

# Empowering Change: Tools & Strategies for Advancing EJ Initiatives

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 [sbeap.org](http://sbeap.org)

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# Outline

- ❖ Pollution Prevention Institute (PPI)- K-State
- ❖ Small Business Environmental Assistance Program (SBEAP)
- ❖ National- SBEAP
- ❖ Pollution Prevention (P2)
- ❖ Environmental Justice (EJ) and EPA's tools – EJ mapping and CEJST
- ❖ EJ Classification of Disadvantages Categories
- ❖ EPA Region 7 EJ Mapping
- ❖ Kansas EJ Classification
- ❖ Conclusion



# Pollution Prevention Institute (PPI)

- Since 1989
- K-State College of Engineering - Engineering Extension
- 100% grant-funded
- **Non-regulatory**



***“The Pollution Prevention Institute's mission is to promote sustainability through environmental education and services to industry, institutions, and communities.”***



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# Small Business Environmental Assistance Program

- Environmental compliance assistance
- Multimedia [air (mostly), waste, water, and pollution prevention]
- Small- and medium-sized businesses (mostly under 100 employees)
- Free and confidential
- Contact information

Website: [www.sbeap.org](http://www.sbeap.org)

**Hotline:** 800-578-8898

E-mail: [sbeap@ksu.edu](mailto:sbeap@ksu.edu)



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# Pollution Prevention (P2) Program

- Technical assistance
  - Any size industry
- Internship Program
- Workshops, seminars, and educational materials to spread P2 awareness



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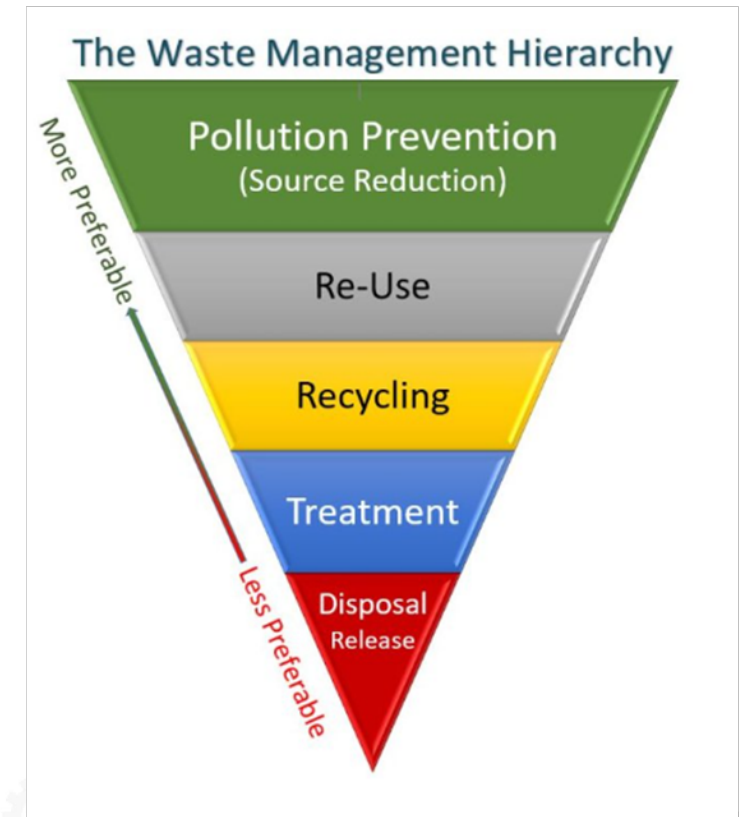
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# What is Pollution Prevention (P2)

- Reducing or eliminating waste and pollution at the source
- Prior to treating or disposing of it

