

DHHS Environmental Justice Metrics

Goal 1: DHHS will increase interactions with local health departments and North Carolina residents impacted by environmental injustice to improve understanding and inform investigations of potential health impacts.

- Outcome: DHHS staff in the Division of Public Health and the Health Equity Portfolio, in coordination with other programs as applicable, will facilitate DHHS Environmental Justice Town Hall meetings twice a year.
 - *These meetings will be a way to share updates on DHHS environmental justice activities and hear health-related concerns from local health departments, tribal organizations, community organizations, and residents impacted by environmental injustice.*

Goal 2: DHHS will work with local health departments to increase the inclusion of environmental justice chapters in Community Health Assessments.

- Outcome: DHHS will work with local health departments to provide environmental justice education and community outreach to help increase the number of community health assessments with an environmental justice chapter from one in 2022 to at least eight by December 31, 2024.

Goal 3: DHHS will help address private well contamination and septic system failures in at least one county where more than 50% of census tracts are in the highest quartile of the CDC Environmental Justice Index.

- Outcome: DHHS will pilot a private well and septic system program with partners that includes disseminating private well water and septic system education materials, conducting Train-the-Trainer sessions on private well testing and treatment and septic system maintenance, and providing private well testing and treatment.
 - *This goal is responsive to consistent feedback from the NC Environmental Public Health Tracking Advisory Board and other partners that private well contamination and septic system failures are a priority EJ topic.*
 - *The pilot will be partially funded through an EPA Environmental Justice Government-to-Government (EJG2G) Cooperative Agreement awarded to DHHS.*