Environmental Quality Index 2006-2010, Technical Report

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**Acknowledgments**

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*This document has been reviewed by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Research and Development, and approved for publication. Mention of trade names or commercial products does not constitute endorsement or recommendation for use.*

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**List of Acronyms**

ACRES Assessment, Cleanup, and Redevelopment Exchange

AQS Air Quality System

C-CAP Coastal Change Analysis Program

CO Carbon monoxide

CWA Clean Water Act

EPA United States Environmental Protection Agency

EQI Environmental Quality Index

FARS Fatality Annual Reporting System

FBI UCR Federal Bureau of Investigation Uniform Crime Report

FIPS Federal Information Processing Standard

GIS Geographic information systems

GTFS General Transit Feed Specification

HAP Hazardous air pollutant

HUD Housing and Urban Development

LEHD Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics

LQG Large Quantity Generators

MRLC Multi-Resolution Land Characteristics

MSHA Mine Safety Health Administration

NADP National Atmospheric Deposition Program

NATA National-Scale Air Toxics Assessment

NCOD National Contaminant Occurrence Database

NGS National Geochemical Survey

NLCD National Land Cover Database

NO2 Nitrogen dioxide

NPDES National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

NPL National Priorities List

NPUD National Pesticide Use Database

NWI National Walkability Index

PCA Principal component analysis

PM Particulate matter

PM10 Particulate matter below 10 micrometers (μm) in aerodynamic diameter

PM2.5 Particulate matter below 2.5 micrometers (μm) in aerodynamic diameter

PWS Public water systems

RAD REACH Address Database

RCRA Resource Conservation and Recovery Act

ROE Report on the Environment

RUCC Rural-urban continuum code

SD Standard deviation

SDWIS Safe Drinking Water Information System

SO2 Sulfur dioxide

SSTS Section Seven Tracking System

TIGER Topologically Integrated Geographic Encoding and Referencing

TOD Transit Oriented Development

TRI Toxic Release Inventory

TSD Treatment, Storage and Disposal

US United States

USDA ERS United States Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service

WATERS Watershed Assessment, Tracking, and Environmental Results

WQS Water quality standards

# Overview of Report

An overall Environmental Quality Index (EQI), which represents multiple domains of the ambient environment, including air, water, land, built, and sociodemographic, for all counties in the United States, was created for the period 2000-2005[1]. It was developed to provide a better estimate of overall environmental quality and to improve our understanding of the relationship between environmental conditions and human health. This report describes the efforts to update the EQI for all counties in the United States for the 2006-2010 period. The EQI was created for two main purposes: (1) as an indicator of ambient conditions/exposure in environmental health modeling and (2) as a covariate to adjust for ambient conditions in environmental models. However, with the release of the EQI and variables that constructed the EQI publicly, other uses may emerge. The methods applied provide a reproducible approach that capitalizes almost exclusively on publicly available data sources.

This report is written for audiences interested in the construction of the EQI and is technical in nature. The created variables, EQI, domain-specific indices, and EQI stratified by rural-urban continuum codes (RUCCs) are available publicly at the United States Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA’s) [Environmental Dataset Gateway](https://edg.epa.gov/metadata/catalog/main/home.page)[[1]](#footnote-1)**.** Also, an interactive map of the EQI is available at [EPA’s GeoPlatform](http://epa.maps.arcgis.com/home/item.html?id=90ab3f8d668c4a4e88144d586ea34141)1.

# Background

Conceptually, the Environmental Quality Index (EQI) accounts for the multiple domains of the environment with which humans interact (see Figure 1). These domains include chemical, natural, built, and sociodemographic environments that have both positive and negative influences on health. People move in and out of these positive and negative influences. Also, the positive and negative influences are often co-located.

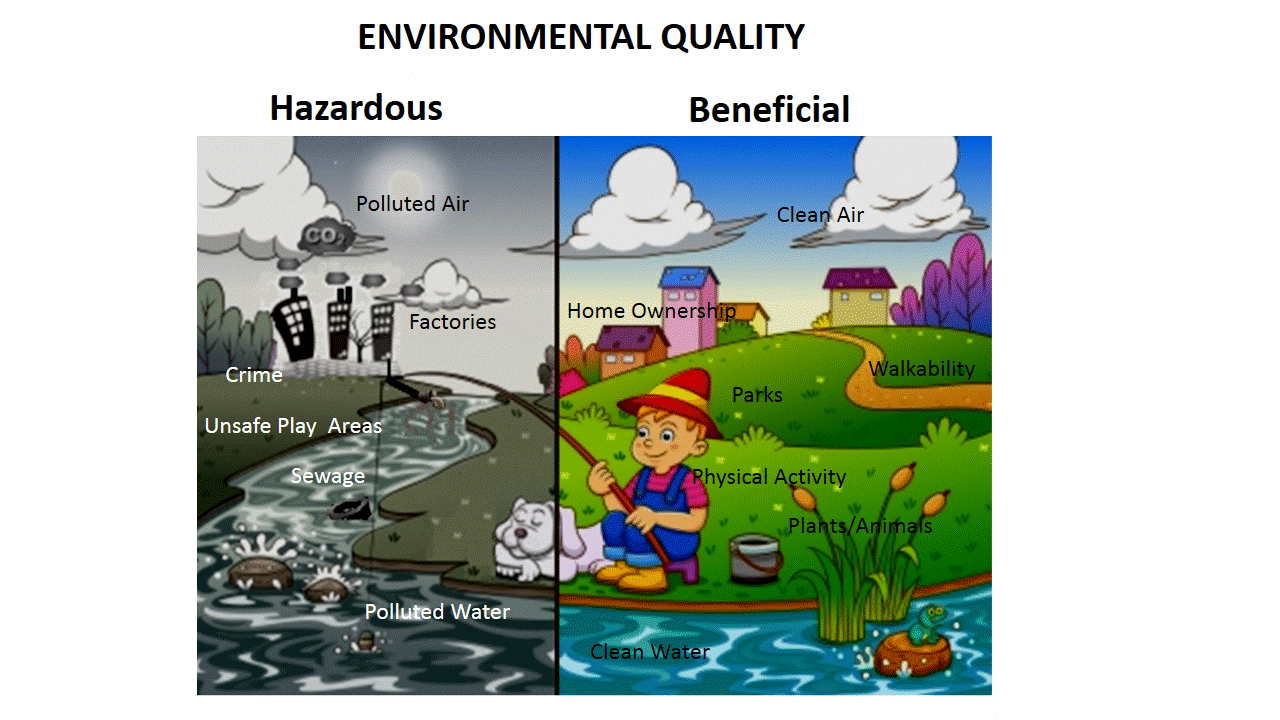


Figure 1. Conceptual environmental quality—hazardous and beneficial aspects.

## Brief Overview of EQI 2000-2005

The EQI 2000-2005 was developed in four steps: (1) The five domains were identified, (2) data for each of the five domains were located and reviewed, (3) environmental variables were developed from the data sources, and (4) data were combined in each of the environmental domains; then these domain indices were used to create the overall EQI. The EQI relied on data sources that were mostly available to the public. Below is a summary of the creation of the county level EQI 2000-2005. For more detailed technical information, see the technical report for EQI 2000-2005 [1] located at the [Environmental Dataset Gateway](https://edg.epa.gov/metadata/catalog/main/home.page)[[2]](#footnote-2)**.**

### EQI 2000-2005, Summary of Creation

Domain Identification. Based on the three sources, (1) the Report on the Environment (ROE) [2], (2) literature review, and (3) experts, five environmental domains were identified and developed for the EQI: (1) air, (2) water, (3) land, (4) built, and (5) sociodemographic.

Data Source Identification and Review. Predetermined constructs were identified to represent each domain. Based on those constructs, data sources were explored to provide variables representing those constructs.

Air Domain: Three data types were considered: (1) monitoring data, (2) emissions data, and (3) modeled estimates representing two constructs: concentrations of either criteria air pollutants or hazardous air pollutants (toxics). Twelve data sources were identified, and seven were considered for the EQI. Two were used for the air domain of the EQI because they were the most complete.

Water Domain: Five broad data types within the water domain were identified: (1) modeled, (2) monitoring, (3) reported, (4) survey/study, and (5) miscellaneous data. Eighty data sources were identified. Five were used for the water domain of the EQI representing six constructs: water quality, general water contamination, recreational water quality, domestic use, deposition, drought, and chemical contamination.

Land Domain: Land domain data sources were grouped into five constructs: (1) agriculture, (2) pesticides, (3) contaminants, (4) facilities, and (5) radon. Eighty sources were identified. Eleven were kept.

Sociodemographic Domain: The sociodemographic domain is represented by crime and socioeconomic constructs. Only two data sources were kept for the sociodemographic domain of the EQI.

Built Environment Domain: Built environment considered five data types: traffic-related, transit access, pedestrian safety, access to various business environments (such as the food, recreation, health care, and educational environments), and the presence of subsidized housing. Twelve data sources were identified, and four were kept for the built environment domain of the EQI for five constructs: (1) roads, (2) highway road safety, (3) public transit behavior, (4) business environments (physical activity, food, health care, and educational), and (5) one for subsidized housing.

Variable Construction. After researching and choosing data sources, variables were created to represent each of the five domains. New variables were created because raw data sources were not always appropriate for statistical analysis.

The process for selecting and creating variables included:

* making variables for each domain for each available year of data (2000-2005),
* looking for highly correlated variables that are giving the same information statistically and deciding which of the variables best represents the environmental domain (and remove the extra variables),
* looking for missing data,
* looking at the distribution and statistical properties of each variable and deciding how it should be scaled for analysis, and
* averaging variables from 2000-2005 for each county.

Data Reduction and Index Construction. After variables were created, they were combined into a single index (the EQI) using statistical methods. Each domain has its own index (air domain index, water domain index, etc.). Next, each of the domain-specific indices was used to create the overall EQI. The statistical process used to add these variables together is called principal component analysis (PCA). Figure 2 shows the steps that include:

* using PCA on the variables in each domain to keep the most important piece of information for each domain index,
* using PCA on the domain indices to keep the most important information for the overall EQI, and
* grouping counties by their RUCC and stratifying by RUCC group.

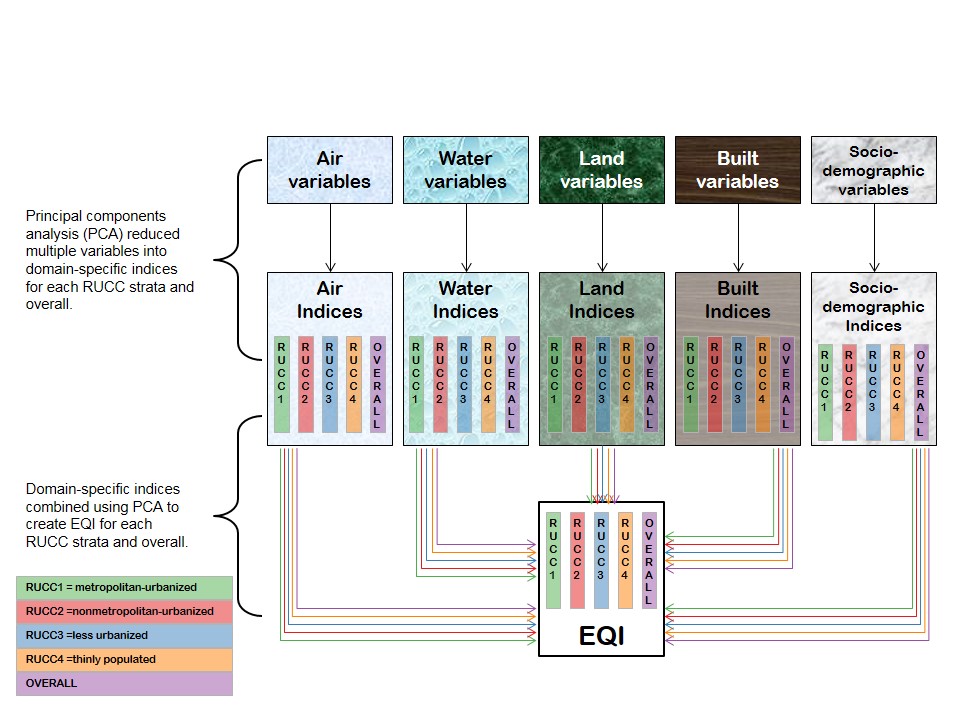


Figure 2. Principal component analysis for the Environmental Quality Index (EQI). All counties included with four rural-urban continuum codes (RUCCs)

Since the creation of the EQI 2000-2005, multiple studies were conducted examining the relationship between overall environmental quality and health outcomes including preterm birth [3], mortality [4], cancer incidence [5], asthma prevalence [6], physical inactivity and obesity [7], infant mortality [8], and pediatric multiple sclerosis [9]. A complete list of references related to EQI and health outcomes is listed in Appendix I.

# Development of the EQI 2006-2010

## Overview

The development of the EQI 2006-2010 followed mostly the same protocol as the EQI 2000-2005. The majority of constructs identified for each of the five domains in the EQI 2000-2005 were maintained as the basis for variable identification with the exception of one deletion in the water domain and land domain and constructs added to the water domain, land domain, sociodemographic domain, and the built environment domain. Most data sources remained unchanged. Principal components analysis was used to develop the indices. However, using lessons learned from the creation of the EQI 2000-2005, some modifications were adopted to improve the EQI 2006-2010; these modifications included exploring new data sources that were not available during EQI 2000-2005 development, assessment of all variables for continued inclusion in the EQI, and assessment of variables’ valence within a domain and valence correction. This section outlines the development of the EQI 2006-2010 through (1) Data source identification and review; (2) Variable construction; and (3) Data reduction and index construction.

## Data Source Identification and Review

### Approach

*Data Selection*

An index that comprehensively captures the total environment relating to human health requires numerous variables representing the full range of health-influencing exposures. From within each domain identified in the conceptual model (air, water, land, sociodemographic and built environments), specific constructs or major areas were identified (Table 1). In general, the identified constructs from EQI 2000-2005 were maintained for the EQI 2006-2010. However, in the water domain, we removed the ‘recreational water quality’ construct as it only provided data for 231 counties in the United States with beach recreational waters. Due to this low representation, the variables in this domain had extremely low loading values in the Principal Components Analysis therefore, they were removed in the 2006 – 2010 EQI. In addition, a dataset representing drinking water quality was identified and therefore we were able to include ‘Drinking water quality’ construct. In the land domain, the ‘Contaminants’ construct was eliminated. We eliminated these data because they were not the same quality as the rest of the data for the EQI. There was a lack of updated contaminants data and due to the high correlation between this construct and constructs in other domains, contaminants of this type were better represented by water contaminant data. Also, in the land domain, a ‘Mining activity’ construct was added. The sociodemographic domain added two new constructs, political character and creative class representation. There was a change in how educational attainment was represented in the 2006—2010 EQI. The change in education variable use from percent of adults with greater than high school education in the 2000-2005 EQI to percent of adults with a college education in the 2006-2010 EQI resulted from inclusion of an education variable with more variability, as almost all citizens have a high school education at this time. The built environment domain added two new constructs, walkability and green space. Data sources were explored to identify variables that represent the identified constructs for construction. All data sources used for EQI 2000-2005 were reviewed for data updates and a subsequent search was conducted to identify potential new data sources.

Table 1. Constructs for each environmental domain.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Domain | Constructs |
| Air | 1. Criteria air pollutants 2. Hazardous air pollutants |
| Water | 1. Overall water quality 2. General water contamination 3. Domestic use 4. Atmospheric deposition 5. Drought 6. Chemical contamination 7. Drinking Water Quality (new 2006-2010) |
| Land | 1. Agriculture 2. Pesticides 3. Facilities 4. Radon 5. Mining Activity (new 2006-2010) |
| Sociodemographic | 1. Socioeconomic 2. Crime 3. Political character (new 2006-2010) 4. Creative class representation (new 2006-2010) |
| Built Environment | 1. Roads 2. Highway/road safety 3. Commuting behavior 4. Business environment 5. Housing environment 6. Walkability (new 2006-2010) 7. Green space (new 2006-2010) |

We had solid representation of data for most domains and we sought to ensure continuity and comparability for the 2006-2010 EQI version. Still, our update required identification of new data sources to ensure representation of identified constructs. Because the team came to appreciate the limitations and knowledge gaps in data from the original EQI, the data source identification process was different for the 2006-2010 period than that undertaken for the original (2000-2005) EQI. For example, due to limitations in the National Geochemical Survey representing the geology construct in the land domain, we looked for alternative sources and are now using mines data in the land domain. In recognition of gaps such as the absence of walkability in the built domain, and absence of political climate in the sociodemographic domain, we sought additional data sources to represent the new constructs that we believed would more fully represent the environmental quality of a county.

The details of the new data sources that were identified and included in the EQI 2006-2010 are included in the data source descriptions below.

*Data Source Search*

Once the desired constructs were identified, the research team conducted an extensive search for potential sources for data to represent those constructs. In general, a broad approach to searching for data sources was undertaken to

* identify EPA and non-EPA domain-specific environmental data sources for all counties in the 50 States of the United States;
* summarize environmental data source availability, quality, spatial and temporal coverage, storage requirements, and acquisition steps; and
* obtain the identified data.

Possible data sources were identified using Web-based search engines (e.g., Google), site-specific search engines (e.g., Federal and State data sites), literature-reported data sources (e.g., PubMed, ScienceDirect, TOXNET), and personal communications from data owners. Data that were available at—or had the potential to be aggregated to—the United States county level were sought. Data were restricted to represent the years 2006-2010.

*Data Quality and Coverage Assessment*

Once potential data sources were identified, several criteria were used to assess sources for inclusion in the EQI. First, constructs representing each domain were identified. Data sources were evaluated as to whether variables could be developed to represent the construct. If a data source could provide variables for a construct in the domain, then (1) data quality and (2) data coverage were used to evaluate data sources for use in the EQI. Data sources of the highest quality were sought. Quality was assessed by one or more of the following ways: through documentation and discussion with the data source managers, in data reports and internal documentation; project investigators; and the larger field of environmental research through use and critique of the various data sources. Data coverage, which included spatial and temporal components, was more challenging to achieve. Coverage for the entire United States, including Alaska and Hawaii, was one important spatial criterion. Often, it was relatively straightforward to identify high-quality data on a few individual locations or a small geographic area, but the EQI was developed to represent all counties (N=3143) in all 50 States. A second spatial criterion was county-level representation, so data had to be constructible at the county-level for inclusion (e.g., average of point measures or census tract values). Temporally, ideal sources would have had annual data for the 2006-2010 period. At minimum, however, at least some data must have fallen within the 2006-2010 period or close to this time. In theory, a “perfect” data source would have variable measurements at high temporal and spatial resolutions. In practice, data often met one but not both criteria, and evaluation of trade-off values was required, along with consideration of data quality. Unfortunately, some of the data sources used in EQI 2000-2005 did not have any updates for the 2006-2010 period. Redundant data sources that were determined to meet the criteria for inclusion but were not selected for inclusion were retained for use in sensitivity analyses.

### Summary of Activities

Table 2 identifies the data sources that were acquired and used for the construction of the EQI and includes a description of the data source and variables constructed from data source.

