

CUMULATIVE IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROGRESS REPORT: DATA & METHODS WORKING GROUP (DMWG)

JUNE 2023

The DMWG supports the Cumulative Impact Assessment by:

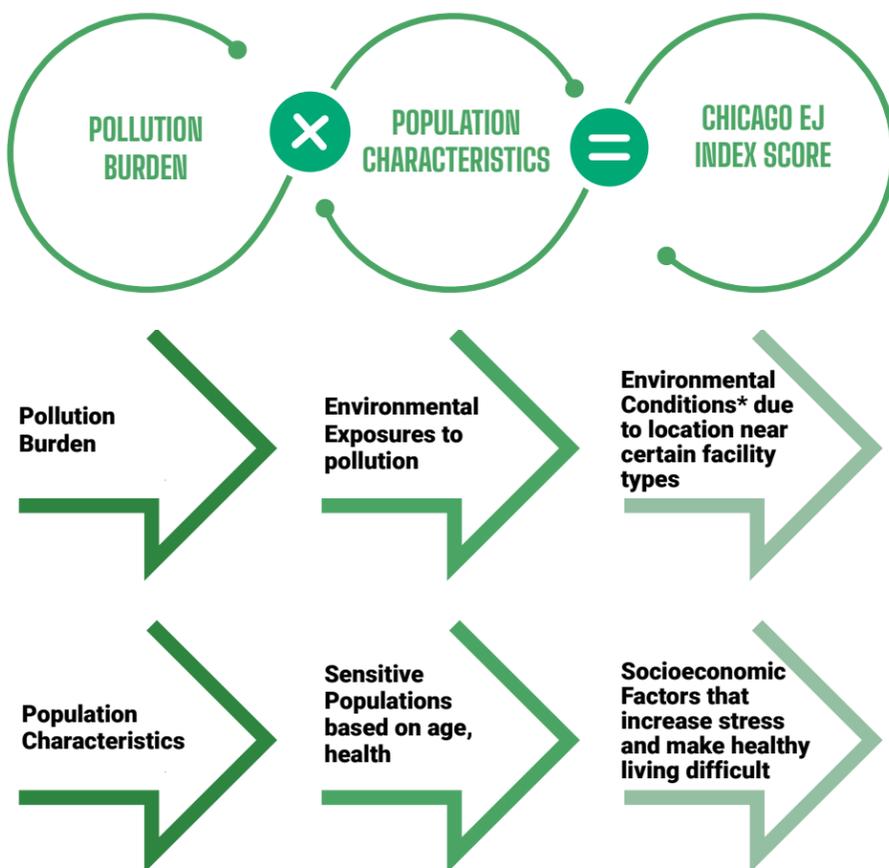
- Providing data on where pollution is coming from;
- Demonstrating how burdens vary in communities across Chicago; and
- Showing community-level vulnerability to pollution to inform policy decisions.

Formed in February 2023, the DMWG leverages expertise across diverse sectors and groups – particularly people who live in communities most impacted by pollution – to develop its key deliverables, including the Chicago Environmental Justice (EJ) Index, a map of Chicago EJ Neighborhoods, and public-facing data tools.



CHICAGO EJ INDEX FRAMEWORK

The DMWG agreed to build upon the 2020 Air Quality & Health Index, based on CalEnviroScreen, as the model for Chicago's EJ Index. This will provide a relative ranking of census tracts across the City based on pollution burdens and vulnerabilities.



*The Environmental Conditions score is weighted half as much as the Exposure score



NEXT STEPS AND TIMELINE

The DMWG and its Advisory Council – comprised of subject matter experts from EJ groups, academia/research institutions, government agencies and other organizations – are reviewing more than 100 indicators to determine which will be included in Chicago's EJ Index and public-facing data tool(s). The DMWG will complete the EJ Map by September 1, 2023, then develop the public-facing data tool(s) by the end of the year. The City is committed to periodically updating the EJ Index, map and indicators with ongoing community input.



COMMUNITY INPUT

- Members reviewed (1) a summary of community input and (2) research and recommendations from the Chicago Environmental Justice Network.
- Community members can participate in a ground-truthing exercise to inform the EJ Neighborhood map at in-person events.
- Input is also invited in an online survey through July 31, 2023.



MEMBERS

- Little Village Environmental Justice Organization - (Co-chair)
- Greater Chicago Legal Clinic - (Co-chair)
- Chicago Department of Public Health - (Co-chair)
- National Resource Defense Council
- Center for Neighborhood Technology
- Chicago Department of Planning & Development
- Chicago Department of Transportation



To learn more about the cumulative impact project and upcoming activities, visit:
CHICAGO.GOV/CUMULATIVEIMPACT



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