




Environmental Justice





Environmental Justice endeavors to assure that all people have equal access to a healthy, safe, and sustainable environment, and are sheltered equally from environmental harm. Below are five takeaways to consider:

 Residents of environmentally degraded areas do not or cannot move because of a lack of financial resources, ownership of current land, and sense of place. Taylor, D.E. (2014) "Toxic Communities." New York University Press.

 Availability of cheap land in disadvantaged urban centers has led to gentrification, an increase in property values that often makes the area unaffordable to existing (generally lower-income) residents. This leads to displacement as well as social, economic, and cultural stress. U.S. EPA (2017) Equitable Development and Environmental Justice.

 Food prices are higher and quality is lower in high poverty areas. In 2018, the average U.S. household spent 14% of income on food; low-income families spent over 30%. USDA (2020) Ag and Food Statistics

 Low-income communities are more likely to be exposed to climate change threats (e.g., flooding, storms, and droughts) due to inadequate housing and infrastructure. U.S. EPA (2017) Understanding the Connections Between Climate Change and Human Health.

 Indigenous populations that rely on subsistence farming practices for food have limited options for adapting to climate change threats. U.S. EPA (2017) Understanding the Connections Between Climate Change and Human Health.

To learn more, visit this link:

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