Table 2 Sources of data for air, water, land, built-environment, and sociodemographic domains for use in the county Environmental Quality Index 20006-2010

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Air Domain** | | | | | | |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Source of Data** |  | **Description** |  | **Variables\*** |  | **EQI version** |
| Air Quality System (AQS 2006-2010)[10] |  | Repository of ambient air quality data, including both criteria and hazardous air pollutants (HAPs) |  | PM10 - Particulate matter under 10 micrometers in aerodynamic diameter (µg/m3 5 year average); PM25 - Particulate matter under 2.5 micrometers in aerodynamic diameter (µg/m3 5 year average); NO2 - Nitrogen dioxide (parts per billion 5 year average); SO2 - Sulfur dioxide (parts per billion 5 year average); O3 - Ozone (parts per million 5 year average); CO - Carbon monoxide (parts per million 5 year average) |  | 2000-2005 and updated 2006-2010 |
| National-Scale Air Toxics Assessment (NATA 2005)[11] |  | Estimates of HAP concentrations using emissions information from the National Emissions Inventory and meteorological data input into the Assessment System for Population Exposure Nationwide model |  | A\_TeCA - 1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethane (tons emitted per year); A\_112TCA - 1,1,2-trichloroethane (tons emitted per year); A\_DBCP - 1,2-dibromo-3-chloropropane(tons emitted per year); A\_Acrylic\_acid - Acrylic acid (tons emitted per year); A\_Benzidine - Benzidine (tons emitted per year); A\_Benzyl\_Cl - Benzyl chloride (tons emitted per year); A\_Be - Beryllium compounds (tons emitted per year); A\_DEHP - Bis-2-ethylhexyl phthalate (tons emitted per year); A\_CCl4 - Carbon tetrachloride (tons emitted per year); A\_CS - Carbon sulfide (tons emitted per year); A\_Cl - Chlorine; A\_C6H5Cl - Chlorobenzene (tons emitted per year); A\_chloroform - Chloroform (tons emitted per year); A\_Chloroprene - Chloroprene (tons emitted per year); A\_Cr - Chromium compounds (tons emitted per year); A\_Co - Cobalt compounds (tons emitted per year); A\_CN - Cyanide compounds (tons emitted per year); A\_DBP - Dibutylphthalate (tons emitted per year); A\_EtCl - Ethyl chloride (tons emitted per year); A\_EDB - Ethylene dibromide (tons emitted per year); A\_EDC - Ethylene dichloride (tons emitted per year); A\_Formaldehyde - Formaldehyde (tons emitted per year); A\_Glycol\_ethers - Glycol ethers (tons emitted per year); A\_N2H2 - Hydrazine (tons emitted per year); A\_HCl - Hydrochloric acid (tons emitted per year); A\_Isophorone - Isophorone (tons emitted per year); A\_Mn - Manganese compounds (tons emitted per year); A\_MeBr - Methyl bromide (tons emitted per year); A\_MeCl - Methyl chloride (tons emitted per year); A\_PH3 - Phosphine (tons emitted per year); A\_PCBs - Polychlorinated biphenyls (tons emitted per year); A\_ProCl2 - Propylene dichloride (tons emitted per year); A\_Quinolin - Quinoline (tons emitted per year); A\_C2HCl3 - Trichloroethylene (tons emitted per year); A\_VyCl - Vinyl chloride (tons emitted per year) |  | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 (used 2005 NATA only) |
| **Water Domain** | | | | | | |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Source of Data** |  | **Description** |  | **Variables**† |  | **EQI version** |
| Watershed Assessment, Tracking and Environmental Results Program Database (WATERS)[12] |  | Collection of EPA water assessments programs, including impairment, water quality standards, pollutant discharge permits and beach violations |  | ALLNPDESperKM\_ln - All NPDES Permits per 1000 km of Stream in County (permits per 1000km stream length); |  | 2000-2005 and updated 2006-2010 |
| National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP 2006-2010)[13] |  | Samples both regulated and unregulated contaminants in public water supplies; maintained by EPA to satisfy statutory requirements for Safe Drinking Water Act |  | CaAve\_ln - Calcium (Ca) precipitation weighted mean (mg/L); KAve\_ln - Potassium (K) precipitation weighted mean (mg/L); NO3Ave - Nitrate (NO3) precipitation weighted mean (mg/L); ClAve\_ln - Chloride (Cl) precipitation weighted mean (mg/L); SO4\_mean\_ave - Sulfate (SO4) precipitation weighted mean (mg/L); HgAve - Total Mercury deposition (ng/M2); |  | 2000-2005 and updated 2006-2010 |
| Estimates of Water Use in the United States (2010)[14] |  | County-level estimates of water withdrawals for domestic, agricultural, and industrial use calculated by the United States Geological Survey |  | Per\_TotPopSS - Percent of Population on Self Supply (percent); Per\_PSWithSW - Percent of Public Supply Population which is on Surface Water (percent); |  | 2000-2005 and updated 2006-2010 |
| Drought Monitor Data (2006-2010)[15] |  | Geographic information systems raster files reporting weekly modeled drought conditions. A collaboration that includes the National Atmospheric and Oceanic Administration, the United States Department of Agriculture, and academic partners. |  | AvgOfD3\_ave - % of county drought – extreme (D3-D4) (percent); |  | 2000-2005 and updated 2006-2010 |
| National Contaminant Occurrence Database (NCOD 1998-2005)[16] |  | Measures deposition of various pollutants, such as calcium, sodium, potassium, and sulfate, from rainfall |  | W\_As\_ln - Arsenic (mg/L); W\_Ba\_ln - Barium (mg/L); W\_Cd\_ln - Cadmium (mg/L); W\_Cr\_ln - Chromium (total) (mg/L); W\_CN\_ln - Cyanide (mg/L); W\_FL\_ln - Fluoride (mg/L); W\_HG\_ln - Mercury (inorganic) (mg/L); W\_NO3\_ln - Nitrate (as N) (mg/L); W\_NO2\_ln - Nitrite (as N) (mg/L); W\_SE\_ln - Selenium (mg/L); W\_Sb\_ln - Antimony (mg/L); W\_Endrin\_ln - Endrin (ug/L); W\_methoxychlor\_ln - Methoxychlor (ug/L); W\_Dalapon\_ln - Dalapon (ug/L); W\_DEHA\_ln - Di(2-ethylhexyl)adipate (DEHA) (ug/L); W\_Simazine\_ln - Simazine (ug/L); W\_DEHP\_ln - Di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP)(ug/L); W\_Picloram\_ln - Picloram (ug/L); W\_Dinoseb\_ln - Dinoseb (ug/L); W\_atrazine\_ln - Atrazine (ug/L); W\_24D\_ln - 2,4-D (2,4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic acid) (ug/L); W\_BenzoAP\_ln - Benzo[a]pyrene (ug/L); W\_PCP\_ln - Pentachlorophenol (ug/L); W\_PCB\_ln - Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) (ug/L); W\_DBCP\_ln - 1,2-Dibromo-3-chloropropane (DBCP) (ug/L); W\_EDB\_ln - Ethylene dibromide (EDB) (ug/L); W\_xylenes\_ln - Xylenes (Total)(ug/L); W\_Chlordane\_ln - Chlordane (ug/L); W\_DCM\_ln - Dichloromethane (Methylene chloride) (ug/L); W\_PDCB\_ln - 1,4-Dichlorobenzene (p-Dichlorobenzene) (ug/L); W\_111trichlorane\_ln - 1,1,1-Trichloroethane (ug/L); W\_Trichlorene\_ln - Trichloroethylene (ug/L); W\_C2Cl4\_ln - Tetrachloroethylene (ug/L); W\_benzene\_ln - Monochlorobenzene (Chlorobenzene) (ug/L); W\_Toluene\_ln - Toluene (ug/L); W\_ethylbenz\_ln - Ethylbenzene (ug/L); W\_styrene\_ln - Styrene (ug/L); W\_Alpha - Alpha Particles (Gross Alpha, excl.Radon&U) (PCl/L); W\_DCE\_ln - cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene (ug/L) |  | 2000-2005 and 2006-2010 (not updated, used same variables from 2000-2005) |
| Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS 2006-2010)[17]{United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), #966} |  | Monitoring of public water systems for health-based violations |  | Coliform\_proportion\_ln - total coliform proportion (average number of violations\*(population served/county population)) (proportion) |  | 2006-2010 |
| **Land Domain** | | | | | | |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Source of Data** |  | **Description** |  | **Variables**† |  | **EQI version** |
| National Pesticide Use Database: 2009[18] |  | Delineates State-level pesticide usage rates for cropland applications; contains estimates for active ingredients, of which 68 are insecticides, and 22 are other pesticides. |  | insecticide\_ln - Insecticide applied (pounds); herbicide\_ln- Herbicides applied (pounds); fungicide\_ln - Fungicides applied (pounds) |  | 2000-2005 and updated 2006-2010 |
| 2007 Census of Agriculture Full Report[19] |  | Summary of agricultural activity, including number of farms by size and type, inventory and values for crops and livestock, and operator characteristics |  | pct\_manure\_acres\_ln - Manure, acres applied per county acres (percent ); pct\_nematode\_acres\_ln - Chemicals used to control Nematodes, acres applied per county acres (percent ); pct\_disease\_acres\_ln - Chemicals used to control Diseases in crops and orchards, acres applied per county acres (percent ); pct\_defoliate\_acres\_ln - Chemicals used to control growth, thin fruit, or defoliate, acres applied per county acres (percent ); Pct\_AU\_ln - Animal Units, animal units per county acres (percent ); farms\_per\_acre\_ln - Number of farms (number); pct\_irrigated\_acres\_ln - Irrigated acres, acres irrigated per county acres (percent ); pct\_harvested\_acres\_ln - Harvested acres, acres harvested per county acres (percent ) |  | 2000-2005 and updated 2006-2010 |
| EPA Geospatial Data Download Service (2006-2010)[20] |  | Maintained by EPA and provides locations of and information on facilities throughout the United States; different datasets within this database are updated at different intervals, but most are updated monthly; no set spatial scale across datasets. Some provide addresses, some geocoded addresses, etc. |  | facilities\_rate\_ln - Log-transformed rate of all facilities per county (proportion) |  | 2000-2005 and updated 2006-2010 |
| Map of Radon Zones[21] |  | Identifies areas of the United States with the potential for elevated indoor radon levels; maintained by EPA |  | Radon - Radon zone (ordinal value) |  | 2000-2005 and 2006-2010 (not updated, used same variable from 2000-2005) |
| Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) Mines Data Set(2006-2010)[22] |  | Includes status of coal/metal/non-metal mines under MSHA jurisdiction since 1970 |  | std\_coal\_prim\_pop\_ln - primarily coal mines, mines per county population (proportion); std\_metal\_prim\_pop\_ln - primarily metal mines, mines percpunty population (proportion); std\_nonmetal\_prim\_pop\_ln - primarily nonmetal mines, mines per county population (proportion); std\_sandandgravel\_prim\_pop\_ln - primarily sand and gravel mines, mines per county (proportion); std\_stone\_prim\_pop\_ln - primarily stone mines, mines per county population (proportion) |  | 2006-2010 |
| National Geochemical Survey[23] |  | Geochemical data (arsenic, selenium, mercury, lead, zinc, magnesium, manganese, iron, etc.) for the United States based on stream sediment samples |  |  |  | 2000-2005; not used in 2006-2010. These variables are represented in the water domain with the National Contaminant Occurrence Database (2006-2010) and the National Atmospheric Deposition Program (2006-2010) |
| **Sociodemographic Domain** | | | | | | |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Source of Data** |  | **Description** |  | **Variables**‡ |  | **EQI version** |
| United States Census (2010)[24] |  | County-level population and housing characteristics, including density, race, spatial distribution, education, socioeconomics, home and neighborhood features, and land use |  | Pct\_RenterOcc - percent renter-occupied units (percent); Pct\_Vacant\_Housing - percent vacant units (percent); Med\_HH\_Value - median household value (dollars); ln\_HH\_Inc - natural log transformed median household income (dollars); pct\_fam\_pov - percent of families living below federal poverty level (percent); pct\_BS - percent of persons with Bachelor's degree or higher, age 25+ (percent); pct\_unemp\_total - percent of persons who are unemployed (percent); ln\_Occs\_Room - natural log transformed number of occupants per room (count); GINI\_est - measure of income inequality (proportion) |  | 2000-2005 and updated 2006-2010 |
| Uniform Crime Reports (2006-2010)[25] |  | County-level reports of violent crime |  | ln\_ViolAv - natural log transformed violent crime rate (log of count of violent crimes / county population) |  | 2000-2005 and updated 2006-2010 |
| Leip’s Atlas of United States Presidential Elections (2008)[26] |  | 2008 Election Results |  | DEMO2008 - Percent county voting Democrat in 2008 (percent) |  | 2006-2010 |
| United States Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service Creative Class County Codes (2010)[27] |  | An index of a county's share of population employed in occupations that require "thinking creatively" |  | num\_CreatClass - percent county employed in a creative class (percent) |  | 2006-2010 |
| **Built-Environment Domain** | | | | | | |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Source of Data** |  | **Description** |  | **Variables**† |  | **EQI version** |
| Dun and Bradstreet North American Industry Classification System codes (2008)[28] |  | Description of physical activity environment (recreation facilities, parks, physical-fitness-related businesses) food environment (fast food restaurants, groceries, convenience stores) education environment (schools, daycares, universities) per county |  | al\_pwn\_gm\_env\_rate\_ln - natural log transformed rate of vice-related businesses per county (log of count of businesses / county population); ed\_env\_rate\_ln - natural log transformed rate of education-related businesses per county (log of count of businesses / county population); neg\_food\_rate\_ln - natural log transformed rate of negative food resources per county (log of count of businesses / county population); pos\_food\_rate\_ln - natural log transformed rate of positive food resources per county (log of count of businesses / county population); hc\_env\_rate\_ln - natural log transformed rate of health care-related businesses per county (log of count of businesses / county population); rec\_env\_rate\_ln - natural log transformed rate of recreation-related businesses per county (log of count of businesses / county population); ss\_env\_rate\_ln - natural log transformed rate of social service agencies per county (log of count of businesses / county population); civic\_env\_rate\_ln - natural log transformed rate of civic-related businesses per county (log of count of businesses / county population; |  | 2000-2005 and updated 2006-2010 |
| Topologically Integrated Geographic Encoding and Referencing (2009)[29] and NAVTEQ map data[30] |  | Road type and length per county; Road types by county created by joining NAVTEQ map data to Topologically Integrated Geographic Encoding and Referencing (TIGER) county definitions |  | SecondaryRoadProportion - proportion of all roads that are secondary roads (proportion); |  | 2000-2005 and updated 2006-2010 |
| Fatality Annual Reporting System (2006-2010)[31] |  | Annual pedestrian-related fatality per 100,000 population; maintained by National Highway Safety Commission |  | Ln\_fatalities - Natural log transformed rate (count/county population) of fatal car crashes per county (log-transformed count / county population) |  | 2000-2005 and updated 2006-2010 |
| Housing and Urban Development Data (2010)[32] |  | Housing authority profiles provide general housing details (low-rent and subsidized/Section 8 housing); information updated by individual public housing agencies. |  | total\_units\_ln - natural log transformed rate of the sum of the following two variables (low\_rent\_units - count of low rent units per county (count) and section\_eight\_units - count of section eight units per county (count)) (log of summation of units / county population) |  | 2000-2005 and updated 2006-2010 |
| United States Census (2010)[24] |  | County-level population characteristics, including density, race, spatial distribution, education, socioeconomics, home and neighborhood features, and land use |  | CommuteTime - time it takes to travel from home to work (minutes); ln\_PubTrans -natural log of percent of county residents who report using public transportation (percent); |  | 2006-2010 |
| EnviroAtlas Green space dataset (2011; 2005-2011)[33] |  | Description of 20 different land covers for National Land Cover Database (NLCD)[34] and 24 for Coastal Change Analysis Program (C-CAP)[35]; given as percent of county |  | NINDEX\_open - percent of county land area classified as natural land cover and open space developed land cover (percentage) |  | 2006-2010 |
| EPA's National Walkability Index (NWI) (2010)[36] |  | Characterizes every census block group walkability on a score from 0 to 20 based on four variables: (1) mix of employment types and occupied housing, (2) mix of employment types in a block group, (3) street intersection density and (4) predicted commute mode split – proportion of workers in the block group who carpool |  | sum\_NWIBG - walkability score (ordinal) |  | 2006-2010 |

\*Air domain: all variables are natural log transformed with the exceptions of A\_edb, A\_formaldehyde, O3, PM10, and PM25;

†Water, Land, Built domains: variables with \_ln indicated natural log transformation;

‡Sociodemographic domain: ln\_ indicates natural log transformation

Data sources highlighted in blue are new data sources added to 2006-2010 EQI. Data sources highlighted in orange are data sources used in 2000-2005 EQI but are not included in 2006-2010 EQI.

*Air Domain*

Two constructs represent the air domain: (1) criteria air pollutants and (2) hazardous air pollutants (HAPs). The Air Quality System (AQS)[10] was used to construct variables for the criteria air pollutants and the National-Scale Air Toxics Assessment (NATA) database[11] was used to construct variables for the HAPs.

The AQS is a repository for criteria ambient air pollution data collected by Federal, State, local, and tribal agencies from thousands of monitors for the EPA’s ambient air monitoring program across the United States. Monitored pollutants include all criteria air pollutants, PM species, and approximately 60 ozone precursors. Major strengths of the AQS are that data are measured, rather than modeled, and these measurements are synchronized across the country. Monitors in the network and the reported data are audited regularly for accuracy and precision. However, most of the ambient air monitors are located in or near urban areas, leaving many United States counties without reported data. In addition, the AQS provides sparse and limited data collection for HAPs.

The NATA database uses data from the National Emissions Inventory[37] to construct air dispersion models for estimating ambient concentrations of HAPs at the county and census-tract levels. Beginning in 1996, the National Emissions Inventory data are constructed every 3 years, providing annual estimates. The NATA databases contain estimated ambient concentrations for 177 to 180 of the 187 HAPs and use validated models that take meteorology and chemical dispersion into account. The methodology for estimating concentrations may change between assessments, but these modifications are well-documented and justified. Although the ambient concentrations may be comparable over time, some differences between estimates are attributable to these minor methodological modifications. The temporal resolution of the assessments is adequate for the intended EQI, but, because of the 3-year release schedule, there are gaps in temporal coverage. NATA 2008 was not developed and thus, for EQI 2006-2010, NATA 2005 was used.

*Water Domain*

The water domain included six data sources: (1) the WATERS program database[12], (2) Estimates of Water Use in the United States)[14], (3) the National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP)[13], (4) the Drought Monitor Network[15], (5) the National Contaminant Occurrence Database (NCOD)[16], (6) the Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS)[17]. Using these six data sources, variables were created to represent seven constructs that describe the overall water environment. The seven constructs were (1) overall water quality, (2) general water contamination, (3) drinking water quality, (4) domestic use, (5) atmospheric deposition, (6) drought, and (7) chemical contamination.

The Watershed Assessment, Tracking, and Environmental Results (WATERS) Program[12]database represents the surface water assessment programs under the Clean Water Act (CWA). A limitation of this data source is that data are maintained at the state level and reported to the Federal system. Although all states report county-level data, there is little consistency in the temporal reporting and type of data reported across States. These data were first geocoded to a specific stream length in the National Hydrography Dataset[38] via the REACH Address Database (RAD)[39]. The geocoded WATERS Program data were used to calculate human-exposure-related variables, such as percentage of stream length impaired for recreational use. This dataset is the only database maintaining information on EPA CWA regulations, which is a strength.

The National Contaminant Occurrence Database (NCOD)[16] is a surveillance database maintained to satisfy the requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act. This database includes information on contaminants in public water supplies that are not measured elsewhere. The survey is conducted every 6 years, and data are provided by public water suppliers. The data are limited as they are provided by public water suppliers, and, therefore, spatial aggregation was needed to get county-level estimates. *Estimated Use of Water in the United States*[14], which is modeled by the United States Geological Survey, provided county-level estimates of water withdrawals (an indication of water stress in a county) for domestic, irrigation, livestock, and industrial use. This dataset already is provided at the county level, which is a strength. However, it is limited as the estimates are based on several different data sources.

Two data sources provided information on meteorological impacts on water quality. The Drought Monitor Data[15] are modeled weekly drought conditions. Weekly coverage for the entire country is a strength of this dataset. The National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP)[13] provided weekly measures and national coverage of the deposition of various pollutants from rainfall using monitors around the country. Again, this database provided weekly information for the entire country; however, it was reported by monitors and required spatial aggregation to achieve county-level estimates.