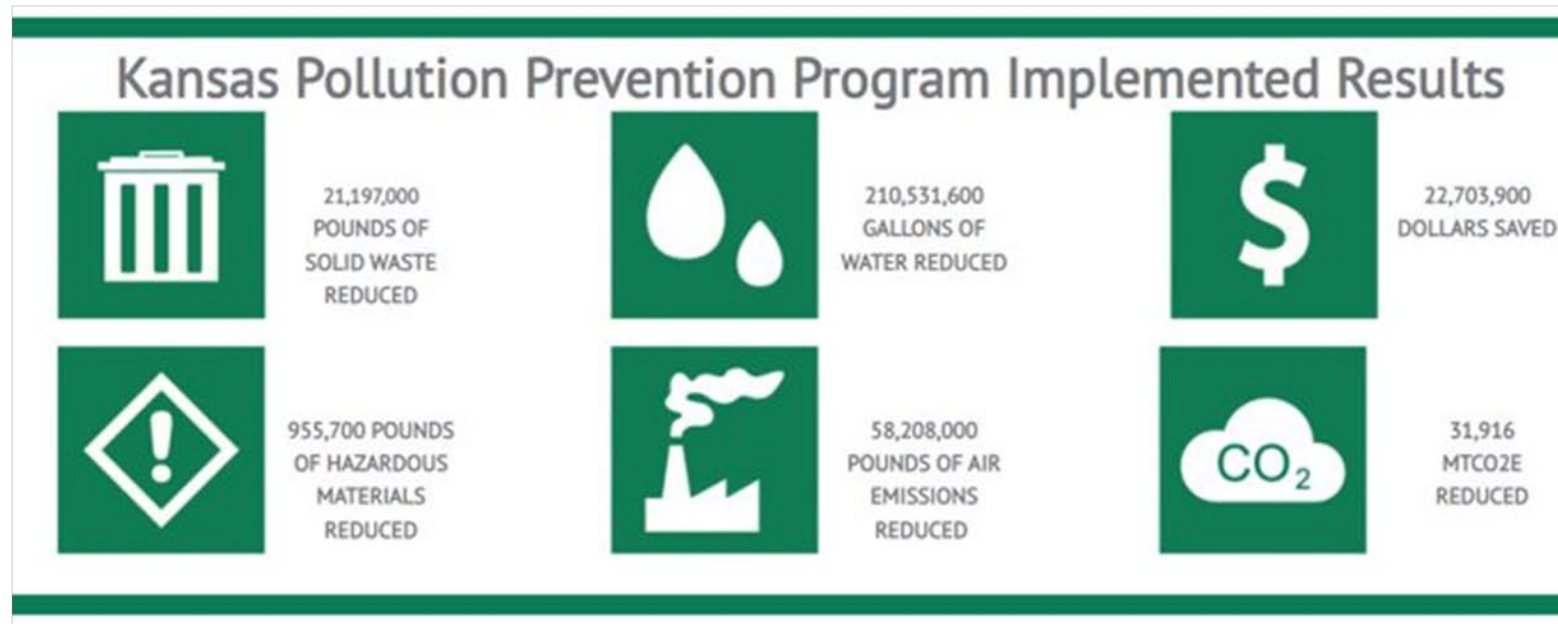
*Change the material, change the process or change the technology to reduce emissions, water or waste at the source.*

*Don't put it into the pipe in the first place!*



# Impact of our program

- 800+ projects
- Over \$22 Million saved out of \$94 Million from recommended projects
- More than 100 case summaries available on our website



1.5 million trees  
growing for a year



# Introduction to EJ

“Environmental justice” means the just treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, regardless of income, race, color, national origin, Tribal affiliation, or disability, in agency decision-making and other Federal activities that affect human health and the environment so that people:

- are fully protected from disproportionate and adverse human health and environmental effects (including risks) and hazards, including those related to climate change, the cumulative impacts of environmental and other burdens, and the legacy of racism or other structural or systemic barriers; and
- have equitable access to a healthy, sustainable, and resilient environment in which to live, play, work, learn, grow, worship, and engage in cultural and subsistence practices

[Environmental Justice | US EPA](#)

