

EDS223 hw1: Envir. Injustice

Megan Hessel

2025-09-25

Exploring Environmental Injustice

Loading libraries

```
# Load libraries
library(sf) # for vector data (more soon!)
library(stars) # for raster data (more soon!)
library(tmap) # for static and interactive maps
library(here)
```

Downloading Data

EjScreen All Data -> LA, East Baton Rouge Parish County

```
#Setting up data: filtering for Louisiana, East Baton Rouge Parish County

# read in geodatabase of EJScreen data at the Census Block Group level
ejscreen <- sf::st_read(here::here("data", "ejscreen", "EJSCREEN_2023_BG_StatePct_with_AS_CNM

# filter to a state you are interested in: Louisiana
LA <- ejscreen %>%
  dplyr::filter(ST_ABBREV == "LA")

# filter to a county you are interested in: East Baton Rouge Parish
EBRP_LA <- ejscreen %>%
  dplyr::filter(CNTY_NAME %in% c("East Baton Rouge Parish"))
```

```
# find the average values for all variables within counties
LA_counties <- aggregate(LA, by = list(LA$CNTY_NAME), FUN = mean, na.rm=TRUE)
```

Making maps

2 Main Maps Together

1. Map 1: People of color Map
2. Map 2: Hazardous Waste Proximity Map

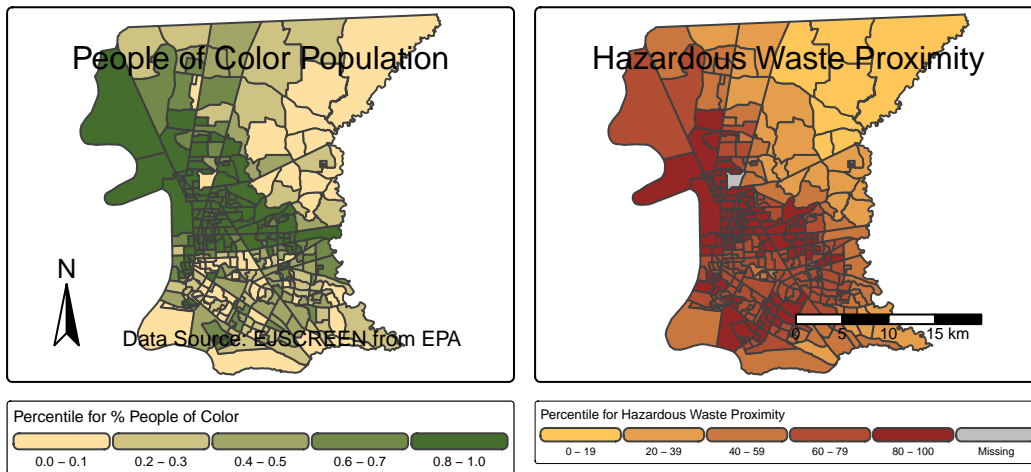
This map illustrates the relationship between predominantly People of Color communities and their proximity to hazardous waste sites in East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana. The state, especially in the Baton Rouge area and around the Mississippi River, has a long history of weak regulations of petrochemical industries and fossil fuels, highlighting the environmental racism and systemic inequities (Antonia Juhasz, 2024). Within East Baton Rouge Parish, communities of Color are concentrated in the central region where they are disproportionately situated near hazardous waste sites, displaying ongoing environmental injustice.

```
# People of Color Map
pcol <- tm_shape(EBRP_LA) +
  tm_polygons(fill = 'PEOPCOLORPCT', #filling with the PofC column
              fill.legend = tm_legend(title = "Percentile for % People of Color",
                                       orientation = "landscape"),
              fill.scale = tm_scale(values = c("#FEE0A1", "#456D2D"))) +
  tm_title_in('People of Color Population', position = tm_pos_in("center", "top"), size = 1) +
  tm_layout(main.title = "Enviornmental Injustice in Lousiana, East Baton Rouge Parish County",
            tm_compass(position = c("left", "bottom")) +
            tm_credits("Data Source: EJSCREEN from EPA",
                      position = c("right", "bottom")))

# Hazardous Waste Proximity Map
phw <- tm_shape(EBRP_LA) +
  tm_polygons(fill = 'P_PTSDf', # filling wth HWP column
              fill.legend = tm_legend(title = "Percentile for Hazardous Waste Proximity",
                                       orientation = "landscape"),
              fill.scale = tm_scale(values = c("#FFC759", "#962525"))) +
  tm_title_in('Hazardous Waste Proximity', position = tm_pos_in("center", "top"), size = 1) +
  tm_layout(main.title = " ", main.title.size = 1.5) +
  tm_scalebar()
```

```
# Using `tmap_arrange` to put maps together in 1 layout
map_final <- tmap_arrange(pcol, phw, ncol = 2)
map_final
```