Drinking water quality data was gathered from the Safe Drinking Water Information System[17] (SDWIS) which is a repository maintained for compliance with Federal regulations. This is a new data source to the water domain. SDWIS provides publicly available data based on requirements from the Safe Drinking Water Act. States are required to report basic information about the public water systems (PWS), violations, and enforcement information. The health-based violations provided in SDWIS are not measured elsewhere. Of the SDWIS measures, only total coliform health-based violations was considered for inclusion in the 2006-2010 EQI as the other contaminant categories have a high frequency of missing data (arsenic: 87.18%; ground water: 97.8%; inorganic chemicals: 97.04%; lead and copper: 90.87%; long term enhanced surface water treatment rule 1 and 2: 87.69%; nitrates: 91.92%; radionuclides: 89.76%; disinfection and disinfectant byproducts: 66.43%; surface water treatment: 90.84%; synthetic organics: 98.79%; volatile organic chemicals: 98.5%) for health-based violations. Average total coliform health-based violations were used to estimate the proportion of the county population affected by coliform violations between 2006 and 2010.

*Land Domain*

The land domain included five data sources representing five constructs: (1) Agriculture, (2) Pesticides, (3) Facilities, (4) Radon, and (5) Mining Activity. The data sources identified for this domain include: 2007 Census of Agriculture[19], 2009 National Pesticide Use Database[18], EPA Geospatial Data Download Service[20], Map of Radon Zones[21], and Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) mines data[22]. The MSHA mines database is a data source new to EQI 2006-2010. Also, the National Geochemical Survey database used in EQI 2000-2005 was not used in EQI 2006-2010.

The 2007 Census of Agriculture Full Report[19] was used to represent agricultural factors. Information on non-pesticide chemicals used in farming, animal units, harvested acreage, irrigated acreage, manure acreage, and proportion of farms was taken from the 2007 census of agriculture. The Census of Agriculture[19] data provided mostly farm-related summary characteristics and did not offer direct pesticide measures or probable exposure information. As a strictly environmental indicator, the Census of Agriculture was useful, but its ability to link to human health was somewhat limited. Eight variables from the census of agriculture were included in the EQI.

The 2009 National Pesticide Use Database (NPUD)[18] provides county-level rates of pesticide use. A limitation of the NPUD was its availability only for contiguous states. Pesticides were classified into three pesticide classes and then summed to estimate county-level pesticide use (kg) for herbicides, fungicides, and insecticides. These three pesticide categories were included in the EQI.

The industrial facilities data source, the EPA Geospatial Data Download Service[21], was used to find the following types of facilities/sites: Brownfield, Superfund sites, Toxic Release Inventory sites, pesticide-producing-location sites, large-quantity generator sites, and treatment, storage, and disposal sites. All facilities-related data were retained for inclusion in the EQI with extensive information on each facility for the years 2006-2010.

The EPA Radon Zone[21] map assigned a radon potential level to each county in the United States. As the data source provided radon potential, not actual measurement, these data were limited. The three-level radon categorization masked important radon-level heterogeneity across the United States. Despite these limitations, the data sources provided land-related data not available elsewhere.

The Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) Mines Data Set[22] was used to create the mining activity construct. The MSHA’s dataset includes current and historical coal/metal/non-metal mines. The list included the status of each mine (Abandoned, Abandoned and Sealed, Active, Intermittent, New Mine, Non-Producing, Temporarily Idled) and in which county the mine was located. The dataset does not include the size of each mine, so it is possible a mine may span two counties but only the physical address county is reported.

The National Geochemical Survey (NGS)[23], used in the 2000-2005 version of the EQI to determine the contaminant construct, was not included in the updated version. The NGS data provided the mean and standard deviations for multiple soil chemicals. However, these values were calculated from multiple surveys of soil samples collected over several years based on local agencies interests and resources and, therefore, were combining many varying sources of data. Due to high correlation between the NGS and the National Contaminant Occurrence Database and the National Atmospheric Deposition Program, the decision to drop the NGS was made.

*Sociodemographic Domain*

The original sociodemographic domain included only two constructs: socioeconomics and crime. Two new constructs were added for EQI 2006-2010 – ‘County creative typology’ and ‘County political valence’. In an effort to better reflect each county’s sociodemographic character, the updated Sociodemographic Domain has four constructs: (1) Socioeconomic, (2) Crime, (3) County creative typology, and (4) County political valence. Because counties can be characterized as “working class” or “tech savvy”, we added the creative typology to help capture this character. Similarly, counties may be known for their political valence (e.g., a “red” county in a “blue” state); the percent voting democrat in the 2008 election was added to capture this county characteristic. Only four data sources were identified and retained for the sociodemographic domain: (1) the United States Census Bureau[24], (2) the Federal Bureau of Investigation Uniform Crime Reports (FBI UCRs)[25], (3) the United States Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service (USDA ERS)[27], and (4) Leip’s Atlas of United States Presidential Elections (2008)[26].

The United States Census[24] reports county-level population and housing characteristics, including population density, race, spatial distribution, socioeconomic characteristics, home and neighborhood features, and land use. One strength of this data source is its national coverage and consistency of data collection with standard methods. One weakness of this data source is its decennial collection.

The FBI UCR[25] provides annual violent and property crime counts and rates for reporting areas. These data are a valuable source of crime exposure, but reporting is not mandatory and may vary by jurisdiction.

The USDA ERS[27] creates a “creative class” index, derived from census data, to identify what proportion of the population may be employed in creative pursuits. This variable helps to characterize counties as being attractive to workers in creative (e.g., physicians, professors, architects) work. Because this variable is based on census data, it has the same strengths and weaknesses of the United States Census.

Leip’s Atlas of United States Presidential Elections[26] track the political valence of the counties. Political valence tracks with a number of county-level attributes, such as provision of social supports, levels of school funding, etc. Capturing this variability may be useful for differentiating counties from each other. One strength of the Leip Atlas of United States Presidential Elections data source is its data quality and one weakness of this data source is its (in)frequency of ascertainment.

Each of these data sources represents critical aspects of the human sociodemographic environment, is updated regularly, and is available at the county-level for the entire country.

### Built-Environment Domain

Built-environment data sources were identified for the following constructs: (1) Business environment, (2) Highway safety, (3) Housing, (4) Roads, (5) Commuting practices, (6) Walkability, and (7) Green Space. For EQI 2006-2010, we added two new data constructs with new data sources: one representing green space and another estimating county walkability.

For the road construct, NAVTEQ road map data[30] were joined to Topologically Integrated Geographic Encoding and Referencing (TIGER)[29]county definitions to result in road types by county. The road data from NAVTEQ, whose underlying map database was based on first-hand observation of geographic features rather than relying on official government maps, is the majority supplier for car navigation systems (around 85% of car makers). The TIGER files provide relatively uniform and nationwide coverage. From these files, county-specific proportions were characterized for various road types. Unfortunately, considerable heterogeneity may be lost; for instance, a tertiary road in Maryland may not be qualitatively equivalent to one located in Wyoming.

The Fatality Annual Reporting System[31] of the National Highway Safety Commission was retained as part of traffic safety because of its national coverage. The data are regularly updated and available from the Web site. A limitation of these data is that traffic fatalities result from diverse types of events (e.g., from road conditions or substance-involved fatalities), but this diversity is not well-captured.

North American Industry Classification System codes through Dun and Bradstreet[28] were used as the data source to estimate five different business environment topics: (1) physical activity, (2) food, (3) educational, (4) social, and (5) health care environments. These data are available as geocoded business addresses. Although these data have sometimes been criticized for inadequate spatial resolution (e.g., inaccurate geocoding to small units of aggregation like census tracts), they should be sufficient as a construct for county-level business environments of food, physical activity, and education.

The Housing and Urban Development database[32] includes data on Section 8 and low-income housing. These housing units are a unique feature of built environments associated with known and suspected health risks and disamenities.

The EPA’s National Walkability[36] data is the source of the walkability index. It combines data from 2010 Census TIGER/Line shapefiles, 2010 Census Summary File 1, Census Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (LEHD) 2010, InfoUSA 2011, NAVTEQ NAVSTREETS 2011, General Transit Feed Specification (GTFS) data for 228 transit agencies, Center for Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Database 2012 to produce a block group score, which was aggregated to the county level.

The Landcover data derive from the EPA’s National Land Cover Database (NLCD)[34]. It represents land cover across the contiguous 48 states, circa 2011. Each 30-meter-square pixel has been classified using a standard land cover classification scheme, and some of these categories have been aggregated further according to procedures outlined in EPA’s Report on the Environment[40]. Data were originally processed and compiled by the Multi-Resolution Land Characteristics Consortium (MRLC)[41], a United States federal inter-agency group, based on Landsat satellite imagery. These data are combined with NOAA’s C-CAP Land[35] cover county data to represent land cover for all 3143 counties.

### Summary of Changes to 2006-2010 data sources from original 2000-2005 EQI

Air Domain – no changes to data sources

Water Domain - one data source was added for 2006-2010 (SDWIS) and some variables developed from the WATERS database for 2000-2005 were not used in 2006-2010.

Land Domain –One data source was eliminated for 2006-2010 (National Geochemical

Survey). One data source was added for 2006-2010.

* + - Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) Mines Data Set (2006-2010)

Sociodemographic Domain – no data sources were eliminated for 2006-2010. Two data

sources were added to the 2006-2010 EQI

* + - USDA ERS Creative class data
    - 2008 Presidential Election results data

Built Domain – no data sources were eliminated for 2006-2010. Two data sources were added to the 2006-2010 EQI

* EPA National Walkability data
* EPA NLCD + C-CAP data

## Variable Construction

### Approach

We followed the same approach in developing variables for EQI 2006-2010 that we used for EQI 2000-2005. Most variables throughout the different domains were previously identified and developed as part of the EQI 2000-2005 and were updated for the 2006-2010 period. For the newly added data sources, we developed new variables. We assessed all variables as to whether the new variables needed to be standardized, as a proportion of geographical space (e.g., road proportions) or as a rate per population (e.g., violent crimes per capita) for use in the EQI. Additionally, some data were not available for all counties but required spatial kriging to provide national coverage. *Kriging* is a geospatial technique that uses known data points to interpolate data at locations with unknown measurements[42].

The overall process for variable development for 2006-2010 was as follows:

* update or identify and develop relevant variables within each domain for each available year (2006-2010),
* assess collinearity among the variables within each domain and eliminate redundant variables,
* assess missing data and variability of each variable; and
* assess normality of variables and transform as necessary.

Appendix II lists all the variables included in the EQI for each of the five domains for 2006-2010 and includes notes about whether the variables were used in previous version of the EQI or if newly created variable. Appendix III provides the variables that were used in EQI 2000-2005 but were not used in the EQI 2006-2010 update. The created variables are available publicly at EPA’s [Environmental Dataset Gateway](https://edg.epa.gov/metadata/catalog/main/home.page)[[3]](#footnote-3).

*Identification and Construction of Variables from Data Sources*

For each domain, all variables from EQI 2000-2005 were reviewed and assessed for continued inclusion in the EQI 2006-2010. Variables were created from selected data sources to represent the constructs. Variables were developed in a variety of manners, including kriging and standardization by area or population. Each domain section below provides the details of variable construction.

*Assessing Variables*

The data reduction method Principal Component Analysis (PCA) is based on the variability between variables[43]; therefore, collinearity of variables was assessed. This assessment was done by developing correlation matrices for each domain. Variables with any correlation coefficient >0.70 were examined; representative variables were chosen for each pair or group of highly correlated variables (Appendix IV).

Ideally, developed variables would have measured or estimated values for each county of the United States. When this criterion was not met, or when a majority (>50%) of values were zero, the proportion of missing data and zero values were evaluated for variable inclusion. If a particular variable had information missing for many counties, the nature of the missing data was evaluated. When it was determined that the missing data could be interpreted as meaningful zeros (i.e., no measures were taken because that condition did not occur in that county), the missing values were set to zero. For instance, the counties with no reported public housing were set to zero because public housing is truly absent from some counties. When counties were missing data because reporting areas were centralized, but the data could not be assumed to be truly missing, the data were spatially kriged, when possible. For instance, crime was only reported for specific counties, even though it likely occurred in counties other than those in which it was reported as well. Therefore, crime rates were averaged spatially over adjacent counties to create an estimate for a county with no official reported crime. If the missing data could not be determined to be legitimate zeros, and the data could not be reasonably kriged or averaged over geography, and the number of counties with missing data was too high (more than 50% of counties), the variable was not used in the EQI.

In some instances, there may have been more than one data source that could represent a particular domain construct. In that case, the data source deemed to have better data quality and coverage was utilized.

Finally, normality of variables was evaluated. Using PCA, the chosen data reduction technique, a key assumption is that variables are distributed normally[43]. If data were non-normal, transformations were applied (typically log-transformation) to increase normality. For those variables with zero values, half of the nonzero minimum value was added to all observations before log-transformation.

When data were updated on an annual or regular basis, variable consistency (mean and standard deviation) was compared across each year of the 6-year period (2006-2010).

### Summary of Activities

*Domain-Specific Variable Descriptions*

Air Domain

The air domain consists of two data sources, (1) the AQS[10] and (2) the NATA[11], representing criteria air pollutants and HAPs.

Criteria Air Pollutants

Daily concentration data from the EPA’s AQS monitors (point scale) were downloaded for ozone, carbon monoxide (CO), sulfur dioxide (SO2), nitrogen dioxide (NO2), particulate matter under 10 µm in aerodynamic diameter (PM10), and particulate matter under 2.5 µm in aerodynamic diameter (PM2.5). Annual averages were calculated for each of the 6 pollutants at each monitor with data. These averages were then used in a kriging procedure to estimate annual concentration at each county’s center point for each year from 2006 to 2010.

For the EQI spanning 2006 to 2010., a single average concentration was calculated from the annual average concentrations for each county from the kriged estimates. When indicated (i.e., log-normal distribution) half of the minimum nonzero value was added, and variables were log transformed.

Hazardous Air Pollutants (HAPs)

County-level concentrations estimates from NATA were used for all HAPs included in the EQI. HAPs were selected for inclusion from the full NATA pollutant list. Using data from 2005, variables were evaluated for collinearity and variability. Variables with any correlation coefficient >0.70 were examined, and representative variables were chosen for each pair or group of highly correlated variables (see Appendix IV). Correlations were determined after assessing for missingness/zeros and assessing normality. The variable that is correlated with the most other variables is chosen. For example, if variable A was highly correlated with variables B, C, D, and E, but each of those were correlated with a lower number of variables, A would be chosen as the representative variable. The non-chosen variables (B, C, D, and E) would then be removed from consideration within other groupings. If the correlation group was isolated (i.e., no variables in it were associated with any other variables outside the isolated group) then a representative variable was chosen without particular criteria. By the end, all variables remaining had correlation less than 0.7 with each other. All variables excluded were highly correlated with (represented by) at least one variable that was retained. Of the remaining variables, all missing values were set to zero, with the assumption that lack of estimate for an area indicated low concern for contamination with a particular HAP, and the number of zero values was evaluated for each variable. Pollutants with more than 50% zero values were dropped. This process left 37 HAPs included in the EQI. When indicated (i.e., log-normal distribution), half of the minimum nonzero value was added, and variables were log transformed.

Table 3. 2005 NATA variables included in EQI 2006-2010

|  |
| --- |
| 1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethane |
| 1,1,2-trichloroethane |
| 1,2-dibromo-3-chloropropane |
| 1-3-dichloropropene |
| Acrylic acid |
| Benzidine |
| Benzyl chloride |
| Beryllium compounds |
| *bis*-2-ethylhexyl phthalate |
| Carbon tetrachloride |
| Carbonyl sulfide |
| Chlorine |
| Chlorobenzene |
| Chloroform |
| Chloroprene |
| Chromium compounds |
| Cobalt compounds |
| Cyanide compounds |
| Dibutylphthalate |
| Ethyl benzene |
| Ethyl chloride |
| Ethylene dibromide |
| Ethylene dichloride |
| Formaldehyde |
| Glycol ethers |
| Hydrazine |
| Hydrochloric acid |
| Isophorone |
| Manganese compounds |
| Methyl bromide |
| Methylene chloride |
| Phosphine |
| Polychlorinated biphenyls |
| Propylene dichloride |
| Quinoline |
| Trichloroethylene |
| Vinyl chloride |

The air domain includes 43 variables representing criteria and HAPs.

Water Domain

The water domain included six data sources: (1) the WATERS program database[12], (2) Estimates of Water Use in the United States[14], (3) the National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP)[13], (4) the Drought Monitor Network[15], (5) the National Contaminant Occurrence Database (NCOD)[16], (6) the Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS)[17] Using these six data sources, variables were created to represent seven constructs that describe the overall water environment. The seven constructs were (1) overall water quality, (2) general water contamination, (3) drinking water quality, (4) domestic use, (5) atmospheric deposition, (6) drought, and (7) chemical contamination.

Overall Water Quality

Impairment and water quality standards (WQS) data were obtained for the most recent state reported data that were collected under Sections 303(d) and 305(b) of the Clean Water Act (CWA)[44]. The CWA is administered at the state level, and data are voluntarily reported from the states to the Federal level. The dates of the reported data ranged from 2004 to 2010 as the Federal reporting system maintains only the most recent data reported by each state. Under Section 305(b) of the CWA, states establish WQS for each hydrological feature based on the expected use (or uses) of these waters. Under Section 303(d) of the CWA, states assess whether waters are impaired (do not meet the standards) for the uses established in the WQS. This assessment is conducted biennially, and the states voluntarily report these data to the Federal level.

County-level impaired stream length was estimated for the contiguous United States using impairment and WQS data (from the WATERS database). With the designated uses listed for each state, the WQS was classified into five broad categories of water use: (1) agriculture, (2) drinking water, (3) recreation, (4) wildlife, and (5) industry. Using geographic information systems (GIS), county-level percentages of impairment were calculated. WQS and impairment datasets were joined to the map layer of hydrologic features in EPA’s RAD[39]. RAD is a replicate of the National Hydrography Dataset Plus[38] augmented for reporting water quality data. The defined broad water use categories were joined to the WQS data, and a table summarizing hydrologic features with multiple uses was created. WQS and impairment tables were assigned to features in the RAD using GIS Network and Event tools. These tools link tabular database information with linear or polygon features. Stream lengths were clipped by county boundaries to calculate percent impairment by county. Only linear water features were included in each category. Polygon features, such as lakes, were excluded because of the lack of well-defined county and state boundaries across water bodies. Next, county and state designations were linked with linear features in RAD. Once all data were associated to linear hydrologic features, lengths were calculated for water features impaired for any use, drinking water use, or recreational use and for all stream lengths within a county. The final variable was cumulative measure of percent of water impaired for any use.

General Water Contamination

Water contamination can be caused by several sources. Unfortunately, EPA only has consistent data on the point sources of contamination in the form of the number of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)[45] permits. Therefore, the number of permits in a county was used as a proxy for general water contamination. Using permit information in the WATERS database, 13 variables were calculated for the number of discharge permits in a county. Permits that were current during the period 2006-2010 were selected. The 10 variables that were calculated based on individual permit types had too many missing data; therefore, three composite variables were created for inclusion in the EQI. A composite variable was developed for the number of sewage permits per 1000 km of stream length in a county. The number of animal feeding operations and concentrated animal feeding operations NPDES permits, combined sewer overflow NPDES permits, and NPDES permits for sludge in each county were summed and divided by the total stream length in the county. Similarly, composite variables were calculated for industrial permits (combining the total of pretreatment NPDES permits, general facilities NPDES permits, and individual facilities NPDES permits) and stormwater permits (combining the total of general stormwater NPDES permits, industrial stormwater NPDES permits) by county per 1000 km of stream length. Preliminary analyses demonstrated low loadings for the grouped variables, therefore, only one variable was maintained, the total number of discharge permits per 1000km of stream length in the county.

