Using Data to Drive Environmental Justice
Front and Centered
Community-Responsive Research
Unfair Share Report

An Unfair Share
Exploring the Disproportionate Risks from Climate Change Facing Washington State Communities

2018

Vulnerability
- Lower Income
- People of color
- Health
- Language

Exposure
- Where you live
- Where you work

Risk

Hazard
- Fire
- Floods
- Heat
- Drought

The bottom line: People of color, indigenous peoples, and people with lower incomes frequently face greater risks from climate change.
Community listening sessions took place in geographically diverse areas throughout the state.

Figure 1. Locations of the eleven community listening sessions with 178 participants in Washington from July to November 2017.
Environmental Health Disparities Map
Policy Applications of the Washington Environmental Health Disparities Map

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Key Points

- In Washington, state and local agencies are starting to use environmental impacts mapping for investments, policies, and program decisions.
- The new Washington Environmental Health Disparities Map is a science-based tool that combines data on pollution and vulnerability to pollution to compare the cumulative impacts for Washington communities statewide.
- The Map has many applications, including designating communities with cumulative impacts, prioritizing resources, hiring, and enforcement, and improving land use regulation, public participation and accountability, and data accuracy.
- States like California have used a similar cumulative impacts map to prioritize billions of dollars in environmental investments and to improve the effectiveness of their policies.