

Race/Ethnicity

People of color and ethnic minoritized groups experience greater exposure to environmental hazards than white populations due to the location of pollution sources in historically racially and ethnically segregated communities throughout the United States (Bullard et al., 2008; Mohai et al., 2009; Mohai and Saha, 2015; University of Washington Department of Environmental & Occupational Health Sciences and Washington State Department of Health., 2022). Redlining was a practice of the 1930s for designating communities as “hazardous” for home mortgage-lending based on the prevalence of industrial exposures, low-income levels, and racial and ethnic diversity. This racist policy encouraged racial residential segregation and continues to drive environmental inequality today (Kaufman and Hajat, 2021). Research and surveys conducted on social and economic wellbeing show that 81 percent of metropolitan regions in the United States were more segregated as of 2019 than they were in 1990 (Madrigano et al., 2022). The neighborhoods that were red-lined in the past have reduced green space in present day, which several studies show is associated with racial residential segregation, urban heat islands, more noise pollution, and poorer air quality (Nardone et al., 2021).

The CDC has labeled systemic racism as a serious public health threat (“Environmental Justice Index Indicators,,” 2022). Systemic racism affects the health of residents in Connecticut today. For example, a survey conducted by DataHaven found that in Connecticut 11% of white, 13% of Black, and 21% of Latino adults have asthma, a disease that is triggered by air pollution (Ofgang, 2020). As of 2020, people of color and ethnic minorities in the state had higher rates of diabetes, food insecurity, healthcare discrimination, no health insurance, obesity, opioid overdoses, and poverty than Connecticut’s white populations (Davila et al., 2020). According to the U.S. Census, Connecticut has a white-alone population of 66.4%. This value has been steadily decreasing, meaning the state of Connecticut is becoming more diverse in racial demographics (Connecticut by the Numbers, 2021).

Indicator This indicator represents the tracts ranked by their percentile level of percentage of sum of all race/ethnicity categories except White/Non-Hispanics.

Data Source [2017-2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates](#)

Method The 2017-2021 ACS 5-year estimates “ACS SELECTED ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS” from U.S. Census in tract resolution is geocoded. The total population on the tract level is found in Table DP05_0033E (Estimate!!RACE!!Total population). The total Non-Hispanic/white DP05_0077E Estimate!!HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE!!Total population!!Not Hispanic or Latino!!White alone was subtracted from the total population to find all the race groups that are not characterized as single white race. All race except non-Hispanic/white is divided by the total population to find the sum of all racial categories.

The percentiles are normalized into impact rank scores between 0 (least impacted) to 10 (most impacted). The map was segmented into ten equally-sized sections between the 0 and 10. In addition, an 11th category was established for instances where data was not available or the total population is given as zero. The value in the table below represents the percentage of the indicator in each census tract.

Min Value	Max Value	Min Percentile	Max Percentile	Min Rank	Max Rank
0	648	0	9.38	0	1
86	702	9.61	19.45	1	2
174	695	19.57	29.41	2	3
265	1048	29.52	39.36	3	4
282	1854	39.59	49.43	4	5
606	1877	49.54	59.38	5	6
1110	2324	59.5	69.34	6	7
1070	3487	69.45	79.41	7	8
243	5606	79.52	89.36	8	9
1146	3313	89.47	99.89	9	10

Works Cited

- Bullard, R.D., Mohai, P., Saha, R., Wright, B., 2008. TOXIC WASTES AND RACE AT TWENTY: WHY RACE STILL MATTERS AFTER ALL OF THESE YEARS . Gal. Bullard W. Fig. Tables 38.
- Connecticut by the Numbers, 2021. CT’s Population Growth Slows, Only 0.9% During Past Decade After 4.9% in Previous.
- Davila, K., Abraham, M., Seaberry, C., 2020. Towards Health Equity in Connecticut: The Role of Social Inequity and the Impact of Covid-19 [WWW Document]. DataHaven.
- Environmental Justice Index Indicators. [WWW Document], 2022. . Agency Toxic Subst. Dis. Regist. Cent. Dis. Control (CDC. URL <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/placeandhealth/eji/docs/EJI-2022-Indicators-508.pdf> (accessed 3.27.23).
- Kaufman, J.D., Hajat, A., 2021. Confronting Environmental Racism. *Environ. Health Perspect.* 129, 051001. <https://doi.org/10.1289/EHP9511>
- Madrigano, J., Hernandez, C.C., Stephenson, S.R., Youngblood, A., Siddiqi, S.M., Gahlon, G., Hutterer, A., Chari, R., Preston, B.L., 2022. Environmental Racism: A Tool for Exploring the Enduring Legacy of Redlining on Urban Environments . Rand Corp. .
- Mohai, P., Pellow, D., Roberts, J.T., 2009. Environmental Justice. *Annu. Rev. Environ. Resour.* 34, 405–430. <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-environ-082508-094348>
- Mohai, P., Saha, R., 2015. Which came first, people or pollution? A review of theory and evidence from longitudinal environmental justice studies. *Environ. Res. Lett.* 10, 125011. <https://doi.org/10.1088/1748-9326/10/12/125011>
- Nardone, A., Rudolph, K.E., Morello-Frosch, R., Casey, J.A., 2021. Redlines and Greenspace: The Relationship between Historical Redlining and 2010 Greenspace across the United States. *Environ. Health Perspect.* 129, 017006. <https://doi.org/10.1289/EHP7495>
- Ofgang, E., 2020. Race, Economics, Environment Continue To Drive State’s Asthma Disparities. [WWW Document]. DataHaven. URL <https://www.ctdatahaven.org/blog/race-economics-environment-continue-drive-state-s-asthma-disparities>

University of Washington Department of Environmental & Occupational Health Sciences and Washington State Department of Health., 2022. Washington Environmental Health Disparities Map Cumulative Impacts of Environmental Health Risk Factors Across Communities of Washington State.