

Interactive Map Shows USA Chemical Disaster Zones



A [new interactive map](#) and report ([Life at the Fenceline](#)), shows that people living within a three mile 'fenceline' zone of hazardous chemical facilities are disproportionately people of colour, impoverished, and suffer a greater risk of cancer and respiratory illness caused by air pollution. The mapping and analysis found that over 124 million Americans (39%) live in constant threat of catastrophic explosion or poison gas release within a fenceline zone of one or more hazardous chemical facilities. The analysis also found that 24 million children attend 125,000 schools (45%) and 11,000 medical facilities (39%) are vulnerable to chemical disasters within fenceline zones.

The mapping and analysis, released by the [Environmental Justice Health Alliance \(EJHA\)](#), also looked more closely at nine 'environmental justice' communities and found the risk of disease caused by air pollution in fenceline zones increases further in federally-designated areas of low access to healthy food. The percentage of minorities living within three miles of an RMP facility was higher than for the entire area in every study area, and often much higher than for the USA as a whole. The study also found that nearly half of all national dollar store chain locations are near hazardous chemical facilities.

Michele Roberts, National Co-Coordinator of the Environmental Justice Health Alliance, said "This study helps to reinforce and prove what many living in environmental justice communities already know: chemical companies are being permitted to disproportionately risk our safety, pollute our air, and damage our health - and they're doing it to people of colour and the poor at rates greater than the average American. It's way past time to address the fundamental injustice."

The map and report conducted an in-depth analysis of demographics, income, and other environmental justice concerns in nine communities including: Charleston, WV; Louisville, KY; Houston, TX; Dallas/Fort Worth, TX; Albuquerque, NM; Los Angeles, CA; Kern, Madera, and Fresno counties in California.