

Introduction to Environmental Justice

ENVR E-145

James Hoyte & Timothy Weiskel

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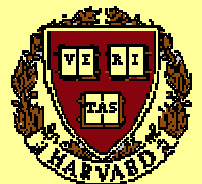
Unequal Protection: Is Environmental Racism The Reason?

James Hoyte

Class Session 7 – 13 March 2007

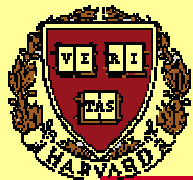


Harvard University Extension School
Spring Semester 2007



A new report
pointing to an old
problem.....

Toxic Wastes and
Race at Twenty,
1987-2007

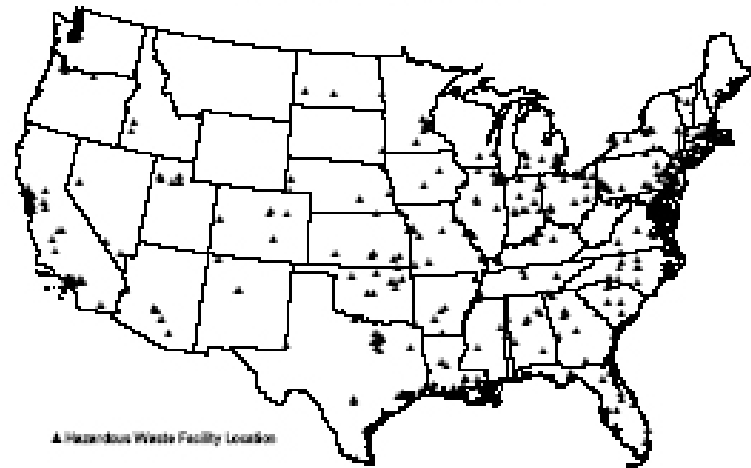


Executive Summary

TOXIC WASTES AND RACE AT TWENTY 1987-2007

Grassroots Struggles to Dismantle Environmental
Racism in the United States

A Report Prepared for the
United Church of Christ
Justice and Witness Ministries

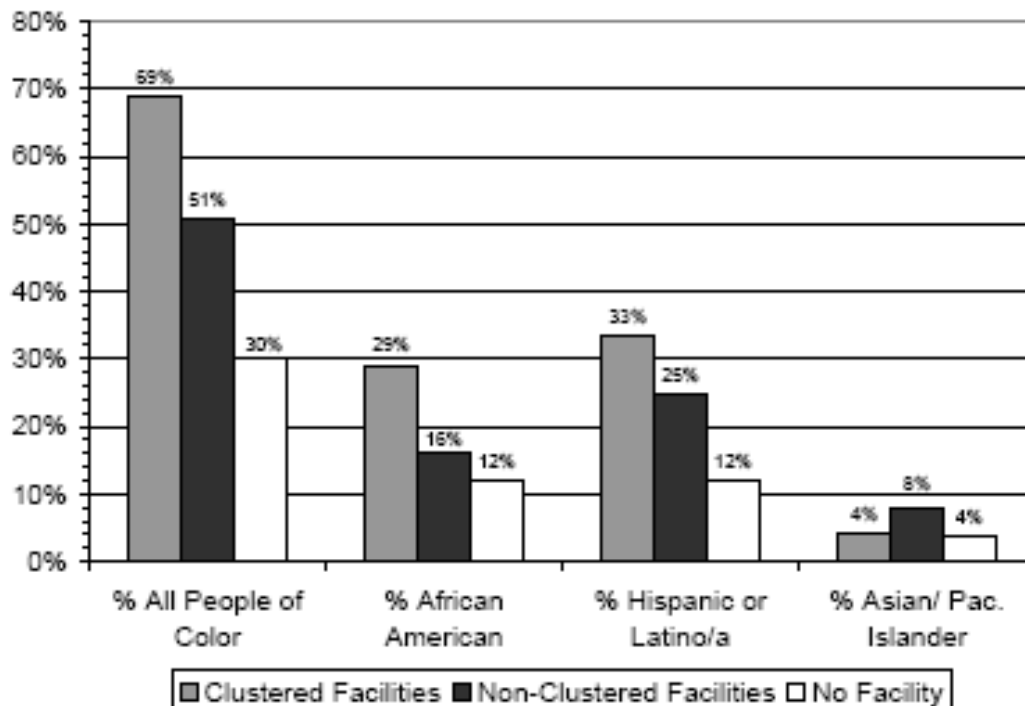


▲ Hazardous Waste Facility Location

Special Preview Release for American Association for the Advancement of
Science (AAAS) Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA.

