Environmental Justice Coordination

Trish Koman, PhD, MPP, Senior Environmental Justice Coordinator & Scientist US EPA Office of Air and Radiation October 20, 2022

Outline

Motivation

• Justice 40

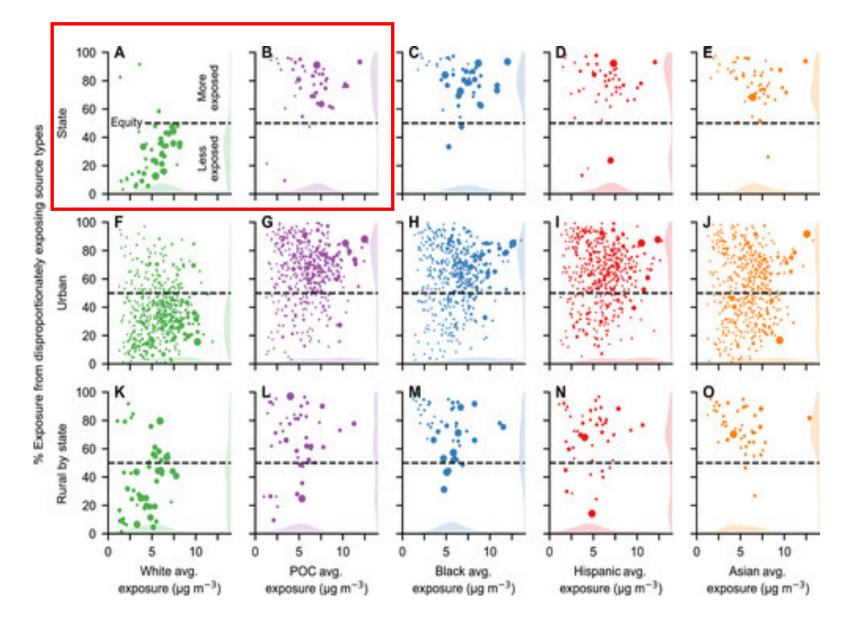
 EPA Long-term Strategic Plan FY23-26 and Equity Action Plan

- Environmental Justice in Rulemaking
 - Meaningful engagement
 - Analysis

Motivation

Vulnerability: "A matrix of physical, chemical, biological, social, and cultural factors that result in certain communities and subpopulations being more susceptible to environmental factors because of greater exposure to such factors or a compromised ability to cope with and/or recover from such exposure."

Source: WHO (2006). Principles for Evaluating Health Risks in Children. Environmental Health Criteria 237



*Example of a disparity in an environmental concentration (PM_{2.5}) by race/ethnicity

PM_{2.5} polluters disproportionately and systemically affect people of color in the United States, Tessum et al. 2021, Science Advances Volume: 7, Issue: 18, DOI: (10.1126/sciadv.abf4491)

Justice 40

In January 2021, President Biden's Executive Order 14008 – Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad announced Justice 40.

Mandates that at least 40% of the benefits of certain federal programs must flow to disadvantaged communities.

OAR Justice 40 Covered Programs

- American Rescue Plan Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) rebate program
- American Rescue Plan Direct Awards to Air Agencies for Continuous Monitoring of PM2.5 and Other Common Air Pollutants
- American Rescue Plan Enhanced Regional Capacity for Short-term Community Monitoring Needs
- American Rescue Plan Grant Competition for Community Monitoring
- Categorical Grant: Tribal Air Quality Management
- Diesel Emissions Reductions Act (DERA)
- Federal Support for Air Quality Management: (American Indian Air Quality Training Program)
- DERA (includes Ports Initiative)
- Reduce Risks from Indoor Air
- Targeted Airshed Grants

EPA's Long-term Strategic Plan FY 23-26 Required by the Government
Performance and Results Act
Modernization Act of 2010 (Public Law
11-352), the EPA Long-term Strategic
Plan communicates the roadmap for
accomplishing EPA's environmental
priorities over the next four years.

