil fuel extraction is associated with lower fertility.
- Pregnancy loss has been linked to prenatal exposure to oil spills.
- Fossil fuel activities have been linked to a risk for hypertensive disorders of pregnancy and gestational diabetes.

INFANT HEALTH

- Exposure to oil and gas well sites is associated with preterm birth, low birth weight, small for gestational age, and congenital heart and neural tube defects.
- Exposure to oil spills *in utero* increases the risk for infant mortality.

46% of housing for low-income populations is within 1 mile of factories with toxic emissions.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Support phasing out use of fossil fuels and investing in a just transition to a clean energy economy.
- Advocate for clean, renewable energy access in your workplaces and communities in alignment with a just phase-out of fossil fuels.
- Join us: [IgnitingImpactTogether.org](https://www.ignitingimpacttogether.org)



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Environmental Justice

High Level Overview

Fossil fuels

Exposure to fossil fuels has been linked to poor pregnancy, birth, and newborn health outcomes, such as preterm birth, fetal or infant loss, and birth defects.

A just transition off fossil fuels is not only necessary to avoid catastrophic climate warming, it's necessary to avert a worsening maternal health crisis with glaring inequities.

Reducing pollution from and production and use of fossil fuels and petrochemicals is a health intervention for pregnant people and babies that stakeholders across policy, healthcare delivery, and communities all must consider.



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Fossil fuels

Maternal and infant health

- Prenatal exposure to fossil fuels and petrochemicals is associated with adverse reproductive health, including decline in fertility, pregnancy loss, and high-risk pregnancy.
- Oil spills and gas flares are associated with hypertensive disorders of pregnancy and gestational diabetes.
- Infant health is also affected by fossil fuel and petrochemical exposure, including increased preterm birth risk, fetal growth, low birthweight, and birth defects.
- Pre-conception exposure to oil spills has been linked to an increased risk of neonatal mortality.

