

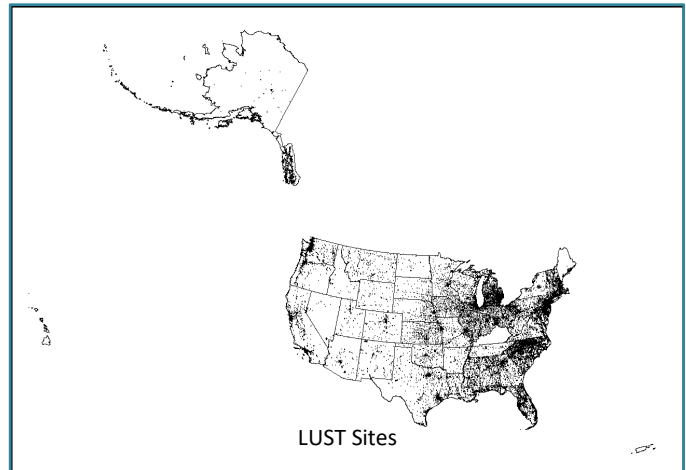
Population Surrounding 66,622 Open LUST Sites

Open Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) 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 UST Program, the Agency used **2015-2018 American Community Survey populations data and open LUST sites as of late-2018 to mid-2019** to summarize the population living within 3, 1, and ¼ miles of open LUST facilities.

Population within 0.25 Mile of Sites:

Approximately 21 million people live within 0.25 mile of an Open LUST site (roughly 6% of the U.S. population) including approximately:

- 7% of all children in the U.S. under the age of 5
- 6% of all children in the U.S. under 18
- 10% of all blacks in the U.S.
- 9% of all Hispanics in the U.S.
- 9% of all minorities in the U.S.
- 9% of all households in the U.S. below the poverty level
- 8% of all people with less than a high school education in the U.S.
- 11% of the linguistically isolated people in the U.S.



Population within 1 Mile of Sites:

Approximately 127 million people live within 1 mile of an Open LUST site (roughly 39% of the U.S. population) including approximately:

- 40% of all children in the U.S. under the age of 5
- 38% of all children in the U.S. under 18
- 52% of all blacks in the U.S.
- 46% of all Hispanics in the U.S.
- 48% of all minorities in the U.S.
- 47% of all households in the U.S. below the poverty level
- 44% of all people with less than a high school education in the U.S.
- 51% of the linguistically isolated people in the U.S.

Population within 3 Miles of Sites:

Approximately 237 million people live within 3 miles of an Open LUST site (roughly 73% of the U.S. population) including approximately:

- 74% of all children in the U.S. under the age of 5
- 72% of all children in the U.S. under 18
- 83% of all blacks in the U.S.
- 76% of all Hispanics in the U.S.
- 79% of all minorities in the U.S.
- 75% of all households in the U.S. below the poverty level
- 74% of all people with less than a high school education in the U.S.
- 75% 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 **within ¼- and 1-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.

TABLE 1: Proportions of Key Demographics in the Total Near Site Population and the Total U.S. Population

	Population within 0.25 mile of All Sites	Population within 1 mile of All Sites	Population within 3 miles of All Sites	U.S. Population
Minority	55.8%	48.2%	43.1%	39.6%
Below poverty level	19.5%	16.1%	14.0%	13.7%
Linguistically isolated	8.8%	6.5%	5.2%	5.1%
Less than a High School Education	16.6%	14.2%	12.7%	12.5%

Methodology:

A **3-, 1- or ¼- mile** buffer ring was placed around each site's latitude/longitude location. American Community Survey (ACS) 2015-2018 census data was then identified for each block group with a centroid that fell within the **3-, 1- or ¼- mile** area.

Data used includes: (1) LUST information as of late-2018 to mid-2019 depending on the state; and (2) ACS 2015-2018 census data. Site data included 66,622 Open LUST sites in the 50 U.S. states 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) LUST information as of late-2018 to mid-2019 depending on the state; and (2) population data from the 2015-2018 American Community Survey.

TABLE 2: Detailed Data on the Population within 0.25, 1 and 3 miles of Open LUST sites

Below are data on the demographic characteristics of the population surrounding open LUST 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 0.25 Mile of Sites (Approximate)		Population Within 1 Mile of Sites (Approximate)		Population Within 3 Miles of Sites (Approximate)		US Population (Approximate)	
	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
Race								
White	59.8%	12,366,508	65.2%	82,972,237	69.4%	164,542,107	72.7%	237,188,538
Black	20.0%	4,142,466	16.9%	21,472,496	14.4%	34,229,565	12.7%	41,281,123
Asian	7.1%	1,461,363	6.7%	8,547,440	6.2%	14,770,185	5.4%	17,581,234
Native American	0.6%	120,292	0.6%	807,596	0.7%	1,546,782	0.8%	2,707,577
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.2%	38,530	0.2%	265,187	0.2%	453,096	0.2%	583,021
Other	12.3%	2,547,377	10.3%	13,109,208	9.1%	21,471,800	8.3%	26,948,478
Ethnicity								
Hispanic (any race)	26.2%	5,415,861	21.8%	27,763,667	19.6%	46,493,030	18.7%	60,867,275
Non-Hispanic (any race)	73.8%	15,260,675	78.2%	99,410,497	80.4%	190,520,505	81.3%	265,422,696
Minority								
Minority	55.8%	11,531,022	48.2%	61,329,629	43.1%	102,219,688	39.6%	129,080,779
Income								
Households below the poverty level	19.5%	1,557,083	16.1%	7,767,697	14.0%	12,395,284	13.7%	16,567,346
Households with a ratio of income to poverty level of two and over	58.0%	11,647,136	63.2%	78,221,660	67.0%	154,861,367	67.7%	215,350,011
Education								
Less than a high school education	16.6%	2,314,010	14.2%	12,135,062	12.7%	20,262,177	12.5%	27,526,286
Linguistically isolated								
Linguistically isolated households	8.8%	706,811	6.5%	3,106,018	5.2%	4,639,142	5.1%	6,149,144
Age								
Under 5 years of age	6.3%	1,303,082	6.3%	7,977,890	6.2%	14,721,076	6.1%	19,994,488
Under 18 years of age	21.3%	4,399,010	22.0%	27,979,884	22.5%	53,387,672	22.8%	74,241,185
Over 64 years of age	13.1%	2,703,353	14.4%	18,372,088	14.9%	35,290,152	15.3%	49,879,204
Total		20,676,536		127,174,164		237,013,535		326,289,971