



# Healthy Environment For All (HEAL) Act

Joint Transportation Committee  
October 20, 2021

# Presenters

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*Environmental Justice Council Manager*

Office of Environmental Public Health Sciences

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Office of Environmental Public Health Sciences

# Healthy Environment For All (HEAL) Act SB 5141 (2021)

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Sierra Rotakhina

*Environmental Justice Council Manager*

# Intent

Reduce environmental and health disparities and improve the health of all people of Washington state by implementing the recommendations of the environmental justice task force



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# Environmental Justice

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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, rules, and policies.

Environmental justice includes addressing disproportionate environmental and health impacts in all laws, rules, and policies with environmental impacts by prioritizing vulnerable populations and overburdened communities, the equitable distribution of resources and benefits, and eliminating harm.

# Environmental Justice Task Force

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2019-2021 budget proviso directed the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities to convene/staff Environmental Justice Task Force



The Task Force was responsible for recommending strategies for incorporating environmental justice principles into State agency actions



Task Force released its [final report](#) in Fall 2020

# Task Force Responsibilities

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Guidance for using the Environmental Health Disparity Map

Best practices for increasing meaningful and inclusive community engagement

Measurable goals for reducing environmental health disparities

Model policies that prioritize highly impacted communities and vulnerable populations

# HEAL Act Implementation

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Environmental  
Justice Council

Agency  
Implementation



# Environmental Justice Council

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## Membership & Structure

- 16 members appointed by the Governor
- Staffed by DOH
- Supported by agencies
  - Non-voting liaisons
  - Interagency workgroup



## Purpose

- Forum for public testimony
- Develop guidance for agencies
- Evaluate agency progress

Council to convene by  
January 1, 2022

# Environmental Justice Council Role

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Community Forum

Guidance for Covered Agencies

Agency Accountability

# State Agency Implementation

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# Covered Agencies

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# Other Interagency Work Group Members

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Washington Department of  
**Fish and Wildlife**



WASHINGTON STATE  
Recreation and  
Conservation Office



WASHINGTON STATE   
**BOARD OF HEALTH**

# Phasing of Activities

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## 2022

- Develop community engagement plan
- Begin reporting to Environmental Justice (EJ) Council
- Review Environmental Health Disparities map



## 2023

- Incorporate EJ into strategic plan
- Publish budgeting EJ principles
- Begin EJ assessments



## 2024 and beyond

- Publish dashboard report
- Define additional significant agency actions

# Tribal Collaboration and Consultation

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Sec. 20 The Governor shall collaborate with federally recognized tribes on the selection of tribal representatives for the Council.

Sec. 18. Covered agencies shall develop a consultation framework in coordination with tribal governments and offer consultation with federally recognized Indian tribes on:

- (a) Environmental justice implementation plans within the agency's strategic plan;
- (b) Community engagement plans;
- (c) Significant agency actions that affect federally recognized Indian tribes' rights and interests in their tribal lands.

Sec. 18 The Department of Health must offer consultation with federally recognized Indian tribes on the development of the Environmental Health Disparities map.

# Current Efforts

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- Recruit and hire
- Appoint Council members
- Stand up subcommittees of the Interagency Work Group



# Using data to address environmental health disparities

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Jennifer Sabel  
*Senior Epidemiologist*



# Partners

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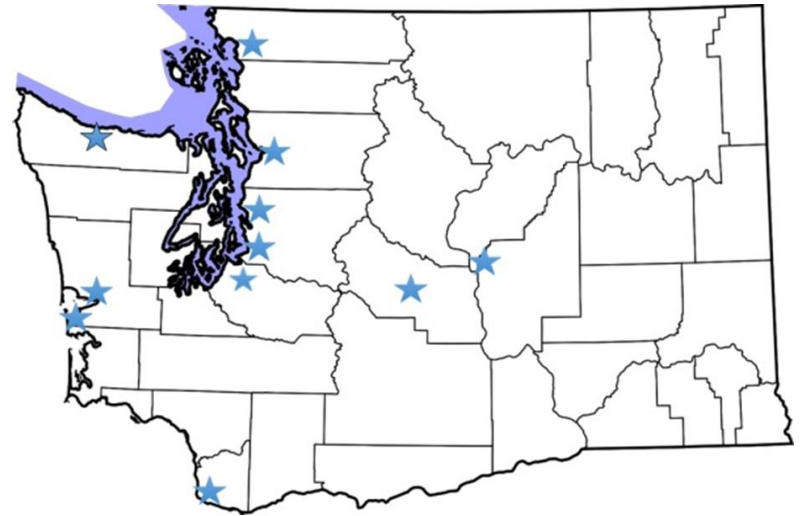
**W ENVIRONMENTAL & OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SCIENCES**  
UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON | SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH