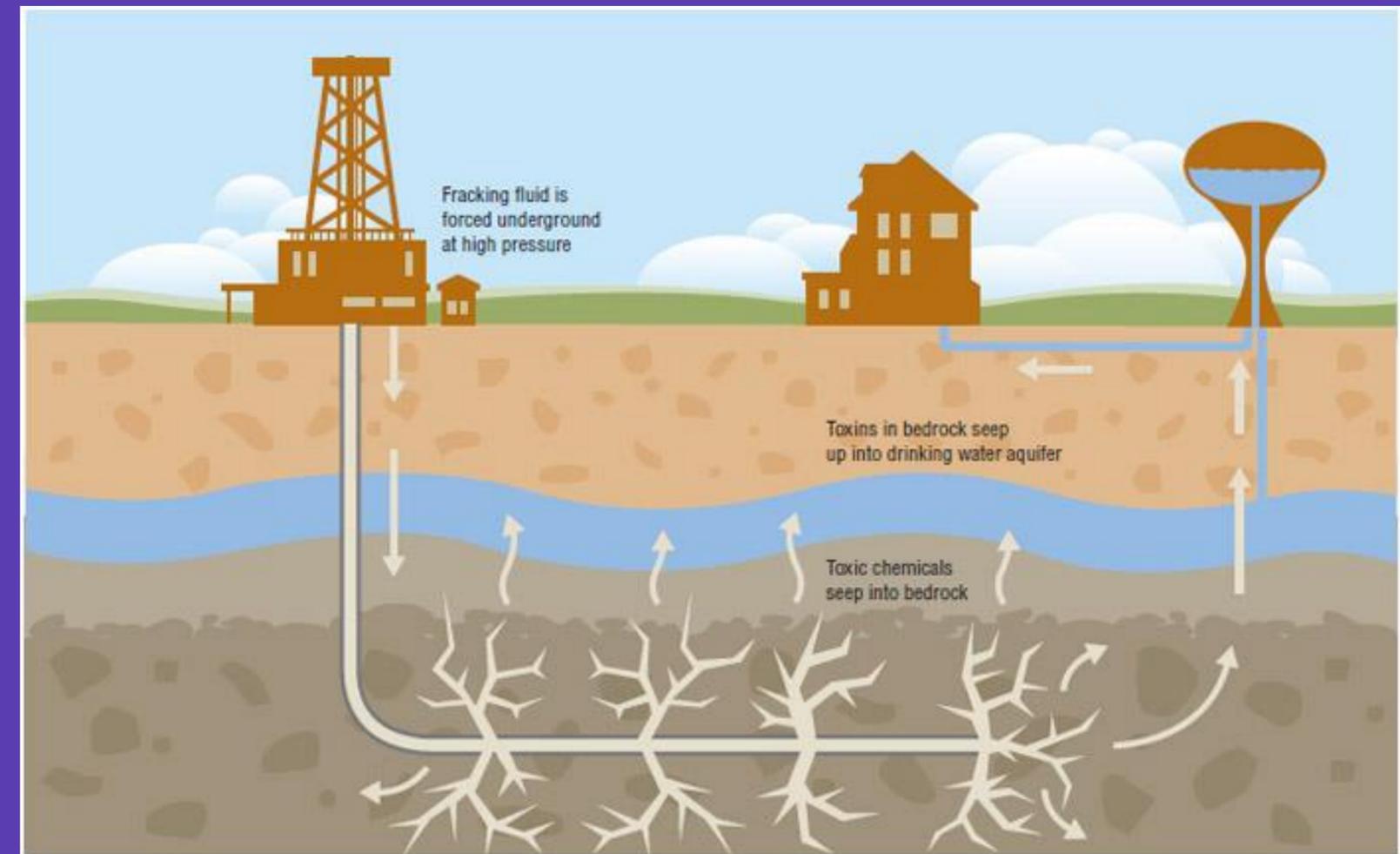


Fracking pollutes our air, water, and soil

Pregnant people living near active fracking wells are 30% more likely to have a high-risk pregnancy and 40% more likely to give birth preterm. It's also linked to low birthweight and congenital birth defects.

Fracking wells are disproportionately located near Black, Brown, Indigenous, and low-income communities.

More than 1,000 chemicals, including EDCs, are used in fracking fluid, many of which are toxic, cancer-causing, or otherwise hazardous to human health.



Advancing Environmental Justice: Policy examples



Policy in Action: **Justice40** Initiative

Federal initiative that 40% of benefits/\$ of certain Federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities that are marginalized, underserved, and overburdened by pollution.

Climate change

Clean energy and energy efficiency

Clean transit

Affordable and sustainable housing

Training and workforce development

Remediation and reduction of legacy pollution

Development of clean water and wastewater infrastructure

Policies in Action: Pregnant Workers Fairness Act

250,000

Estimated pregnant workers every year who are denied requests for accommodations, even more don't ask for fear of retaliation

62%

Americans have personally seen pregnancy discrimination in the workplace



Prior to the PWFA going into effect on June 27, 2023, only a handful of states had laws in place to protect pregnant and postpartum workers from issues like excessive heat, lifting, long periods of standing, exposure to chemicals, etc.



Ensures pregnant and postpartum workers are not forced off the job, get appropriate accommodations, and aren't faced with retaliation.



Under this law, pregnant and postpartum employees who work for employers with 15 or more employees can ask for accommodations such as extra rest or water breaks, cooling accommodation, or temporary transfers in hot weather.

Policies in Action: CA Safe Cosmetics Program

CSCA

CA Safe Cosmetics Act signed into law 2005

CFFIRKA

Cosmetic Fragrance & Flavor Ingredient
Right to Know Act signed into law 2020

Under the CA Safe Cosmetics Program (CSCP) these laws are implemented, CA is the only state that requires companies to report harmful ingredient use in cosmetics.

The primary purpose of the California Safe Cosmetics Program (CSCP) is to collect information on hazardous and potentially hazardous ingredients in cosmetic products sold in California and to make this information available to the public.

Provides consumers and salon workers a database to learn more about the products they use. Anyone can access the database. The CSCP also participates in efforts to promote collaborative research efforts and product safety.

Policies in Action: Modernization of Cosmetics Regulation Act

MoCRA (2022) is the most significant expansion of FDA's authority to regulate cosmetics since the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act was passed in 1938. This new law will help ensure the safety of cosmetic products many consumers use daily. The legislation makes many constructive and long-overdue changes to the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetics Act, which has not been significantly amended since it was enacted over 80 years ago, including:

- **Requires formal FDA registration of cosmetic facilities, products, and ingredients**
- **Establishes good manufacturing practices**
- **Requires serious adverse event reporting**
- **Requires companies to disclose their use of specific fragrance and flavor ingredients to the FDA**
- **Requires public disclosure of ingredients in professional salon products and fragrance allergens**
- **Creates standardized testing for asbestos contamination in talc**
- **Gives FDA urgent authority to recall cosmetic products harming human health**

Although MoCRA shows much needed progress continued support of the Safer Beauty Bill Package is critical to make beauty and personal-care products safer.