Environmental Injustice in Louisiana, East Baton Rouge Parish County



```
# Saving the Map
tmap_save(map_final, here::here("figs", "envir_injust_main_map.jpg"), width = 10, height = 7)
# The saved map is WAY prettier than the output map display
```

Other Map I Made

```
# % People of Color Map
peopcolor <- tm_shape(EBRP_LA) +
  tm_polygons(fill = 'PEOPCOLORPCT',
              fill.scale = tm_scale(values = c("#FEE0A1", "#456D2D")),
              fill.legend = tm_legend(title = "Percentile for % People of Color",
                                     orientation = "landscape")) +
  tm_title_in('People of Color', position = tm_pos_in("center", "top"), size = 1) +
  tm_layout(main.title = "Environmental Injustice in Louisiana", main.title.size = 1) +
  tm_compass(position = c("left", "bottom")) +
  tm_credits("Data Source: EJSCREEN from EPA",
```

```

        position = c("right", "bottom"))

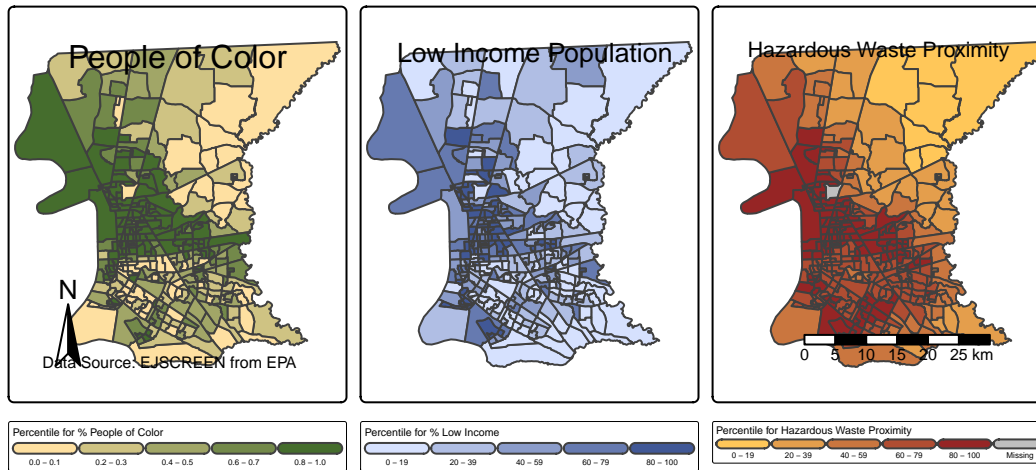
# % Low Income Map
low_income <- tm_shape(EBRP_LA) +
  tm_polygons(fill = 'P_LOWINCPCT',
              fill.scale = tm_scale(values = c("#D6E1FE", "#415896")),
              fill.legend = tm_legend(title = "Percentile for % Low Income",
                                      orientation = "landscape")) +
  tm_title_in("Low Income Population", position = tm_pos_in("center", "top"), size = 1) +
  tm_layout(main.title = " ", main.title.size = 1)

# % Hazardous waste proximity
sfp <- tm_shape(EBRP_LA) +
  tm_polygons(fill = 'P_PTSDf',
              fill.scale = tm_scale(values = c("#FFC759", "#962525")),
              fill.legend = tm_legend(title = "Percentile for Hazardous Waste Proximity",
                                      orientation = "landscape")) +
  tm_layout(main.title = " ", main.title.size = 1) +
  tm_title_in("Hazardous Waste Proximity", position = tm_pos_in("center", "top"), size = 1) +
  tm_scalebar()

# Using `tmap_arrange` to put maps together in 1 layout
map <- tmap_arrange(peopcolor, low_income, sfp, ncol = 3)
map

```

Environmental Injustice in Louisiana



```
# Saving the Map
tmap_save(map, here::here("figs", "envir_injust_other.jpg"), width = 10, height = 5.5)
# The saved map is WAY prettier than the output map display
```

CITATIONS

Antonia Juhasz. (2024). “We’re Dying Here.” *Human Rights Watch*. <https://www.hrw.org/report/2024/01/25/were-dying-here/fight-life-louisiana-fossil-fuel-sacrifice-zone>

United States Environmental Protection Agency. *EJScreen: Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool*. ****(this does not exist anymore, so it’s hard to cite it)****