

Local Governance and Environmental Justice in the Chesapeake Watershed

Local Government Advisory Committee

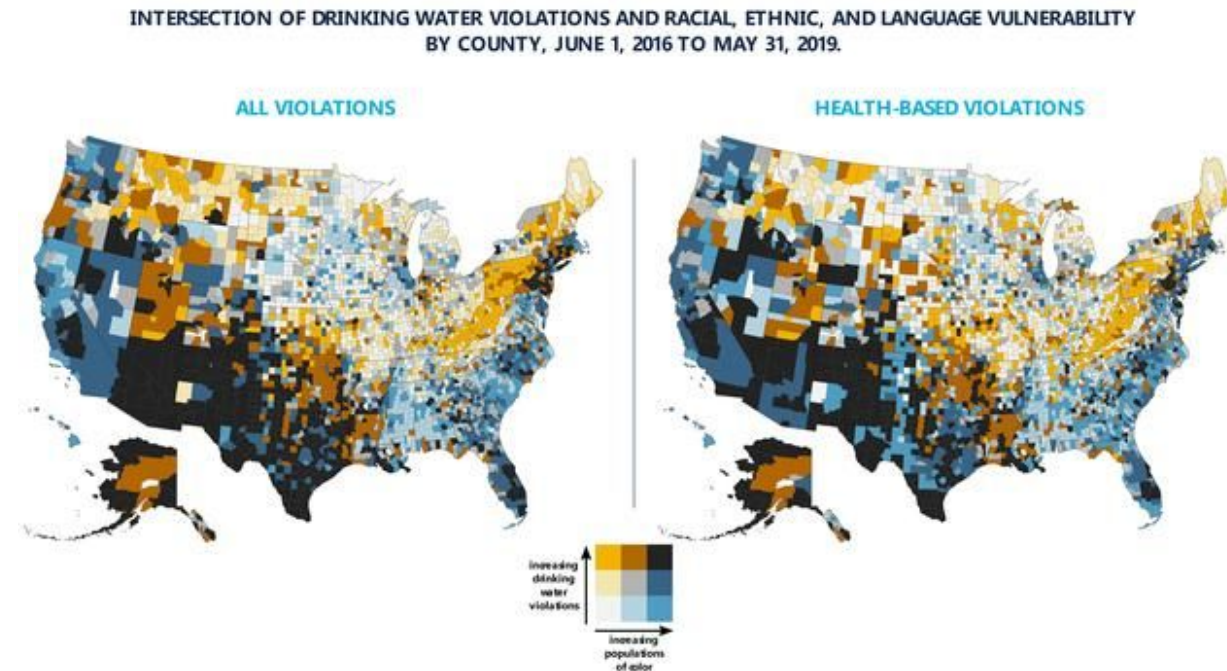
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What is Environmental Justice?

- ▶ Environmental justice is the **fair treatment and meaningful involvement** of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies

Environmental Disparities

- Air Quality
- Water Quality
- Proximity to Polluting Facilities



Who We Are

Choose Clean Water Coalition

- ▶ A coalition of more than 240 groups (non-governmental) advocating for clean rivers and streams in the Chesapeake region. The coalition focuses on several clean water priorities which include advancing Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice within the region.

Our Project: Assessing EJ in Local Governance

- ▶ Local Governments play a key role in:
 - ▶ Climate Resiliency
 - ▶ Zoning and Community Planning
 - ▶ Access to Transportation
 - ▶ Access to Healthy Food
 - ▶ Access to Healthy Housing
 - ▶ Siting of industrial facilities

Our Project: Assessing EJ in Local Governance

- ▶ What EJ frameworks exist at the local level?
- ▶ How do local EJ frameworks interact with state level policies and initiatives?
- ▶ How are EJ frameworks actually implemented?
- ▶ How successful is implementation at the local community level?

Examples of Local Government EJ Policies and Programs

- ▶ **Remedying environmental hazards** in overburdened communities
- ▶ **Enhanced community engagement** for new developments in overburdened communities
- ▶ **Considering the cumulative impacts of pollution** when siting developments in overburdened communities
- ▶ **Targeting the development of environmental amenities** in communities overburdened by environmental pollution

We want to hear from you!

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- ▶ Choose Clean Water Coalition:
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- ▶ Chesapeake Legal Alliance:
- ▶ Molly Brown - mbrown@chesapeakelegal.org