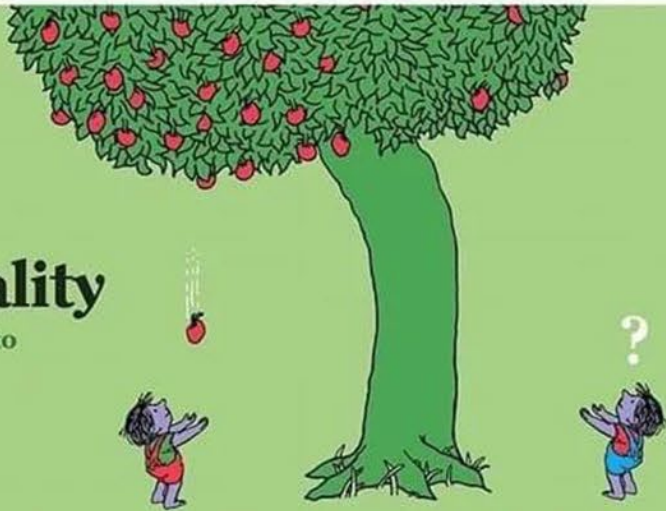


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## Inequality

Unequal access to opportunities



## Equity

Custom tools that identify and address inequality



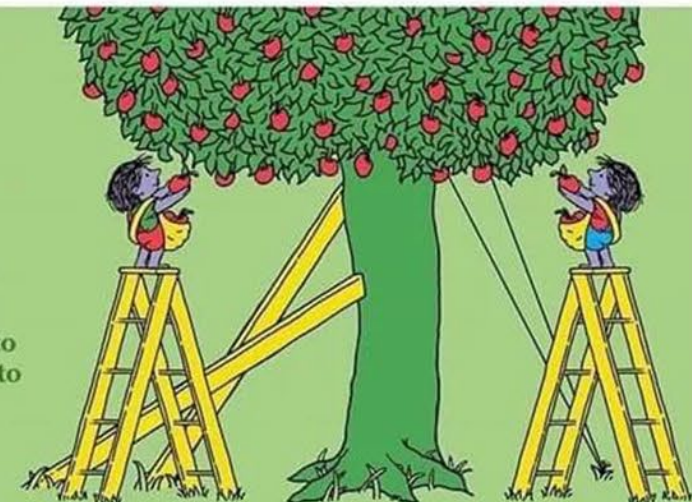
## Equality?

Evenly distributed tools and assistance



## Justice

Fixing the system to offer equal access to both tools and opportunities



# Environmental Justice Initiatives

- Implementation of Executive Order 14008
  - Justice40
  - Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool
  - EJ Scorecard
  - White House EJ Interagency Council (IAC)
  - White House EJ Advisory Council (WHEJAC).



# Tools

- CEQ's Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST) \*
  - [Explore the map - Climate & Economic Justice Screening Tool \(geoplatform.gov\)](https://geoplatform.gov)
- EPA's EJ Screen \*
  - [EJScreen \(epa.gov\)](https://epa.gov)
- EPA's EJ P2 Mapping Tool
  - [P2 EJ \(epa.gov\)](https://epa.gov)
- CDC's Environmental Justice Index (EJI)
  - [EJI Explorer \(cdc.gov\)](https://cdc.gov)
- EPA's Enforcement and Compliance History Online (ECHO)
  - [Enforcement and Compliance History Online | US EPA](https://epa.gov)
- EPA's ECHO Notify
  - [ECHO Notify | ECHO | US EPA](https://epa.gov)



# EJ Screen

**Indexes Threshold Map Widget**

Step 1. Select type of Index:

EJ Indexes  Supplemental Indexes

Step 2. Select location:

Compare to US  Compare to State

Step 3. Select Index percentile range:

Lower bound:  Upper bound:

Step 4. Select number of indexes or individual Indexes (maximum 13) within percentile range:

1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9  10  11  12  13

At least 1 of the indexes is within the percentile range

Or

<input type="checkbox"/> Select All	<input type="checkbox"/> Traffic Proximity
<input type="checkbox"/> Particulate Matter 2.5	<input type="checkbox"/> Lead Paint
<input type="checkbox"/> Ozone	<input type="checkbox"/> Superfund Proximity
<input type="checkbox"/> Diesel Particulate Matter	<input type="checkbox"/> RMP Facility Proximity
<input type="checkbox"/> Air Toxics Cancer Risk	<input type="checkbox"/> Hazardous Waste Proximity
<input type="checkbox"/> Air Toxics Respiratory HI	<input type="checkbox"/> Underground Storage Tanks
<input type="checkbox"/> Toxic Releases to Air	<input type="checkbox"/> Wastewater Discharge

[Download selected 108,606 records. \(Field Descriptions\).](#)

