MAPPING SUBCOMMITTEE BRIEFING

Environmental Justice Task Force

April 2, 2020 Task Force Meeting
Mapping Subcommittee Charge

Guidance to State Agencies on:

• Using the Environmental Health Disparities (EHD) Map
• Identifying “highly impacted communities” when using the EHD map
• Establishing measurable goals & practices for reducing environmental health disparities
• Creating model policies for prioritizing highly impacted communities & vulnerable pollutions

Process:

• Monthly public meetings from Dec to June
• Research team (publications review)
• UW Evans Graduate Student Research Team (publications review and interviews)
Approach to Mapping Recommendations

Guidance will focus on:

• Using the existing map as is
• Identifying existing practices & policies
• Highlighting state agency activities with promising practices
## Cross-Cutting Agency Activities

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Recommendation 1: Area Assessment

EHD Map Applications:

- To learn about the intended audience or potentially impacted community.
- To provide information about high-risk populations, population characteristics, and various environmental and health conditions.

EXAMPLE: Community Engagement

Information about a population’s education level, languages spoken, and proximity to pollution can inform public engagement so that it is more accessible and relevant for the community.
Recommendation 2: Equity Impact Analysis

EHD Map Applications:

• Use the EHD map to analyze whether Highly Impacted Communities will be affected by a proposed policy, program, or activity.

• The EHD map rankings can be used to evaluate if an activity will impact high risk communities.

EXAMPLE: Project Impact Assessment

If highly impacted populations will be negatively affected by a decision or activity, agency actions could mitigate or address impacts, elevate public engagement, or seek alternatives.
Recommendation 3: Project Prioritization

EHD Map Applications:

- Use the EHD map to direct activities and investments towards the most burdened communities.

EXAMPLE: Grant Programs

Grant scoring criteria would include “benefits to highly impacted communities” as determined by the EHD map rank.
Recommendation 4: Service Equity Evaluation

EHD Map Applications:

- Use the EHD map to evaluate the distribution of an agency activity across the state (or service area). This assessment can identify potential gaps or disparities in service.

EXAMPLE: Grant Programs

Evaluate how past grants have been allocated across the state (or service area) by EHD map ranking.
Strengths of the EHD Map

- Washington-specific data
- Data is representative statewide
- Interactive mapping display
- Most current available data
- Publically accessible (pro-transparency)
- Uses environmental exposures and effects, sensitive populations, and socioeconomic factors to develop a disparity rank
- Cumulative impact analysis

- Rankings allow greater data granularity and protect small numbers
- Data link to WTN Query Portal
- Data (absolute numbers and ranking) can be exported from the WTN Query Portal for further analysis
- New data and overlay maps can be added to the tool if it exists and can be made publically available

What else?

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Considerations & Limitations of the EHD Map

- Relative ranking instead of absolute numbers
- Cannot track changes or measurable goals over time
- Model is based on CalEnviroScreen
- Limited tribal data and representation
- Differences in how urban/rural areas are affected by indicators
- Not representative of all environmental health exposures/effects
- Lacks data that may be of interest at a local level due to geographic scale (census tract), but aren’t representative statewide
- Can only display data that can be made publically available
- No dedicated funding to make improvements and changes to Information By Location tool functionality

What else?
Mapping Subcommittee’s April & May Focus

- Continue with regularly scheduled subcommittee meetings
- Drafting mapping recommendations
- Continuing to gather information on mapping related measureable goals & model policies to reduce environmental health disparities
Task Force Member Ask:

Do you have examples of measureable goals or model policies related to reducing environmental health disparities?

Reminder: Opportunities for EJ Survey
THANK YOU!

Questions? Comments?