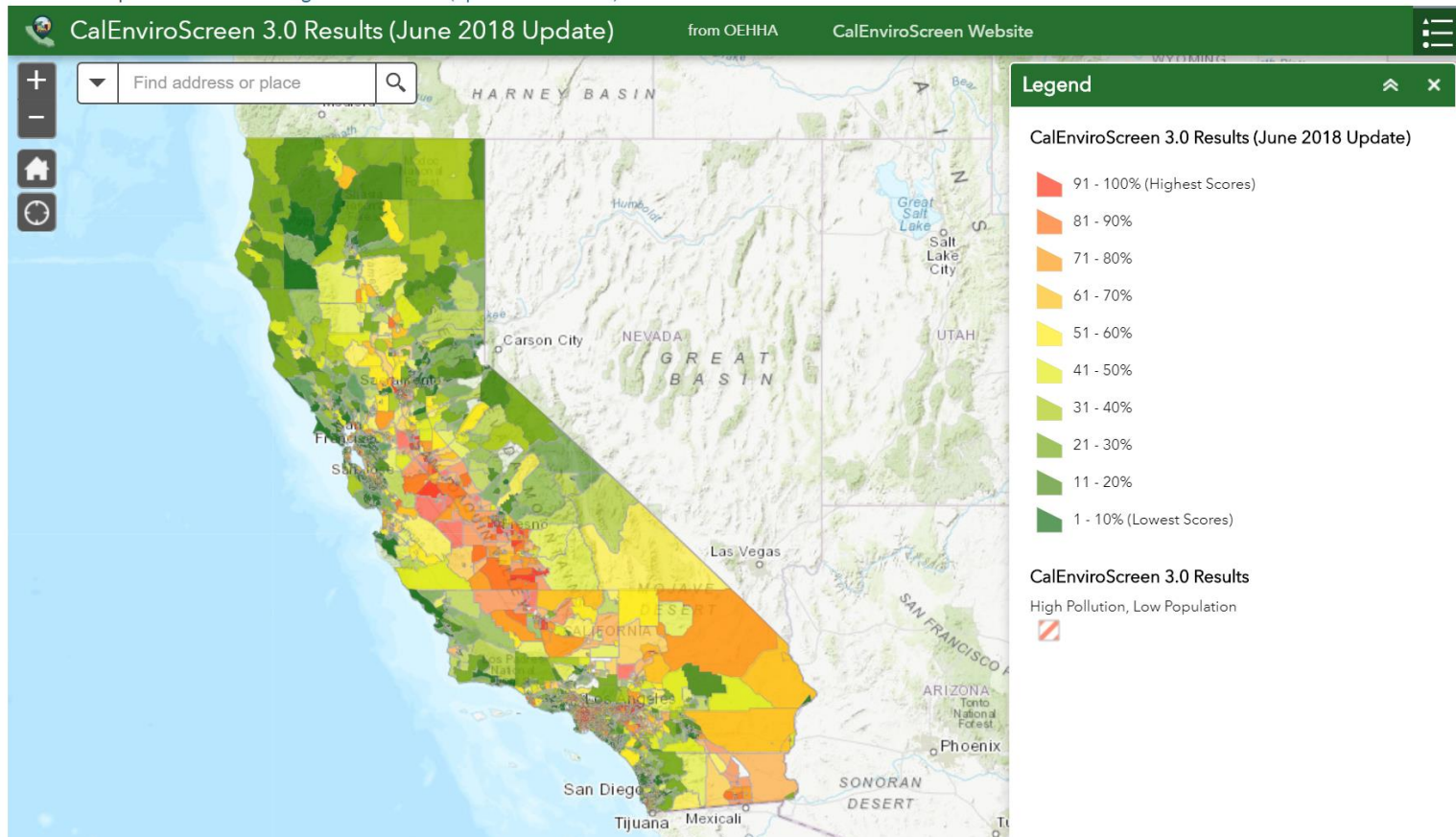
# Listening sessions

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- *What kinds of pollution, if any, are impacting your life or work and that of your family and community?*
- *What factors best show if your community is healthy or doing well compared to other communities?*



