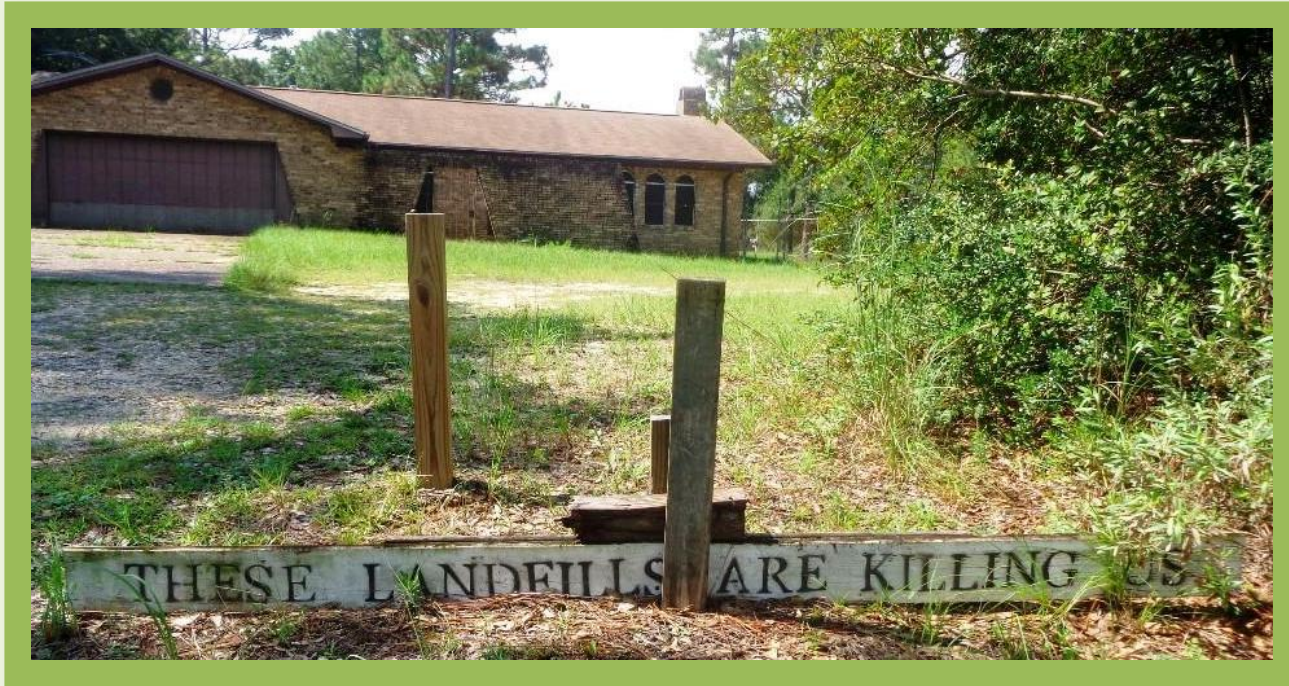


Modified Health Impact Assessments (HIA) for Two Environmental Justice Communities in Pensacola, Florida and Houston, Texas

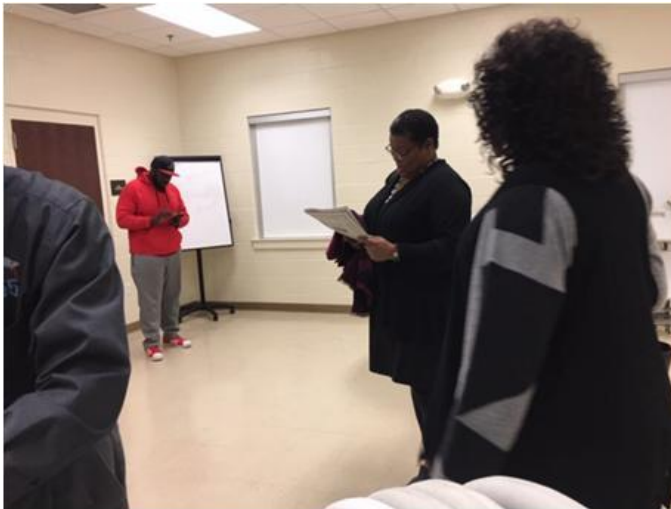


***Aaliyah Shannon
Senior Health Sciences Major
Tennessee State University
Nashville, Tennessee***



The major steps in conducting a HIA include...