Drinking Water Quality

In the United States drinking water quality is measured and maintained by the public water system (PWS) treating and distributing drinking water. Based on the Safe Drinking Water Act, states are required to report basic information about PWS, violation information for each PWS, and enforcement information to the federal system. The SDWIS data is publicly available data through the Fed Data Warehouse[17]. The basic information for the PWSs were merged with the violations reports, so that the county and city served by the violations were together in one report. In instances where there were multiple counties served by a PWS, the counties were separated in order to account for these violations in both counties served by the PWS. Variables were created for each rule within the Safe Drinking Water Act, such as the Lead and Copper Rule. A time period average for each rule name violation by PWS was calculated as the frequency divided by the number of years in the time period of interest, in this case five (2006-2010). This time period average was then multiplied by the population served for each PWS and these values were summed for the county in order to estimate the proportion of the population in the county affected by the violation. Most counties did not report violations for the majority of rules, therefore, only one variable constructed provided sufficient variability to be included, which was that calculated from violations to the Total Coliform Rule.

Domestic Use

Data from the Estimates of Water Use in the United States database[14] were used as a proxy for domestic water quality. If water is being withdrawn for competing uses (agriculture, industry, etc.), it will put stress on water supplies, which, in turn, will affect water quality. This database includes county-level estimates of water withdrawals for domestic, agricultural, and industrial use. Initially, 15 variables of water withdrawals for domestic, agricultural, and industrial use were developed. These data are estimated every 5 years and were included in the EQI as averaged data for 2006 and 2010. Two variables were included in the EQI after evaluation for collinearity (four variables removed) and missing data (nine variables removed). The two variables were (1) the percent of population on self-supplied water supplies and (2) the percent of those on public water supplies that are on surface waters. For these variables, higher values are not necessarily a marker for poor water quality. The data were provided at the county level and normally distributed; therefore, no additional transformation was required.

Atmospheric Deposition

The atmospheric deposition of chemicals can affect water quality. The NADP dataset[13] provides measures for the concentration of nine chemicals in precipitation: (1) calcium, (2) magnesium, (3) potassium, (4) sodium, (5) ammonium, (6) nitrate, (7) chloride, (8) sulfate, and (9) mercury. Annual summary data from each monitoring site for each year 2006-2010 were kriged spatially to achieve national coverage and county-level estimates. The annual estimates for each pollutant then were averaged over the 6-year study period. The data for all pollutants, except sulfate, were skewed and, therefore, were natural log transformed to achieve normal distributions. Magnesium, sodium, and ammonium were removed as they were highly correlated with potassium, chloride, and nitrate respectively.

Drought

Drought affects the concentration of pathogens and chemicals in water bodies and, therefore, can affect water quality. The Drought Monitor dataset[15] provides raster data on six possible drought status conditions for the entire United States on a weekly basis. The data were aggregated spatially to the county level to estimate the percentage of the county in each drought status condition. The weekly data were averaged to achieve annual estimates for 2006-2010 and, then, averaged to create a composite for the entire period. From this data, the percentage of the county in extreme or exceptional drought (intensity levels D3 and D4, respectively) was used in the EQI. The remaining five drought status conditions were removed, as all of the drought statuses were highly correlated.

Chemical Contamination

Chemical contamination of water supplies can directly affect human health. The NCOD dataset[16] provides data on 69 contaminants provided by public water supplies throughout the country for the period from 1998-2005. Data for all samples in a county for each contaminant were averaged over the entire period of the dataset, 1998-2005. More recent data was not available. The data were also natural log transformed to achieve normal distributions. Missing values were set to zero, with the assumption that lack of measurement for an area indicated low concern for contamination with that particular contaminant. Nine contaminants, (1) asbestos, (2) beryllium, (3) diquat, (4) endothall, (5) glyphosate, (6) dioxin, (7) radium, (8) beta particles, and (9) uranium, did not include data for enough counties (missing data) to be included in the EQI construction. Twenty-one variables were deleted due to high correlation with other contaminants: (1) lindane, (2) thallium, (3) toxaphene, (4) oxamyl, (5) alachlor, (6) 2,4,5-TP (Silvex), (7) hexachlorocyclopentadiene, (8) carbofuran, (9) heptachlor, (10) heptachlor epoxide, (11) hexachlorobenzene, (12) 1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene, (13) 1,2-Dichlorobenzene, (14) vinyl chloride, (15) 1,1-Dichloroethylene, (16) trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene, (17) 1,2-Dichloroethane, (18) carbon tetrachloride, (19) 1,2-Dichloropropane, (20) 1,1,2-Trichloroethane, (21) benzene.

Land Domain

The land domain consisted of five data sources, representing five constructs: (1) agriculture, (2) pesticide use, (3) facilities, (4) radon zone, and (5) mining activity.

Agriculture

Information on non-pesticide chemicals used in farming, animal units, harvested acreage, irrigated acreage, manure acreage, and proportion of farms was taken from the 2007 Census of Agriculture[19]. Final acreage for each item then was divided by total acreage for each county to return a percentage (e.g., percentage of irrigated acres out of total acres in a county). In some cases, county-level acreage for items was suppressed. In these, case estimates were imputed based on unaccounted for and total state-level acreage. Known acreage was subtracted from total state acreage, leaving an “unassigned” total acreage for each state. This total number was divided by the total number of farms in counties with suppressed acreage to return an average acreage for each farm. This average acreage then was multiplied by the number of farms in each county with suppressed acreage to estimate acreage. Animal units were estimated by multiplying the number of livestock (cows, hogs, and poultry) by the animals per animal unit statistic[46] and then adding together all livestock categories for each county. Eight variables representing agriculture were included in the EQI.

Pesticide Use

Pesticide use for each county was estimated using county-pesticide-use data from the 2009 National Pesticide Use Dataset[18]. Each pesticide was categorized into one of three categories: herbicide, fungicide, or insecticide. The average weight (kg) of each pesticide was calculated for the years available (2006-2009) for each county then summed by pesticide type. If a county did not have information for one of the pesticide categories, the national average was used. Despite the choice of high spatial coverage, there are recognized uncertainties in estimating the geographic distribution of compounds applied to specific crops as described by Baker et al. (2015) in prior literature [47]. These three pesticide categories were included in the EQI. Pesticide variables were evaluated for normality and log transformed.

Facilities

Large facilities have the capacity to affect land quality. The facilities included in the land domain are those represented on the EPA Geospatial Data Download Service[20]. Because many counties had at least one, but no counties had all six of the facility types present, a composite facilities data variable was constructed by summing the count of any one of the six facilities types (Brownfield sites (n=1273)[48],Superfund sites (n=719)[49], Toxic Release Inventory sites (n=2671)[20], pesticide-producing-location sites (n=2099)[50], large-quantity generator sites (n=1963)[51], and treatment, storage, and disposal sites (n=874)[52] across the counties. Facilities were included in the count if they were identified during the 2006-2010 period. The count of facilities was divided by the county population, which produced a facilities rate. The facilities rate variable was assessed for normality and log transformed.

Radon Zone

The potential for elevated indoor radon levels was represented using the county score from the EPA Radon Zone map[21], which was available for 3142 counties. The EPA Radon Zone map identified areas of the United States with the potential for elevated indoor radon levels. Each United States county was assigned to one of three zones based on radon-level elevation potential.

Mines

Mines, like large facilities, have the capacity to affect land quality. The mines included in the land domain are those found in the MSHA dataset[22], which includes those mines under MSHA jurisdiction since 1970. Mines were included if they were active at any point before 2010 and were not abandoned and sealed after 2006. Those excluded most likely do not continue to pose any environmental impact. Any mines already represented in Superfund data were excluded. Mines were separated by the five primary commodity types: (1) coal, (2) metal, (3) nonmetal, (4) sand and gravel, and (5) stone and a county could have more than one type of mine. The counts of the mines were divided by the county population, producing a mine rate. Of the 3,143 counties, 2,904 had at least one mine. For those counties that had zero values for the different mine types, the minimum value/2 was added to the standardized population variables. The mine variables were assessed for normality and log transformed.

Sociodemographic Domain

This domain was constructed to explore the sociodemographic features of counties in the United States. These features were used to approximate the social-stress associated with residing in more deprived (low education, high unemployment, high violent crime, high poverty, etc.) or more affluent (high employment rates, low property crime, high proportion of college graduates, etc.) counties. This domain includes variables from the 2010 United States Census)[24]and the FBI Uniform Crime Reports (UCR)[25], the 2008 Presidential election results[26], and United States Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service Creative Class data[27]. Because the sociodemographic domain is related to population density, by virtue of the data’s collection and reporting, variables were developed as population rates (denominator: count of persons per county), rather than area-based rates (denominator: square miles per county).

Nine variables were obtained from the 2010 United States Census[24]. The nine variables were (1) percent earning a Bachelors’ degree or higher among persons aged 25 years or older, (2) percent persons unemployed, (3) percent of families living below the Federal poverty line, (4) percent vacant housing units, (5) median household value, (6) median household income, (7) percent renter occupied units (8) count of occupants per room, (9) the Gini coefficient, a marker of income inequality. Owing to the skewed nature of the household income and count of occupants per room data, these variables were log-transformed for inclusion in the EQI. The sociodemographic domain contains a mix of positive and negative features; therefore, when the sociodemographic domain was constructed, positive variables were reverse-coded to ensure that a higher amount of the sociodemographic domain will represent adverse environmental conditions.

The area-level crime environment was represented using the FBI UCRs[25]. The first step in constructing crime data was to assign each jurisdiction or place to a county using county Federal Information Processing Standards code[53]. In cases when a jurisdiction covered more than one county, the reported crime was assigned to both counties. Although this double assignment results in a slight inflation of crime reports for a state, there was no way to determine which county should receive the crime report. Further, if police or municipal jurisdictions crossed county lines, it is likely residents of both counties were “exposed” to the crime environment. Crime data attributed to more than one county occurred in approximately 15 counties. Second, because crime was reported for less than half the United States counties, crime data were kriged spatially and temporally to estimate values for counties with no reported crime. The decision was made to krig these data because data reporting was voluntary, and it seemed unlikely that no crime occurred in the nonreported areas. Because zeros could not be reasonably assigned to the missing counties, the data were interpolated spatially and temporally instead. Based on experience with the 2000-2005 county-level EQI, and in acknowledgement that the correlation between the property and violent crime rates was very high (0.96), only log violent crime was included in the EQI.

The political climate of a county was represented by the David Leip election map[26]. On this website, county-specific percents voting Republican or Democratic are reported. These data were downloaded for each county. The report voting Democratic in the 2008 presidential election are included in the EQI. One county in Hawaii that had been an independent county unit, FIPS 15005, was subsumed by Maui for the presidential election data, so the same democratic percentage was applied to county 15005 as to Maui.

One creative class variable was included in the 2006-2010 EQI. The creative class thesis—that towns need to attract engineers, architects, artists, and people in other creative occupations to compete in today's economy—may be particularly relevant to rural communities, which tend to lose much of their talent when young adults leave. The ERS creative class codes[27] indicate a county's share of population employed in occupations that require "thinking creatively." The percent employed in creative class occupations index was included in the EQI.

Built Domain

Seven data sources were included in the built domain, representing (1) the subsidized housing environment, (2) traffic safety, (3) public transportation usage and commuting times, (4) road properties (road type and density), (5) the business and service environments (e.g., food, recreation), (6) county walkability and (7) green space.

Housing Environment

The subsidized housing environment was represented by the Housing and Urban Development data[32]. These data provide a count of the low-rent and Section 8 housing in each housing authority data area. The housing authority areas correspond to cities, which were assigned county codes. Data were collected in 2010, but, because low-rent and Section 8 housing does not change substantially over time, these data were considered representative of the 2006-2010 period. The variables were summed to result in the count of any low-rent or Section 8 housing in each county. The rate of subsidized housing was constructed by dividing the count of subsidized housing units per county by the county population. The data were log transformed prior to inclusion in the EQI.

Traffic Safety

Traffic fatalities, an important feature and consequence of the built environment, were estimated using the Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) data[31]. The FARS is a national census providing the National Highway Traffic Safety administration yearly reports of fatal injuries suffered in motor vehicle crashes. Rates for the 2006-2010 counts of fatal crashes per county were constructed by dividing the count of county-level fatal crashes by the county-level population. Many counties had no fatal crashes. To accommodate the large number of meaningful zeros in the data, the log of this rate variable was used in the built domain of the EQI.

Public Transportation Usage and Commuting Time

The percent of county residents who use public transportation was estimated using the 2010 United States Census[24] variable in the EQI. For many counties, the percent of the population who reports using public transportation is near zero. Therefore, this variable was log transformed prior to its use in the built domain of the EQI. Also obtained from the United States Census was the average number of minutes employed persons spent on the commute home from work.

Road Properties

For the built-environment domain, characterizing the relative proportions of each county that was served by highways, secondary roads, and primary roads were of interest, as these types of roads confer different risks (related to speed and safety) and benefits (related to neighborhood walking or ease of transit). Road type for the year 2008 was approximated using the NAVTEQ road data[30] associated to TIGER county boundary [29] data. Three proportion variables were constructed by dividing the mileage of each road type (e.g., secondary roads) by the total road mileage in each county. The proportions of all roadways that were secondary roads were included.

Business and Service Environments

Businesses represent an important component of the built environment and can contribute to the risk and amenity landscape. Variables representing various built-environmental features were constructed using 2008 Dun and Bradstreet data[28], which include commercial information on businesses, data on more than 195 million records, and are proprietary. Eight rate variables were constructed by dividing the county-level count of a business type by the county-level population count. The eight variables that were constructed included the (1) positive food environment, (2) negative food environment, (3) vice environment (alcohol, pawn, and gaming), (4) health care business environment, (5) recreation environment, (6) education environment, (7) social-service environment, and (8) civic-related environment. Note: Positive food environments included those that sold healthier foods, like grocery stores, sit-down restaurants, and organic shops, whereas the negative food environment included businesses like fast-food restaurants, convenience stores, and pretzel trucks. Although related, these two food environments comprise different businesses and are not 100% inversely correlated. Non-normally distributed variables were log transformed and all nine were included in the EQI.

Walkability

Walkability is an important feature of the built environment and variability across walkability may help explain poor or good health. The National Walkability Index (NWI)[36] was used to determine walkability as a mode of travel for each county. The scores, ranging from zero to 20 are calculated using a weighted rank of four variables: (1) mix of employment types (such as office, retail, and service) and occupied housing, (2) mix of employment types in a block group (such as office, retail, and service), (3) street intersection density (pedestrian-oriented intersections), and (4) predicted commute mode split – proportion of workers in the block group who carpool. A higher rank indicates an increased likelihood of walking being used as the mode of travel. The block group scores were added and then a mean of the block group scores based on county population proportions was created. The county walkability scores ranged from 1.00 to 16.23.

Green space

Exposure to green space has also been associated with improved health. The green space variable was created by the EPA's EnviroAtlas)[33] using National Land Cover Database (NLCD)[34] and Coastal Change Analysis Program[35] data. Three possible constructions were considered: the NINDEX variable was created by EnviroAtlas as a natural land cover variable and includes: barren land, forest, shrub/scrub, grassland, sedge, lichens, moss, and wetlands. NINDEX\_open is the NINDEX variable with developed, open space, such as parks and golf courses, included. The Richardson index[54] is based on a green space paper and includes the NINDEX and also developed open space, low intensity and medium intensity. For the sake of dissemination outside academic communities and ease of data availability/construction, the 2006-2010 EQI used the NINDEX\_open variable. The variables represented percentages of up to 24 possible land cover types. To create a green space variable, five total land cover groups were combined, those classified as natural land cover (barren land (rock/sand/clay/tundra/perennial ice), forest, shrubland/scrub land, herbaceous, and wetlands) and those classified as developed, open space, where impervious surfaces make up less than 20% of total cover and includes recreational areas such as grassy lawns, parks, and golf courses. This combined variable of natural land cover and developed, open space gave a percentage of the county that had green space and ranged from 3.88 to 99.99 percent. The variable was then assessed for normality.

### Changes to 2006-2010 variable construction from original 2000-2005 EQI

Air Domain

Variables eliminated from the 2006-2010 EQI

* The following air variables were eliminated due to high collinearity to one or more variables:

**Variable Represented by:**

* 2-4-toluene diisocyanate Ethylbenzene
* 2-chloroacetophenone Benzyl chloride
* 2-nitropropane Chloroprene
* 4-nitrophenol Ethylbenzene
* Acetophenone Ethylbenzene
* Acrolein Ethylbenzene
* Acrylonitrile Trichloroethylene
* Acrylonitrile Chloroprene
* Biphenyl Ethylbenzene
* Bromoform Benzyl chloride
* Cadmium compounds Chromium compounds
* Carbon disulfide Ethylbenzene
* Cresol cresylic acid Ethylbenzene
* Cumene Ethylbenzene
* Diesel engine emissions Ethylbenzene
* Dimethyl formamide Ethyl chloride
* Dimethyl phthalate Ethylbenzene
* Dimethyl sulfate Benzyl chloride
* Epichlorohydrin Chloroprene
* Ethyl acrylate Chloroprene
* Ethylene glycol Ethylbenzene
* Ethylene oxide Ethylene dichloride
* Ethylidene dichloride Vinyl chloride
* Hexachlorobenzene Polychlorinated biphenyls
* Hexachlorobutadiene Chloroprene
* Hexachlorocyclopentadiene Chloroprene
* Hexane Ethylbenzene
* Lead compounds Chromium compounds
* Mercury compounds Ethylbenzene
* Methanol Ethylbenzene
* Methyl chloride Carbon tetrachloride
* Methyl isobutyl ketone Ethylbenzene
* Methyl methacrylate Ethylbenzene
* Methylhydrazine Benzyl chloride
* MTBE Ethylbenzene
* Nitrobenzene Chloroprene
* n-n-dimethylaniline Chloroprene
* o-toluidine Chloroprene
* PAH/POM Ethylbenzene
* Propylene oxide Chloroprene
* Selenium compounds Ethylbenzene
* Styrene Ethylbenzene
* Tetrachloroethylene Ethylbenzene
* Toluene Ethylbenzene
* Triethylamine Ethylbenzene
* Vinyl acetate Ethylbenzene
* Vinylidene chloride Ethylbenzene

Water Domain

New variables added to the 2006-2010 EQI

* Total coliform health-based violations added

Variables removed in the recreational water construct

* # of days closed per event in county 2000-2005 numDays\_Close\_Activity\_tot
* # of days per contamination advisory event in county 2000-2005 numDays\_Cont\_Activity\_tot
* # of days per rain advisory event in county 2000-2005 numDays\_Rain\_Activity\_tot

Variables removed in the chemical contamination construct from the 2006-2010 EQI due to correlation with other variables

* Beryllium - W\_Be\_ln (mg/L)
* Lindane - W\_Lindane\_ln (mg/L)
* Thallium - W\_Tl\_ln (mg/L) 1996
* Toxaphene - W\_Toxaphene\_ln (ug/L)
* Oxamyl (Vydate) – W\_Oxamyl\_ln (ug/L)
* Alachlor - W\_Alachlor\_ln (ug/L)
* 2,4,5-TP (Silvex) - W\_silvex\_ln (ug/L)
* Hexachlorocyclopentadiene - W\_HCCPD\_ln (ug/L)
* Carbofuran - W\_Carbofuran\_ln (ug/L)
* Heptachlor - W\_Heptachlor\_ln (ug/L)
* Heptachlor Epoxide - W\_Heptachlor\_epox\_ln (ug/L)
* Hexachlorobenzene - W\_HCB\_ln (ug/L)
* 1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene - W\_124TCIB\_ln (ug/L)
* 1,2-Dichlorobenzene (o-Dichlorobenzene) - W\_ODCB\_ln (ug/L)
* Vinyl chloride - W\_VCM\_ln (ug/L)
* 1,1-Dichloroethylene - W\_11DCE\_ln (ug/L)
* trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene - W\_t12DCE\_ln (ug/L)
* 1,2-Dichloroethane (Ethylene Dichloride) - W\_EDC\_ln (ug/L)
* Carbon Tetrachloride - W\_CCl4\_ln (ug/L)
* 1,2-Dichloropropane - W\_PDC\_ln (ug/L)
* 1,1,2-Trichloroethane - W\_112TCA\_ln (ug/L)
* Benzene - W\_Cl1benz\_ln (ug/L)

Land Domain

Variables eliminated from the 2006-2010 EQI

* The following variables were eliminated because content was representedin NCOD and the NADP:
* Mean level of arsenic
* Mean level of selenium
* Mean level of mercury
* Mean level of lead
* Mean level of zinc
* Mean level of copper
* Mean level of aluminum
* Mean level of sodium
* Mean level of magnesium
* Mean level of phosphourous
* Mean level of titanium
* Mean level of calcium
* Mean level of iron

New variables added to the 2006-2010 EQI

* Primarily coal mines per county population
* Primarily metal mines per county population
* Primarily nonmetal mines per county population
* Primarily sand and gravel mines per county population
* Primarily stone mines per county population

Sociodemographic Domain

Variables eliminated from the 2006-2010 EQI

* Percent management occupation – eliminated because content better covered in creative class index data
* Housing built before 1939 – eliminated because of unclear association with health
* Percent with no English – eliminated because of unclear association with health and increasing subjectivity

Variables substitutions for the 2006-2010 EQI

* Percent Bachelor’s degree (> 25 years old) substituted for Percent greater than high school
* Percent family poverty substituted for percent persons in poverty
* Count of occupants per room replaced median number of rooms

New variables added to the 2006-2010 EQI

* Percent of persons working in creative occupations
* Percent of county that voted Democratic in the 2008 presidential election

Built Domain

Variables eliminated from the 2006-2010 EQI

* Entertainment environment – eliminated because of unclear association with health
* Transportation environment – because the data contained in this variable is better covered using other data sources

Variables substitutions for the 2006-2010 EQI

* Percent secondary roads replaced percent primary roads

New variables added to the 2006-2010 EQI

* Walkability score added
* Proportion of county in green space added

## Data Reduction and Index Construction

### Overall Approach

After variable development, all the variables were combined into an index representing the overall environmental quality. The specific tasks required for index construction were as follows:

* included all the variables from one domain in a PCA to empirically summarize that domain-specific environmental context (retaining the first component as the domain index) for each of the five domains;
* assessed the positive/negative direction (valence) of the variable loadings for each domain; if loadings were not in the correct direction to ensure a higher value on the index corresponded to worse environmental quality, corrected valence when necessary
* combined each of the five domain-specific indices in another PCA to empirically summarize the overall environmental context into one index of environmental quality and retained the initial component as the overall EQI; and
* repeated the three previous steps for each of the four RUCC strata (e.g., RUCC stratum 1 air domain; RUCC stratum 2 air domain, etc.), such that each RUCC had its own set of domain-specific indices, as well as its own overall index.