Safer Beauty Bill Package

Toxic-Free Beauty Act

**Cosmetic
Fragrance &
Flavor Ingredient
Right to Know Act**

**Cosmetic Safety
for Communities
of Color and
Professional
Salon Workers Act**

**Cosmetic Supply
Chain
Transparency Act**

- **Ban the 11 most toxic chemicals to human health**
- **Defend the health of women of color and salon workers**
- **Reveal fragrance and flavor ingredients**
- **Force supply chain transparency so cosmetic companies can create safer products**

Advocate for:



Momnibus: Protecting Moms and Babies Against Climate Change Act



Environmental Justice for All Act



Continued implementation of policies mentioned here and ensuring pregnant, birthing, and postpartum people and their infants are included when it comes to funding, programs, and policies.

Advancing Environmental Justice: Key recommendations



To Congress

**Pass the
Moms and
Babies
Climate Change
Bill.**

**Pass the A.
Donald
McEachin
Environmental
Justice for All
Act.**

**Include
maternal and
newborn health
considerations
in any climate
health bills.**

To the Administration

Connect the dots and uplift the link between EJ and RJ in environmental health policies.

Build interagency coordination between reproductive health and environmental health.

Ensure climate and environmental health funding reaches frontline birth workers and community-based orgs.

Appoint reproductive justice experts in White House Office of Environmental Quality and other key areas.

To the EPA and DHHS

Create a reproductive justice expert position to help develop environmental justice policy.

Use a RJ lens when including pregnant people as a vulnerable group in policy documents and vice versa.

Work to help reproductive justice experts and champions access environmental justice grants.

Work together to review the state of the science and develop a RJ action plan to better protect maternal and newborn health.

To cities and states

Convene community leaders, MIH providers, and public health to champion ideas to address environmental health threats using an RJ lens.

Include EJ considerations in state maternal and infant health initiatives addressing inequitable outcomes.

Include environmental health experts in maternal mortality and fetal infant mortality review boards.

To our EJ movement allies

Include reproductive and maternal health when calculating the costs of the climate crisis.

Invite and make space for maternal health workers in planning and decision-making.

Ensure pregnant people are aware of available services and resources.

Apply for EJ grants in collaboration with community-based maternal and reproductive health orgs.

To our maternal health allies

**Learn more
about
environmental
and
occupational
health threats
to perinatal
health
continuum.**

**Ensure families,
pregnant people
and advocates
are aware of
available
resources re:
environmental
health
exposures.**

**Visit
[IgnitingImpactT
ogether.org](https://www.ignitingimpacttogether.org) and
learn about the
Mom & Baby
Action
Network's EJ
workgroup.**