- **Screening** (identifying plan, project, or policy decisions for which an HIA would be useful).
- **Scoping** (planning the HIA and identifying what health risks and benefits to consider).
- **Assessment** (identifying affected populations and quantifying health impacts of the decision).
- **Recommendations** (suggesting practical actions to promote positive health effects and minimize negative health effects).
- **Reporting** (presenting results to decision makers, affected communities, and other stakeholders).
- **Monitoring and evaluation** (determining the HIA's impact on the decision and health status).



Wedgewood Community (Pensacola, Florida)

Quick facts...

- surrounded by 13 landfills which 8 of them are active.
 - largest land was shut down in 2014 in 2015, but “horrible” smells remain.
 - when it rains the landfill chemical odors worsen.
 - within the past 20 years a numerous cancer deaths have been reported.
- Wedgewood stakeholders want to get rid of the 8 active landfills.
- stakeholders want to reduce the chemicals that are being released to air.



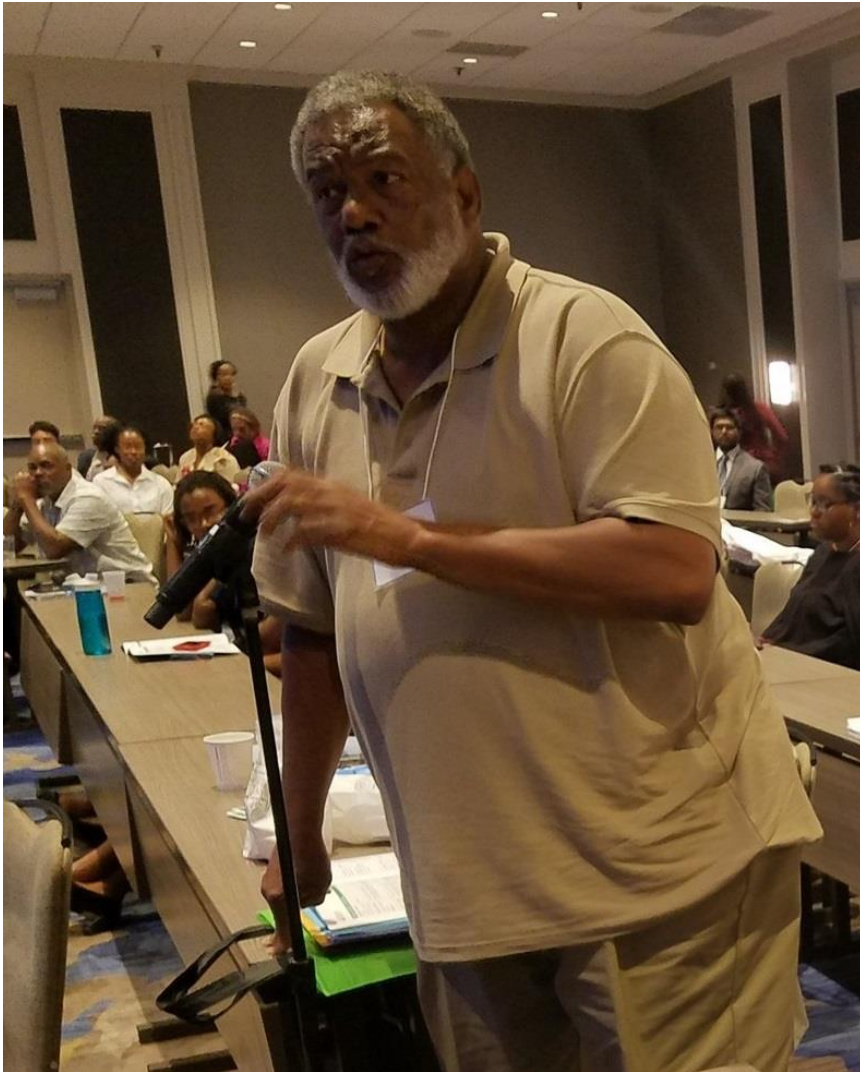
Pleasantville Community (Houston, Texas)

Quick Facts...

