

Worksheet to Identify Overburdened Communities and Vulnerable Populations

HEAL Act Community Engagement Plan Resource

# Questions and Prompts: Geography

Which areas of the state will your agency’s action (e.g., project, program, policy, etc.) touch?

Are there areas that rank highly for environmental health disparities (9 or 10 EHD Map ranking)?

## Resources and Tools

[Washington Tracking Network (WTN) Environmental Health Disparities (EHD) Map](https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/wtnibl/WTNIBL/) – Within the EHD Map you can view census tracts by aggregate environmental health disparity ranking; disaggregate by environmental effects, environmental exposures, socioeconomic factors, or sensitive populations; or by specific measures within each of these categories.

*Note:* This should be tailored to your specific program or service area. For example, if you are interested in air quality impacts from wildfire smoke, you would look at EHD rankings, then compare them with rankings for PM2.5 and overlay wildfire boundary information. It may be helpful to use additional data specific to your program to inform this step.

### Findings:

Add your Geography notes here.

# Questions and Prompts: Health Disparities

Identify existing health inequities impacted by your agency’s action (e.g., project, program, policy).

## Resources and Tools

[WTN](https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/wtn/WTNPortal/) – Available at multiple geographic scales and health disparity measures.

[EHD Map](https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/wtnibl/WTNIBL/) – Multiple layers for different health disparity concerns available.

### Findings:

Add your Health Disparity notes here.

# Questions and Prompts: Race

What proportion of the people impacted by your agency’s action (e.g., project, program, policy, etc.) are people of color?

Which specific racial groups are represented?

*Note*: Racial and ethnic minorities are included in the definition of vulnerable populations.

## Resources and Tools

[EHD Map](https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/wtnibl/WTNIBL/) – Available by clicking on census tract and toggling to ‘Race’ in pop-up window.

[Race and Ethnicity in the United States (US Census)](https://www.census.gov/library/visualizations/interactive/race-and-ethnicity-in-the-united-state-2010-and-2020-census.html) – Available at multiple levels, including state, county, census tract, etc.

[2020 American Community Survey (ACS) Demographic and Housing Estimates](https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=2020%20ACS&t=Race%20and%20Ethnicity&g=0400000US53&tid=ACSDP5Y2020.DP05) – Available at multiple levels, including state, county, census tract, etc.

### Findings:

Add your notes on Race here.

# Questions and Prompts: Poverty and Unemployment

What is the percent of the population living in poverty who might be impacted by your agency’s action (e.g., project, program, policy, etc.)?

What is the percent unemployed in the area?

*Note:* Low-income populations are included in the definition of Vulnerable populations.

## Resources and Tools

[WTN](https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/wtn/WTNPortal/) – Available at multiple geographic scales and poverty/unemployment measures.

[EHD Map](https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/wtnibl/WTNIBL/) – Available at census tract level by selecting “Socioeconomic Factors” and “Population Living in Poverty <=185% of Federal Poverty Level” or “Unemployed.”

[2020 ACS Selected Economic Characteristics](https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=unemployment&g=0400000US53&tid=ACSDP5Y2020.DP03) – Includes poverty and employment information available at multiple levels, including state, county, census tract, etc.

### Findings:

Add you Poverty and Unemployment notes here.

# Questions and Prompts: Language Access

What is the percent of Limited English Proficient population that might be impacted by your agency’s action (e.g., project, program, policy, etc.)?

Which languages are spoken by these populations?

## Resources and Tools

[Washington State Military Department Language Mapping Tool](https://waseocgis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=ffd638d41f7045fe97a27d1e2ccbe0af) – Available at county, sub-county, and census tract levels; includes information on widely spoken languages in Washington state.

[People That Speak English Less Than "Very Well" in the United States (US Census)](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.census.gov%2Flibrary%2Fvisualizations%2Finteractive%2Fpeople-that-speak-english-less-than-very-well.html&data=04%7C01%7Cjonathan.munro-hernandez%40atg.wa.gov%7Cd2b56176a1a243b10e8108d9e598c5ba%7C2cc5baaf3b9742c9bcb8392cad34af3f%7C0%7C0%7C637793266595544517%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=AUnF8S2Zd27uTSDq4xUUv1p7GawsSAHHOlomcmDcSI8%3D&reserved=0) – Visualization at census tract level using 2018 ACS 5-year estimates.

[EPA EJScreen Tool](https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen) – Includes linguistic isolation data at census tract level.

[EHD Map](https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/wtnibl/WTNIBL/) – Available at census tract level via “Socioeconomic Factors” and “ACS: Limited English (LEP).”

### Findings:

Add your Language Access notes here.

# Questions and Prompts: Environmental Justice Concerns

What EJ concerns are relevant to your agency’s action (e.g., project, program, policy, etc.)?

How do these concerns overlap with some of the demographic information identified earlier in this worksheet?

*Note:* The definition of vulnerable populations includes populations disproportionately impacted by environmental harms; and populations of workers experiencing environmental harms.

## Resources and Tools

[EHD Map](https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/wtnibl/WTNIBL/) – Multiple layers for different EJ concerns available.

[EPA EJScreen Tool](https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen) – Multiple layers for different EJ concerns available.

[White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool](https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/en/#3/33.47/-97.5) – Multiple layers for different EJ concerns available.

*Note:* These data resources are incomplete on their own and should serve as a starting place for identifying EJ concerns. Additional research, including local EJ history and concerns, Civil Rights complaints, news/media articles, and local government and community organization websites, should continue to inform this section.

### Findings:

Add your notes on Environmental Justice Concerns here.

# Questions and Prompts: Financial Impact

What are the potential financial impacts to communities given your agency’s action (e.g., project, program, policy, etc.)?

Consider the intersectional aspects and downstream effects of environmental harms. How might your agency’s action impact low-income households in both the short and long-term?

## Resources and Tools

[EPA‘s EJScreen Tool](https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen) and [EHD Map](https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/wtnibl/WTNIBL/) have indicators for federal poverty guidelines that can help individuals map out a geographical area's income range.

### Findings:

Add your Financial Impact notes here.

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