The EQI, domain-specific indices, and EQI stratified by rural-urban data are available publicly at EPA’s [Environmental Dataset Gateway](https://edg.epa.gov/metadata/catalog/main/home.page)[[4]](#footnote-4). Also, an interactive map of the EQI is available at [EPA’s GeoPlatform](http://epa.maps.arcgis.com/home/item.html?id=90ab3f8d668c4a4e88144d586ea34141)4.

Principal components analysis (PCA)

PCA is a data reduction technique frequently used to create sociodemographic scales or indices for inclusion in statistical models[43, 55]. PCA analyzes total variance and the loading represents the correlation between the variable and the component. PCA assumes no underlying latent variable structure but, rather, seeks to empirically summarize multiple possible domains. Three major goals of PCA are to:

1. summarize the patterns of correlations among observed or measured variables,
2. provide an operational definition—in this case, a regression equation—for underlying processes by using observed or measured variables, and
3. reduce a large number of observed variables into a smaller number of factors or a single component.

PCA was chosen for data reduction for several reasons. Production of an empirical summary of the various constituent components of the EQI was desired. Various data sources measured on multiple scales needed to be combined. PCA standardizes these measures prior to combining. Therefore, the differing scales are less problematic. To assess variables influences on the index, variables cannot simply be added together. To do so would mean knowledge for most of the variables would not be available to indicate if any one variable would prove to be more “influential” for environmental quality than another. PCA enables variable loadings to vary by their relative importance to the total component. This feature enabled exploration of variable loading differences for interpretation purposes.

The PCA steps included

* selecting the set of variables to be used,
* preparing the correlation matrices,
* extracting the set of components from the correlation matrix,
* determining the number of components observed, and
* interpreting the findings.

The sole modification to the PCA methodology in the county 2006-2010 EQI compared to that of the 2000-2005 EQI is “valence correction”. We have also created a 2000-2005 valence corrected version of the EQI.

“Valence correction” refers to reorientation of PCA output for (1) uniformity of interpretation of domain indices (2) uniformity in orientation of domain indices input into the 2nd PCA for EQI construction. In this instance, we are defining valence as the departure from neutrality along a continuum; generally, we are interested how attributes depart from neutrality in opposite directions. The PCA loadings are a function of the program’s starting point, or seed, which is not easily manipulable. Therefore, the loading valence needed to be corrected prior to the construction of the indices to ensure that higher values on a given index, and on the overall EQI, signify worse environmental quality [56, 57].

Domain and EQI indices are designed such that lower (more negative) values represent “better” quality and higher (more positive) values represent “worse” quality. Under this setup, health beneficial variables should load negative in the PCA output (“+” or “–” loading sign for a variable in the component variable loadings vector represents positive or negative correlation between that variable and the component, respectively). Given that the first principal component was taken to represent domain or environmental quality and that the orientation of these indices was designated as going from better to worse quality (negative to positive index value), it was necessary to reverse the component variable loadings vector from a PCA output if a high proportion of variables deemed beneficial loaded “+” and a high proportion of variables deemed detrimental loaded “- “ [55]. Determination of variables as beneficial or detrimental to human health across domains was done a-priori based on literature evidence and content matter judgement. Reorientation of PCA derived indices through multiplication of the component variables loading vector by -1 preserves: (1) the direction of the relationship among the variables for a given PCA (i.e. variables that loaded with same signs will retain same signs and variables that loaded opposite to each other will retain opposite signs after reversal and therefore the pattern of correlations among the variables will remain intact) and (2) the magnitude of correlation among variables (reversal of loading signs doesn’t impact the magnitude of the loading)[58]. The sum of squares of variable loadings in a PCA output equals 1 and therefore each square of a variable loading can be viewed as a measure of the contribution of that variable towards the principal component (domain indices and EQI in this case), enabling estimation of the “correctness” of the orientation of the index. We used the square of variable loadings in a given PCA output in combination with aforementioned a priori designations of benefit or harm to guide choice of index reorientations.

PCA analyzes the total variance. Therefore, in the PCA correlation matrix, “1” is in the positive diagonal [55]. To construct the EQI, variables from each domain were entered into domain-specific PCAs. PCA produced variable loadings, which were roughly equivalent to the “weight” or contribution that each variable made toward explaining the total variance. The weights, however, need not sum to 1.0 because the loadings were for the total variance, not just the shared variance. The loading associated with each variable then was multiplied by its mean value for the given geography (county, for the EQI), and these weighted mean values were summed.

Rural-Urban Continuum

Both the domain-specific indices and the overall EQI were created for each county in the United States. Recognizing that environments differ dramatically across the rural-urban continuum[59], the decision was made that the EQI would be most useful if it accommodated rural-urban environmental differences. The EQI was stratified by RUCCs. The RUCC is a nine-item categorization code of proximity to or influence of major metropolitan areas[60]. The nine-item categories were condensed into four, where RUCC1 represents metropolitan-urbanized = codes 1+2+3; RUCC2 nonmetropolitan-urbanized = 4+5; RUCC3 less urbanized = 6+7; and RUCC4 thinly populated (rural) = 8+9 (see Figure 3)[61-64]. For the 2006-2010 EQI, the 2013 RUCC was used. RUCC-stratified EQIs and an overall EQI were constructed. Loadings on the stratified and non-stratified sets of indices were assessed to determine loading heterogeneity across counties. Because these loadings differed meaningfully by RUCC level, RUCC-stratified EQIs were constructed for each county.

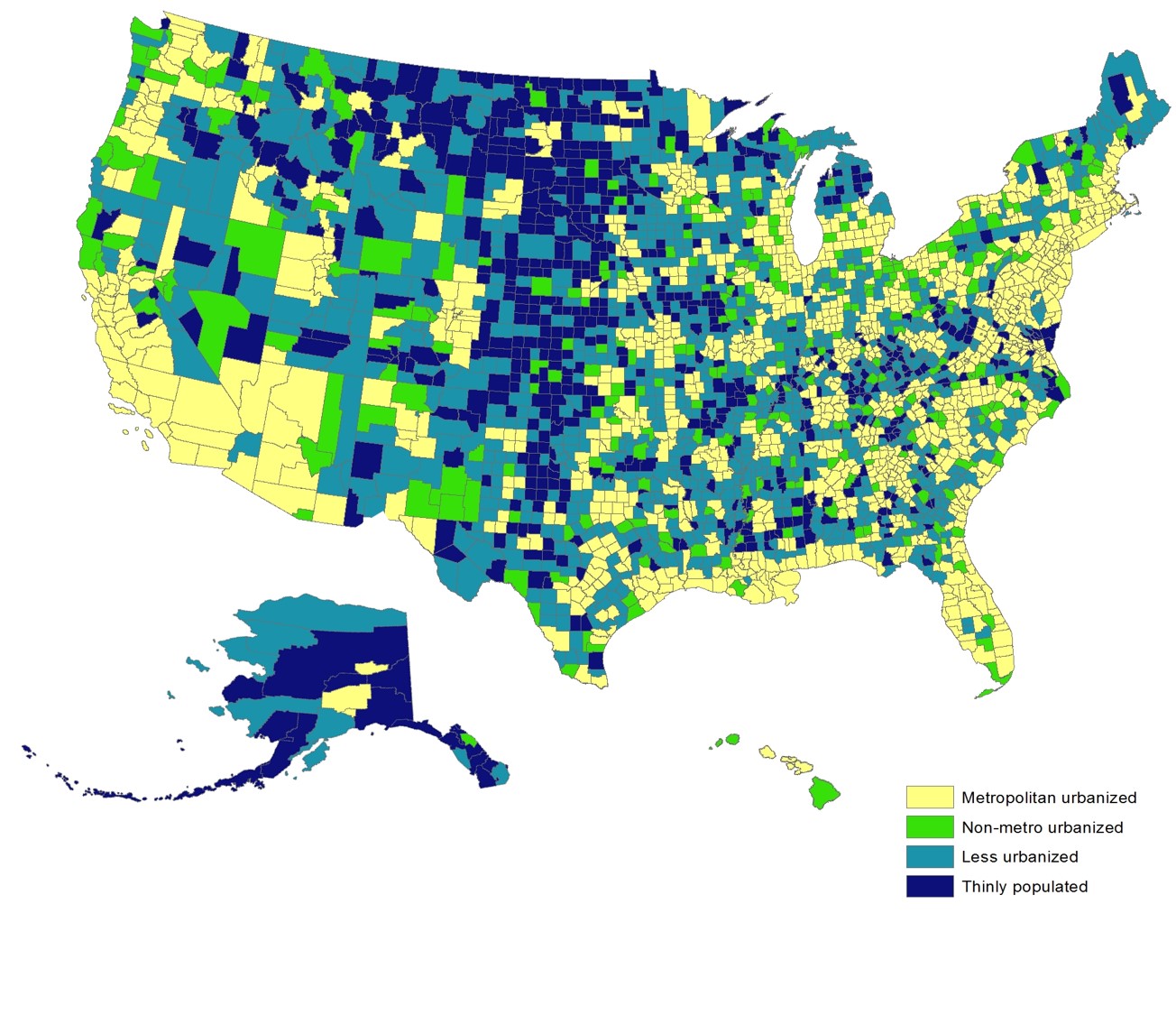


Figure 3. Rural-urban continuum code (RUCC) stratification for all counties in the United States

Although it was possible to form as many independent linear combinations as there were variables in PCA, only the first principal component was retained. The first principal component was the unique linear combination that accounted for the largest possible proportion of the total variability in the component measures. Therefore, the first component from each of these domain-specific indices was retained (e.g., air index, water index). Domain-specific indices were then entered into another PCA, where the first component was retained as the EQI (Figure 2). This process was undertaken separately for each of the four RUCC strata.

Within each RUCC strata, domain-specific variable loadings were evaluated based on the value of variable loading and the variable’s hypothesized relevance to health. For instance, although arsenic may occur in low frequency in a lot of counties and, therefore, may have a relatively small component loading, it is an important health hazard when present. Based on variable loading magnitude alone, dropping arsenic from an EQI may be a reasonable conclusion. However, it was retained for the EQI based on its relevance to human health.

The first principal component, titled the domain-specific EQI (e.g., air domain EQI), was then standardized to have a mean of 0 and standard deviation (SD) of 1 by dividing the index by the square of its eigenvalue. Each domain-specific index was then included in a second PCA procedure (Figure 2) to result in the overall EQI for each strata of RUCC.

For orientation to the results, low index scores (EQI and domain-specific) indicate higher environmental quality, and higher index scores (EQI and domain-specific) indicate lower environmental quality.

### Results

*Description of Variables Comprising Environmental Quality Index Domains*

Air Domain

Criteria air pollutants were distributed relatively evenly across the rural-urban gradient (Table 4). Some hazardous air pollutants varied in emissions across rural-urban strata, however there was no discernable pattern for most. E.g., 1,1,2-Trichloroethane’s highest levels were observed in the less urbanized stratum while levels were similar across other strata, and emissions for manganese compounds were highest in the most metropolitan areas then steadily decreasing across more rural strata.

Table 4. Air domain variable means, standard deviations (SDs), and ranges - Overall and rural-urban continuum codes (RUCCs) stratified