- Pleasantville is currently still dealing with effects from Hurricane Harvey from 2017.
- contaminants are still floating around in the general Houston area.
- sewer waste water is spreading contamination
- stakeholders want to figure out if there is a way to separate the two sewer systems
- stakeholders are working to reduce the level and frequency of flooding
- stakeholders want to clean up contaminated streets and buildings without harsh chemicals.



Stakeholder Engagement – Wedgewood Community



Marie K. Young - “...regulations are never followed, and we have no government leaders. Everyone that is on the board expect one is not of color so they don’t know what we go through”.

Rev. Carrie L. Brown – “...we are the leaders and this is why the Wedgewood community attends the HBCU conference”.

Several stakeholders stated - “...get kids involved on knowing how important environment justice is and how it affects the community.”

Stakeholder Engagement – Pleasantville Community

ACTS Team Members



Founder, Bridgett Murray, Community Developer, Tracy Stephens,
Executive Assistant, Regina Baker, Vice President, Cleophus Sharp
and Community Engagement, Marsha Lister

Bridgett Murray - “Pleasantville floods so bad because it’s shaped like a bowl and the water automatically runs down here because of the bowl shape. By the time it started to flood the water was already contaminated and that the elderly were scared to move around because a lot of them are very ill due to respiratory issues.”

Mr. Calvin - “...after the storm (Hurricane Harvey) they took it really hard stress and depression was serious because their house were either gone or completed flooded.”

Stakeholders also spoke about the air pollutions as well. **Ms. Murray** and **Mr. Calvin** explained that air pollution is a mixture of solid particles and gases in the air.

