Population Surrounding 180,049 Active UST Facilities

Underground Storage Tank (UST) facilities exist in thousands of communities across the U.S. ranging from remote to large urban settings. Many of these facilities are in economically distressed communities. To help describe who benefits from EPA's UST Program, the Agency used **2017-2021 American Community Survey populations data and UST facilities from states as of 2018-2019 and from Tribal lands and U.S. territories as of 2020-2021** to summarize the population living within 3, 1, and ¼ miles of active UST facilities.

Population within ¼ Mile of Facilities:

Approximately 71 million people live within ¼ mile of an active UST facility (roughly 21% of the U.S. population) including approximately:

- 22% of all children in the U.S. under the age of 5
- 20% of all children in the U.S. under 18
- 28% of all blacks in the U.S.
- 28% of all Hispanics in the U.S.
- 28% of all minorities in the U.S.
- 28% of all households in the U.S. below the poverty level
- 27% of all people with less than a high school education in the U.S.
- 34% of the linguistically isolated people in the U.S.

Population within 1 Mile of Facilities:

Approximately 254 million people live within 1 mile of an active UST facility (roughly 76% of the U.S. population) including approximately:

- 78% of all children in the U.S. under the age of 5
- 76% of all children in the U.S. under 18
- 87% of all blacks in the U.S.
- 84% of all Hispanics in the U.S.
- 85% of all minorities in the U.S.
- 80% of all households in the U.S. below the poverty level
- 79% of all people with less than a high school education in the U.S.
- 80% of the linguistically isolated people in the U.S.

Population within 3 Miles of Facilities:

Approximately 313 million people live within 3 miles of an active UST facility (roughly 94% of the U.S. population) including approximately:

- 95% of all children in the U.S. under the age of 5
- 94% of all children in the U.S. under 18
- 97% of all blacks in the U.S.
- 93% of all Hispanics in the U.S.
- 95% of all minorities in the U.S.
- 92% of all households in the U.S. below the poverty level
- 93% of all people with less than a high school education in the U.S.
- 85% of the linguistically isolated people in the U.S.

Demographics of Near-Facility Populations:

While there is no single way to characterize communities located near our facilities, the population within a **¼ mile** 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 ¼ mile of All Facilities	Population within 1 mile of All Facilities	Population within 3 miles of All Facilities	U.S. Population
TABLE 1: Proportions of Key Demographics in the Total Near Facility Population and the Total U.S. Population				
Minority	53.3%	45.6%	41.7%	41.1%
Below poverty level	16.3%	13.2%	12.4%	12.7%
Linguistically isolated	7.4%	5.0%	4.4%	4.8%
Less than a High School Education	14.3%	11.7%	11.1%	11.2%

Methodology:

A 3-, 1- or ¼- mile buffer ring was placed around each facility's latitude/longitude location. American Community Survey 2017-2021 census data was then identified for each block with a centroid that fell within the 3- , 1- or ¼- mile area. Population characteristic data was not available for census blocks but was available for block groups. To calculate the block population characteristics, the population percentage of the block within the block group was calculated and then that weight was applied to the respective block group characteristic of interest to estimate a value for the block.

Data used includes: (1) UST information from states as of 2018-2019 and from Tribal lands and U.S. territories as of 2020-2021; and (2) American Community Survey 2017-2021 population data. Facility data included 180,049 active UST facilities in the 50 U.S. states, Tribal lands and Puerto Rico with accurate locational data.

IMPORTANT Caveats:

- Data collected represent a <u>national look</u> at the characteristics of the population in communities surrounding our facilities. While some of the data point to possible environmental justice characteristics of the population, this is not a full environmental analysis.
- Proximity to a facility does not necessarily represent risk of adverse health effects. The risk of exposure to contamination <u>varies significantly</u> across all facilities.
- Data are a snapshot in time only, the facility 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 and longitude location to model facility boundaries based on acreage, not the actual facility boundaries.
  - ❖ Used centroid points of the census blocks to determine inclusion in the estimates. This may under-estimate the population in some cases, and over-estimate in others.

Footnote to Use When Citing Data:

U.S. EPA, Office of Land and Emergency Management 2023. Data collected includes: (1) information from states as of 2018-2019 and from Tribal lands and Puerto Rico as of 2020-2021 from Office of Research Development & Office of Underground Storage Tanks, UST Finder, https://www.epa.gov/ust/ust-finder; and (2) population data from the 2017-2021 American Community Survey.

TABLE 2: Detailed Data on the Population within ¼, 1 and 3 miles of Active UST facilities

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

Demographics	Population within ¼ Mile of Facilities (Approximate)		Population within 1 Mile of Facilities (Approximate)		Population within 3 Miles of Facilities (Approximate)		US Population (Approximate)	
Race	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
White	*57.8%*	40,918,814	*64.2%*	163,357,735	*67.3%*	210,927,270	68.0%	226,482,080
Black	**16.6%**	11,774,935	**14.3%**	36,265,546	**12.9%**	40,534,661	12.5%	41,722,070
Asian	**7.6%**	5,410,756	**6.5%**	16,595,911	**5.9%**	18,650,008	5.6%	18,789,170
Native American	0.8%	544,153	*0.7%*	1,834,646	*0.7%*	2,321,520	0.8%	2,728,040
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.2%	158,343	0.2%	522,479	0.2%	598,105	0.2%	615,799
Other	**17.0%**	12,022,638	**14.1%**	35,733,521	**12.9%**	40,416,129	12.8%	42,697,965
Ethnicity								
Hispanic (any race)	**25.4%**	18,005,593	**21.0%**	53,415,061	*19.0%*	59,564,969	19.2%	64,076,906
Non-Hispanic (any race)	*74.6%*	52,824,047	*79.0%*	200,894,778	**81.0%**	253,882,723	80.8%	268,958,218
Minority								
Minority	**53.3%**	37,726,529	*45.6%*	115,935,685	**41.7%**	130,656,009	41.1%	136,996,867
Income								
Households below the poverty level	**16.3%**	4,495,336	**13.2%**	12,775,150	*12.4%*	14,664,266	12.7%	15,909,129
Households with a ratio of income to poverty level of two and over	*63.7%*	43,808,793	*69.2%*	171,672,292	**70.8%**	216,733,783	70.4%	228,790,916
Education								
Less than a high school education	**14.3%**	6,895,370	**11.7%**	20,221,090	*11.1%*	23,729,860	11.2%	25,569,085
Linguistically isolated								
Linguistically isolated households	**7.4%**	2,027,383	**5.0%**	4,843,987	*4.4%*	5,172,980	4.8%	6,055,968
Age								
Under 5 years of age	**6.1%**	4,288,332	**6.0%**	15,302,120	5.9%	18,566,045	5.9%	19,545,536
Under 18 years of age	*21.5%*	15,258,316	22.5%	57,092,682	**22.6%**	70,701,790	22.5%	74,831,323
Over 64 years of age	*14.3%*	10,152,018	*15.3%*	38,990,778	*15.8%*	49,643,397	16.1%	53,592,470
Total		**70,829,640**		**254,309,839**		**313,447,692**		**333,035,124**

Note: This table indicates whether the percent of demographic characteristics near sites are above (bold) or below (italics) that of the US population.