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EJScreen: Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool

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Overview of Socioeconomic Indicators in EJScreen

There are seven socioeconomic indicators featured in EJScreen. These indicators form the basis for both the demographic index and the supplemental demographic index:

1. **People of color:**

- The percent of individuals in a block group who list their racial status as a race other than white alone and/or list their ethnicity as Hispanic or Latino. That is, all people other than non-Hispanic white-alone individuals. The word "alone" in this case indicates that the person is of a single race, not multiracial.

2. **Low-income:**

- The percent of a block group's <<https://epa.gov/ejscreen/how-interpret-standard-report-ejscreen#census>> population in households where the household income is less than or equal to twice the federal "poverty level."

3. **Unemployment rate:**

- The percent of a block group's <<https://epa.gov/ejscreen/how-interpret-standard-report-ejscreen#census>> population that did not have a job at all during the reporting period, made at least one specific active effort to find a job during the prior 4 weeks, and were available for work (unless temporarily ill).

4. **Limited English speaking:**

- Percent of people in a block group living in limited English speaking households. A household in which all members age 14 years and over speak a non-English language and also speak English less than "very well" (have difficulty with English) is limited English speaking.

5. **Less than high school education:**

- Percent of people age 25 or older in a block group whose education is short of a high school diploma.

6. **Under age 5:**

- Percent of people in a block group under the age of 5.

7. **Over age 64:**

- Percent of people in a block group over the age of 64.

EJScreen includes two indexes that are based on the above socioeconomic indicators:

1. **Demographic Index** is based on the average of two socioeconomic indicators; low-income and people of color.
2. **Supplemental Demographic Index** is based on the average of five socioeconomic indicators; low-income, unemployment, limited English, less than high school education, and low life expectancy (which is a health dataset).

EJScreen uses socioeconomic factors as very general indicators of a community's potential susceptibility to the types of environmental factors included in this screening tool, as explained further in the  EJScreen Technical Documentation (pdf)

<https://epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-06/ejscreen-tech-doc-version-2-2.pdf> (643.26 KB) .

EJScreen has been designed in the context of EPA's EJ policies, including EPA's Final Guidance on Considering Environmental Justice During the Development of an Action (U.S. EPA, 2010) <https://epa.gov/environmentaljustice/technical-guidance-assessing-environmental-justice-regulatory-analysis>. That guidance document explained EPA's focus on socioeconomic factors as an indicator of potential susceptibility to environmental pollution.

[EJScreen Home](https://epa.gov/ejscreen) <https://epa.gov/ejscreen>

[What is EJScreen? <https://epa.gov/ejscreen/what-ejscreen>](https://epa.gov/ejscreen/what-ejscreen)

[How was EJScreen Developed? <https://epa.gov/ejscreen/how-was-ejscreen-developed>](https://epa.gov/ejscreen/how-was-ejscreen-developed)

[How Does EPA Use EJScreen? <https://epa.gov/ejscreen/how-does-epa-use-ejscreen>](https://epa.gov/ejscreen/how-does-epa-use-ejscreen)

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Understanding EJScreen Results

[EJ and Supplemental Indexes <https://epa.gov/ejscreen/ej-and-supplemental-indexes-ejscreen>](https://epa.gov/ejscreen/ej-and-supplemental-indexes-ejscreen)

[Environmental Indicators <https://epa.gov/ejscreen/overview-environmental-indicators-ejscreen>](https://epa.gov/ejscreen/overview-environmental-indicators-ejscreen)

Socioeconomic Indicators

[How to Interpret EJScreen Data <https://epa.gov/ejscreen/how-interpret-ejscreen-data>](https://epa.gov/ejscreen/how-interpret-ejscreen-data)

[Threshold Maps <https://epa.gov/ejscreen/threshold-maps-ejscreen>](https://epa.gov/ejscreen/threshold-maps-ejscreen)

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