# Learning from existing resources

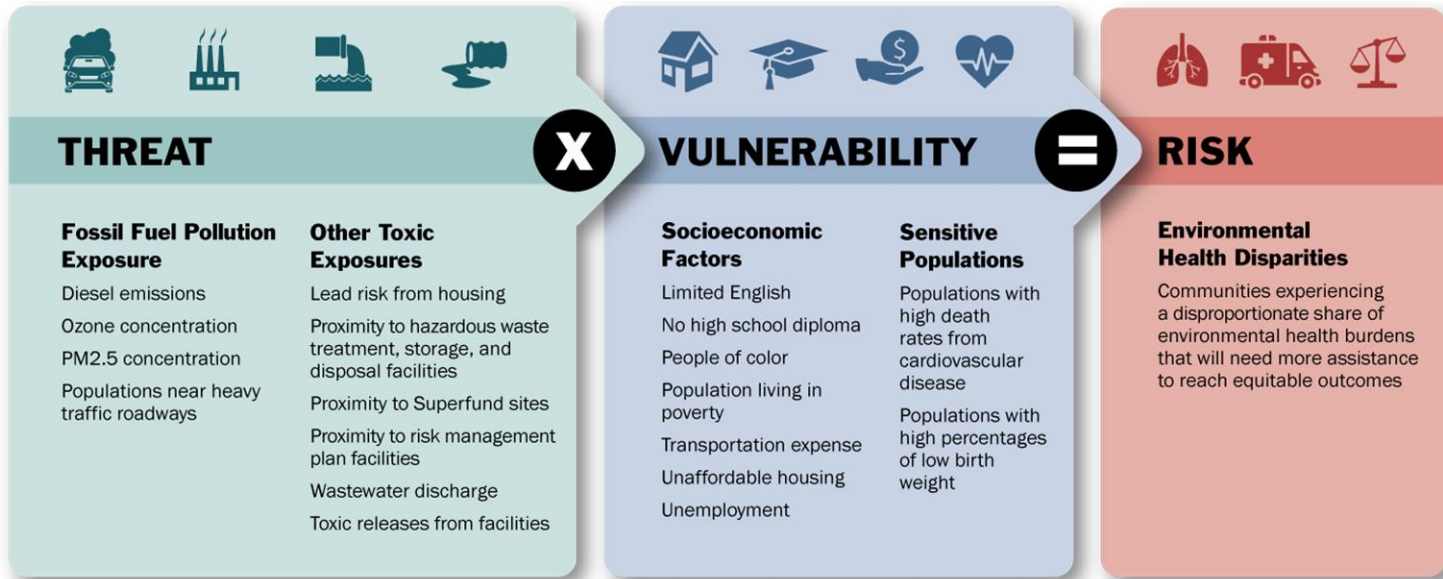


$$\text{Risk} = \text{Threat} \times \text{Vulnerability}$$

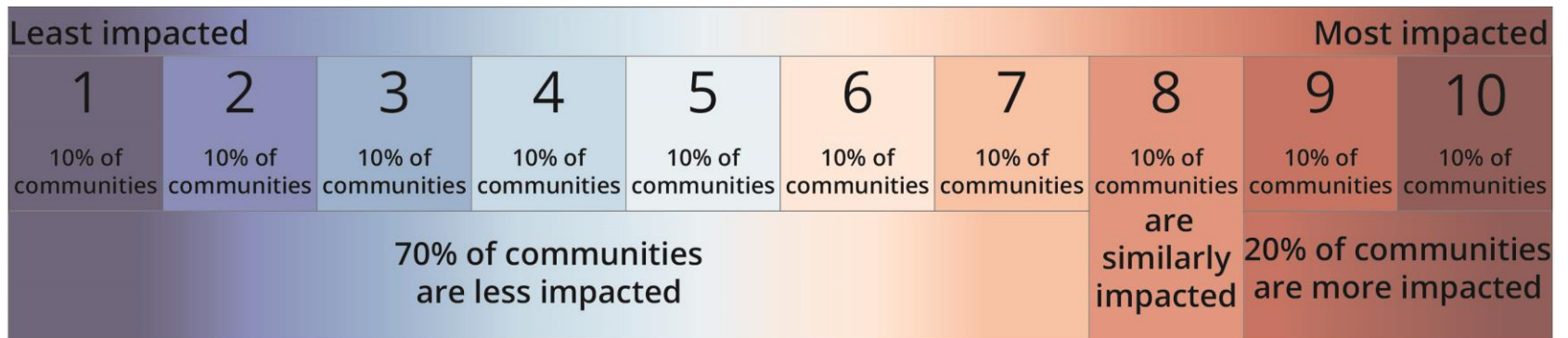
# Model for WA Environmental Health Disparities (EHD) Map

Washington Environmental Health Disparities

**Threat x Vulnerability = Risk**



# Ranking



# Washington Tracking Network



Washington Tracking Network (WTN)
Air Quality
Asthma
Biomonitoring
Birth Outcomes
Body Mass Index
Cancer
Carbon Monoxide

## Washington Tracking Network (WTN)

Welcome to WTN, a Washington State Department of Health program focused on making public health data more accessible. WTN staff keep data in all tools up to date and develop additional data based on need and availability. Data are available for download and exploration using our four tools.