SCREENING AND SCOPING

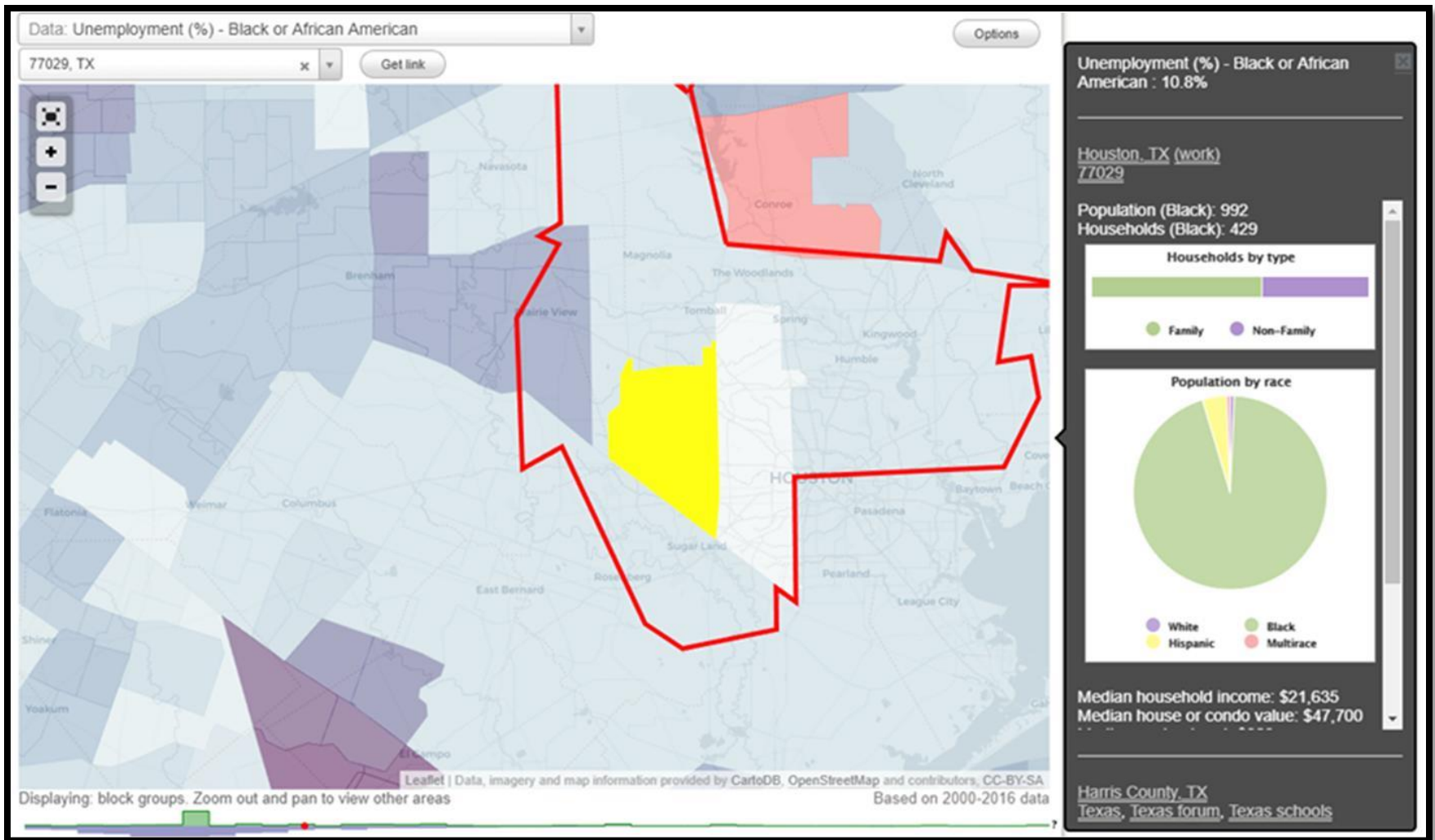


Figure 1: Unemployment Rate in Pleasantville Community Houston Texas

SCREENING AND SCOPING