**Map Contents**

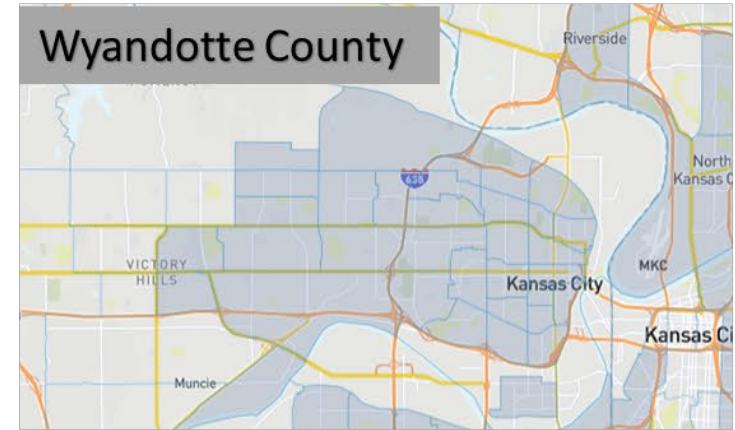
EJ Index (State)  
There are 107,748 block groups where 1 or more indexes are within

80-100 percentile



# PPI EJ events

- PPI used EPA's EJ tools to identify communities and companies located in EJ (or adjacent to) EJ areas
- The goal is to start a dialogue with industry, community, and professionals in the field to create awareness and collaborative actions
- 2 industry speakers within the communities
- Community groups and organizations



Total population classified as disadvantaged: 99,665 (60.5%)

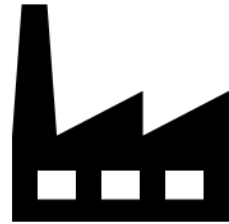


Total population classified as disadvantaged: 147,901 (28.8%)



# The importance of collaborations

- Create jobs
- Stimulates economic development
- Provide products and services to support communities



Industry and  
Businesses



Community

- Provide cultural context for environmental issues
- Ensure that community voices are heard



- Expertise and research on environmental topics
- Education and training
- Technical assistance



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# Kansas ↔ EJ



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# Methodology of EJ Communities Identification

≤ One of the Indexes of Burden

Climate



Energy



Water



Legacy



Low Income



Health



Housing



Transportation



Workforce



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# EJ Supplemental Indexes

## Climate



## Energy



Expected Loss  
Rate

Agriculture  
Building  
Population  
Projected flood risk  
Projected wildfire risk

Energy cost  
Exposed PM2.5 in the air

Asthma  
Diabetes  
Heart Diseases  
Low life expectancy



## Health



## Housing

Historic Under investment  
Housing Cost  
Lack of Green space  
Lack of Indoor plumbing  
Lead Paint



# EJ Supplemental Indexes

## Water

UST and releases  
Waster water Discharge



## Legacy

Abandoned mine land  
Formerly used defense sites  
Proximity to HW facilities  
Proximity to superfund sites  
Proximity to risk management plan



Linguistic isolation  
Low median Income  
Poverty  
Unemployment  
High school education