**Data Dashboards** >

**Information by Location (IBL)** v

[Information by Location \(IBL\)](#) compares communities (census tracts) in Washington across a variety of public health and environmental measures. The tool ranks the communities between 1 (lowest) and 10 (highest).

Watch a [how-to video](#) for IBL.

Explore [IBL](#) now.

[www.doh.wa.gov/ibl](http://www.doh.wa.gov/ibl)



# Information by Location

<https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/wtn/WTNIBL/Map/EHD>

Washington State Department of Health

Washington Tracking Network  
A Source for Environmental Public Health Data

Home > Data and Statistical Reports > Environmental Health > Washington Tracking Network (WTN)

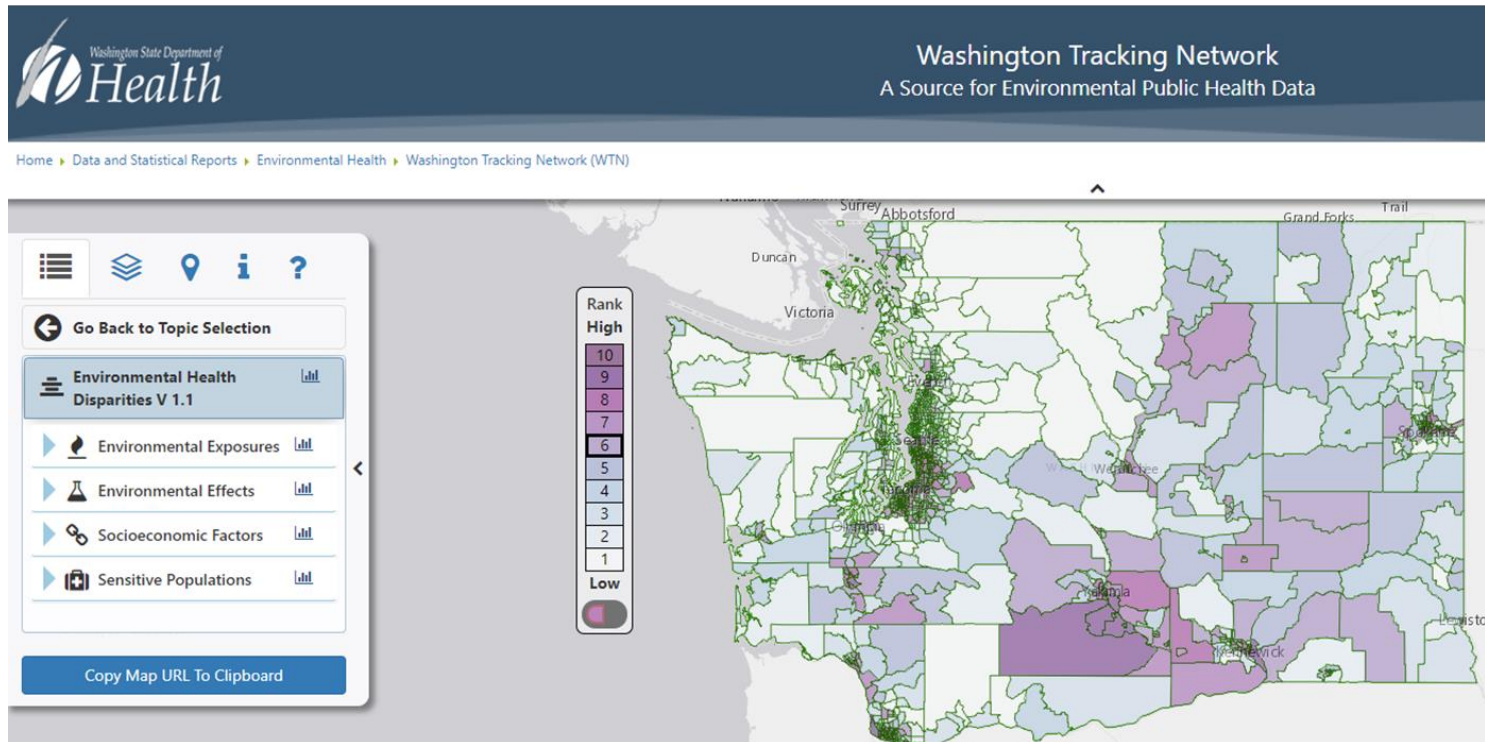
Port Alberni Nanaimo Vancouver Richmond Surrey Abbotsford Grand Forks Trail  
Duncan Victoria Everett Seattle Tacoma Olympia  
WASH Werahtchee Spokane  
Yakima Kennewick Lewiston  
Portland