Advancing Environmental Justice: Resources and tools

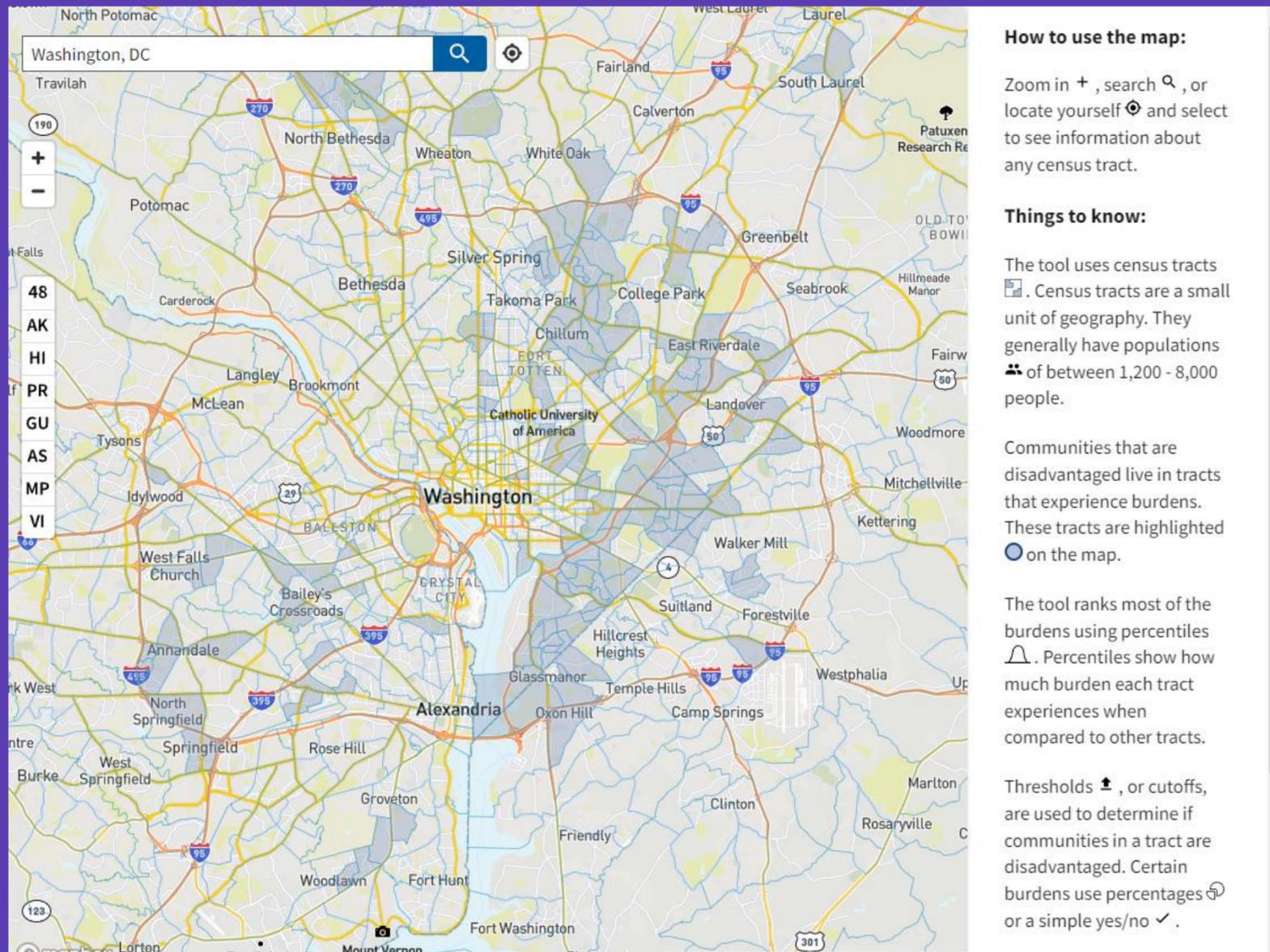
Resources and tools

Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST)

Launched November 2022 in an effort to provide data to support the implementation of the Justice40 Initiative.

The tool is meant to help ensure that the benefits of federal programs are reaching communities that are overburdened by pollution and historic underinvestment.

A community is highlighted as disadvantaged on the CEJST map if it's in a census tract that is (1) at or above the threshold for one or more environmental, climate, or other burdens, and (2) at or above the threshold for an associated socioeconomic burden. In addition, a census tract that's completely surrounded by disadvantaged communities and is at or above the 50% percentile for low income is also considered disadvantaged.



