

# What are Overburdened Communities (OBC)?

*NJ's EJ Law creates a definition to screen populations who are potentially in need of environmental justice.*

[Home](#) / **What are Overburdened Communities (OBC)?**



## Overburdened Communities (OBC)

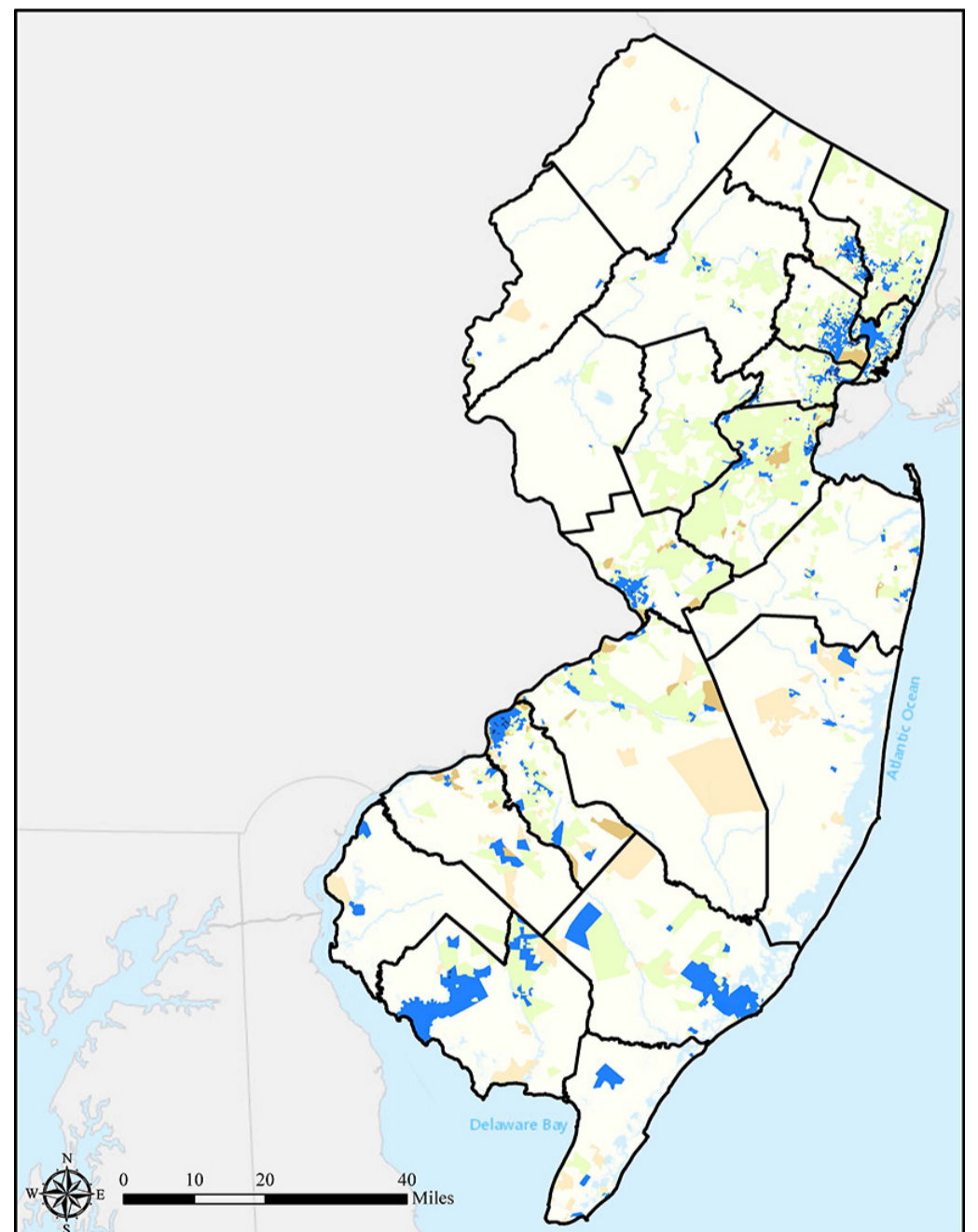
The State has updated mapping of New Jersey's OBCs, as required by the Act (see the Overburdened Communities tab above). Specifically, OBCs are block groups with:

1. At least 35 percent low-income households; or
2. At least 40 percent of the residents identify as minority or as members of a State recognized tribal community; or
3. At least 40 percent of the households have limited English proficiency


Census block groups with zero population and located immediately adjacent to an OBC are labeled as "adjacent." Existing or proposed facilities located in adjacent block groups may be required to conduct further analysis in accordance with the Environmental Justice Rules.

Data from the 5 Year American Community Survey (2017 to 2021)

| Overburdened Community Criteria              | Number of Block Groups | Population       |
|--|------------------------|------------------|
| xxxx Adjacent                                | 51                     | 0                |
| xxxx Limited English                         | 2                      | 771              |
| xxxx Low Income                              | 211                    | 296,378          |
| xxxx Low Income & Limited English            | 1                      | 1,570            |
| xxxx Low Income & Minority                   | 1,112                  | 1,604,345        |
| xxxx Low Income, Minority, & Limited English | 115                    | 165,951          |
| xxxx Minority                                | 1,981                  | 2,877,020        |
| xxxx Minority & Limited English              | 23                     | 30,126           |
| <b>Total</b>                                 | <b>3,496</b>           | <b>4,976,161</b> |




## [List of Overburdened Communities](#)

This Excel spreadsheet provides the list of overburdened communities, the criteria each block groups meets, and the municipality for which the overburdened community is designated in accordance with the [New Jersey Environmental Justice Law, N.J.S.A. 13:1D-157](#) .

[Read More](#)

## [EJMAP](#)

This tool provides the public a visualization of [OBC locations throughout the State](#), where existing facilities regulated under the law are located and what existing environmental and public health stressors currently impact these OBCs. [Watch this tutorial to learn more about EJMAP](#).

For details of underlying calculations behind the beta version of EJMAP, please read the accompanying [EJMAP Technical Guidance](#) .

Feedback on the tool and technical guidance, particularly related to the structure and functionality of the tool itself, can be shared to [EJMAPFeedback@dep.nj.gov](mailto:EJMAPFeedback@dep.nj.gov) for consideration.

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## [PDF Maps of Municipalities](#)

The 338 simple, municipal specified maps identified the overburdened communities under the New Jersey Environmental Justice Law. There is a map for each municipality for which any part of the municipality has been designated an overburdened community pursuant to the act.

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## [GIS Layer](#)

This GIS Layer is a downloadable graphic information system (GIS) layer identifying the overburdened communities under the New Jersey Environmental Justice Law.

[Read More](#)

## [OBC Technical Notes and Other Resources](#)

For more information about the calculation of Overburdened Communities and their municipal designations, please read the [Technical Notes](#) for an overview.

[Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#) about the notification to municipalities regarding Overburdened Communities (OBCs) as defined by New Jersey's Environmental Justice Law.

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## PDF Maps of Municipalities

[Atlantic](#) 

[Bergen](#) 

[Burlington](#) 

[Camden](#) 

[Cape May](#) 

[Cumberland](#) 

[Essex](#) 

[Gloucester](#) 

[Hudson](#) 

[Hunterdon](#) 

[Mercer](#) 

[Middlesex](#) 

- [Monmouth](#) ▼
- [Morris](#) ▼
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- [Somerset](#) ▼
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