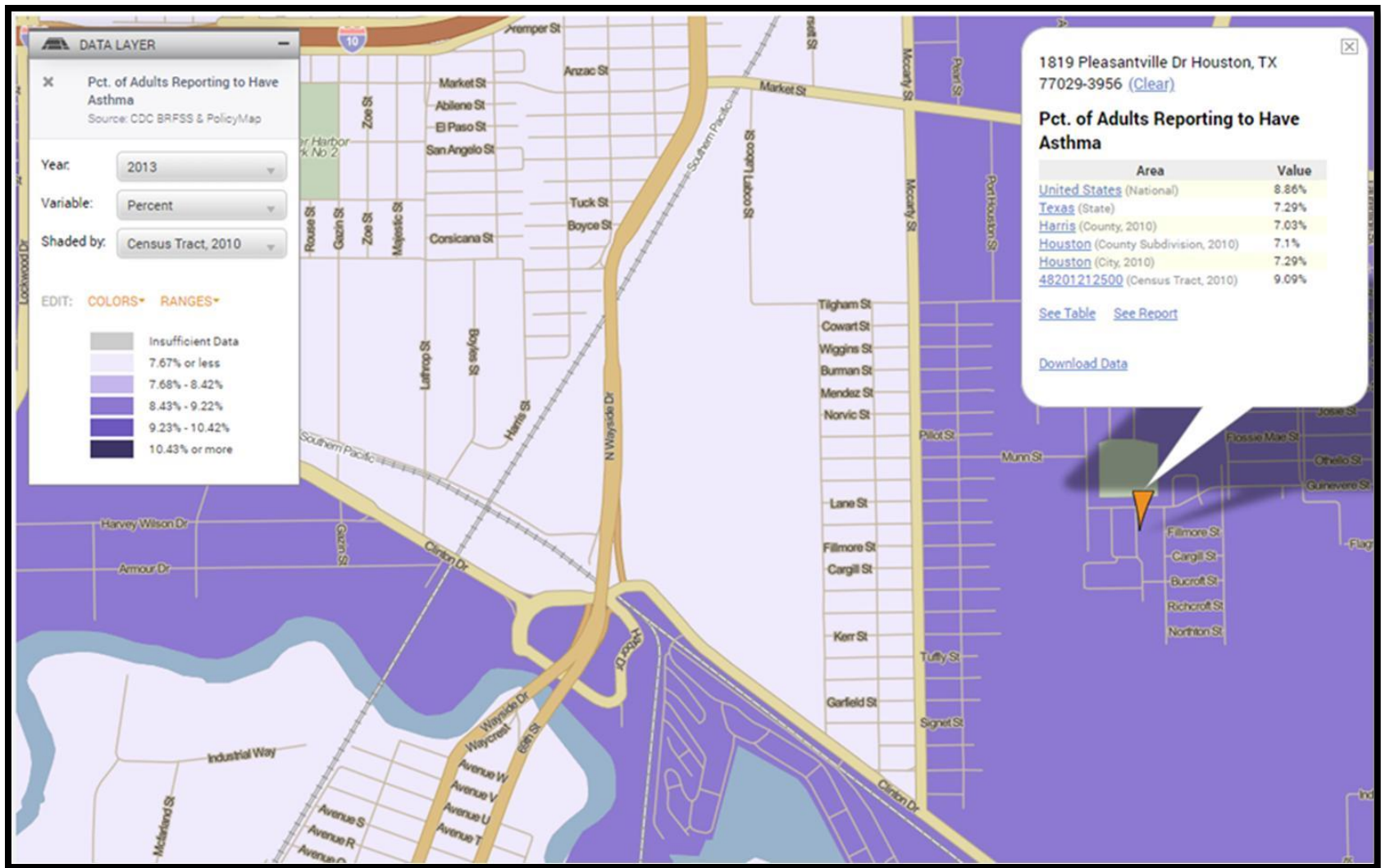


Figure 2: Adult Asthma Rates in Pleasantville Community Houston Texas

SCREENING AND SCOPING