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Variable** | | | **Units** | | **Metropolitan-Urbanized (RUCC1 = 1,167) Mean (SD) [Range]** | | **Nonmetropolitan-Urbanized (RUCC2= 306) Mean (SD) [Range]** | **Less Urbanized (RUCC3=1,026) Mean (SD) [Range]** | **Thinly Populated (RUCC4=644) Mean (SD) [Range]** | **Total (3,143) Mean (SD) [Range]** |
|  | Construct: Criteria Air Pollutants | | | | | | | | | |
|  |  | PM10 | ug/m3 | 2.0E+01 (4.7E+00)  [4.1E-01, 5.4E+01] | | 1.95E+01 (5.07E+00)  [6.00E+00, 6.60e+01] | | 1.95E01 (4.37E+00)  [5.39E+00, 5.25E+01] | 1.89E+01 (4.88E+00) [4.01E-01, 3.42E+01] | 2.0E+01 (4.7E+00)  [4.0E-01, 6.6E+01] |
|  |  | PM2.5 | ug/m3 | 1.1E+01 (2.1E+00)  [4.1E+00, 2.4E+01] | | 1.02E+01 (2.19E+00)  [4.28E+00, 1.48E+01] | | 9.99E+00 (2.20E+00)  [3.35E+00, 1.80E+01] | 9.05E+00 (2.39E+00) [4.28E+00, 1.79E+01] | 1.0E+01 (2.3E+00)  [3.3E+00, 2.4E+01] |
|  |  | Ozone | ppm | 4.5E-02 (4.4E-03)  [2.2E-02, 5.9E-02] | | 4.46E-02 (4.99E-03)  [2.22E-02, 5.76E-02] | | 4.47E+02 (3.99E+03)  [2.99E-02, 5.72E-02] | 4.46E-02 (4.47E-03) [2.90E-02, 5.65E-02] | 4.5E-02 (4.4E-03)  [2.2E-02, 5.9E-02] |
|  |  | Nitrogen oxide | ppb | 9.2E+00 (4.6E+00)  [5.9E-01, 3.1E+01] | | 7.93E+00 (3.93E+00)  [5.92E-01, 2.81E+01] | | 3.85E-01 (8.36E-02)  [2.41E-01, 8.89E-01] | 6.65E+00 (4.37E+00) [5.91E-01, 2.84E+01] | 8.0E+00 (4.4E+00)  [2.6E-01, 3.1E+01] |
|  |  | Sulfur dioxide | ppb | 2.2E+00 (1.5E+00)  [7.3E-03, 9.7E+00] | | 1.97E+00 (2.22E+00)  [1.10E-02, 3.09E+01] | | 7.53E+00 (4.00E+00)  [2.65E-01, 2.84E-01] | 1.47E+00 (1.39E+00) [2.21E-02, 9.23E+00] | 1.9E+00 (1.5E+00)  [7.3E-03, 3.1E+01] |
|  |  | Carbon monoxide | ppm | 3.9E-01 (8.2E-02)  [2.5E-01, 8.7E-01] | | 3.87E-01 (7.49E-02)  [2.49E-01, 7.38E-01] | | 4.32E-03 (4.91E-04)  [3.90E-03, 8.19E-03] | 3.93E-01 (9.57E-02) [2.61E-01, 8.90E-01] | 3.9E-01 (8.5E-02)  [2.4E-01, 8.9E-01] |
|  | Construct: Hazardous Air Pollutants | | | | | | | | | |
|  |  | Ethylene dibromide | Tons emitted | 5.5E-04 (3.1E-04)  [5.5E-05, 2.0E03] | | 5.47E-04 (3.47E-04)  [1.65E-04, 1.64E-03] | | 5.50E-04 (3.14E-04)  [1.65E-04, 1.79E-03] | 4.77E-04 (2.75E-04) [ 5.50E-05, 1.68E-03] | 5.4E-04 (3.1E-04)  [5.5E-05, 2.0E-03] |
|  |  | Formaldehyde | Tons emitted | 1.9E+00 (6.0E-01)  [2.1E-01, 5.6E+00] | | 1.75E+00 (5.57E-01)  [6.83E-01, 3.20E+00] | | 1.79E+00 (5.80E-01)  [6.25E-01, 3.86E+00] | 1.61E+00 (6.05E-01) [2.08E-01, 3.36E+00] | 1.8E+00 (6.0E-01)  [2.1E-01, 5.6E+00] |
|  |  | 1,1,2,2-Tetrachloroethane | Tons emitted | 4.4E-03 (7.5E-04)  [1.3E-03, 1.4E-02] | | 4.46E-03 (9.07E-04)  [3.90E-03, 1.33E-02] | | 1.39E-04 (2.79E-03)  [1.76E-13, 8.10E-02] | 4.20E-03 (6.61E-04) [1.30E-03, 1.60E-02] | 4.4E-03 (6.7E-04)  [1.3E-03, 1.6E-02] |
|  |  | 1,1,2-Trichloroethane | Tons emitted | 4.0E-04 (6.6E-03)  [1.8E-13, 2.1E-01] | | 2.00E-05 (1.24E-04)  [1.76E-13, 1.73E-03] | | 5.25E-06 (9.53E-06)  [1.95E-06, 1.87E-04] | 9.61E-05 (1.58E-03) [1.76E-03, 3.59E-02] | 2.1E-04 (4.4E-03) [1.8E-13, 2.1E-01] |
|  |  | 1,2-Dibromo-3-chloropropane | Tons emitted | 5.2E-06 (7.3E-06)  [6.5E-07, 9.1E-05] | | 5.98E-06 (2.29E-05)  [1.95E-06, 3.52E-04] | | 8.41E-03 (2.26E-02)  [5.00E-16, 3.75E-01] | 4.34E-06 (6.27E-06) [6.50E-07, 6.60E-05] | 5.1E-06 (1.0E-05)  [6.5E-07, 3.5E-04] |
|  |  | 1,2-Dichloropropane | Tons emitted | 1.1E-02 (3.4E-02)  [5.0E-16, 4.9E-01] | | 1.06E-02 (2.13E-02)  [5.00E-16, 1.40E-1] | | 6.41E-05 (5.31E-04)  [3.00E-015, 1.01E-02] | 5.00E-03 (1.38E-02) [5.00E-016, 1.18E-01] | 9.1E-03 (2.6E-02)  [5.0E-16, 4.9E-01] |
|  |  | Acrylic acid | Tons emitted | 1.4E-04 (2.4E-03)  [3.0E-15, 7.2E-02] | | 2.06E-04 (2.45E-03)  [3.00E-15, 4.23E-02] | | 3.43E-07 (7.89E-07)  [1.46E-08, 7.29E-06] | 9.76E-05 (1.39E-03) [3.00E-15, 3.36E-02] | 1.1E-04 (1.8E-03)  [3.0E-15, 7.2E-02] |
|  |  | Benzidine | Tons emitted | 3.3E-07 (1.2E-06)  [4.9E-09, 3.6E-05] | | 3.22E-07 (1.98E-06)  [1.48E-08, 3.39E-05] | | 1.26E-05 (2.92E-05)  [4.69E-12, 3.90E-04] | 3.14E-07 (1.60E-06) [4.88E-09, 3.72E-05] | 3.3E-07 (1.3E-06)  [4.9E-09, 3.7E-05] |
|  |  | Benzyl chloride | Tons emitted | 1.4E-05 (3.9E-05)  [4.7E-12, 8.5E-04] | | 1.40E-05 (4.08E-05)  [4.69E-12, 4.20E-04] | | 1.26E-05 (2.92E-05)  [4.69E-12, 3.90E-04] | 1.10E-05 (4.97E-05) [4.69E-12, 1.16E-03] | 1.3E-05 (3.9E-05)  [4.7E-12, 1.2E-03] |
|  |  | Beryllium compounds | Tons emitted | 4.4E-05 (4.4E-05)  [7.5E-06, 7.7E-04] | | 4.55E-05 (6.00E-05)  [2.25E-05, 6.93E-04] | | 4.66E-05 (8.23E-05)  [2.25E-05, 1.56E-03] | 3.57E-05 (2.93E-05) [7.50E-06, 6.26E-04] | 4.3E-05 (5.9E-05) [7.5E-06, 1.6E-03) |
|  |  | bis-2-Ethylhexyl phthalate | Tons emitted | 8.4E-03 (1.9E-03)  [2.6E-03, 6.3E-02] | | 8.22E-03 (5.39E-04)  [7.80E-03, 1.30E-02] | | 8.31E-03 (1.77E-03)  [7.80E-03, 4.36E-02] | 8.08E-03 (6.40E-04) [2.60E-03, 1.22E-02] | 8.3E-03 (1.6E-03)  [2.6E-03, 6.3E-02] |
|  |  | Carbon tetrachloride | Tons emitted | 9.1E-01 (1.8E-02)  [3.0E-01, 9.2E-01] | | 9.11E-01 (3.75E-04)  [9.11E-01, 9.15E-01] | | 9.11E-01 (9.67E-04)  [9.03E-01, 9.28E-01] | 9.06E-01 (5.36E-02) [3.01E-01, 9.27E-01] | 9.1E-01 (2.7E-02)  [3.0E-01, 9.3E-01] |
|  |  | Carbonyl sulfide | Tons emitted | 1.8E-03 (1.1E-02)  [5.0E-16, 1.6E-01] | | 5.14E-03 (7.25E-02)  [5.00E-16, 1.27E+00] | | 9.25E-04 (4.94E-03)  [5.00E-16, 7.78E-02] | 2.13E-03 (2.26E-02) [5.00E-16, 4.39E-01] | 1.9E-03 (2.6E-02)  [5.0E-16, 1.35E+00] |
|  |  | Chlorine | Tons emitted | 2.4E-03 (1.9E-02)  [3.4E-13, 5.6E-01] | | 3.25E-03 (2.48E-02)  [3.41E-13, 3.58E-01] | | 1.57E-03 (9.72E-03)  [3.41E-13, 1.76E-01] | 1.34E-03 (8.28E-03) [3.41E-13, 1.13E-01] | 2.0E-03 (1.6E-02)  [3.4E-13, 5.6E-01] |
|  |  | Chlorobenzene | Tons emitted | 4.2E-03 (1.5E-02)  [3.4E-11, 2.3E-01] | | 3.40E-03 (1.17E-02)  [2.77E-07, 1.63E-01] | | 2.73E-03 (9.33E-03)  [1.01E-10, 1.74E-01] | 1.60E-03 (5.08E-03) [3.36E-11, 5.42E-02] | 3.1E-03 (1.1E-02)  [3.4E-11, 2.3E-01] |
|  |  | Chloroform | Tons emitted | 1.0E-01 (2.6E-02)  [3.0E-02, 6.6E-01] | | 9.77E-02 (1.61E-02)  [8.85E-02, 2.02E-01] | | 9.58E-02 (1.41E-02)  [8.85E-02, 2.26E-01] | 9.36E-02 (1.31E-02) [2.95E-02, 2.11E-01] | 9.7E-02 (2.0E-02)  [3.0E-02, 6.6E-01] |
|  |  | Chloroprene | Tons emitted | 1.9E-04 (3.1E-03)  [1.6E-013, 8.8E-02] | | 1.06E-03 (1.81E-02)  [1.57E-13, 3.17E-01] | | 2.05E-04 (5.31E-03)  [1.57E-13, 1.69E-01] | 2.68E-05 (3.84E-04) [1.57E-13, 7.24E-03] | 2.4E-04 (6.7E-03)  [1.6E-13, 3.2E-01] |
|  |  | Chromium compounds | Tons emitted | 4.1E-04 (7.0E-04)  [2.1E-05, 6.6E-03] | | 3.44E-04 (6.25E-04)  [6.15E-05, 5.63E-03] | | 3.28E-04 (7.70E-04)  [6.15E-05, 1.04E-02] | 2.18E-04 (4.00E-04) [2.05E-05, 6.24E-03] | 3.4E-04 (6.5E-04)  [2.1E-05, 1.0E-02] |
|  |  | Cobalt compounds | Tons emitted | 3.9E-05 (3.5E-04)  [2.2E-14, 8.5E-03] | | 2.66E-05 (1.12E-04)  [2.20E-14, 1.66E-03] | | 2.91E-05 (2.56E-04)  [2.20E-014, 6.95E-03] | 3.80E-05 (2.92E-04) [2.20E-14, 4.67E-03] | 3.5E-05 (2.9E-04)  [2.2E-14, 8.5E-03] |
|  |  | Cyanide compounds | Tons emitted | 2.5E-02 (6.1E-02)  [8.1E-14, 1.4E+00] | | 2.50E-02 (5.74E-02)  [8.10E-14, 8.76E-01] | | 1.76E-02 (2.15E-02)  [8.10E-014, 2.54E-01] | 1.49E-2 (3.50E-02) [8.10E-14, 8.00E-01] | 2.1E-02 (4.6E-02)  [8.1E-14, 1.4E+00] |
|  |  | Dibutylphthalate | Tons emitted | 3.5E-03 (5.3E-02)  [1.3E-09,1.7E+00] | | 5.63E-03 (2.92E-02)  [3.81E-08, 4.02E-01] | | 2.21E-03 (1.38E-02)  [7.18E-09, 2.19E-01] | 1.76E-03 (2.94E-02) [1.30E-09, 7.40E-01] | 2.9E-03 (3.7E-02)  [1.3E-09, 1.7E+00] |
|  |  | Ethyl chloride | Tons emitted | 1.8E-03 (1.5E-02)  [7.6E-09, 5.1E-01] | | 1.18E-03 (1.67E-03)  [4.97E-08, 1.31E-02] | | 1.42E-03 (9.95E-03)  [7.59E-09, 2.34E-01] | 8.36E-04 (1.88E-03) [7.59E-09, 2.93E-02] | 1.4E-03 (1.1E-02)  [7.6E-09, 5.5E-01] |
|  |  | Ethyl benzene | Tons emitted | 7.7E-02 (1.2E-01)  [3.5E-05, 1.9E+00] | | 6.56E-02 (8.41E-02)  [1.78E-04, 5.41E-01] | | 5.88E-02 (8.87E-02)  [2.49E-04, 8.86E-01] | 4.86E-02 (8.28E-02) [3.46E-05, 8.46E-01] | 6.4E-02 (1.0E-01)  [3.5E-05, 1.9E+00] |
|  |  | Ethyl dichloride | Tons emitted | 4.2E-03 (2.5E-03)  [9.0E-04, 3.9E-02] | | 4.17E-03 (3.10E-03)  [2.70E-03, 3.04E-02] | | 4.30E-03 (4.07E-03)  [2.70E-03, 7.73E-02] | 3.89E-03 (4.38E-03) [9.00E-04, 9.84E-02] | 4.2E-03 (3.6E-03)  [9.0E-04, 9.8E-02] |
|  |  | Glycol ethers | Tons emitted | 3.4E-03 (1.4E-02)  [1.8E-11, 2.5E-01] | | 2.68E-03 (8.45E-03)  [1.83E-11, 7.92E-02] | | 3.59E-03 (1.55E-02)  [1.83E-11, 2.66E-01] | 2.63E-03 (1.35E-02) [1.83E-11, 2.43E-01] | 3.2E-03 (1.4E-02)  [1.8E-11, 2.7E-01] |
|  |  | Hydrazine | Tons emitted | 4.2E-06 (1.4E-05)  [6.5E-08, 1.4E-04] | | 4.60E-06 (1.46E-05)  [1.95E-07, 1.21E-04] | | 3.27E-06 (1.25E-05)  [1.95E-07, 1.83E-04] | 3.34E-06 (1.67E-05) [6.50E-08, 2.80E-04] | 3.8E-06 (1.4E-05)  [6.5E-08, 2.8E-04] |
|  |  | Hydrochloric acid | Tons emitted | 4.7E-01 (1.9E+00)  [3.7E-06, 2.5E+01] | | 2.08E-01 (1.04E+00)  [7.72E-05, 1.16E+01] | | 2.80E-01 (1.30E+00)  [1.11E-05, 2.52E+01] | 1.96E-01 (1.09E+00) [3.69E-06, 2.15E+01] | 3.3E-01 (1.5E+00)  [3.7E-06, 2.5E+01] |
|  |  | Isophorone | Tons emitted | 1.1E-04 (9.4E-04)  [5.4E-14, 3.1E-02] | | 1.31E-04 (8.65E-04)  [5.40E-14, 1.46E-02] | | 9.79E-05 (6.31E-04)  [5.40E-14, 1.71E-02] | 4.55E-05 (1.63E-04) [5.40E-14, 2.45E-03] | 9.4E-05 (7.3E-04)  [5.4E-14, 3.1E-02] |
|  |  | Manganese compounds | Tons emitted | 2.4E-03 (1.8E-02)  [2.9E-04, 5.6E-01] | | 2.21E-03 (1.19E-02)  [8.70E-04, 2.03E-01] | | 1.58E-03 (3.79E-03)  [8.70E-04, 9.02E-02] | 1.49E-03 (3.39E-03) [2.90E-04, 6.50E-02] | 1.9E-03 (1.2E-02)  [2.9E-04, 5.6E-01] |
|  |  | Methyl bromide | Tons emitted | 6.8E-02 (5.2E-02)  [1.8E-02, 7.5E-01] | | 6.38E-02 (3.00E-02)  [5.25E-02. 2.90E-01] | | 6.19E-02 (3.21E-02)  [5.25E-02, 5.94E-01] | 5.77E-02 (1.66E-02) [1.75E-02, 2.22E-01] | 6.3E-02 (3.8E-02)  [1.8E-02, 7.5E-01] |
|  |  | Methyl chloride | Tons emitted | 2.4E-01 (1.9E-01)  [5.5E-02, 4.7E+00] | | 2.31E-01 (1.29E-01)  [1.65E-01, 1.64E+00] | | 2.13E-01 (8.85E-02)  [1.65E-01. 1.04E+00] | 1.96E-01 (6.98E-02) [5.50E-02, 1.01E+00] | 2.2E-01 (1.4E-01)  [5.5E-02, 4.7E+00] |
|  |  | Phosphine | Tons emitted | 3.8E-05 (7.5E-05)  [2.6E-13, 8.3E-04] | | 3.72E-05 (6.85E-05)  [2.64E-13, 4.70E-04] | | 4.20E-05 (8.84E-05)  [2.64E-13, 1.64E-03] | 4.33E-05 (1.23E-04) [2.64E-13, 2.59E-03] | 4.0E-05 (9.1E-05)  [2.6E-13, 2.6E-03] |
|  |  | Polychlorinated biphenyls | Tons emitted | 3.8E-05 (1.1E-04)  [2.1E-13, 3.7E-03] | | 3.66E-05 (3.78E-05)  [2/06E-013, 2.99E-04] | | 3.14E-05 (3.47E-05)  [2.06E-013, 4.21E-04] | 2.87E-05 (3.70E-05) [2.06E-13, 4.88E-04] | 3.4E-05 (7.4E-05)  [2.1E-13, 3.7E-03] |
|  |  | Propylene dichloride | Tons emitted | 1.6E-03 (2.2E-03)  [2.3E-04, 4.5E-02] | | 1.21E-03 (1.06E-03)  [6.90E-04, 7.98E-03] | | 1.03E-03 (8.81E-04)  [6.90E-04, 8.60E-03] | 9.74E-04 (8.25E-04) [2.30E-04, 7.00E-03] | 1.3E-03 (1.6E-03)  [2.3E-04, 4.5E-02] |
|  |  | Quinoline | Tons emitted | 1.4E-04 (2.7E-04)  [4.4E-07, 1.7E-03] | | 1.51E-03 (3.27E-04)  [1.32E-06, 2.06E-03] | | 1.05E-04 (2.59E-04)  [1.32E-06, 1.89E-03] | 5.10E-05 (1.49E-04) [4.40E-07, 1.25E-03] | 1.1E-04 (2.5E-04)  [4.4E-07, 2.1E-03] |
|  |  | Trichloroethylene | Tons emitted | 5.2E-02 (4.9E-02)  [2.5E-03, 7.6E-01] | | 4.69E-02 (4.06E-02)  [7.50E-03, 2.21E-01] | | 4.45E-02 (4.13E-02)  [7.50E-03, 2.84E-01] | 3.48E-02 (4.08E-02) [2.50E-03, 4.36E-01] | 4.5E-02 (3.1E-03)  [2.8E-10, 7.0E-2] |
|  |  | Vinyl chloride | Tons emitted | 7.8E-04 (3.8E-03)  [2.8E-10, 7.0E-02] | | 5.35E-04 (1.87E-03)  [2.84E-10, 2.35E-02] | | 6.01E-04 (2.89E-03)  [2.84E-10. 5.59E-02] | 4.55E-04 (2.64E-03) [2.84E-10, 4.77E-02] | 6.3E-04 (1.5E+00)  [7.3E-03, 3.1E+01] |

Water Domain

Variables included in the water domain (Table 5) suggest that urban counties were more likely to have impaired stream length (20%) compared to rural counties (9%). Additionally, urban counties had higher mercury deposition, chloride precipitation, sulfate precipitation, and the percentage of the county in drought status. Chemical contamination varied by urban rural status depending on the chemical.

Table 5. Water domain variable means, standard deviations (SDs), and ranges - Overall and rural-urban continuum codes (RUCCs) stratified