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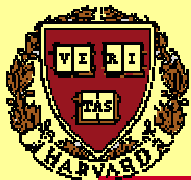
February 2007



Percentages of African Americans and Hispanics in the neighborhoods with clustered facilities are significantly higher than neighborhoods with non-clustered facilities (29% vs. 16% and 33% vs. 25%, respectively).

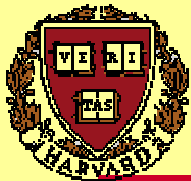
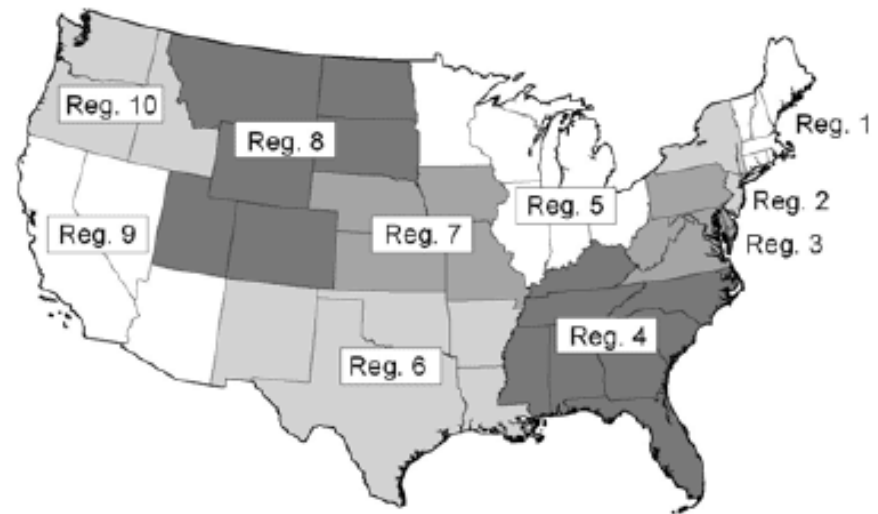
Clustered facility neighborhoods have higher poverty rates than non-clustered facility neighborhoods (22% vs. 17%). Mean household incomes are 10% lower in neighborhoods with clustered facilities (\$44,600 vs. \$49,600), and mean housing values are 14% lower (\$121,200 vs. \$141,000).

Because people of color and the poor are highly concentrated in neighborhoods with multiple facilities, they continue to be particularly vulnerable to the various negative impacts of hazardous waste facilities.



EPA Regional Disparities

Racial disparities for people of color as a whole exist in 9 out of 10 EPA regions (all except Region 3). These disparities are statistically significant at the 0.001 level. Disparities in people of color percentages between host neighborhoods and non-host areas are greatest in: Region 1, the Northeast (36% vs. 15%); Region 4, the southeast (54% vs. 30%); Region 5, the Midwest (53% vs. 19%);



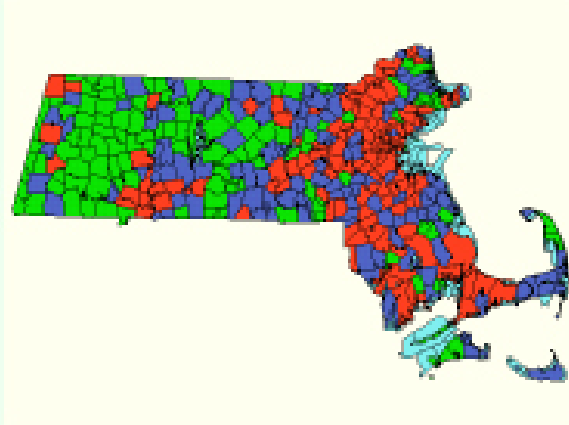
Racial and Socioeconomic Disparities between Host Neighborhoods and Non-Host Areas for 343 Commercial Hazardous Waste Facilities in Metropolitan Areas