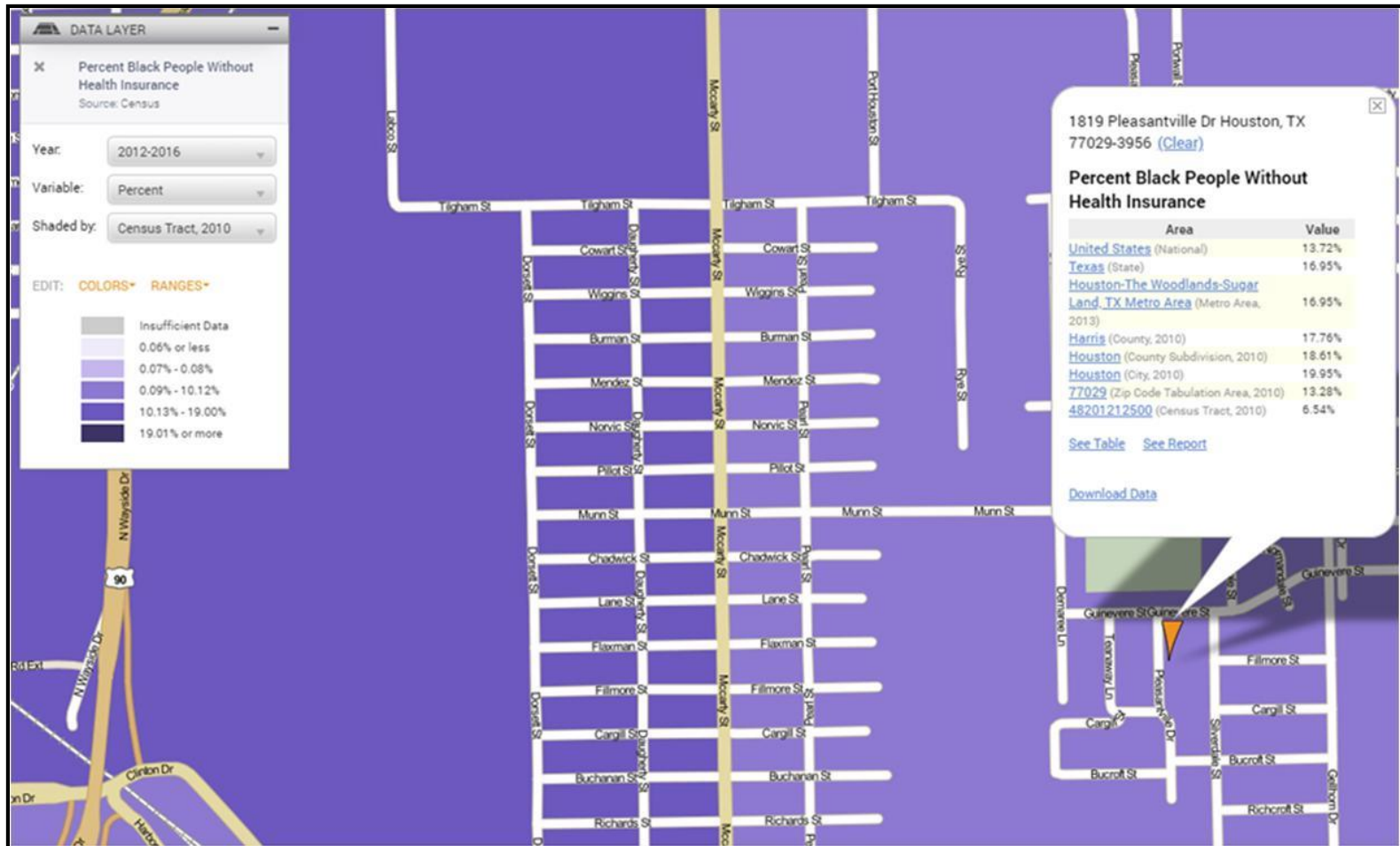


Figure 3: Percent of African Americans without Health Insurance in Pleasantville Community Houston Texas