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Variable** | | | **Units** | **Metropolitan-Urbanized (RUCC1 = 1,167)** | **Nonmetropolitan-Urbanized (RUCC2= 306)** | **Less Urbanized (RUCC3=1,026)** | **Thinly Populated (RUCC4=644)** | **Total (3,143)** |
| **Mean (SD) [Range]** | **Mean (SD) [Range]** | **Mean (SD) [Range]** | **Mean (SD) [Range]** | **Mean (SD) [Range]** |
|  | Construct: Domestic Use | | | | | | | |
|  |  | Percent pop. on self-supply | % | 4.47E+01 (4.29E+01) [0.00E+00, 1.00E+02] | 4.35E+01 (4.24E+01) [0.00E+00, 1.00E+02] | 3.26E+01 (4.13E+01) [0.00E+00, 1.00E+02] | 2.30E+01 (3.83E+01) [0.00E+00, 1.00E+02] | 3.62E+01 (4.23E+01) [0.00E+00, 1.00E+02] |
|  |  | Percent pop. on self supply that’s surface water | % | 2.33E+01 (2.10E+01) [-2.62E-04, 1.00E+02] | 2.40E+01 (1.72E+01) [0.00E+00, 8.20E+01] | 2.99E+01 (2.10E+01) [-4.17E-02, 9.21E+01] | 3.38E+01 (2.46E+01) [-6.78E-02, 1.00E+02] | 2.77E+01 (2.18E+01) [-6.78E-02, 1.00E+02] |
|  | Construct: Overall Water Quality | | | | | | | |
|  |  | Percent of stream length impaired | % | 1.97E+01 (2.35E+01) [1.00E-03, 1.56E+02] | 1.72E+01 (2.30E+01) [1.00E-03, 1.00E+02] | 1.28E+01 (1.84E+01) [1.00E-03, 1.08E+02] | 9.02E+00 (1.33E+01) [1.00E-03, 1.00E+02] | 1.50E+01 (2.05E+01) [1.00E-03, 1.56E+02] |
|  | Construct: General Water Contamination | | | |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | NPDES permits per 1000 km of stream | proportion | 9.08E+01 (1.91E+02) [1.00E-03, 2.39E+03] | 3.44E+01 (3.90E+01) [1.00E-03, 2.97E+02] | 2.42E+01 (4.34E+01) [1.00E-03, 7.05E+02] | 1.20E+01 (2.40E+01) [1.00E-03, 3.55E+02] | 4.74E+01 (1.25E+02) [1.00E-03, 2.39E+03] |
|  | Construct: Atmospheric Deposition | | | | | | | |
|  |  | Calcium precipitation weighted mean | mg/L | 1.63E-01 (9.69E-02) [1.22E-02, 5.94E-01] | 1.83E-01 (1.10E-01) [1.22E-02, 7.48E-01] | 2.03E-01 (1.20E-01) [3.80E-02, 1.06E+00] | 2.23E-01 (1.09E-01) [3.66E-02, 8.63E-01] | 1.90E-01 (1.11E-01) [1.22E-02, 1.06E+00] |
|  |  | Potassium precipitation weighted mean | mg/L | 2.57E-01 (3.63E-02) [1.22E-01, 4.91E-01] | 2.57E-01 (3.98E-02) [1.22E-01, 4.44E-01] | 2.67E-01 (5.60E-02) [1.68E-01, 1.01E+00] | 2.83E-01 (7.16E-02) [1.58E-01, 1.11E+00] | 2.66E-01 (5.31E-02) [1.22E-01, 1.11E+00] |
|  |  | Nitrate precipitation | mg/L | 7.34E-01 (2.11E-01) [0.00E+00, 1.13E+00] | 7.38E-01 (2.40E-01) [0.00E+00, 1.14E+00] | 7.44E-01 (2.03E-01) [1.93E-02, 1.14E+00] | 7.55E-01 (2.07E-01) [5.47E-03, 1.14E+00] | 7.42E-01 (2.10E-01) [0.00E+00, 1.14E+00] |
|  |  | Chloride precipitation weighted mean | mg/L | 2.98E-01 (2.44E-01) [3.47E-02, 1.91E+00] | 2.37E-01 (2.19E-01) [3.47E-02, 1.56E+00] | 2.22E-01 (1.79E-01) [6.94E-02, 2.15E+00] | 1.88E-01 (1.77E-01) [7.19E-02, 1.58E+00] | 2.44E-01 (2.13E-01) [3.47E-02, 2.15E+00] |
|  |  | Sulfate precipitation weighted mean | mg/L | 1.10E+00 (3.39E-01) [1.00E-01, 1.89E+00] | 1.05E+00 (3.78E-01) [1.00E-01, 1.96E+00] | 1.02E+00 (3.10E-01) [2.00E-01, 2.09E+00] | 9.26E-01 (2.76E-01) [2.03E-01, 1.92E+00] | 1.03E+00 (3.28E-01) [1.00E-01, 2.09E+00] |
|  |  | Total mercury deposition | ng/m2 | 9.44E+00 (2.59E+00) [2.81E-02, 1.84E+01] | 9.02E+00 (2.67E+00) [2.62E-02, 1.76E+01] | 9.29E+00 (2.66E+00) [3.62E-01, 1.55E+01] | 8.43E+00 (2.88E+00) [1.60E-01, 1.46E+01] | 9.15E+00 (2.71E+00) [2.62E-02, 1.84E+01] |
|  | Construct: Drought | | | | | | | |
|  |  | Percent of county drought-extreme | % | 4.16E+00 (7.38E+00) [0.00E+00, 4.52E+01] | 3.70E+00 (6.67E+00) [0.00E+00, 3.87E+01] | 3.76E+00 (6.51E+00) [0.00E+00, 4.82E+01] | 3.43E+00 (5.92E+00) [0.00E+00, 4.43E+01] | 3.84E+00 (6.75E+00) [0.00E+00, 4.82E+01] |
|  | Construct: Chemical Contamination | | | | | | | |
|  |  | Arsenic | mg/L | 3.59E-03 (5.10E-03) [1.00E-03, 1.34E-01] | 3.61E-03 (3.53E-03) [1.00E-03, 3.90E-02] | 3.75E-03 (5.13E-03) [1.00E-03, 7.20E-02] | 2.67E-03 (3.24E-03) [1.00E-03, 3.10E-02] | 3.46E-03 (4.66E-03) [1.00E-03, 1.34E-01] |
|  |  | Barium | mg/L | 8.08E-02 (3.93E-01) [1.00E-02, 1.31E+01] | 8.34E-02 (2.37E-01) [1.00E-02, 3.98E+00] | 6.81E-02 (9.96E-02) [1.00E-02, 1.03E+00] | 4.84E-02 (7.72E-02) [1.00E-02, 6.70E-01] | 7.03E-02 (2.59E-01) [1.00E-02, 1.31E+01] |
|  |  | Cadmium | mg/L | 1.71E-03 (8.60E-04) [1.00E-03, 6.00E-03] | 1.66E-03 (7.77E-04) [1.00E-03, 7.00E-03] | 1.66E-03 (7.67E-04) [1.00E-03, 8.00E-03] | 1.45E-03 (6.96E-04) [1.00E-03, 7.00E-03] | 1.64E-03 (7.96E-04) [1.00E-03, 8.00E-03] |
|  |  | Chromium | mg/L | 6.21E-03 (7.16E-03) [1.00E-03, 1.46E-01] | 6.09E-03 (5.69E-03) [1.00E-03, 3.60E-02] | 6.27E-03 (7.48E-03) [1.00E-03, 5.60E-02] | 4.21E-03 (6.36E-03) [1.00E-03, 1.01E-01] | 5.81E-03 (7.02E-03) [1.00E-03, 1.46E-01] |
|  |  | Cyanide | mg/L | 1.51E-02 (2.85E-02) [1.00E-03, 2.67E-01] | 1.68E-02 (2.92E-02) [1.00E-03, 2.11E-01] | 1.57E-02 (3.18E-02) [1.00E-03, 3.39E-01] | 1.39E-02 (4.12E-02) [1.00E-03, 8.16E-01] | 1.52E-02 (3.26E-02) [1.00E-03, 8.16E-01] |
|  |  | Fluoride | mg/L | 1.16E+00 (7.81E+00) [2.00E-02, 1.50E+02] | 4.31E-01 (4.20E-01) [2.00E-02, 2.65E+00] | 4.83E-01 (6.44E-01) [2.00E-02, 8.71E+00] | 3.50E-01 (6.63E-01) [2.00E-02, 1.14E+01] | 7.02E-01 (4.80E+00) [2.00E-02, 1.50E+02] |
|  |  | Mercury (inorganic) | mg/L | 1.15E-03 (1.13E-03) [1.00E-03, 3.60E-02] | 1.08E-03 (2.74E-04) [1.00E-03, 2.00E-03] | 1.09E-03 (3.08E-04) [1.00E-03, 5.00E-03] | 1.08E-03 (3.44E-04) [1.00E-03, 7.00E-03] | 1.11E-03 (7.33E-04) [1.00E-03, 3.60E-02] |
|  |  | Nitrate | mg/L | 8.07E-01 (1.64E+00) [1.00E-02, 2.00E+01] | 6.59E-01 (1.19E+00) [1.00E-02, 1.46E+01] | 7.37E-01 (2.80E+00) [1.00E-02, 8.10E+01] | 6.22E-01 (2.01E+00) [1.00E-02, 3.28E+01] | 7.32E-01 (2.13E+00) [1.00E-02, 8.10E+01] |
|  |  | Nitrite | mg/L | 6.78E-02 (1.76E-01) [1.00E-02, 3.60E+00] | 6.70E-02 (1.39E-01) [1.00E-02, 1.90E+00] | 5.84E-02 (1.17E-01) [1.00E-02, 1.54E+00] | 5.18E-02 (1.71E-01) [1.00E-02, 3.41E+00] | 6.13E-02 (1.55E-01) [1.00E-02, 3.60E+00] |
|  |  | Selenium | mg/L | 4.19E-03 (5.46E-03) [1.00E-03, 9.50E-02] | 3.82E-03 (3.48E-03) [1.00E-03, 3.10E-02] | 3.96E-03 (4.21E-03) [1.00E-03, 3.10E-02] | 3.21E-03 (4.50E-03) [1.00E-03, 4.80E-02] | 3.88E-03 (4.72E-03) [1.00E-03, 9.50E-02] |
|  |  | Antimony | mg/L | 2.51E-03 (1.76E-03) [1.00E-03, 2.00E-02] | 2.50E-03 (1.59E-03) [1.00E-03, 7.00E-03] | 2.49E-03 (1.63E-03) [1.00E-03, 7.00E-03] | 2.00E-03 (1.44E-03) [1.00E-03, 7.00E-03] | 2.40E-03 (1.65E-03) [1.00E-03, 2.00E-02] |
|  |  | Endrin | mg/L | 8.05E-02 (2.01E-01) [1.00E-02, 1.01E+00] | 7.26E-02 (1.84E-01) [1.00E-02, 1.01E+00] | 7.86E-02 (2.03E-01) [1.00E-02, 1.01E+00] | 5.71E-02 (1.75E-01) [1.00E-02, 1.01E+00] | 7.43E-02 (1.95E-01) [1.00E-02, 1.01E+00] |
|  |  | Methoxychlor | µg/L | 6.90E-01 (1.97E+00) [1.00E-02, 1.00E+01] | 5.66E-01 (1.65E+00) [1.00E-02, 1.00E+01] | 4.06E-01 (1.23E+00) [1.00E-02, 9.65E+00] | 1.59E-01 (6.02E-01) [1.00E-02, 8.01E+00] | 4.76E-01 (1.52E+00) [1.00E-02, 1.00E+01] |
|  |  | Dalapon | µg/L | 7.28E+00 (2.27E+01) [8.00E-02, 1.00E+02] | 8.47E+00 (2.44E+01) [8.00E-02, 1.00E+02] | 8.47E+00 (2.50E+01) [8.00E-02, 1.00E+02] | 7.78E+00 (2.49E+01) [8.00E-02, 1.00E+02] | 7.89E+00 (2.41E+01) [8.00E-02, 1.00E+02] |
|  |  | Di(2-ethylhexyl) adipate | µg/L | 1.12E+01 (2.94E+02) [6.00E-02, 1.00E+04] | 3.15E+00 (9.77E+00) [6.00E-02, 5.01E+01] | 3.03E+00 (1.77E+01) [6.00E-02, 5.01E+02] | 1.30E+00 (5.69E+00) [6.00E-02, 5.01E+01] | 5.74E+00 (1.79E+02) [6.00E-02, 1.00E+04] |
|  |  | Simazine | µg/L | 2.25E-01 (3.12E-01) [5.00E-02, 4.89E+00] | 2.38E-01 (3.77E-01) [5.00E-02, 5.05E+00] | 2.19E-01 (2.77E-01) [5.00E-02, 1.85E+00] | 1.56E-01 (2.31E-01) [5.00E-02, 1.05E+00] | 2.10E-01 (2.94E-01) [5.00E-02, 5.05E+00] |
|  |  | Di(2-ethylhexyl) pthalate | µg/L | 8.55E-01 (1.26E+00) [8.00E-02, 9.41E+00] | 8.72E-01 (1.20E+00) [8.00E-02, 6.08E+00] | 7.87E-01 (1.29E+00) [8.00E-02, 1.59E+01] | 4.79E-01 (8.87E-01) [8.00E-02, 9.15E+00] | 7.57E-01 (1.21E+00) [8.00E-02, 1.59E+01] |
|  |  | Picloram | µg/L | 2.44E+00 (1.00E+01) [4.00E-02, 5.00E+01] | 3.64E+00 (1.25E+01) [4.00E-02, 1.00E+02] | 2.54E+00 (1.00E+01) [4.00E-02, 5.00E+01] | 1.22E+00 (6.36E+00) [4.00E-02, 5.00E+01] | 2.34E+00 (9.71E+00) [4.00E-02, 1.00E+02] |
|  |  | Dinoseb | µg/L | 2.94E-01 (4.19E-01) [8.00E-02, 3.08E+00] | 3.32E-01 (4.45E-01) [8.00E-02, 2.08E+00] | 2.92E-01 (4.64E-01) [8.00E-02, 9.08E+00] | 2.48E-01 (3.87E-01) [8.00E-02, 2.08E+00] | 2.88E-01 (4.31E-01) [8.00E-02, 9.08E+00] |
|  |  | Atrazine | µg/L | 2.05E-01 (3.12E-01) [3.00E-02, 2.53E+00] | 2.24E-01 (3.42E-01) [3.00E-02, 3.78E+00] | 2.73E-01 (2.37E+00) [3.00E-02, 7.53E+01] | 1.34E-01 (2.35E-01) [3.00E-02, 2.28E+00] | 2.15E-01 (1.37E+00) [3.00E-02, 7.53E+01] |
|  |  | 2,4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic acid | µg/L | 1.40E-01 (1.08E-01) [9.00E-02, 2.51E+00] | 1.42E-01 (5.41E-02) [9.00E-02, 4.00E-01] | 1.42E-01 (2.27E-01) [9.00E-02, 7.19E+00] | 1.20E-01 (5.30E-02) [9.00E-02, 8.10E-01] | 1.37E-01 (1.49E-01) [9.00E-02, 7.19E+00] |
|  |  | Benzo[a]pyrene | µg/L | 4.78E-02 (5.40E-02) [1.00E-02, 3.47E-01] | 5.03E-02 (5.82E-02) [1.00E-02, 3.34E-01] | 5.33E-02 (5.93E-02) [1.00E-02, 3.10E-01] | 3.84E-02 (4.93E-02) [1.00E-02, 2.10E-01] | 4.79E-02 (5.56E-02) [1.00E-02, 3.47E-01] |
|  |  | Pentachlorophenol | µg/L | 7.84E-02 (1.63E-01) [1.00E-02, 1.71E+00] | 8.91E-02 (1.81E-01) [1.00E-02, 1.01E+00] | 8.82E-02 (1.76E-01) [1.00E-02, 1.01E+00] | 6.16E-02 (1.36E-01) [1.00E-02, 1.01E+00] | 7.92E-02 (1.65E-01) [1.00E-02, 1.71E+00] |
|  |  | Polychlorinated biphenyls | µg/L | 1.65E-01 (1.19E+00) [6.00E-02, 4.04E+01] | 1.13E-01 (1.24E-01) [6.00E-02, 1.06E+00] | 1.13E-01 (1.88E-01) [6.00E-02, 4.31E+00] | 8.13E-02 (6.53E-02) [6.00E-02, 1.06E+00] | 1.26E-01 (7.35E-01) [6.00E-02, 4.04E+01] |
|  |  | 1,2-Dibromo-3-chloropropane | µg/L | 2.19E-02 (1.93E-02) [1.00E-02, 5.45E-01] | 2.01E-02 (9.92E-03) [1.00E-02, 3.00E-02] | 2.05E-02 (9.96E-03) [1.00E-02, 4.50E-02] | 1.86E-02 (9.86E-03) [1.00E-02, 3.00E-02] | 2.06E-02 (1.42E-02) [1.00E-02, 5.45E-01] |
|  |  | Ethylene dibromide | µg/L | 8.28E-02 (1.60E-01) [1.00E-02, 1.17E+00] | 7.14E-02 (1.39E-01) [1.00E-02, 5.10E-01] | 6.94E-02 (1.41E-01) [1.00E-02, 8.70E-01] | 8.19E-02 (1.59E-01) [1.00E-02, 5.10E-01] | 7.72E-02 (1.52E-01) [1.00E-02, 1.17E+00] |
|  |  | Xylenes | µg/L | 8.44E-01 (6.05E+00) [1.00E-01, 2.00E+02] | 8.60E-01 (3.26E+00) [1.00E-01, 5.08E+01] | 2.00E+00 (4.37E+01) [1.00E-01, 1.40E+03] | 2.01E+00 (3.94E+01) [1.00E-01, 1.00E+03] | 1.46E+00 (3.09E+01) [1.00E-01, 1.40E+03] |
|  |  | Chlordane | µg/L | 1.08E-01 (9.94E-02) [2.00E-02, 9.70E-01] | 1.17E-01 (9.62E-02) [2.00E-02, 2.76E-01] | 1.12E-01 (9.77E-02) [2.00E-02, 2.87E-01] | 8.43E-02 (9.23E-02) [2.00E-02, 2.20E-01] | 1.06E-01 (9.77E-02) [2.00E-02, 9.70E-01] |
|  |  | Dichloromethane | µg/L | 4.99E-01 (4.91E-01) [1.00E-01, 1.03E+01] | 4.90E-01 (2.67E-01) [1.00E-01, 1.98E+00] | 4.95E-01 (3.09E-01) [1.00E-01, 4.05E+00] | 4.29E-01 (5.13E-01) [1.00E-01, 1.18E+01] | 4.83E-01 (4.27E-01) [1.00E-01, 1.18E+01] |
|  |  | p-Dichlorobenzene | µg/L | 5.09E-01 (5.13E+00) [2.00E-02, 1.75E+02] | 3.72E-01 (2.41E-01) [2.00E-02, 1.54E+00] | 3.62E-01 (2.57E-01) [2.00E-02, 2.77E+00] | 3.11E-01 (3.55E-01) [2.00E-02, 6.02E+00] | 4.07E-01 (3.13E+00) [2.00E-02, 1.75E+02] |
|  |  | 1,1,1-Trichloroethane | µg/L | 6.77E-01 (1.03E+01) [1.00E-02, 3.51E+02] | 7.94E-01 (7.15E+00) [1.00E-02, 1.25E+02] | 3.99E-01 (9.67E-01) [1.00E-02, 3.03E+01] | 3.03E-01 (2.51E-01) [1.00E-02, 2.16E+00] | 5.21E-01 (6.67E+00) [1.00E-02, 3.51E+02] |
|  |  | Trichloroethylene | µg/L | 4.39E-01 (4.89E-01) [2.00E-02, 6.50E+00] | 4.06E-01 (2.67E-01) [2.00E-02, 2.03E+00] | 4.00E-01 (2.70E-01) [2.00E-02, 3.75E+00] | 3.27E-01 (2.54E-01) [2.00E-02, 1.93E+00] | 4.00E-01 (3.67E-01) [2.00E-02, 6.50E+00] |
|  |  | Carbon tetrachloride | µg/L | 4.62E-01 (5.79E-01) [1.00E-02, 8.01E+00] | 4.13E-01 (3.76E-01) [1.00E-02, 5.12E+00] | 4.22E-01 (7.75E-01) [1.00E-02, 2.38E+01] | 3.26E-01 (2.96E-01) [1.00E-02, 4.34E+00] | 4.16E-01 (5.95E-01) [1.00E-02, 2.38E+01] |
|  |  | Benzene | µg/L | 4.92E-01 (3.48E-01) [1.10E-01, 4.24E+00] | 4.87E-01 (2.43E-01) [1.10E-01, 1.74E+00] | 4.94E-01 (2.47E-01) [1.10E-01, 3.24E+00] | 4.22E-01 (2.49E-01) [1.10E-01, 1.55E+00] | 4.78E-01 (2.90E-01) [1.10E-01, 4.24E+00] |
|  |  | Toluene | µg/L | 7.60E-01 (6.22E+00) [7.00E-02, 2.01E+02] | 2.59E+00 (2.27E+01) [7.00E-02, 3.34E+02] | 1.07E+00 (1.26E+01) [7.00E-02, 3.50E+02] | 4.43E-01 (1.34E+00) [7.00E-02, 3.37E+01] | 9.74E-01 (1.08E+01) [7.00E-02, 3.50E+02] |
|  |  | Ethylbenzene | µg/L | 5.00E-02 (0.00E+00) [5.00E-02, 5.00E-02] | 5.00E-02 (0.00E+00) [5.00E-02, 5.00E-02] | 5.00E-02 (0.00E+00) [5.00E-02, 5.00E-02] | 5.00E-02 (0.00E+00) [5.00E-02, 5.00E-02] | 5.00E-02 (0.00E+00) [5.00E-02, 5.00E-02] |
|  |  | Styrene | µg/L | 5.67E-01 (2.37E+00) [1.00E-01, 7.86E+01] | 4.91E-01 (3.40E-01) [1.00E-01, 3.58E+00] | 4.93E-01 (3.12E-01) [1.00E-01, 5.00E+00] | 4.14E-01 (2.73E-01) [1.00E-01, 2.80E+00] | 5.04E-01 (1.47E+00) [1.00E-01, 7.86E+01] |
|  |  | Alpha particles | pCi/L | 1.05E+00 (2.32E+00) [0.00E+00, 3.58E+01] | 1.24E+00 (3.42E+00) [0.00E+00, 5.15E+01] | 1.34E+00 (3.19E+00) [0.00E+00, 3.47E+01] | 7.33E-01 (2.01E+00) [0.00E+00, 1.81E+01] | 1.10E+00 (2.71E+00) [0.00E+00, 5.15E+01] |
|  |  | Cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene | µg/L | 3.87E-01 (4.21E-01) [2.00E-02, 1.19E+01] | 4.02E-01 (3.53E-01) [2.00E-02, 5.19E+00] | 3.92E-01 (2.22E-01) [2.00E-02, 1.22E+00] | 3.28E-01 (2.53E-01) [2.00E-02, 2.09E+00] | 3.78E-01 (3.28E-01) [2.00E-02, 1.19E+01] |
|  | Construct: Drinking Water Quality | | | | | | | |
|  |  | Total coliform proportion | Proportion | 1.20E-01 (3.55E-01) [1.00E-03, 4.93E+00] | 2.86E-01 (1.26E+00) [1.00E-03, 1.34E+01] | 2.03E-01 (8.82E-01) [1.00E-03, 1.84E+01] | 2.22E-01 (8.41E-01) [1.00E-03, 9.71E+00] | 1.84E-01 (7.76E-01) [1.00E-03, 1.84E+01] |

Land Domain

In the land domain, the metropolitan-urbanized counties had lower agricultural-related variables (percent harvested and percent irrigated) than did nonmetropolitan-urbanized, less urban, and thinly populated counties (Table 6). Pesticides and animal units showed no clear pattern in variation across the strata. For example, average pounds of herbicides applied were 58,700, 78,400, 75,100, and 61,500 for most urban to most rural strata, respectively. There was little variation in the distribution of radon zones across the urban/rural strata.

