Population Surrounding 12,216 Brownfield Sites That Received EPA Funding
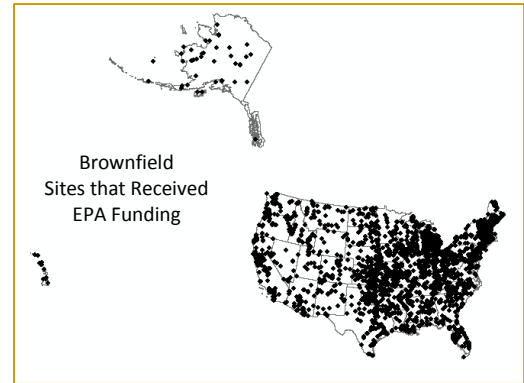
(Population data is from 2009-2013 ACS 5 year estimates, sites are as of FY 2013.)

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Brownfield sites exist in thousands of communities across the United States ranging from remote to large urban settings. Many of them are located in economically distressed communities.

To help describe who benefits from our Brownfields Program, EPA collected data on the population living within 3, 1, and ½ mile(s) of Brownfield sites that received EPA funding.

Brownfield Sites that Received EPA Funding

Population within 3 Miles of Sites:

The 3-mile area surrounding sites was used because it is a good representation of the geographic area where people in a community live most of their lives – where they shop, work, go to school, go to restaurants, and participate in outdoor activities. Using census data, EPA found that approximately **104 million people** live within 3 miles of a Brownfield site that received EPA funding, roughly **33% of the U.S. population**. This includes 35% of all children in the U.S. under the age of 5.

Population within 1 Mile of Sites:

Using the same census data, EPA found that approximately **36 million people** live within 1 mile of a Brownfield site that received EPA funding, roughly **12% of the U.S. population**.

Population within ½ Mile of Sites:

In addition, EPA found that approximately **15 million people** live within ½ mile of a Brownfield site that received EPA funding, roughly **5% of the U.S. population**.

Demographics of Near-Site Population:

While there is no single way to characterize communities located near our sites, this population is more minority, low income, linguistically isolated, and less likely to have a high school education than the U.S. population as a whole (see Table 1). As a result, these communities may have fewer resources with which to address concerns about their health and environment.

	Population within ½ mile of All Sites	Population within 1 mile of All Sites	Population within 3 miles of All Sites	U.S. Population
TABLE 1: Key Demographics of the Total Brownfields Near-Site Population and the Total U.S. Population				
Minority	57%	55%	49%	37%
Below poverty level	25%	23%	18%	14%
Linguistically isolated	13%	13%	12%	9%
Less than a High School Education	21%	20%	17%	14%

TABLE 2: Detailed Data on the Population within ½, 1, and 3 miles of Brownfield Sites

Below are data on the demographic characteristics of the population surrounding Brownfield sites that received EPA funding. The table indicates whether certain population demographics near sites are above (in **bold**) or below (in *italics*) the U.S. average.

Demographics	Population Within ½ Mile of Sites (Approximate)		Population Within 1 Mile of Sites (Approximate)		Population Within 3 miles of Sites (Approximate)		U.S. Population (Approximate)	
Race								
White	*55.9%*	8,549,962	*58.4%*	20,945,950	*64.0%*	66,720,240	74.0%	230,592,579
Black	**25.8%**	3,949,059	**23.9%**	8,589,076	**18.9%**	19,663,422	12.6%	39,167,010
Asian	**5.6%**	854,330	**5.3%**	1,900,153	**6.0%**	6,221,865	4.9%	15,231,962
Native American	0.8%	121,057	0.8%	276,129	*0.7%*	755,914	0.8%	2,540,309
Hawaiian/Pacific islander	0.2%	29,150	0.2%	68,108	0.2%	213,168	0.2%	526,347
Other	**11.8%**	1,799,450	**11.5%**	4,116,193	**10.3%**	10,734,676	7.5%	23,478,387
Ethnicity								
Hispanic (any race)	**22.9%**	3,509,830	**22.9%**	8,228,344	**21.4%**	22,360,334	16.6%	51,786,591
Non-Hispanic (any race)	*77.1%*	11,793,178	*77.1%*	27,667,265	*78.6%*	81,948,951	83.4%	259,750,003
Minority								
Minority (Includes all race & ethnicity categories except "non-Hispanic white")	**56.8%**	8,686,517	**54.6%**	19,590,591	**48.8%**	50,856,085	36.7%	114,486,176
Income								
Households below the poverty level	**24.6%**	1,456,879	**22.5%**	3,085,702	**18.0%**	7,106,125	14.2%	16,415,984
Households with a ratio of income to poverty level of two and over	*49.4%*	7,278,164	*52.2%*	18,101,395	*59.5%*	60,279,291	65.8%	199,727,639
Education								
Less than a high school education	**21.1%**	2,079,847	**19.8%**	4,593,581	**16.8%**	11,488,514	14.0%	28,887,721
Linguistically isolated								
Linguistically isolated	**13.4%**	1,913,931	**13.0%**	4,342,234	**12.1%**	11,738,736	8.6%	25,148,900
Age								
Under 5 years of age	**6.9%**	1,057,071	**6.9%**	2,468,586	**6.7%**	6,967,843	6.4%	20,052,112
Under 18 years of age	*22.8%*	3,492,944	*23.0%*	8,255,218	*23.0%*	24,021,863	23.7%	73,877,478
Over 64 years of age	*11.2%*	1,712,013	*11.6%*	4,146,084	*12.6%*	13,140,107	13.4%	41,851,042
Total Population		15,303,008		35,895,609		104,309,285		311,536,594

Methodology:

- A circular site boundary, equal to the site acreage, was modeled around the latitude/longitude for each site and then a **3, 1 or ½ mile** buffer ring was placed around the site boundary. American Community Survey (ACS) 2009-2013 census data was then identified for each block group with a centroid that fell within the **3, 1 or ½ mile** area.

- Data collected include: (1) ACRES site information as of the end of FY2013; and (2) ACS 2009-2013 census data. Site data from FY2013 was chosen to correspond most closely to the census data in the 2009-2013 ACS. In FY2013, this included 12,216 Brownfield sites in the 50 U.S. states with accurate location data.

IMPORTANT Caveats:

- Data collected represent a <u>national look</u> 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 <u>varies significantly</u> 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 (Includes Methodology):

- [1]U.S. EPA, Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response Estimate. Data collected includes: (1) ACRES site information as of the end of FY2013; and (2) 2009-2013 American Community Survey (ACS) census data. Site data from FY2013 was chosen to correspond most closely to the census data in the 2009-2013 ACS. In FY2013, this included 12,216 Brownfield sites in the 50 U.S. states with accurate location data. A circular site boundary, equal to the site acreage, was modeled around the latitude/longitude for each site and then a *3 ,1 or ½ mile buffer ring* was placed around the site boundary *[NOTE: use buffer ring that corresponds with the population numbers cited]*. Census data was then identified for each block group with a centroid that fell within the **3, 1 or ½ mile** area.