Diesel PM  
Transportation Barriers  
Traffic Proximity and volume

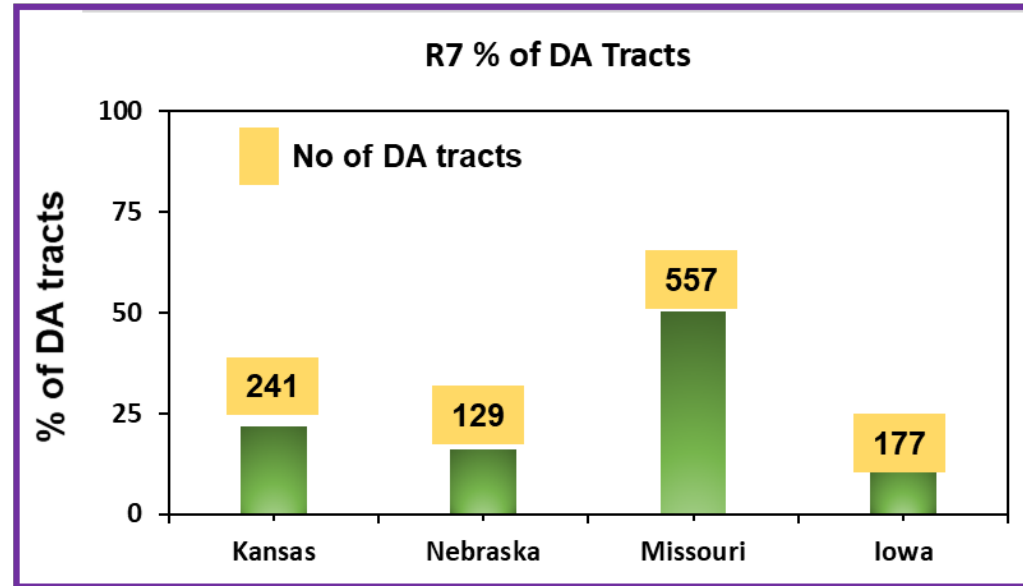
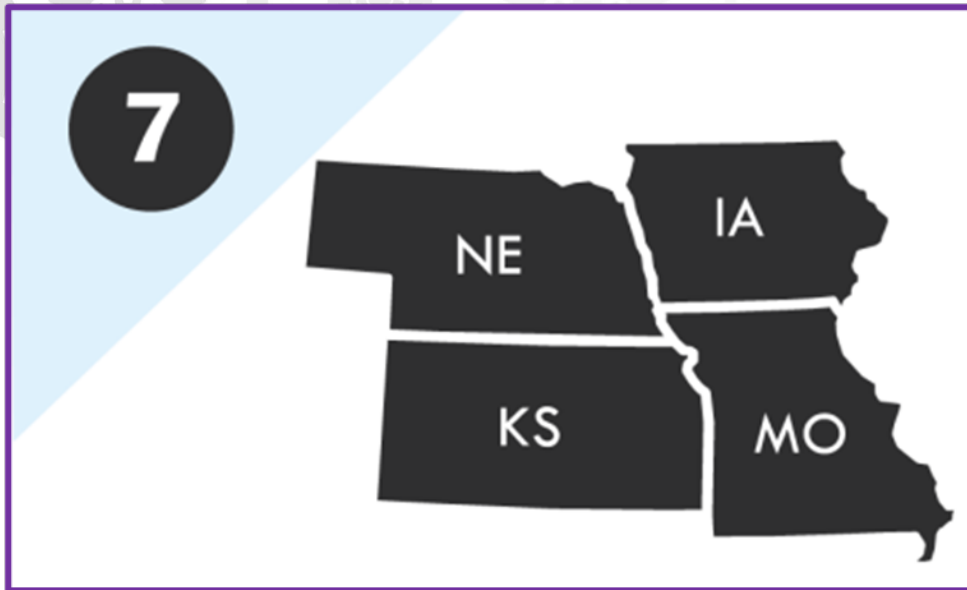


## Transportation

## Workforce



## R7 EJ Community – Census Tracts Density Map



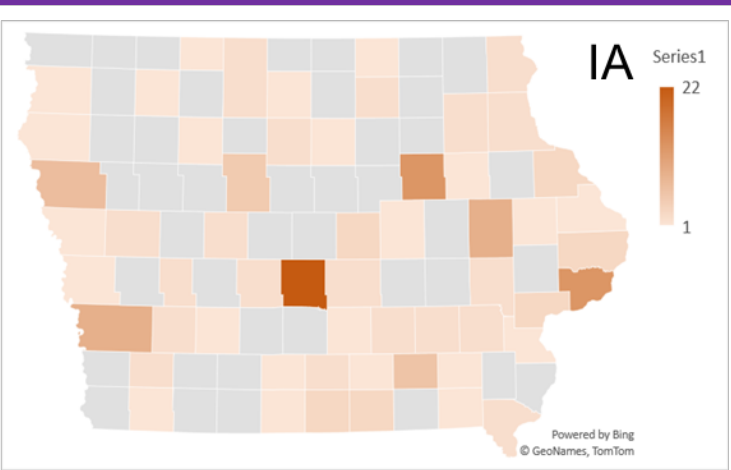
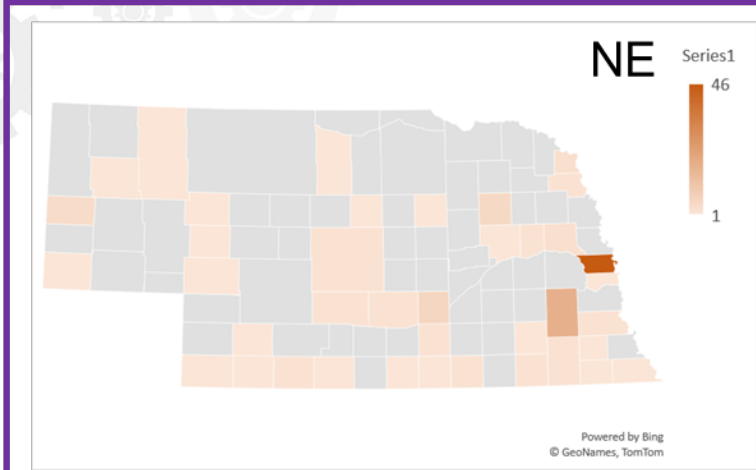
### In Kansas