SCREENING AND SCOPING

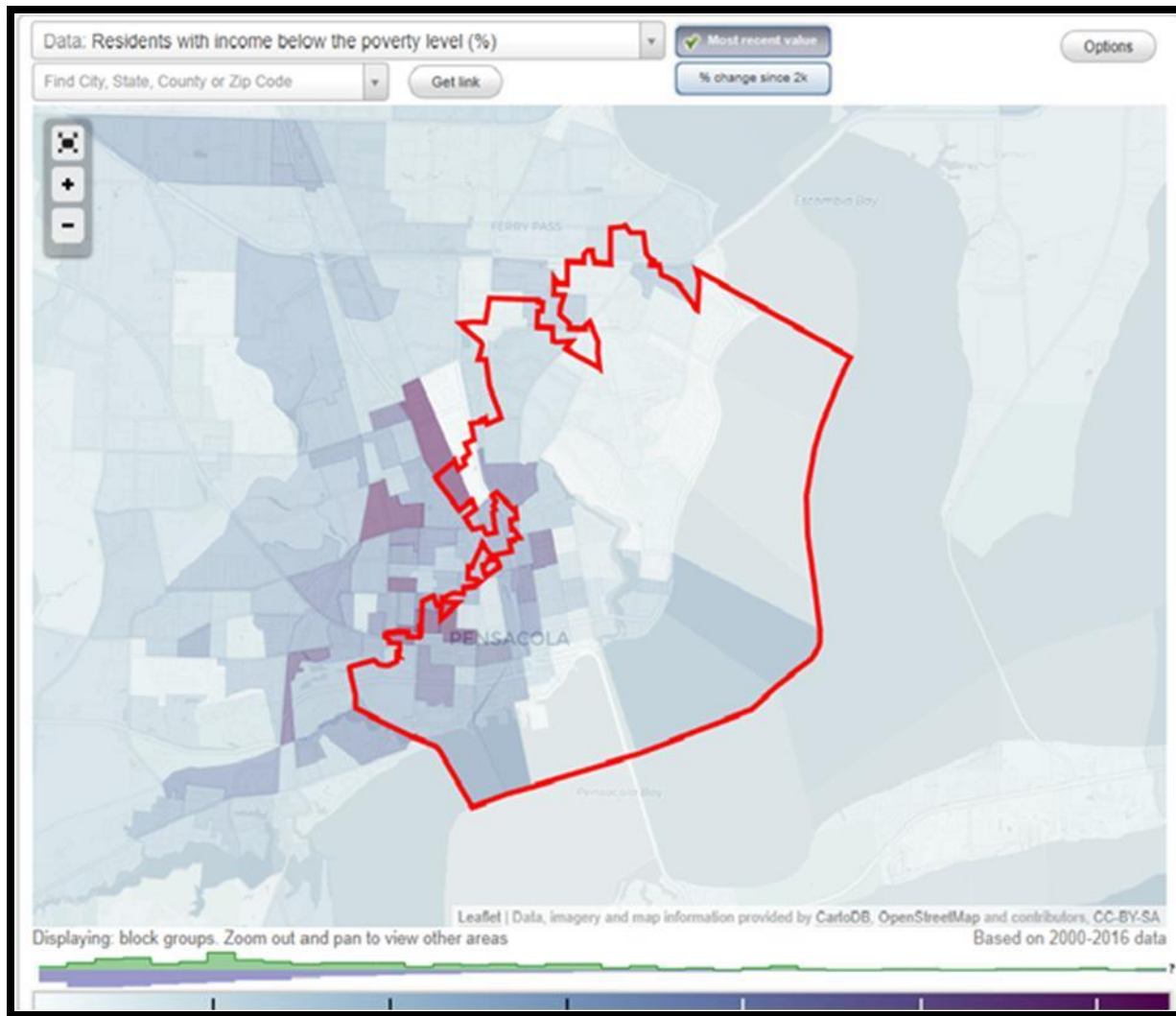


Figure 4: Residents below the poverty level – Wedgewood Community, Pensacola, Florida

