

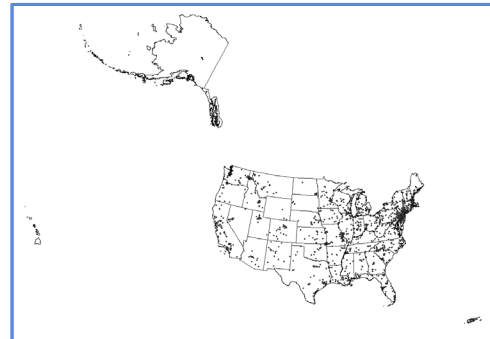
## Population Surrounding 1,857 Superfund Remedial Sites

Superfund Remedial sites exist in thousands of communities across the U.S. ranging from remote to large urban settings. Many of these sites are in economically distressed communities. To help describe who benefits from EPA’s Brownfields Program, the Agency used [2015-2018 American Community Survey populations data and FY 2019 Brownfields](#) to summarize the population living within 3 and 1 miles of sites. These sites include Superfund and Federal Facilities final, deleted, and proposed National Priorities List (NPL) sites, non-NPL Superfund Alternative Agreement sites.

### Population within 1 Mile of Sites:

Approximately 21 million people live within 1 mile of a Superfund site (roughly 6% of the U.S. population) including approximately:

- 7% of all children in the U.S. under the age of 5
- 6% of all children in the U.S. under 18
- 6% of all blacks in the U.S.
- 9% of all Hispanics in the U.S.
- 8% of all minorities in the U.S.
- 7% of all households in the U.S. below the poverty level
- 8% of all people with less than a high school education in the U.S.
- 10% of the linguistically isolated people in the U.S.



### Population within 3 Miles of Sites:

Approximately 73 million people live within 3 miles of a Superfund site (roughly 22% of the U.S. population) including approximately:

- 23% of all children in the U.S. under the age of 5
- 22% of all children in the U.S. under 18
- 26% of all blacks in the U.S.
- 29% of all Hispanics in the U.S.
- 28% of all minorities in the U.S.
- 24% of all households in the U.S. below the poverty level
- 25% of all people with less than a high school education in the U.S.
- 32% of the linguistically isolated people in the U.S.

### Demographics of Near-Site Populations:

While there is no single way to characterize communities located near our sites, this population is *more minority, low income, linguistically isolated, and less likely to have a high school education* than the U.S. population as a whole.

	Population within <b>1 mile</b> of All Sites	Population within <b>3 miles</b> of All Sites	U.S. Population
<b>Minority</b>	49.8%	49.4%	39.6%
<b>Below poverty level</b>	15.4%	15.1%	13.7%
<b>Linguistically isolated</b>	7.8%	7.3%	5.1%
<b>Less than a High School Education</b>	14.9%	14.1%	12.5%

**TABLE 2: Detailed Data on the Population within 1 and 3 miles of Superfund sites**

Below are data on the demographic characteristics of the population surrounding Superfund sites. The table indicates whether certain population demographics near sites are above (in bold) or below (in italics) the U.S. average.

Demographics	Population Within 1 Mile Of Sites (Approximate)		Population Within 3 Miles Of Sites (Approximate)		US Population (Approximate)	
	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
<b>Race</b>						
White	65.2%	13,465,608	65.0%	47,390,464	72.7%	237,188,538
Black	12.6%	2,610,976	<b>14.8%</b>	10,806,046	12.7%	41,281,123
Asian	<b>8.5%</b>	1,759,682	<b>7.7%</b>	5,646,019	5.4%	17,581,234
Native American	0.7%	146,605	0.6%	449,849	0.8%	2,707,577
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	<b>0.4%</b>	72,953	<b>0.3%</b>	192,261	0.2%	583,021
Other	<b>12.6%</b>	2,596,713	<b>11.5%</b>	8,384,355	8.3%	26,948,478
<b>Ethnicity</b>						
Hispanic (any race)	<b>25.6%</b>	5,291,125	<b>24.2%</b>	17,605,908	18.7%	60,867,275
Non-Hispanic (any race)	74.4%	15,361,412	75.8%	55,263,086	81.3%	265,422,696
<b>Minority</b>						
Minority	<b>49.8%</b>	10,285,751	<b>49.4%</b>	35,986,864	39.6%	129,080,779
<b>Income</b>						
Households below the poverty level	<b>15.4%</b>	1,170,285	<b>15.1%</b>	4,037,341	13.7%	16,567,346
Households with a ratio of income to poverty level of two and over	64.6%	12,973,217	65.6%	46,572,969	67.7%	215,350,011
<b>Education</b>						
Less than a high school education	<b>14.9%</b>	2,078,629	<b>14.1%</b>	6,907,708	12.5%	27,526,286
<b>Linguistically isolated</b>						
Linguistically isolated households	<b>7.8%</b>	596,375	<b>7.3%</b>	1,950,794	5.1%	6,149,144
<b>Age</b>						
Under 5 years of age	<b>6.4%</b>	1,330,018	<b>6.3%</b>	4,607,310	6.1%	19,994,488
Under 18 years of age	22.2%	4,588,465	22.4%	16,304,103	22.8%	74,241,185
Over 64 years of age	13.3%	2,744,745	13.8%	10,066,711	15.3%	49,879,204
<b>Total</b>		<b>20,652,537</b>		<b>72,868,994</b>		<b>326,289,971</b>

## Methodology:

For sites with boundary data, a 3- or 1- mile buffer ring was placed around each site boundary. For those sites without boundary data, a circular site boundary, equal to the site acreage, was modeled around the latitude/longitude for each site and then a **3- or 1- mile** buffer ring was placed around the site boundary. American Community Survey (ACS) 2015-2018 census data was then identified for each block group with a centroid that fell within the **3- or 1- mile** area.

Data used includes: (1) Superfund site information from SEMS as of the end of FY2019 and site boundary data from FY 2014 FOIA Request; and (2) ACS 2015-2018 census data.

## IMPORTANT Caveats:

- Data collected represent a national look at the characteristics of the population in communities surrounding our sites. While some of the data point to possible Environmental Justice (EJ) characteristics of the population, this is not an EJ analysis.
- Proximity to a site does not necessarily represent risk of adverse health effects. The risk of exposure to contamination varies significantly across all sites.
- Data are a snapshot in time only, the site and population information will change over time (can be updated every year when new census data comes out and compared over time in 5-year intervals).
- Used best available information, but data collected are estimates only, for the following reasons:
  - ❖ Used a single latitude/longitude location to model site boundaries based on acreage, not the actual site boundaries.
  - ❖ Used centroid points of the census block groups which under-estimates the population in some cases, and over-estimates in others.

## Footnote to Use When Citing Data:

U.S. EPA, Office of Land and Emergency Management 2020. Data collected includes: (1) Superfund site information from SEMS as of the end of FY2019 and site boundary data from FY 2014 FOIA Request; and (2) population data from the 2015-2018 American Community Survey.