

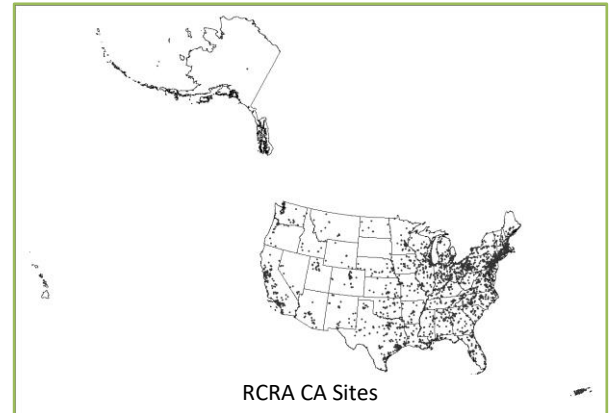
Population Surrounding 3,772 RCRA Corrective Action Sites

RCRA Corrective Action (CA) 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 RCRA CA Program cleanup work, the Agency used **2015-2018 American Community Survey populations data and FY 2019 RCRA CA** to summarize the population living within 3 and 1 miles of RCRA CA sites.

Population within 1 Mile of Sites:

Approximately 29 million people live within 1 mile of a RCRA CA site (roughly 9% of the U.S. population) including approximately:

- 9% of all children in the U.S. under the age of 5
- 9% of all children in the U.S. under 18
- 11% of all blacks in the U.S.
- 11% of all Hispanics in the U.S.
- 11% of all minorities in the U.S.
- 11% of all households in the U.S. below the poverty level
- 10% of all people with less than a high school education in the U.S.
- 12% of the linguistically isolated people in the U.S.



Population within 3 Miles of Sites:

Approximately 113 million people live within 3 miles of a RCRA CA site (roughly 35% of the U.S. population) including approximately:

- 36% of all children in the U.S. under the age of 5
- 34% of all children in the U.S. under 18
- 44% of all blacks in the U.S.
- 42% of all Hispanics in the U.S.
- 43% of all minorities in the U.S.
- 40% of all households in the U.S. below the poverty level
- 38% of all people with less than a high school education in the U.S.
- 46% 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 1 mile of All Sites	Population within 3 miles of All Sites	U.S. Population
Minority	49.8%	48.8%	39.6%
Below poverty level	17.3%	15.6%	13.7%
Linguistically isolated	6.7%	6.8%	5.1%
Less than a High School Education	15.0%	14.0%	12.5%

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

Below are data on the demographic characteristics of the population surrounding RCRA. 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
Race						
White	<i>64.9%</i>	18,736,596	<i>65.2%</i>	73,456,963	72.7%	237,188,538
Black	16.4%	4,746,159	16.1%	18,128,404	12.7%	41,281,123
Asian	6.6%	1,904,928	7.2%	8,141,677	5.4%	17,581,234
Native American	<i>0.6%</i>	182,104	<i>0.6%</i>	645,488	0.8%	2,707,577
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.2%	66,199	0.2%	227,920	0.2%	583,021
Other	11.2%	3,249,322	10.7%	12,109,132	8.3%	26,948,478
Ethnicity						
Hispanic (any race)	23.8%	6,870,219	22.8%	25,716,049	18.7%	60,867,275
Non-Hispanic (any race)	<i>76.2%</i>	22,015,089	<i>77.2%</i>	86,993,535	81.3%	265,422,696
Minority						
Minority	49.8%	14,373,724	48.8%	54,982,082	39.6%	129,080,779
Income						
Households below the poverty level	17.3%	1,858,390	15.6%	6,557,865	13.7%	16,567,346
Households with a ratio of income to poverty level of two and over	<i>60.9%</i>	16,950,099	<i>64.5%</i>	70,677,142	67.7%	215,350,011
Education						
Less than a high school education	15.0%	2,839,761	14.0%	10,536,980	12.5%	27,526,286
Linguistically isolated						
Linguistically isolated households	6.7%	712,524	6.8%	2,839,802	5.1%	6,149,144
Age						
Under 5 years of age	6.6%	1,899,244	6.3%	7,150,037	6.1%	19,994,488
Under 18 years of age	<i>22.7%</i>	6,546,789	<i>22.4%</i>	25,218,465	22.8%	74,241,185
Over 64 years of age	<i>12.9%</i>	3,728,942	<i>13.8%</i>	15,580,650	15.3%	49,879,204
Total		28,885,308		112,709,584		326,289,971

Methodology:

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) RCRA CA site information as of the end of FY2019; and (2) ACS 2015-2018 census data. Site data from FY2019 included 3,722 RCRA CA 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 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) RCRA CA site information as of the end of FY2019; and (2) population data from the 2015-2018 American Community Survey.