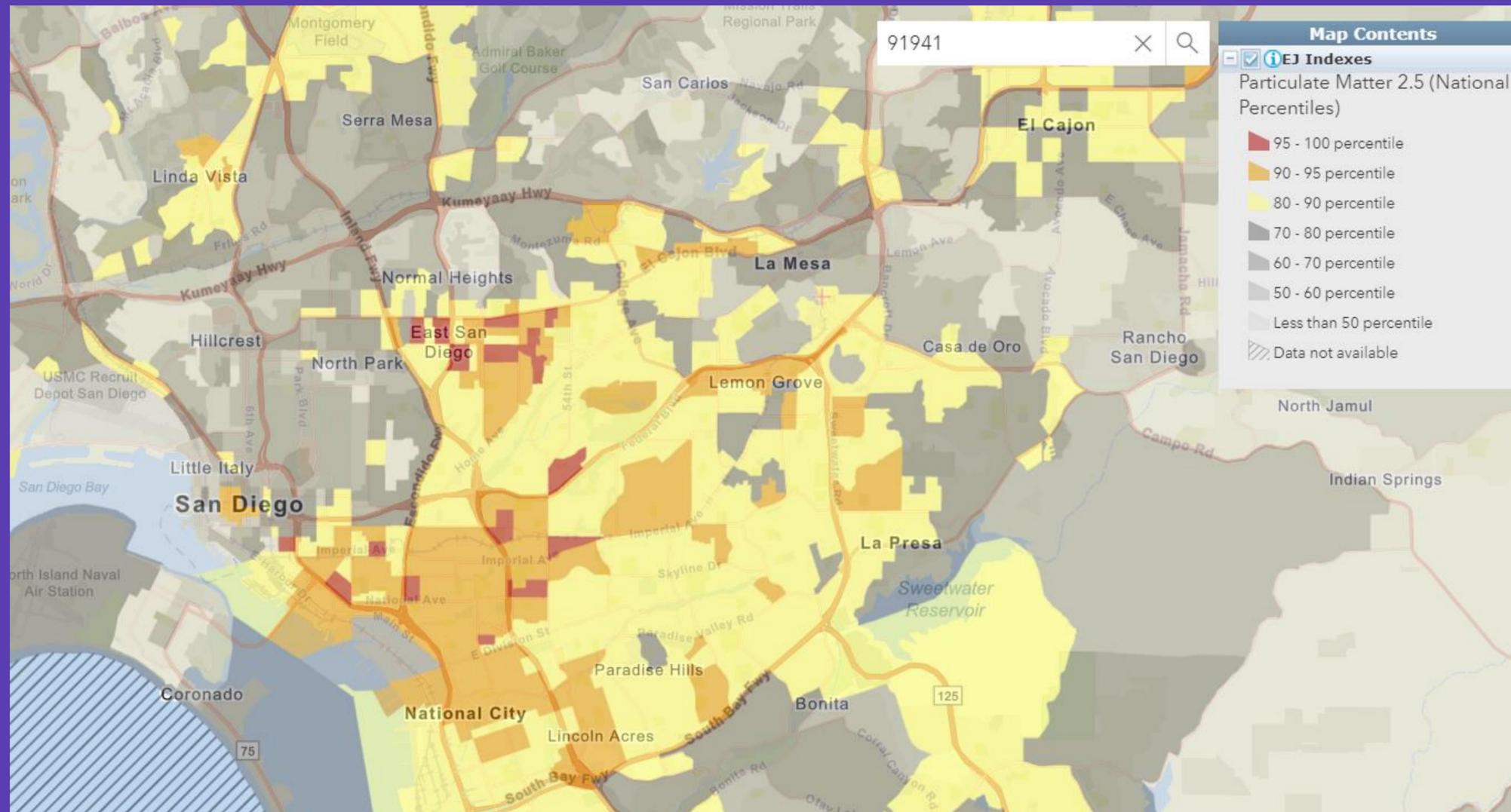
Resources and tools

EJScreen: Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool

EPA's EJ mapping and screening tool that combines environmental and demographic socioeconomic indicators.

EJScreen users choose a geographic area; the tool then provides demographic socioeconomic and environmental information for that area.

- **13 environmental indicators**
- **7 socioeconomic indicators**
- **13 EJ indexes**
- **13 supplemental indexes**

