Applications of the EHD Map for Environmental Justice Efforts

Community (Area) Assessment

Use the EHD map to learn about the intended audience or potentially impacted community in order to develop communication practices that are respectful, responsive, and effective.

Criteria for using the EHD map:

- Analysis of a census tract
- Best for assessing the demographic and environmental health considerations of a population

Equity Impact Analysis

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

Criteria for using the EHD map:

- Analysis of a single or multiple census tracts
- Best for assessing the impacts of an area-specific project

Project Prioritization

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

Criteria for using the EHD map:

- Analysis of projects/activities across the state (or service area)
- Best when you have discretion to influence process (e.g. timing, resource allocation, geographic or population focus).

Examples of Potential Agency Applications

- 1. **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:** The EHD map can provide information about high-risk populations, population characteristics, and various environmental and health conditions of the intended audience or potentially impacted community. Information about a population's education level, languages spoken, and proximity to pollution can inform public engagement so that it is accessible and relevant.
- 1. **PROJECT PROPOSAL:** The EHD map rankings (online for a single tract, or using a GIS layer to assess multiple tracts) can be used to evaluate if an activity will impact high risk communities. If a highly impacted population will be negatively affected by a decision or activity, agencies could include actions to mitigate or address impacts, elevate public engagement, or seek alternatives.
- 1. **GRANTS:** The EHD map rankings can support prioritizing grant allocations to areas of highest risk. This can be done by including "benefits to highly impacted communities" as a criteria in grant scoring. Those grants with benefits to "highly impacted" areas (as determined by the EHD ranking) would potentially score higher and be prioritized for funding.
- 2. INSPECTIONS: The EHD map rankings can be used to help prioritize inspections. This can be done by mapping the inspection locations (via a GIS layer), and including "location in a Highly Impacted Community" as a criteria in inspection planning and scheduling. Those facilities located in "high risk" areas could be prioritized for inspection and/or inspected more frequently.

Service Equity Evaluation

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

Criteria for using the EHD map:

- Analysis of projects/activities across the state (or service area)
- Best when you have discretion to influence process (e.g. timing, resource allocation, geographic or population focus).
- 1. **GRANTS:** The EHD map rankings (using a GIS layer) can be used to evaluate how grants have been allocated by an agency across the state (or service area). This assessment might highlight gaps or disparities across geographies or populations potentially underserved by the agency or experiencing barriers to access.
- 2. **STRATEGIC PLANNING:** The EHD map rankings (using a GIS layer) can be used to evaluate an agency's investments or activities across the state (or service area). This assessment might highlight gaps or disparities across geographies or populations potentially underserved by the agency or experiencing barriers to access. The EHD map analysis can help inform program planning to achieve distributional equity.