- Environmental Health Disparities V 1.1
- Diesel Pollution and Disproportionate Impact
- Social Vulnerability to COVID-19
- Social Vulnerability to Hazards
- Lead Exposure Risk
- Health Disparities
- Planning for Health

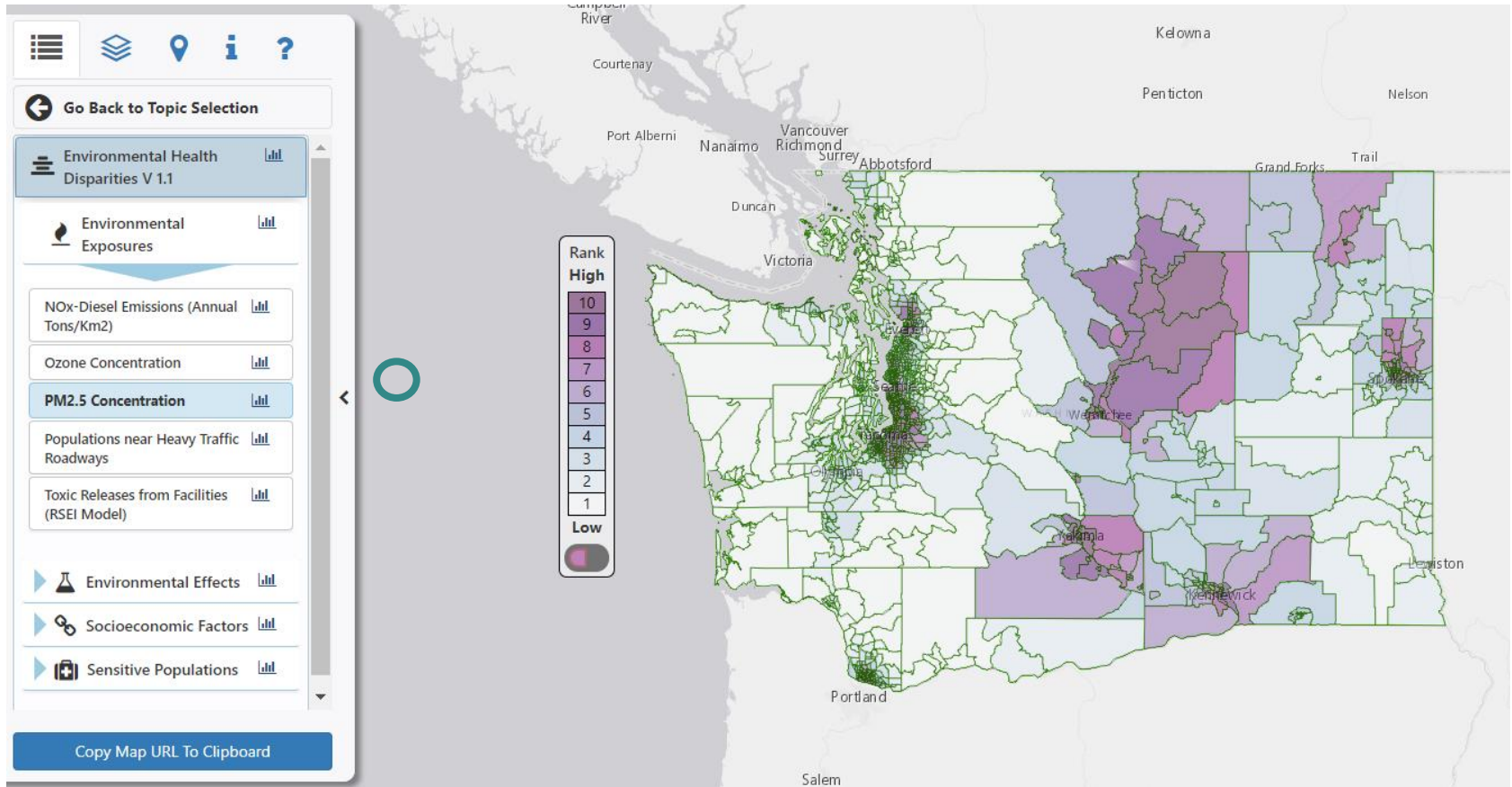
Copy Map URL To Clipboard