SCREENING AND SCOPING

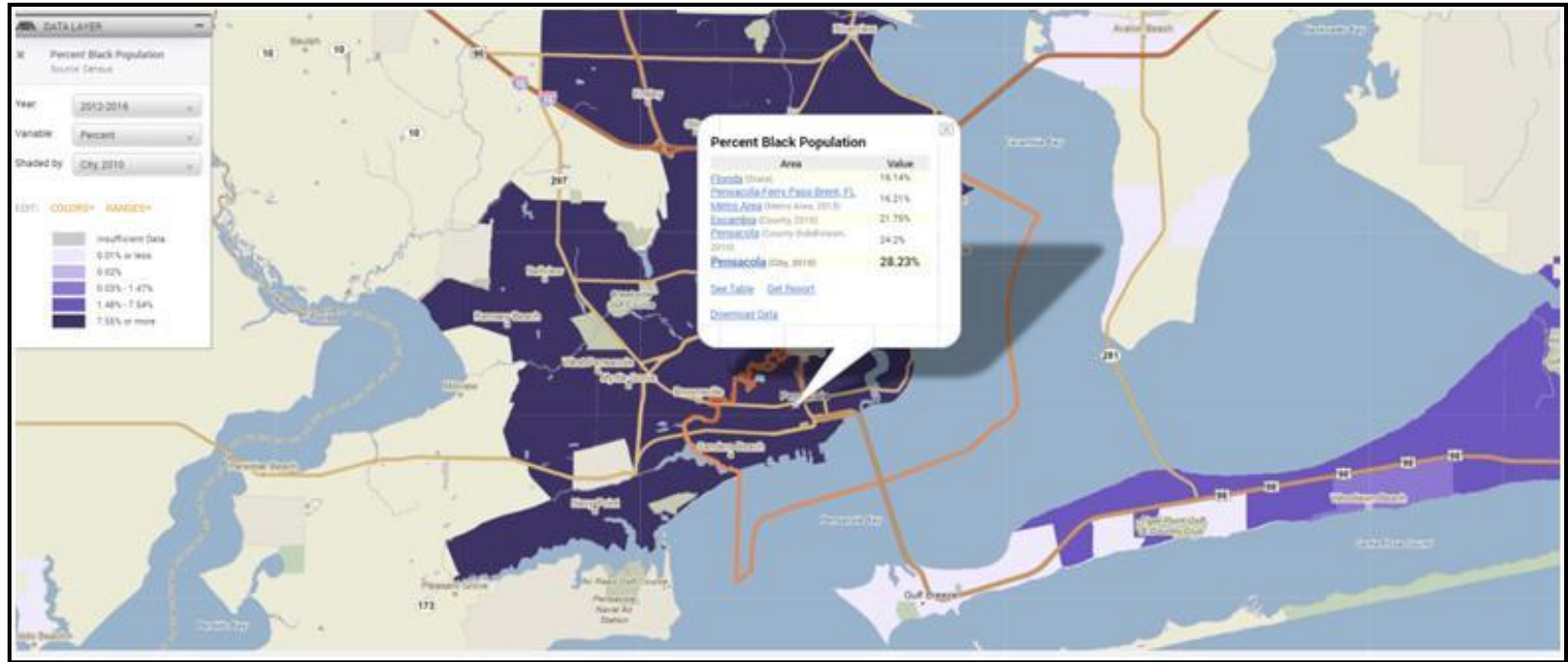


Figure 5: Percent Black Population – Wedgewood Community, Pensacola, Florida

SCREENING AND SCOPING

2016 TRI Factsheet: City – Pensacola, FL

Data Source: 2016 Dataset (released October 2017)

The Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) tracks the management of certain toxic chemicals that may pose a threat to human health and the environment. Certain industrial facilities in the U.S. must report annually how much of each chemical is recycled, combusted for energy recovery, treated for destruction, and disposed of or otherwise released on- and off-site. This information is collectively referred to as production-related waste managed.

Map of TRI Facilities in Pensacola, FL



Florida ranks 18 out of 56 states/territories nationwide based on total releases per square mile (Rank 1 = highest releases)

Quick Facts for 2016

	Pensacola, FL	United States
Number of TRI Facilities:	11	21,629
Total Production-Related Waste Managed:	13.9 million lbs	27.7 billion lbs
Total On-site and Off-site Disposal or Other Releases:	524.9 thousand lbs	3.4 billion lbs
Total On-site:	446.3 thousand lbs	3.0 billion lbs
• Air:	386.8 thousand lbs	609.8 million lbs
• Water:	2.1 thousand lbs	190.7 million lbs
• Land:	57.2 thousand lbs	2.2 billion lbs
Total Off-Site:	78.5 thousand lbs	404.1 million lbs

Figure 6: Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) Sites – Wedgewood Community, Pensacola, Florida

Reporting:

Pleasantville Community

- violent crime rates are relatively high
- educational attainment is relatively low - people with their master's degree or higher is 4%, bachelors is 8%, and some college or associate degree is 23%.
- air pollution is a persistent problem.
- many local point-source air pollution releasers are present - **Bridgette Murray** - “warehouses, metal recyclers, salvage yards, Anheuser-Busch’s Houston brewery and an interstate push hard against the neighborhood, proof and product of the city’s light-on-regulations approach to land use. Trains and trucks rumble through the area day and night. It can be difficult to breathe.”



Reporting: Wedgewood Community

- Hurricane Harvey's impacts left health and environmental risks that remain to date.
- a stew of toxic chemicals, debris, sewage and waste lingers.
- Contaminated sewer carry health threats including cholera, and all other infectious diseases in it.
- *“Runoff from the city's sprawling petroleum and chemicals complex contains any number of hazardous compounds. Lead, arsenic and other toxic and carcinogenic elements may be leaching from some two dozen Superfund sites in the Houston area” (Tabuchi).*



Related Websites

Marie K Young, In Person Interview.

Rev Carrie L. Brown interview in person

Pnjnews. “Wedgewood Victim of Environmental Racism?” Pensacola News Journal, Pensacola News Journal, 31 Oct. 2015,

www.pnj.com/story/news/2015/10/31/wedgewood-victim-environmental-racism/74640306/.

Tabuchi, Hiroko, and Sheila Kaplan. “A Sea of Health and Environmental Hazards in Houston's Floodwaters.” The New York Times, The New York Times, 31 Aug. 2017, www.nytimes.com/2017/08/31/us/houston-contaminated-floodwaters.ht



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