- 31% of census tracts are identified as disadvantaged
- 50% of the state's population resides in these communities
- 29%, or 31 out of 105 counties have majority of their population residing in areas with EJ concerns



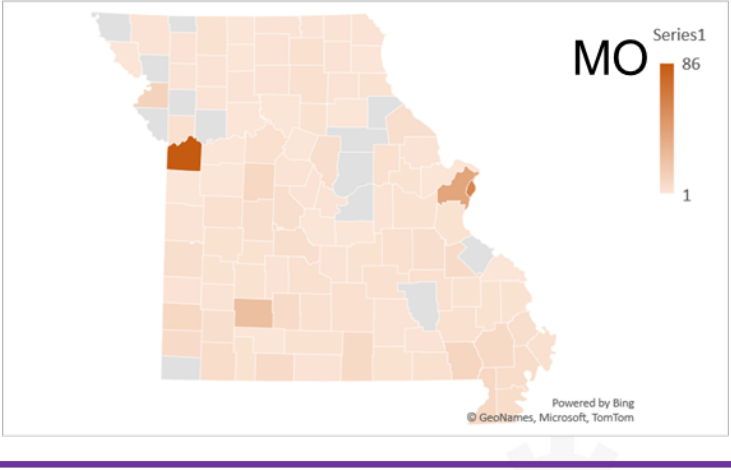
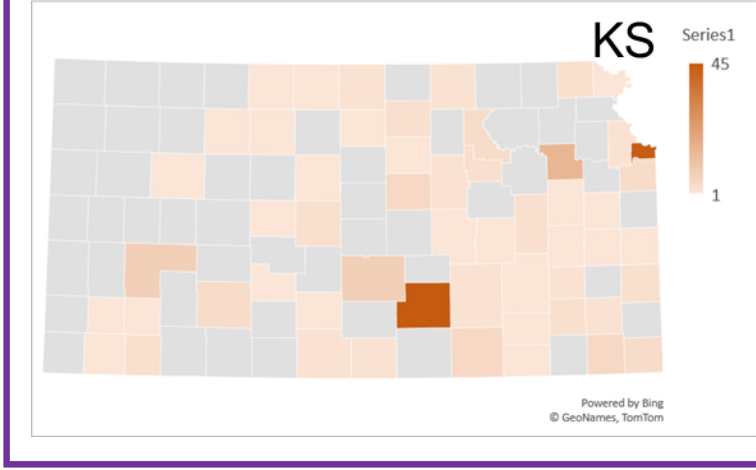
# R7 EJ Community – Census Tracts Density Map