# Environmental Health Disparities Map

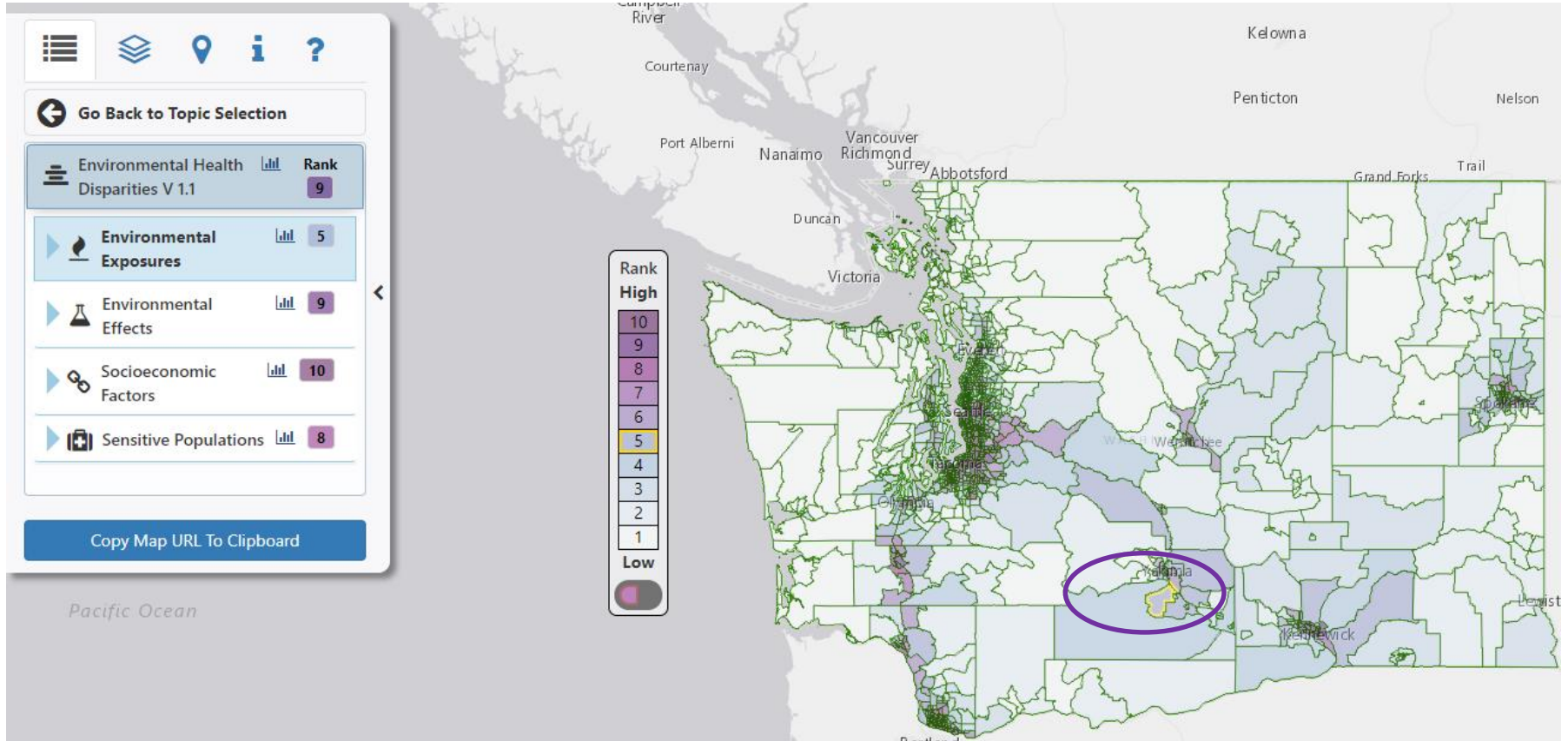
<https://vimeo.com/378645579>



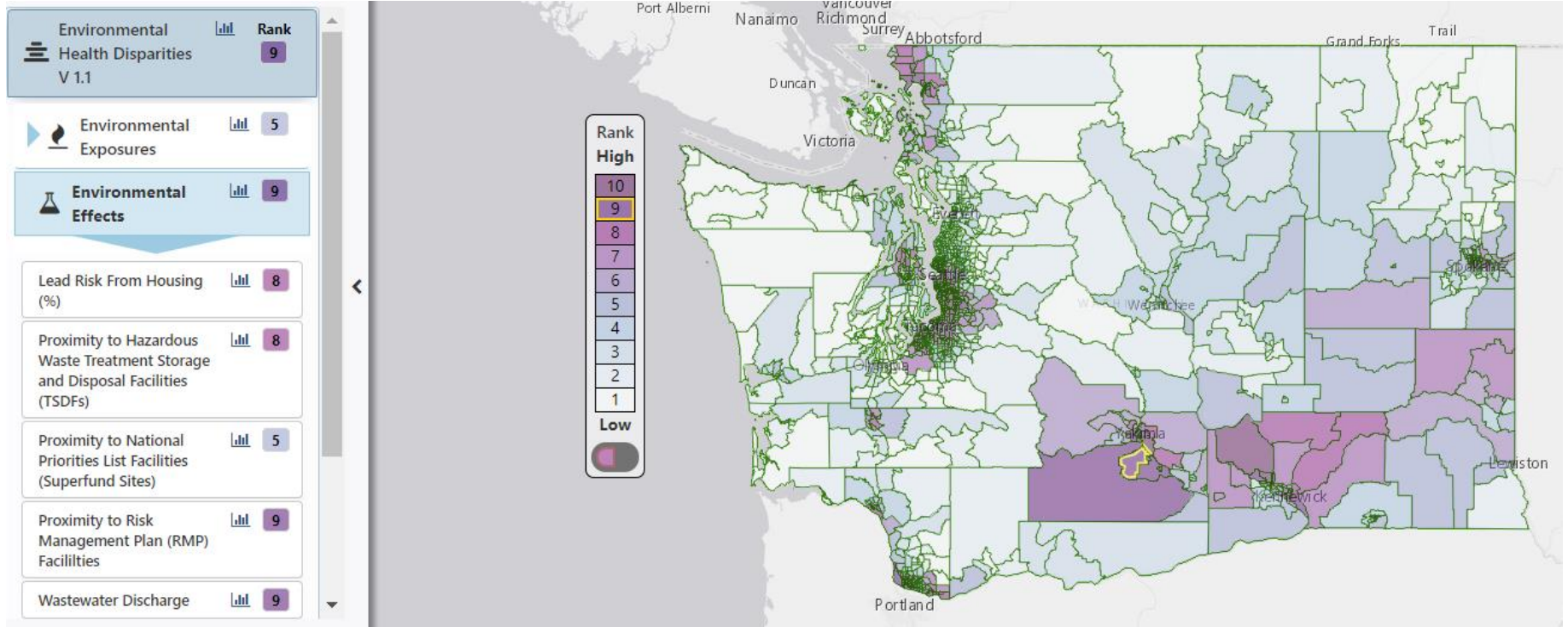
# Individual indicators



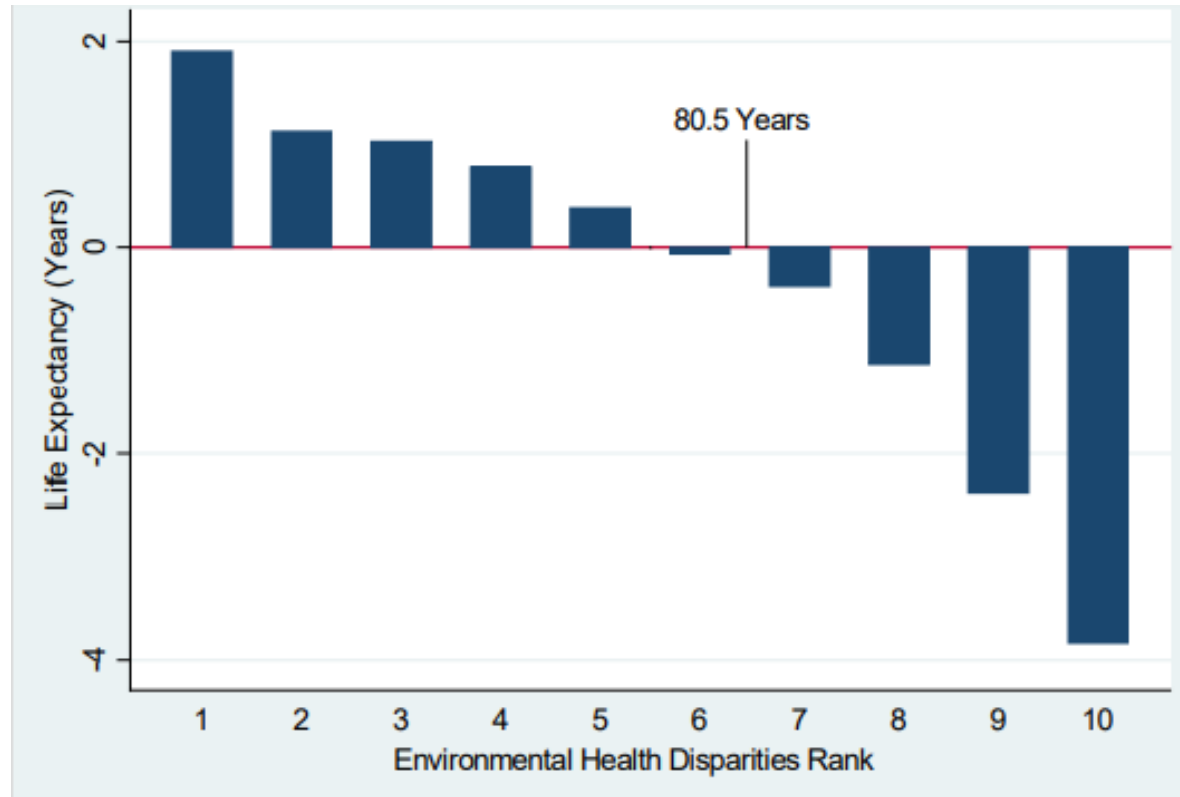
# Community with cumulative impact



# Community with cumulative impact



# Life Expectancy by EHD Rank



# Using the EHD Map

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- Ecology - “Public Participation Grants Program” using to evaluate grant applications.
- Commerce - “Electric Vehicle Charging Grid Program.”
- Environmental Justice Taskforce - a task force that provided recommendations to address environmental health disparities.
  - Use the overall EHD map rank 9 and 10 as a starting point to identify overburdened communities.

Questions?

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# Contact

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