FY 2022-2026 EPA Strategic Plan Framework

Mission: To Protect Human Health and the Environment

Principles: Follow the Science, Follow the Law, Be Transparent, Advance Justice and Equity



Strategy 1:

Ensure Scientific Integrity and Science-Based Decision Making



Strategy 2:

Consider the Health of Children at All Life Stages and Other Vulnerable Populations



Strategy 3:

Advance EPA's Organizational Excellence and Workforce Equity



Strategy 4:

Strengthen Tribal, State, and Local Partnerships and Enhance Engagement



Goal 1:

Tackle the Climate Crisis



Goal 2:

Take Decisive Action to Advance Environmental Justice and Civil Rights



Goal 3:

Enforce Environmental Laws and Ensure Compliance



Goal 4:

Ensure Clean and Healthy Air for All Communities



Goal 5:

Ensure Clean and Safe Water for All Communities



Goal 6:

Safeguard and Revitalize Communities



Goal 7:

Ensure Safety of Chemicals for People and the Environment

- Obj 1.1: Reduce Emissions that Cause Climate Change
- Obj 1.2: Accelerate Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Change Impacts
- Obj 1.3: Advance International and Subnational Climate Efforts
- Obj 2.1: Promote
 Environmental Justice
 and Civil Rights at the
 Federal, Tribal, State,
 and Local Levels
- Obj 2.2: Embed
 Environmental Justice
 and Civil Rights into
 EPA's Programs,
 Policies, and Activities
- Obj 2.3: Strengthen Civil Rights Enforcement in Communities with Environmental Justice Concerns
- Obj 3.1: Hold Environmental Violators and Responsible Parties Accountable
- Obj 3.2: Detect Violations and Promote Compliance
- Obj 4.1: Improve Air Quality and Reduce Localized Pollution and Health Impacts
- Obj 4.2: Reduce
 Exposure to
 Radiation and
 Improve Indoor Air
- Obj 5.1: Ensure Safe Drinking Water and Reliable Water Infrastructure
- Obj 5.2: Protect and Restore Waterbodies and Watersheds
- Obj 6.1: Clean Up and Restore Land for Productive Uses and Healthy Communities
- Obj 6.2: Reduce
 Waste and Prevent
 Environmental
 Contamination
- Obj 6.3: Prepare for and Respond to Environmental Emergencies

- Obj 7.1: Ensure Chemical and Pesticide Safety
- Obj 7.2: Promote Pollution Prevention

Goal 2 and Equity Action Plan Principles

• EPA's Long-term Strategic Plan Objective 2.2:

"Integrate environmental justice and civil rights in all of the Agency's work to maximize benefits and minimize impacts to underserved and overburdened communities"

- In the context of rulemakings, by
 - "<u>Assessing</u> impacts to pollution-burdened, underserved, and Tribal communities in regulatory development processes and considering regulatory options to maximize benefits to these communities," and
 - "Taking immediate and affirmative steps to improve early and more frequent engagement with pollution-burdened and underserved communities affected by agency rulemakings, permitting and enforcement decisions, and policies."

Under EO 13985, EPA's Equity Action Plan:

 Develop comprehensive framework for <u>considering cumulative</u> <u>impacts</u> in relevant EPA decisions and operationalize that framework in EPA's programs and activities

Expanding EPA's Environmental Justice Analysis Capabilities

- More than half of all economically significant final rules promulgated by EPA between 2012 and 2021 quantitatively evaluate potential EJ concerns
 - Majority of these are characterizations of baseline only and heavily rely on proximity analyses
- OAR has invested in improved capabilities to evaluate effects for regulatory options (e.g., PM, ozone, air toxics)
- Few cases where regulatory analysis evaluates cumulative impacts, though some have included information about baseline releases or risks in other media (e.g., HFC, steam electric)

Questions?

Contact: koman.patricia@epa.gov