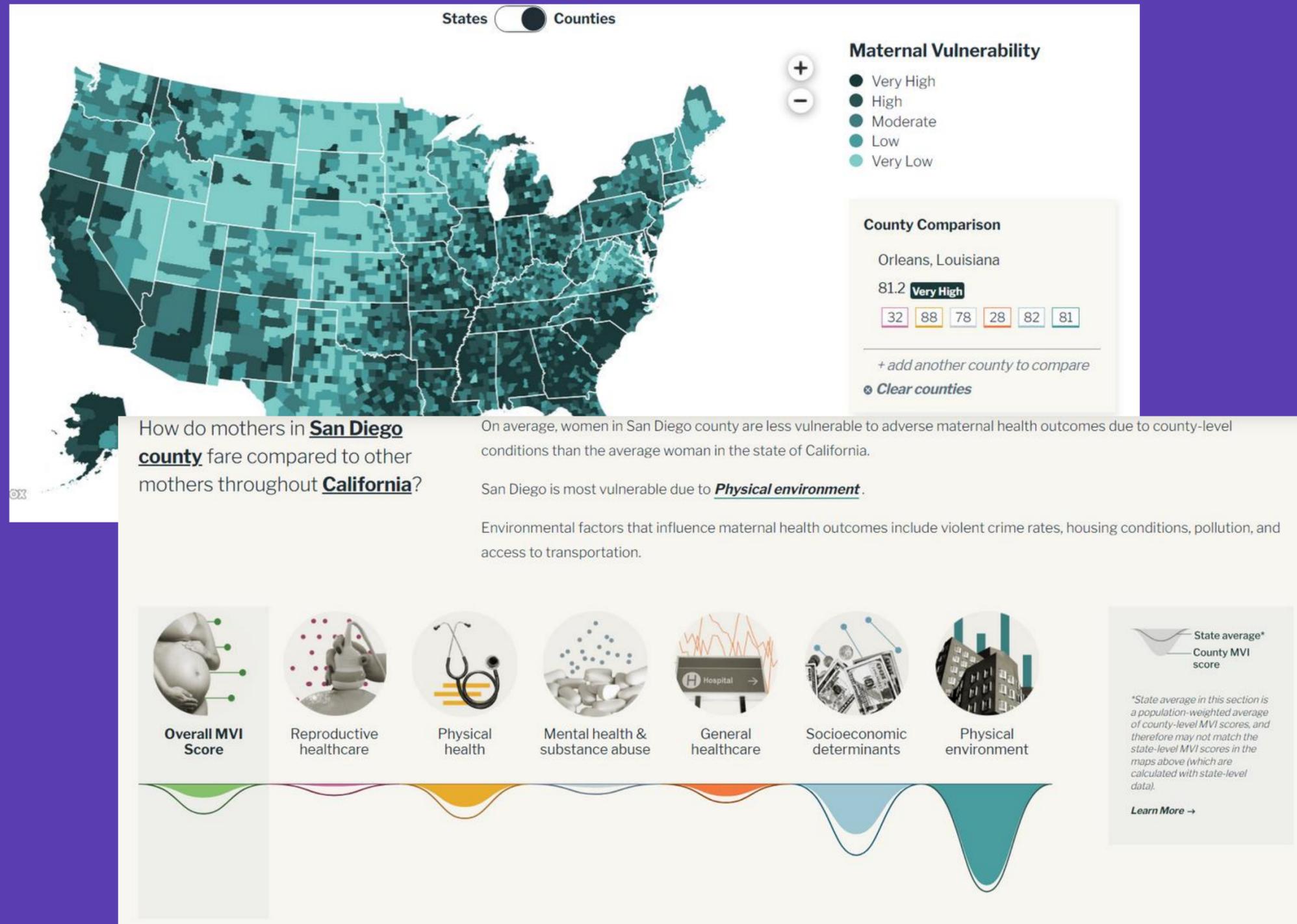


Resources and tools

Maternal Vulnerability Index

The Maternal Vulnerability Index (MVI) identifies not only where, but why, moms in the United States are vulnerable to poor maternal health outcomes.