Demographic Variable	Host Neighborhoods	Non-Host Areas
<i>Race/Ethnicity</i>		
% People of Color	56.6%	33.1%
% African American	20.1%	12.8%
% Hispanic or Latino	27.4%	13.7%
% Asian/Pacific Islander	6.8%	4.4%
<i>Socioeconomics</i>		
Poverty Rate	18.3%	11.6%
Mean Household Income	\$48,391	\$60,438
Mean Housing Value	\$136,880	\$173,738

Based on 2000 Census Data



***UNEQUAL EXPOSURE TO ECOLOGICAL HAZARDS:
ENVIRONMENTAL INJUSTICES
IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS***



**A Report by the Philanthropy and Environmental Justice Research Project
Northeastern University**

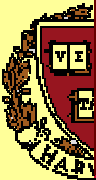
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Studies have been done on disparities of exposure and the environmental injustices they reveal.

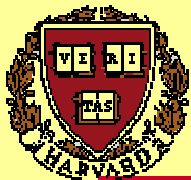


SECTION ONE

UNEQUAL EXPOSURE TO ECOLOGICAL HAZARDS: SUMMARY DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is plagued by a number of significant environmental problems impacting the quality of life of our citizens.

- There are over 21,030 Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) hazardous waste sites in the state. Some 3,389 of these sites are considered to pose serious environmental and human health threats, and include 32 sites on the Environmental Protection Agency's National Priorities List (NPL) or Superfund list.
- Between 1990-98, some 1,029 large industrial facilities produced some 164,385,598 pounds of toxic chemical waste which was *released* on-site directly into the environment



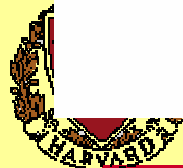
***UNEQUAL EXPOSURE TO ECOLOGICAL HAZARDS:
A REPORT ON ENVIRONMENTAL INJUSTICES
IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS***

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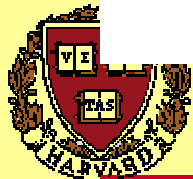
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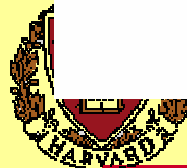
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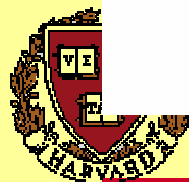


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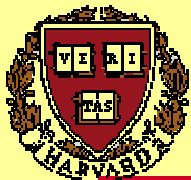
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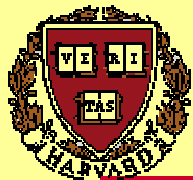
Major Findings on Class-Based Unequal Exposure:

- Communities with median household incomes of less than \$30,000 average nearly two-and-a-half times more hazardous waste sites than communities with median household incomes of \$40,000 and higher. They also average over four times as many waste sites per square mile.
- Communities with median household incomes of less than \$30,000 average nearly seven times as many pounds of chemical emissions from polluting industrial facilities per square mile (during the period 1990-1998) as compared to communities with median household incomes of over \$40,000.
- On average, communities with median household incomes of less than \$30,000 face a cumulative exposure rate to all environmentally hazardous sites and facilities which is more than 3 times greater than all other communities in the state. In fact, 14 of the 15 most intensively overburdened communities in Massachusetts (measured as density of hazardous facilities and sites) are of lower-income status (median household income of \$39,999 or less).



Major Findings on Racially-Based Unequal Exposure:

- Communities where people of color make up 15% or more of the total population average over four times the number of waste sites as communities with less than 5% people of color. Furthermore, communities where people of color make up 25% or more of the total population average nine times more hazardous waste sites per square mile than communities where less than 5% of the population are people of color.
- Communities where people of color make up 25% or more of the total population average nearly 5 times as many pounds of chemical emissions from polluting industrial facilities per square mile as compared to communities where less than 5% of the population are people of color.
- On average, communities where people of color make up 25% or more of the population face a cumulative exposure rate to all environmentally hazardous sites and facilities which is nearly nine times greater than communities where less than 5% of the population are people of color.
- Nine of the 15 most intensively overburdened communities in the state are communities of color (defined as a town with 15%> minority). There are only 20 communities of color in the state.



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