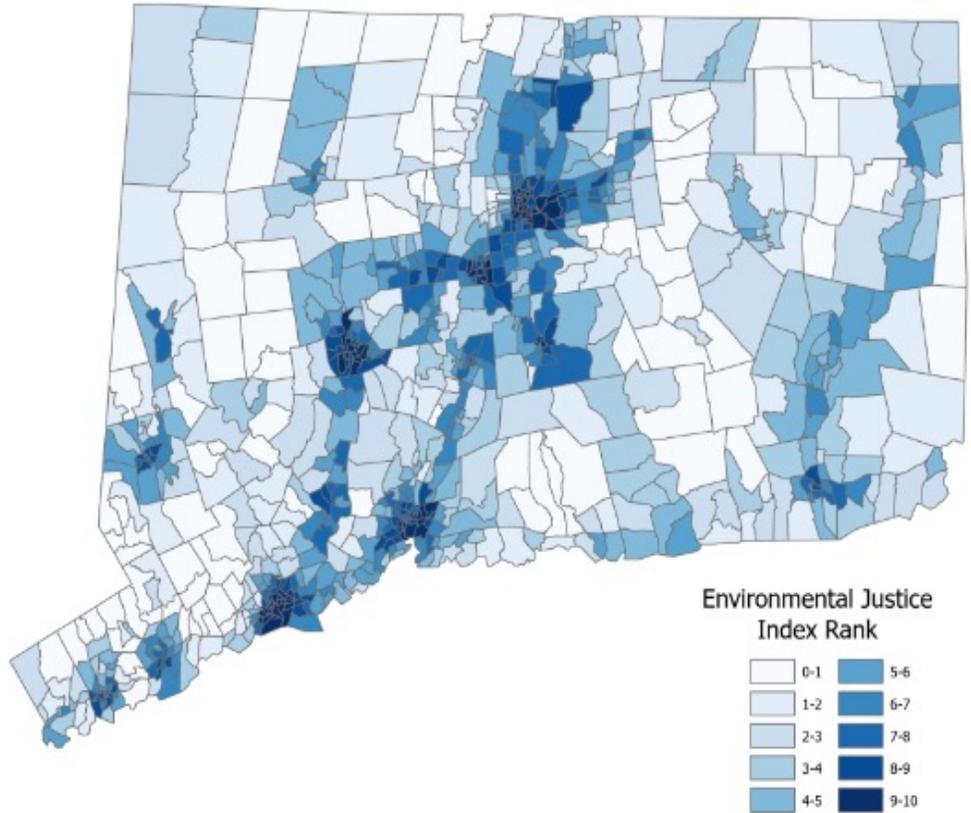# Connecticut Environmental Justice Screening Tool 2.0

This tool helps identify communities with high potential pollution burdens, health sensitivities, and/or social stressors, as well as potential opportunities for addressing environmental health impacts. The tool is based on various datasets (called **indicators**) that each represent a type of pollution, health impact, or social vulnerability. Indicators are mapped across Connecticut census tracts and then combined into an overall Environmental Justice Index Score for each community.

How to Read the Map

Each indicator has a 0–10 ranking for each census tract, reflecting relative placement compared to all Connecticut tracts rather than an absolute value. Some public health indicators are ranked by town instead of tract. All the indicators are combined into an overall EJ Index Score.

Darker areas

=

Higher potential cumulative impact of pollution, health sensitivity, and vulnerable populations

Environmental Justice Index Rank

0-1	5-6
1-2	6-7
2-3	7-8
3-4	8-9
4-5	9-10

Disclaimer

This Screening Tool DOES:	This Screening Tool DOES NOT:
✓ Identify potential sources of pollution.	X Does not reflect actual exposures to pollution.
✓ Identify areas that that may be more vulnerable to impacts from accidents or emergencies involving the release of environmental contamination.	X Does not indicate the exact pollution burden nor reflect the number of individuals that may be affected by pollution.
✓ Identify census tracts near potential pollution sources.	X Does not establish causal associations between environmental risks and health.
✓ Identify the degree to which a community, by census tract, is burdened by environmental harms and impacts.	X Does not provide information about an individual's health status or environment.
	X Does not release private addresses, information, or names.

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How are the Scores on the EJ Screening Tool Calculated?

- Each dataset (**indicator**) represents a type of pollution, health impact, or social vulnerability.
- Indicators are organized into **4** categories, which are used to calculate **2** composite (combined) categories (**Pollution Burden & Sensitive Populations** in the table below). These are then multiplied to get the final ***Environmental Justice Index Score,*** which represents the cumulative impact for each census tract in Connecticut.

Overall Score	Environmental Justice Index Score = Pollution Burden x Sensitive Populations			
Composite Category	**Pollution Burden** $\dfrac{0.5\times average(PPS) + average(PPE)}{1.5}$		**Sensitive Populations** $\dfrac{average(SF) + average(HS)}{2}$	
Category	*Potential Pollution Sources (PPS)*	*Potential Pollution Exposure (PPE)*	*Socioeconomic Factors (SF)*	*Health Sensitivity (HS)*
Indicator	• Brownfield sites • Proximity to Superfund Sites • Impervious Surfaces • Incinerators • Landfills • Housing Lead Risk • Municipal Transfer Stations • Potentially Contaminated/Clean-Up Sites • Recycling Processing Facilities • Significant Environmental Hazards • Underground Storage Tanks • Facilities Managing Hazardous Chemicals • Wastewater Discharges	• Diesel PM Emissions • Noise • Ozone • Particulate Matter 2.5 • Facilities Releasing Toxics • Major Sources of Air Pollution • Minor Sources of Air Pollution • Minor Air Pollution Facilities • Traffic Density • EPA Cancer Risk Index • EPA Respiratory Hazard Risk Index	• Housing Burden • Linguistic Isolation • Poverty levels • Unemployment • Race/Ethnicity • Educational Attainment • Energy Burden • Median Income • Population Age < 5 • Population Age > 65 • No Health Insurance • Mobile Homes • Multi-unit Housing • Rent-ownership Ratio • Disability • Single Parent Households • Food Insecurity	• Asthma Emergency Dept. Visit Rate • Coronary Heart Disease • Emergency Dept. Visits for Chronic Lung Disease • Diabetes • Low Birthweight Rate of Infants • Declined Mental Health • Depression Rates

Who Can Use The Tool?	Why Use The Tool?	Access The Tool
✓ Community groups ✓ Advocacy organizations ✓ Government agencies ✓ Teachers and students ✓ Everyone!	✓ Address environmental justice issues ✓ Inform government decisions ✓ Facilitate dialogue and collaboration between policymakers and community members	Freely accessible online via ✓ Phone ✓ Tablet ✓ Computer