County-level, national-scale with 6 themes reflecting 43 indicators.



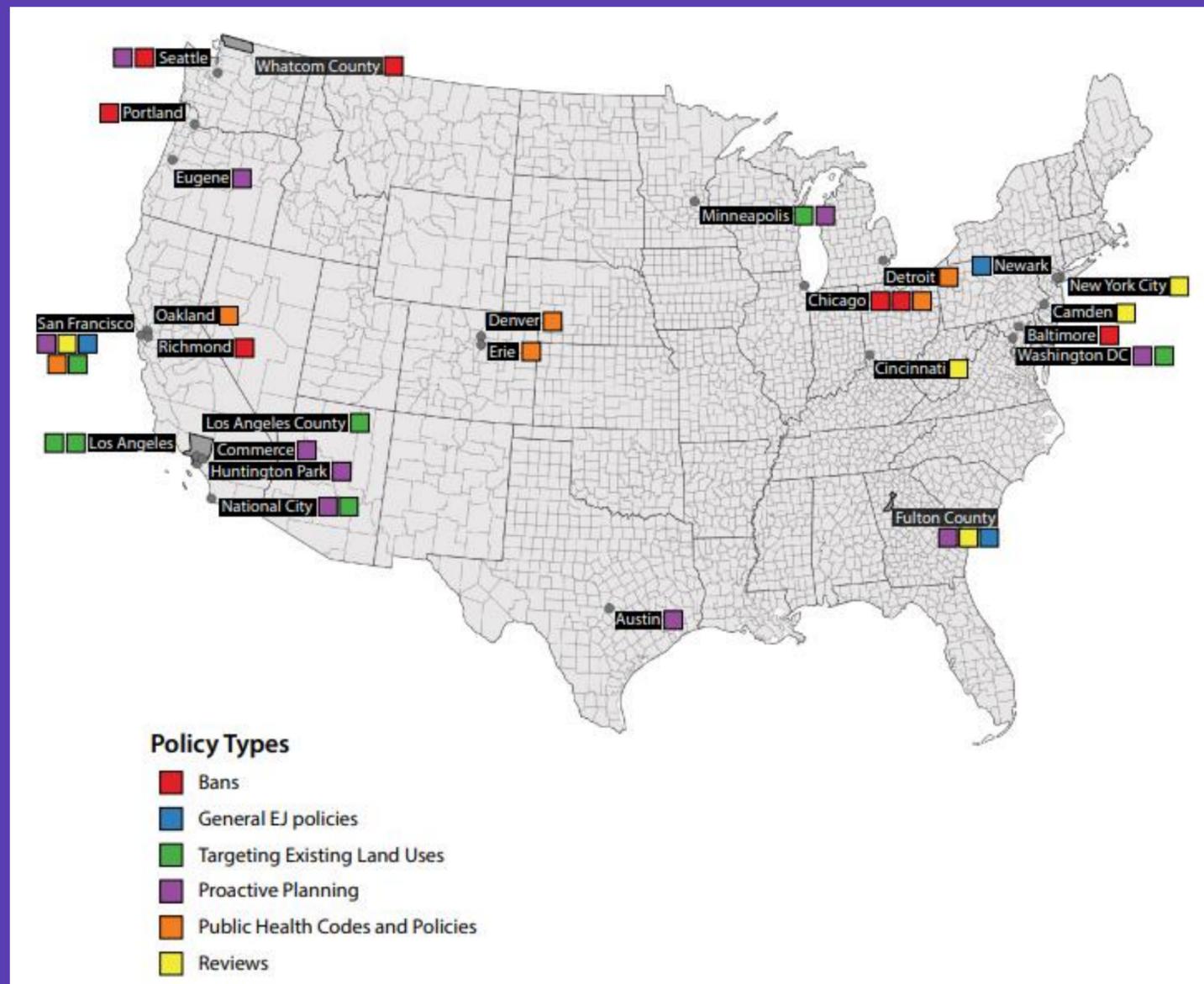
- **Reproductive Healthcare**
- **Physical Environment**
- **Physical Health**
- **Mental Health and Substance Abuse**
- **General Healthcare**
- **Socioeconomic Determinants**

