

# Population Surrounding 1,836 Superfund Remedial Sites

(Population data is from the Census Bureau’s 20011-2015 ACS 5 year estimates; sites are as of FY16.)

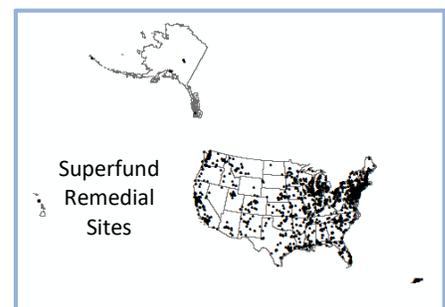
UPDATE: October 2017

Superfund Remedial sites exist in thousands of communities across the U.S. ranging from remote to large urban settings. Many of these sites are located in economically distressed communities. To help describe who benefits from EPA’s Superfund Remedial Program’s cleanup work, EPA collected data on the population living within 3 and 1 mile(s) of sites. These sites include Superfund final, deleted, and proposed National Priorities List (NPL) sites, as well as non-NPL Superfund Alternative Agreement sites.

## Population within 3 Miles of Sites:

The 3-mile area surrounding sites was used because it is a good representation of the geographic area where people in a community live most of their lives – where they shop, work, go to school, go to restaurants, and participate in outdoor activities. As of the end of FY16, approximately **53 million people** live within 3 miles of a Superfund site (roughly **16% of the U.S. population**) including approximately:

- 17% of all children in the U.S. under the age of 5
- 16% of all children in the U.S. under 18
- 19% of all black people in the U.S.
- 23% of all Hispanics in the U.S.
- 21% of all minorities in the U.S.
- 19% of all households in the U.S. below the poverty level
- 19% of all people with less than a high school education in the U.S.
- 25% of the linguistically isolated households in the U.S.



## Population within 1 Mile of Sites:

As of the end of FY16, approximately **15 million people** live within 1 mile of Superfund sites (roughly **5% of the U.S. population**) including approximately:

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

## Demographics of Near-Site Population:

While there is no single way to characterize communities located near these 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 (see Table 1). As a result, these communities may have fewer resources with which to address concerns about their health and environment.

	Population within 1 mile of All Sites	Population within 3 miles of All Sites	U.S. Population
Minority	49.3%	49.7%	38.4%
Below poverty level	16.7%	16.7%	14.7%
Linguistically isolated	8.4%	8.1%	5.2%
Less than a High School Education	16.3%	15.8%	13.5%

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

*(Sites include Superfund final, deleted, and proposed National Priorities List (NPL) sites, as well as non-NPL Superfund Alternative Agreement sites)*

Below are data on the demographic characteristics of the population surrounding Superfund Remedial 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 <b>1 Mile</b> of Sites (Approximate)		Population Within <b>3 Miles</b> of Sites (Approximate)		US Population (Approximate)	
	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
<b>Race</b>						
White	66.4%	10,046,874	65.5%	34,470,332	73.6%	235,439,052
Black	12.1%	1,825,303	<b>14.7%</b>	7,742,082	12.6%	40,209,614
Asian	<b>8.3%</b>	1,253,681	<b>7.6%</b>	4,013,732	5.1%	16,245,464
Native American	0.7%	110,209	0.6%	325,960	0.8%	2,580,945
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	<b>0.4%</b>	57,868	<b>0.3%</b>	146,067	0.2%	546,384
Other	<b>12.2%</b>	1,846,892	<b>11.3%</b>	5,960,305	7.8%	25,076,635
<b>Ethnicity</b>						
Hispanic (any race)	<b>26.1%</b>	3,944,432	<b>24.9%</b>	13,113,380	18.1%	57,779,493
Non-Hispanic (any race)	73.9%	11,196,395	75.1%	39,545,098	81.9%	262,318,601
<b>Minority</b>						
Minority (Includes all race & ethnicity categories except "non-Hispanic white")	<b>49.3%</b>	7,465,644	<b>49.7%</b>	26,165,579	38.4%	122,814,916
<b>Income</b>						
Households below the poverty level	<b>16.7%</b>	919,950	<b>16.7%</b>	3,219,925	14.7%	17,375,862
Households with a ratio of income to poverty level of two and over	61.4%	9,033,664	62.1%	31,871,549	65.3%	203,830,131
<b>Education</b>						
Less than a high school education	<b>16.3%</b>	1,637,451	<b>15.8%</b>	5,507,184	13.5%	28,879,991
<b>Linguistically isolated</b>						
Linguistically isolated households	<b>8.4%</b>	463,482	<b>8.1%</b>	1,549,407	5.2%	6,151,790
<b>Age</b>						
Under 5 years of age	<b>6.7%</b>	1,015,679	<b>6.6%</b>	3,462,879	6.3%	20,107,354
Under 18 years of age	22.9%	3,460,652	22.9%	12,074,107	23.3%	74,487,716
Over 64 years of age	12.3%	1,865,966	12.7%	6,711,160	14.1%	45,211,757
<b>Total Population</b>		<b>15,140,827</b>		<b>52,658,478</b>		<b>320,098,094</b>

## Methodology:

- For 1,536 Superfund sites, actual GIS site boundaries were used to designate the geographic area representing the sites, and then a **3 or 1 mile** buffer ring was placed around these boundaries.
- For the 300 sites without GIS site boundary data, the buffer rings were placed around a circular site boundary, modeled around the site's latitude/longitude and equal in size to the site's acreage.
- American Community Survey (ACS) 20011-2015 census data was then identified for each block group with a centroid that fell within the site boundary and the **3 or 1 mile** buffer ring.
- Data collected includes: (1) Superfund site information as of the end of FY2016; and (2) ACS 20011-2015 census data. Site data from FY2016 included 1,836 Superfund final, deleted, and proposed National Priorities List (NPL) sites, as well as non-NPL Superfund Alternative Agreement sites in the 50 U.S. states and Puerto Rico with accurate locational 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 centroid points of census block groups to determine the population near the sites, which under-estimates the population in some cases, and over-estimates it in others.
  - ❖ Used modeled site boundaries for 300 sites based on a single latitude/longitude location and estimated acreage.

## Footnote to Use When Citing Data (Includes Methodology):

<sup>1</sup>U.S. EPA, Office of Land and Emergency Management Estimate. 2017. Data collected includes: (1) Superfund site information as of the end of FY2016; and (2) 20011-2015 American Community Survey (ACS) census data. Sites used in this analysis included 1,836 Superfund final, deleted, and proposed National Priorities List (NPL) sites, as well as non-NPL Superfund Alternative Agreement sites in the 50 U.S. states and Puerto Rico with accurate location data.