**Douglas County** 46  
**Lancaster County** 18



**Polk County** 22  
**Black Hawk County** 13

**Sedgwick County** 45  
**Wyandotte County** 44

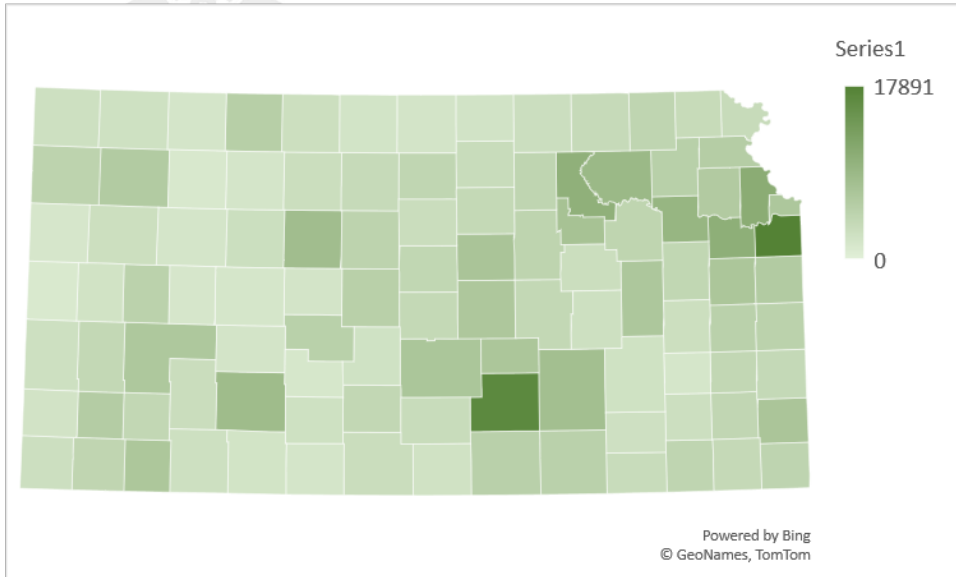


**Jackson County** 86  
**St. Louis County** 40

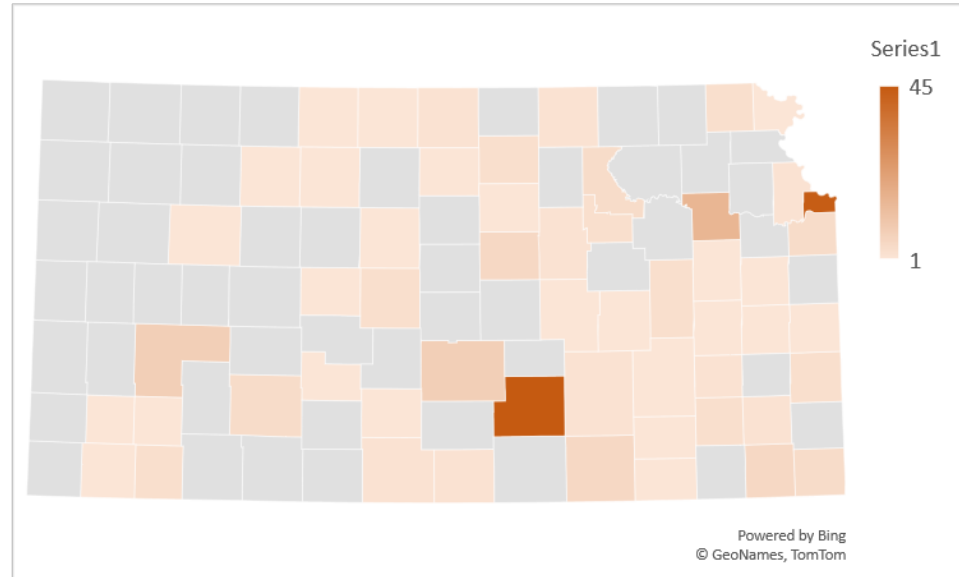


# EJ Community Vs Density of Population ----> Correlation

## Population Density Map in KS



## DA Community Density Map in KS



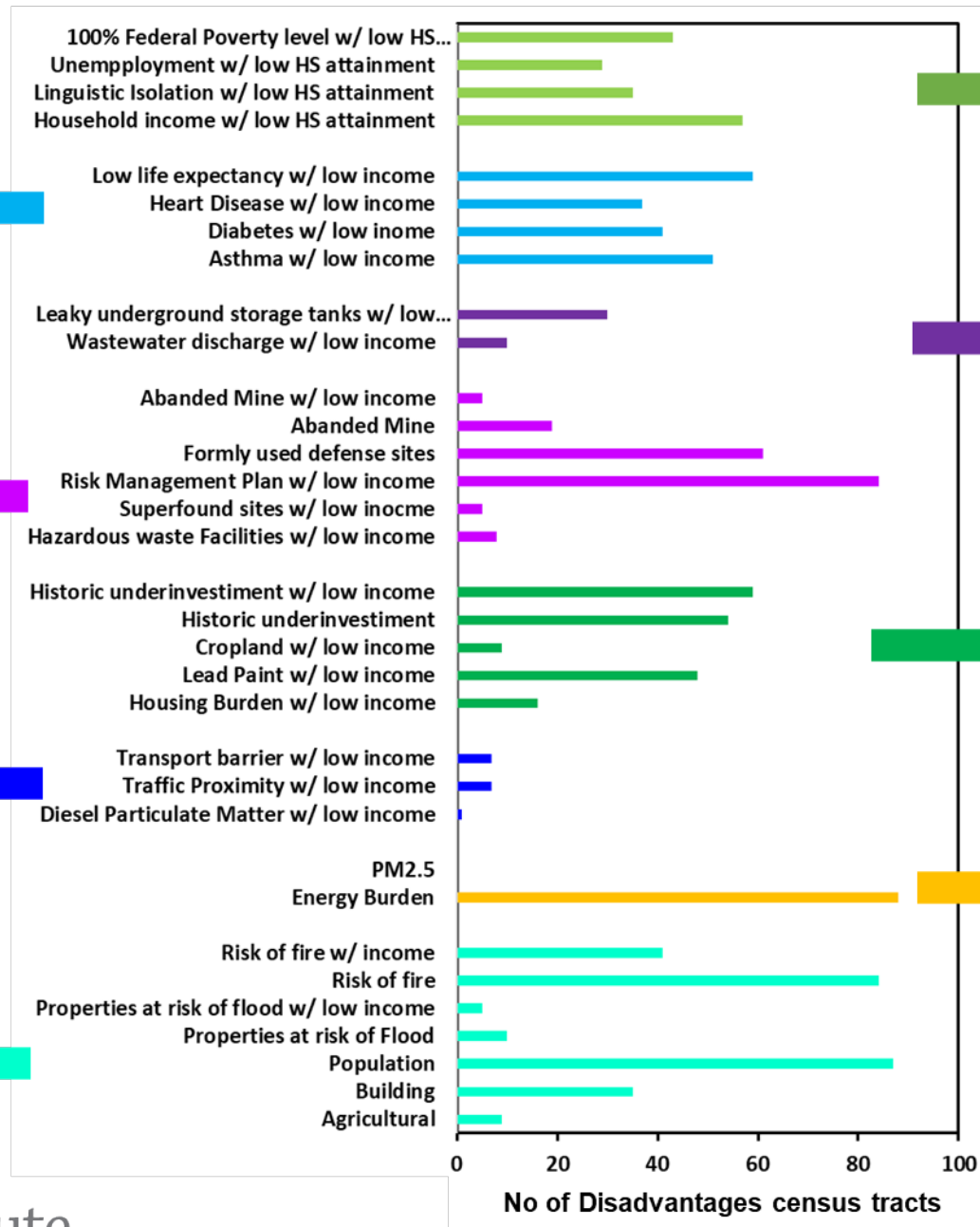
- **Community Engagement**
- **Equal Opportunity**
- **Protecting human health and the environment for all people,**
- **Emphasis on historically overburdened and underserved communities**



# Kansas DA Community tracts by category



**KS  
EJ Community  
Supplemental  
Indexes**



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<https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/en/#3/33.471-97.5>

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# How is PPI assisting in EJ's Communities

- To help reduce the burden in these communities, PPI is targeting work at those areas classified as "disadvantaged".
- By minimizing the release of pollutants, P2 directly reduces the environmental and health burdens on communities, especially those historically impacted by industrial activities.
- Identify and assisting P2 practices through Technical Assistance
- Initiate educational training to small business development centers (SBDC's), college/Universities for potential solution to reduce the site-specific EJ burdens.
- For more info visit: <https://www.sbeap.org/environmental-justice>



# EPA's initiative

Beginning with the Federal Fiscal Year 2024, [the EPA has recently published its enforcement and compliance initiatives](#) that will run through Federal Fiscal Year 2027. These initiatives can result in increased environmental inspections in your area.



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## ARE YOU PREPARED FOR INCREASED ENVIRONMENTAL INSPECTIONS IN YOUR AREA?



**WE CAN HELP YOUR BUSINESS STAY IN ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE!**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has made a commitment to increase environmental inspections and strengthen enforcement to help advance the protection of communities that are vulnerable to or overburdened by pollution.

If you own a business in what is considered an environmentally overburdened, marginalized, or vulnerable community (also known as a community with **Environmental Justice** concerns) there may be an increase of federal environmental oversight in your area.

Follow the QR code to access environmental justice resources and state Small Business Environmental Assistance Program (SBEAP) contacts for one-on-one compliance assistance.

EPA has a variety of small business compliance assistance resources and policy considerations that your state SBEAP can guide you through to best accommodate your business needs.



**FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT NATIONALSBEAP.ORG.**

### **Environmental Justice**

*means the just treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, regardless of income, race, color, national origin, tribal affiliation, or disability, in agency decision-making and other federal activities that affect human health and the environment.*



<https://nationalsbeap.org/>



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**Thank you**

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