

ADDRESSING CHANGING DEMOGRAPHICS IN ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ANALYSIS

Neighborhoods are rapidly changing as populations shift. What are best practices for considering changing demographics when conducting an environmental justice analysis during transportation decision-making?

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Since 1994, every Federal agency has a mandate to develop a strategy for identifying and addressing disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on low-income populations and minority populations. In transportation planning this means including those communities' voices in the planning process, and evaluating the social impacts early on.

A new report from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), prepared by Portland State University and ICF International, provides an in-depth analysis of national demographic trends and a synthesis of best long-range planning practices borne out of five case studies

Questions to Consider When Implementing Environmental Justice

Local Trends

- Is your community addressing the issue of demographic change when engaging the public?
- Is your community aware of demographic changes to date that may have already shifted community composition?
- Do recent trends suggest the community is likely to shift over the lifecycle of a transportation plan or investment?
- If it will change, how will you address that at later decision points?

Impacts of Planned Investments

- Is your community considering how planned investments could result in local demographic change?
- Has your community developed a process to evaluate impacts of investments on neighborhood change?
- Do investments address the needs of EJ populations and are there scenarios considering community change?

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