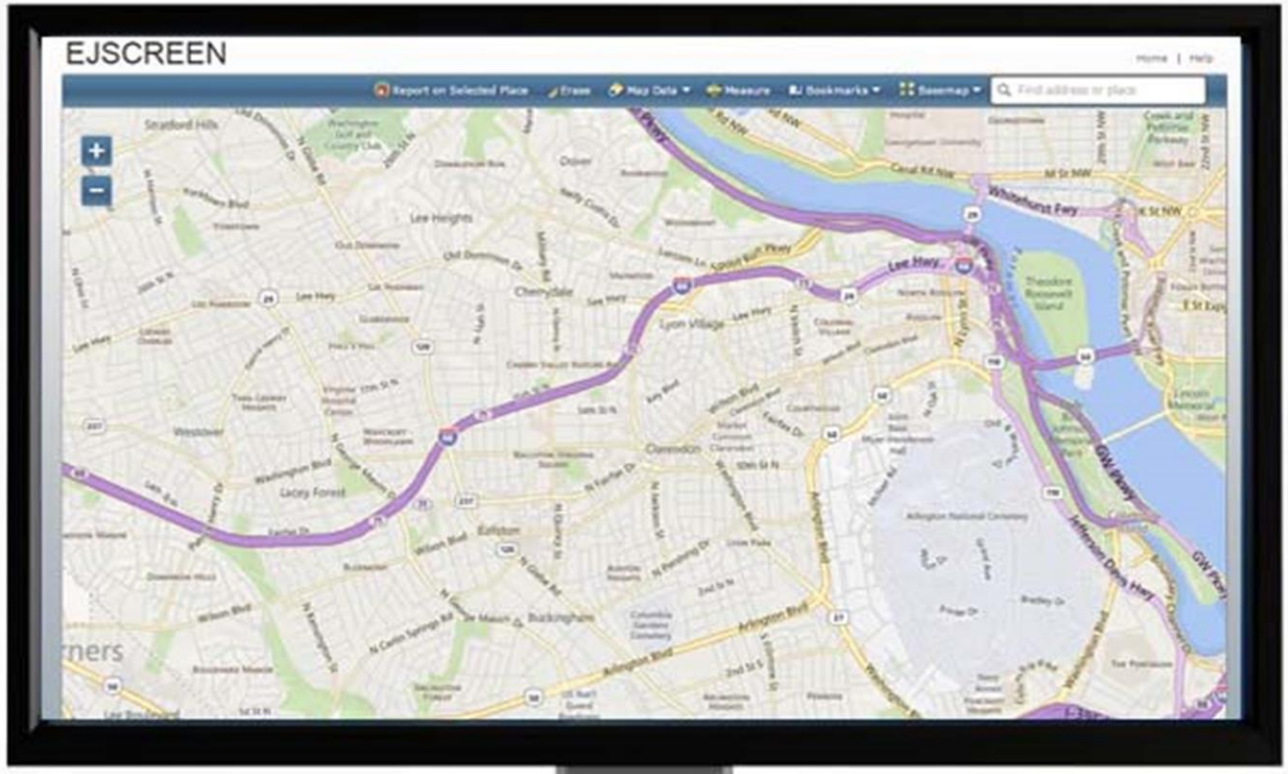

EJSCREEN: EPA's Environmental Justice Screening Tool

May 23, 2016

Environmental Justice Defined

EPA has defined environmental justice as, "the **fair treatment and meaningful involvement** of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies."

http://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/


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Why are Demographics Important for Understanding Environmental Risk?

Susceptibility

A capacity leading to higher risk at a given exposure level, due to biological (intrinsic) factors that can modify the effect of a specific exposure

Vulnerability

Definitions focus on the capacity to be harmed or injured

Background of EJSCREEN

- EPA's new tool for nationally consistent EJ screening and mapping
- Web-based Geographic Information System (GIS) tool and data
- Product of Plan EJ 2014
- Builds upon National Environmental Justice Advisory Committee report on EJ screening, and prior EPA experience
- Peer reviewed by experts in 2013

Key Features

- 12 EJ Indexes – one for each environmental indicator
- Annually updated demographics – from most recent U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey (ACS)
- Web accessible
- Standard printable reports, maps, and bar graphs
- Higher resolution maps
- Raw data downloads will also be available

Limitations For Using EJSCREEN

- EJSCREEN is a starting point. It is a pre-decisional screening tool; does not direct final outcomes for EPA.
- EJSCREEN highlights places for further review for the potential for EJ concerns.
- Baseline screening should be supplemented with local information and experience.
- Should **not** be used to label areas as “EJ Communities.”

Understand the Age of Data Vary by Indicator – Especially with Air Data

- The inclusion of a dataset in EJSCREEN does not imply it is the newest or best estimate of actual conditions or risks.
- **Estimates** are based on **historical data** and may not reflect current or future conditions.
- Percentiles are much more likely to be reasonably representative of today's conditions in most locations than raw values.