Resources and tools

The New School: Tishman Environment and Design Center - Local Policies for Environmental Justice: A National Scan

Recent (2019) efforts in 23 cities, 3 counties, and 2 utilities in the US to address environmental injustices through zoning, land use, and other policies.

Review of 40 local policies with details how EJ advocacy resulted in innovative approaches to lessen the burden environmental health threats.

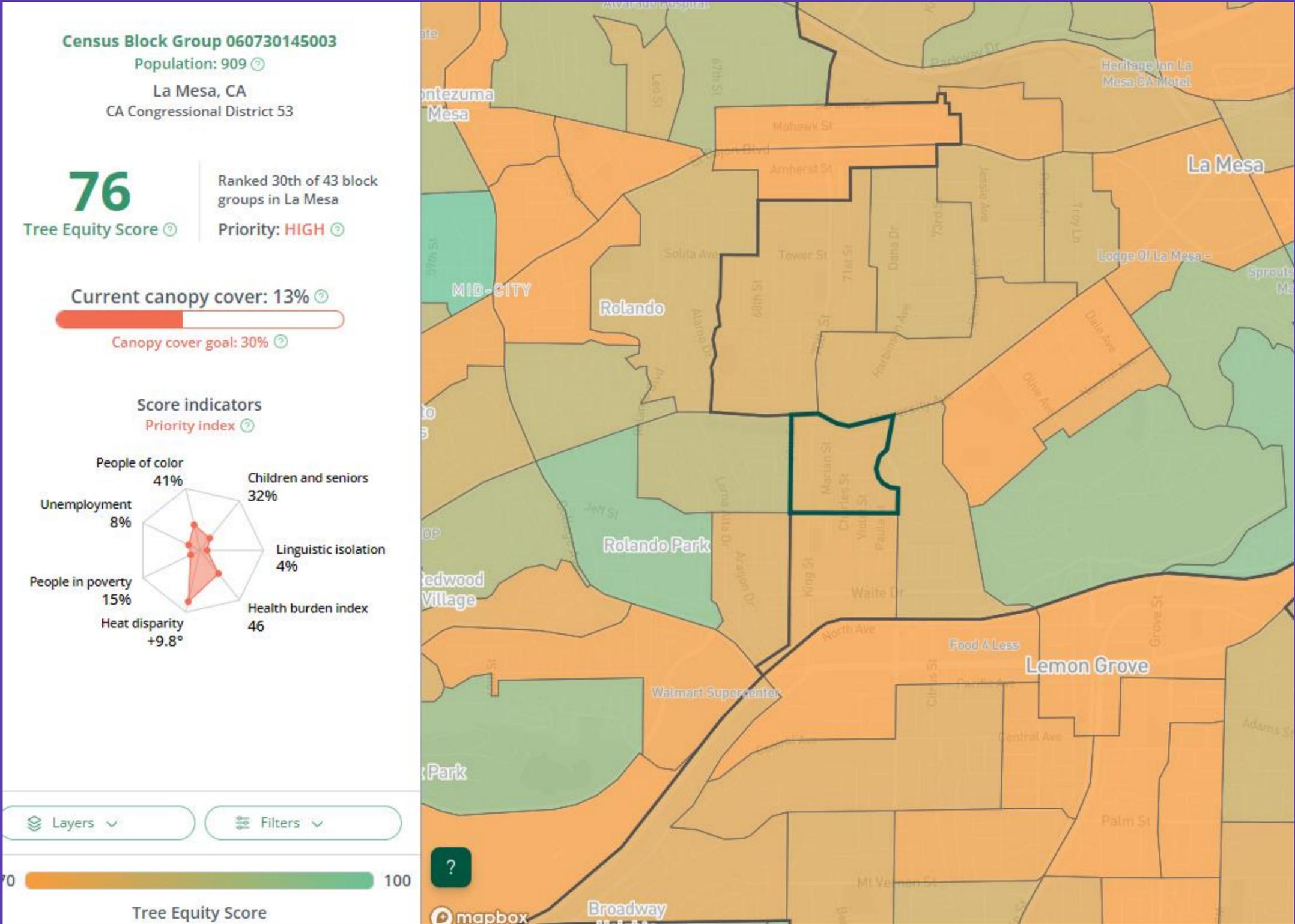


American Forests: Tree Equity Score

Trees not only provide fresh and clean air, they also help reduce heat-related illnesses and utility costs.

Studies show that the neighborhoods that were historically redlined have fewer trees, preventing the people living there from reaping the benefits trees provide.

Tree Equity mapping tool calculates a score for all 150,000 neighborhoods and 486 municipalities in urbanized areas across continental US.



EPA EJ Resources and Workshops

Grants, resources, strategic planning, and partnerships.

Growing Grassroots: Building Capacity for EJ Work - Five Part Workshop Series

- Online Mapping and Data Collection
- Achieving Equitable Development in Communities
- Navigating & Getting to Know your Local, State, and Federal Environmental Agencies
- Accessing Funding for Communities
- Understanding What's in My Drinking Water.

Grants and Resources



- [EJ Grants, Funding, and Technical Assistance](#)
- [Resources for Communities](#)
- [EJ in Your Community](#)
- [EJ Program Funded Projects](#)
- [EJ Learning Center](#)
- [EJSCREEN](#)
- [EPA American Rescue Plan \(ARP\) Funding](#)

Strategic Planning



- [Learn about Environmental Justice](#)
- [EJ Scorecard and EPA](#)
- [Equitable Development](#)
- [National Environmental Policy Act \(NEPA\)](#)
- [Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964](#)
- [Community Outreach and Engagement](#)
- [Journey to Justice Tour](#)

Collaborative Partnerships



- [Community Voices](#)
- [National Environmental Justice Advisory Council \(NEJAC\)](#)
- [White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council \(WHEJAC\)](#)
- [International Human Rights and Rights of Indigenous People](#)
- [Tribes and Indigenous Peoples](#)



The EPN is focused on building the capacity of environmental agencies and the communities they serve to truly address the most urgent health and environmental crises.

- Provide TA and training to communities of color and low-income communities, non-profits, and under-resourced state, local, and tribal government agencies serving those communities.
- Train and mentor EPA staff and recruit underrepresented populations to work at EPA.
- Educate congress and serve as expert resource.

Technical Assistance

EPN's pro bono Capacity-Building Technical Assistance Program provides assistance to communities; NGOs; and state, local, and tribal agencies disproportionately impacted by environmental and health issues. EPN's network of volunteers assists organizations to more effectively and meaningfully participate in government decision-making by helping them navigate EPA, potential grants, regulatory processes, federal policies, and publicly available data to support their work.



EPN's Pro Bono Technical Assistance Program

EPN provides pro bono capacity-building technical assistance to



Meet Our Technical Assistance Community Outreach Associates

EPN has Community Outreach



Inquire Here

Please email, call, or fill out our inquiry form for assistance or to learn more about EPN's pro bono Capacity-Building



Access Federal Funding

Hundreds of billions of dollars from the American Rescue Plan, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, and the Inflation Reduction Act are available

Join us!

ignitingimpacttogether.org



The screenshot shows the top portion of the website. The header is white with the logo on the left and navigation links on the right. The 'GET INVOLVED' link is highlighted with a red circle. Below the header is a hero image of a woman holding a baby, with a dark purple overlay on the bottom left containing text.

IGNITING IMPACT *together*
LOCAL PERSPECTIVE. NATIONAL IMPACT. EQUITABLE OUTCOMES.

[WHO WE ARE](#) [HOW WE WORK](#) [NEWS AND RESOURCES](#) [GET INVOLVED](#) →

**ADVANCING
EQUITABLE HEALTH
OUTCOMES**

Partnering to address the maternal and infant health crisis in the U.S.