Table 6. Land domain variable means, standard deviations (SDs), and ranges - Overall and rural-urban continuum codes (RUCCs) stratified

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Variable** | | | **Units** | **Metropolitan-Urbanized (RUCC1 = 1,167) Mean (SD) [Range]** | **Nonmetropolitan-Urbanized (RUCC2= 306) Mean (SD) [Range]** | **Less Urbanized (RUCC3=1,026) Mean (SD) [Range]** | **Thinly Populated (RUCC4=644) Mean (SD) [Range]** | **Total (3,143) Mean (SD) [Range]** |
|  | Construct: Agriculture | | | | | | | |
|  |  | Farms per acre | Number | 1.53E-03 (1.10E-03) [2.34E-06, 7.87E-03] | 1.49E-03 (1.06E-03) [2.34E-06, 6.48E-03] | 1.34E-03 (1.03E-03) [2.34E-06, 5.95E-03] | 9.15E-04 (8.72E-04) [2.34E-06, 5.18E-03] | 1.34E-03 (1.05E-03) [2.34E-06, 7.87E-03] |
|  |  | Irrigated acreage | % | 2.20E+00 (6.72E+00) [3.62E-04, 7.42E+01] | 3.46E+00 (9.15E+00) [3.62E-04, 5.65E+01] | 3.45E+00 (8.73E+00) [3.62E-04, 7.14E+01] | 2.81E+00 (7.39E+00) [3.62E-04, 6.07E+01] | 2.86E+00 (7.83E+00) [3.62E-04, 7.42E+01] |
|  |  | Chemicals used to control nematodes, acres applied per county acres | % | 1.01E-02 (1.28E-02) [1.32E-06, 1.07E-01] | 1.14E-02 (1.54E-02) [1.32E-06, 1.30E-01] | 1.27E-02 (1.60E-02) [1.32E-06, 1.50E-01] | 8.75E-03 (1.08E-02) [1.32E-06, 9.63E-02] | 1.08E-02 (1.39E-02) [1.32E-06, 1.50E-01] |
|  |  | Manure, acres applied per county acres | % | 1.69E-02 (2.56E-02) [1.56E-06, 2.63E-01] | 2.10E-02 (2.71E-02) [1.56E-06, 1.68E-01] | 1.96E-02 (2.83E-02) [1.56E-06, 2.52E-01] | 1.12E-02 (1.78E-02) [1.56E-06, 1.54E-01] | 1.70E-02 (2.55E-02) [1.56E-06, 2.63E-01] |
|  |  | Chemicals used to control diseases in crops and orchards, acres applied per county acres | % | 1.48E-02 (2.62E-02) [8.78E-07, 2.25E-01] | 1.68E-02 (2.63E-02) [8.78E-07, 1.59E-01] | 1.86E-02 (3.06E-02) [8.78E-07, 2.60E-01] | 1.95E-02 (3.32E-02) [8.78E-07, 3.05E-01] | 1.72E-02 (2.93E-02) [8.78E-07, 3.05E-01] |
|  |  | Chemicals used to defoliate/control growth/thin fruit, acres applied per county acres | % | 1.46E-02 (2.91E-02) [8.49E-07, 3.84E-01] | 1.67E-02 (3.28E-02) [8.49E-07, 3.63E-01] | 1.91E-02 (3.37E-02) [8.49E-07, 4.15E-01] | 1.32E-02 (1.92E-02) [8.49E-07, 2.12E-01] | 1.60E-02 (2.95E-02) [8.49E-07, 4.15E-01] |
|  |  | Harvested acreage, acres harvested per county acres | % | 1.90E-01 (2.12E-01) [2.59E-05, 9.94E-01] | 2.47E-01 (2.50E-01) [2.59E-05, 9.16E-01] | 2.51E-01 (2.60E-01) [2.59E-05, 9.43E-01] | 2.18E-01 (2.25E-01) [2.59E-05, 9.21E-01] | 2.21E-01 (2.37E-01) [2.59E-05, 9.94E-01] |
|  |  | Animal Units, animal units per county acres | % | 2.62E-04 (1.01E-03) [1.31E-08, 1.75E-02] | 1.11E-04 (2.08E-04) [1.31E-08, 2.36E-03] | 1.29E-04 (4.09E-04) [1.31E-08, 6.14E-03] | 1.32E-04 (5.43E-04) [1.31E-08, 6.75E-03] | 1.77E-04 (7.11E-04) [1.31E-08, 1.75E-02] |
|  | Construct: Pesticides | | | | | | | |
|  |  | Fungicides, applied | Pounds | 2.66E+04 (2.00E+05) [3.75E-01, 5.17E+06] | 8.56E+03 (2.44E+04) [3.00E-01, 2.24E+05] | 6.37E+03 (1.74E+04) [2.00E-01, 2.37E+05] | 3.96E+03 (9.61E+03) [4.33E-01, 1.59E+05] | 1.36E+04 (1.23E+05) [2.00E-01, 5.17E+06] |
|  |  | Herbicides, applied | Pounds | 5.87E+04 (8.30E+04) [2.23E+00, 8.68E+05] | 7.84E+04 (9.32E+04) [7.00E-01, 6.17E+05] | 7.51E+04 (8.39E+04) [1.42E+01, 4.75E+05] | 6.15E+04 (7.00E+04) [2.00E-01, 4.28E+05] | 6.65E+04 (8.22E+04) [2.00E-01, 8.68E+05] |
|  |  | Insecticides, applied | Pounds | 9.61E+03 (3.23E+04) [2.00E-01, 5.72E+05] | 8.96E+03 (2.11E+04) [2.01E+01, 2.30E+05] | 8.11E+03 (1.42E+04) [1.85E+00, 2.57E+05] | 5.18E+03 (7.47E+03) [1.00E-01, 9.77E+04] | 8.15E+03 (2.26E+04) [1.00E-01, 5.72E+05] |
|  | Construct: Mines | | | | | | | |
|  |  | Primarily coal mines, mines per county pop. | Proportion | 1.11E-04 (7.38E-04) [6.25E-07, 1.25E-02] | 1.35E-04 (5.64E-04) [6.25E-07, 4.67E-03] | 4.05E-04 (2.18E-03) [6.25E-07, 2.82E-02] | 5.67E-04 (3.75E-03) [6.25E-07, 5.78E-02] | 3.03E-04 (2.17E-03) [6.25E-07, 5.78E-02] |
|  |  | Primarily metal mines, mines per county pop. | Proportion | 3.29E-05 (3.24E-04) [2.44E-07, 6.43E-03] | 4.14E-05 (2.19E-04) [2.44E-07, 2.54E-03] | 1.19E-04 (7.78E-04) [2.44E-07, 1.43E-02] | 5.18E-04 (3.84E-03) [2.44E-07, 7.41E-02] | 1.61E-04 (1.81E-03) [2.44E-07, 7.41E-02] |
|  |  | Primarily non-metal mines, mines per county pop | Proportion | 3.16E-05 (2.57E-04) [2.86E-07, 7.67E-03] | 3.08E-05 (7.09E-05) [2.86E-07, 6.35E-04] | 7.76E-05 (3.34E-04) [2.86E-07, 6.41E-03] | 1.43E-04 (8.15E-04) [2.86E-07, 1.66E-02] | 6.94E-05 (4.46E-04) [2.86E-07, 1.66E-02] |
|  |  | Primarily sand and gravel mines, mines per county pop. | Proportion | 1.40E-04 (3.49E-04) [2.00E-07, 6.87E-03] | 2.07E-04 (2.38E-04) [2.00E-07, 1.25E-03] | 3.47E-04 (4.78E-04) [2.00E-07, 4.43E-03] | 8.32E-04 (1.34E-03) [2.00E-07, 1.24E-02] | 3.56E-04 (7.49E-04) [2.00E-07, 1.24E-02] |
|  |  | Primarily stone mines, mines per county pop. | Proportion | 9.42E-05 (3.10E-04) [3.06E-07, 5.66E-03] | 1.12E-04 (1.78E-04) [3.06E-07, 1.95E-03] | 2.04E-04 (5.12E-04) [3.06E-07, 9.32E-03] | 3.40E-04 (1.32E-03) [3.06E-07, 2.42E-02] | 1.82E-04 (7.00E-04) [3.06E-07, 2.42E-02] |
|  | Construct: Radon | | | | | | | |
|  |  | Radon | Ordinal | 2.02E+00 (8.14E-01) [0.00E+00, 3.00E+00] | 1.97E+00 (8.23E-01) [1.00E+00, 3.00E+00] | 2.03E+00 (8.24E-01) [1.00E+00, 3.00E+00] | 1.88E+00 (8.09E-01) [1.00E+00, 3.00E+00] | 1.99E+00 (8.19E-01) [0.00E+00, 3.00E+00] |
|  | Construct: Facilities | | | | | | | |
|  |  | Facilities per county | Proportion | 3.69E-04 (2.82E-04) [5.60E-06, 3.22E-03] | 4.99E-04 (3.25E-04) [3.69E-05, 2.24E-03] | 5.60E-04 (4.63E-04) [5.60E-06, 6.65E-03] | 8.25E-04 (2.08E-03) [5.60E-06, 4.58E-02] | 5.38E-04 (1.01E-03) [5.60E-06, 4.58E-02] |

Sociodemographic Domain

Socioeconomic variables included in the sociodemographic domain indicated that rural counties generally were more deprived than were more urban counties (Table 7), with both the lowest household income ($30,300) and lowest household value ($94,900). From the crime perspective, however, rural areas were at an advantage compared with more urban areas; the mean violent crime rate per county population for rural counties was 385.5 compared with 619.8 for the most urban counties.

Table 7. Sociodemographic domain variable means, standard deviations (SDs), and ranges - Overall and rural-continuum codes (RUCCs) stratified

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Variable** | | |  | **Metropolitan-Urbanized  (RUCC1 = 1167)** | **Nonmetropolitan-Urbanized  (RUCC2 = 306)** | **Less**  **Urbanized**  **(RUCC3 = 1026)** | **Thinly**  **Populated**  **(RUCC4 = 644)** | **OVERALL**  **(n=3143)** |
| **Units** | **Mean (SD)**  **[Range]** | **Mean (SD)**  **[Range]** | **Mean (SD)**  **[Range]** | **Mean (SD)**  **[Range]** | **Mean (SD)**  **[Range]** |
| **Sociodemographic Domain** | | | | | | | | |
|  | Construct: Socioeconomic | | | | | | | |
|  |  | Percent Bachelors | % | 15.1 (5.8)  [2.6, 37.2] | 12.7 (4.6)  [5.4, 34.7] | 10.5 (4.0)  [3.0, 42.2] | 11.4 (4.6)  [1.9, 36.1] | 12.6 (5.3)  [1.9, 42.2] |
|  |  | Percent unemployed | % | 7.6 (2.5)  [0, 27.5] | 8.1 (2.6)  [2.2, 20.2] | 7.9 (3.4)  [0.3, 26.3] | 6.7 (4.6)  [0.0, 30.9] | 7.5 (3.6)  [0, 30.9] |
|  |  | Percent families less than poverty level | % | 9.8 (4.5)  [0, 39.6] | 11.9 (4.8)  [3.1, 35.1] | 12.7 (5.8)  [1.4, 44.9] | 11.9 (6.4)  [0.0, 44.4] | 11.4 (5.5)  [0, 44.9] |
|  |  | Percent vacant housing | % | 12.1 (6.5)  [1.7, 60.1] | 14.8 (7.7)  [5.5, 63.9] | 18.5 (9.3)  [4.9, 68.0] | 25.8 (12.3)  [7.2, 83.3] | 17.3 (10.3)  [1.7, 83.3] |
|  |  | Median household value (X1000) | Dollar value | 175.4 (103.9)  [0, 868k] | 135.4 (78.7)  [57.0, 583.2k] | 106.6 (64.9)  [18.6, 100.0k] | 94.9 (55.5)  [29.7, 4965.6k] | 133.5(88.4)  [0, 1000k] |
|  |  | Household income (X1000) | Dollars | 82.6 (17.0)  [67.0, 3217.9k] | 23.1 (9.7)  [5.9, 76.7k] | 8.7 (4.9)  [1.1, 30.7k] | 3.0 (2.4)  [0.2, 15.4k] | 36.3k (109.9)  [22, 321.8k] |
|  |  | Count of occupants per room | Count | 0.6 (0.6)  [0.1, 6.1] | 0.6 (0.6)  [0.1, 5.4] | 0.8 (1.2)  [0.1, 20.2] | 0.9 (1.4)  [0.1, 31.5] | 0.7 (1.0)  [0.1, 31.5] |
|  |  | Percent renter occupied housing | % | 28.0 (9.3)  [8.7, 100] | 30.0 (6.3)  [16.8, 51.0] | 26.2 (5.9)  [11.3, 53.7] | 23.6 (7.0)  [8.7, 71.4] | 26.7 (7.8)  [8.7, 100] |
|  |  | Gini coefficient | Proportion | 0.43 (0.04)  [0.3, 0.6] | 0.44 (0.03)  [0.35, 0.54] | 0.4 (0.0)  [0.3, 0.6] | 0.4 (0.0)  [0.2, 0.6] | 0.43 (0.04)  [0.21, 0.65] |
|  | Construct: Crime | | | | | | | |
|  |  | Mean number of violent crimes per capita | Rate per county population | 619.8 (441.4)  [22.6, 6628.6] | 472.3 (308.2)  [19.52, 1735.0] | 446.7 (249.8)  [7.3, 1710.7] | 385.5 (195.1)  [69.9, 1420.1] | 500.9 (344.5)  [7.3, 6628.6] |
|  | Construct: County typology | | | | | | | |
|  |  | Creative class | % | 0.2 (0.1)  [0, 0.51] | 0.2 (0.0)  [0.1, 0.4] | 0.2 (0.0)  [0.0, 0.5] | 0.15 (0.0)  [0, 0.4] | 0.18 (0.06)  [0, 0.51] |
|  | Construct: County political valence | | | | | | | |
|  |  | Percent Democratic voters | % | 44.8 (13.7)  [5.5, 92.5] | 43.9 (12.4)  [12.5, 84.5] | 40.2 (12.9)  [7.8, 88.7] | 36.4 (14.3)  [4.9, 86.8] | 41.5 (13.8)  [4.9, 92.5] |
| NOTE: Means calculated using non-transformed variables  K=1000 | | | | | | | | |

Built Domain

The most urban counties had a higher rate of traffic fatalities and residents reporting spending more time commuting compared with more rural areas (Table 8). Urban counties also had a higher walkability score but contained less green space and undeveloped areas than rural counties.

Table 8. Built-environment domain variable means, standard deviations (SDs), and ranges - Overall and rural-urban continuum codes (RUCCs) stratified

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Variable** | | |  | **Metropolitan-Urbanized  (RUCC1 = 1167)** | **Nonmetropolitan-Urbanized  (RUCC2 = 306)** | **Less**  **Urbanized**  **(RUCC3 = 1026)** | **Thinly**  **Populated**  **(RUCC4 = 644)** | **OVERALL**  **(n=3143)** |
| **Units** | **Mean (SD)**  **[Range]** | **Mean (SD)**  **[Range]** | **Mean (SD)**  **[Range]** | **Mean (SD)**  **[Range]** | **Mean (SD)**  **[Range]** |
| **Built Domain** | | | | | | | | |
|  | Construct: Business environment | | | | | | | |
|  |  | Vice-related environment | Count / county population | 4.9e-4 (3.1e-4)  [1.5e-5, 3.4e-3] | 5.8e-4 (2.9e-4)  [6.3e-5, 1.8e-3] | 6.4e-4 (4.3e-4)  [1.5e-5, 2.8e-3] | 8.9e-4 (8.9e-3)  [1.5e-5, 7.2e-3] | 6.3e-4 (5.3e-4)  [1.5e-5, 7.2e-3] |
|  |  | Civic-related environment | Count / county population | 2.9e-3 (9.4e-4)  [2.5e-4, 8.4e-4] | 3.3e-3 (8.6e-4)  [9.5e-4, 7.2e-3] | 3.8e-3 (1.1e-3)  [5.9e-4, 6.5e-3] | 4.3e-3 (1.7e-3)  [2.5e-4, 1.6e-2] | 3.5e-3 (1.3e-3)  [2.5e-4, 1.6e-2] |
|  |  | Education-related environment | Count / county population | 1.2e-3 (4.2e-4)  [1.8e-4, 4.5e-3] | 1.3e-3 (3.6e-4)  [6.3e-4, 3.2e-3] | 1.5e-3 (6.0e-4)  [5.9e-4, 6.5e-3] | 2.5e-3 (1.8e-3)  [1.8e-4, 1.8e-2] | 1.6e-3 (1.0e-3)  [1.8e-4, 1.8e-2] |
|  |  | Health care- related environment | Count / county population | 3.4e-3 (1.6e-3)  [3.4e-3, 1.6e-3] | 3.7e-3 (1.1e-3)  [1.0e-3, 1.1e-2] | 3.2e-3 (1.3e-3)  [6.0e-4, 2.0e-2] | 2.8e-3 (1.4e-3)  [1.0e-4, 9.1e-3] | 3.2e-3 (1.4e-3)  [1.0e-4, 2.0e-2] |
|  |  | Negative food environment | Count / county population | 1.2e-3 (3.4e-4)  [7.0e-5, 3.4e-3] | 1.4e-3 (3.8e-4)  [6.4e-4, 4.3e-3] | 1.4e-3 (4.2e-4)  [1.7e-4, 4.7e-3] | 1.3e-3 (8.5e-4)  [7.0e-5, 1.3e-2] | 1.3e-3 (5.2e-4)  [7.0e-5, 1.3e-2] |
|  |  | Positive food environment | Count / county population | 2.2e-3 (7.7e-7)  [1.3e-4, 8.1e-3] | 2.3e-3 (8.5e-4)  [1.0e-3, 7.8e-3] | 2.4e-3 (8.9e-4)  [4.4e-4, 9.0e-3] | 2.9e-3 (1.7e-3)  [1.3e-4, 2.0e-2] | 2.4e-3 (1.1e-3)  [1.3e-4, 2.0e-2] |
|  |  | Recreation environment | Count / county population | 1.3e-3 (6.1e-4)  [4.7e-5, 1.1e-2] | 1.6e-3 (8.5e-4)  [3.0e-4, 8.8e-3] | 1.7e-3 (1.0e-3)  [1.2e-4, 1.0e-2] | 2.2e-3 (1.9e-3)  [4.7e-5, 1.8e-2] | 1.6e-3 (1.2e-3)  [4.7e-5, 1.8e-2] |
|  |  | Social service-related environment | Count / county population | 1.5e-3 (5.9e-4)  [9.2e-5, 5.1e-3] | 1.8e-3 (6.5e-4)  [6.2e-4, 4.8e-3] | 1.8e-3 (7.8e-4)  [3.0e-4, 5.2e-3] | 1.9e-3 (1.1e-3)  [9.2e-5, 8.4e-3] | 1.7e-3 (8.0e-4)  [9.2e-5, 8.4e-3] |
|  | Construct: Highway safety | | | | | | | |
|  |  | Traffic fatality rate | Fatality count / county population | 23.2 (39.0)  [1.0, 685.8] | 11.2 (6.5)  [1.3, 59.6] | 5.7 (3.5)  [1.0, 39.4] | 2.8 (1.8)  [1.0, 14.0] | 12.1 (25.5)  [1, 685.8] |
|  | Construct: Housing | | | | | | | |
|  |  | Rate of low-rent + section 8 housing | Unit count / county population | 0.2 (0.4)  [0.0, 1.0] | 0.2 (0.4)  [0.0, 1.0] | 0.4 (0.5)  [0.0, 1.0] | 0.6 (0.5)  [0.0, 1.0] | 0.4 (0.5)  [0, 1] |
|  | Construct: Roads | | | | | | | |
|  |  | Proportion of roads that are secondary | Secondary road mile / total road miles | 0.2 (0.1)  [0.0, 0.5] | 0.1 (0.1)  [0.0, 0.44] | 0.14 (0.1)  [0.0, 0.4] | 0.1 (0.1)  [0.1, 24.1] | * 1. (0.1)   [0.2, 0.5] |
|  | Construct: Commuting practices | | | | | | | |
|  |  | Residents who report using public transport | % | 1.8 (4.6)  [0.1, 60.5] | 0.7 (1.2)  [0.1, 12.8] | 0.7 (1.0)  [0.1, 13.0] | 0.9 (1.2)  [0.1, 24.1] | 1.2 (3.0)  [0.1, 60.5] |
|  |  | Commute time | minutes | 25.0 (5.1)  [6.2, 60.5] | 20.7 (3.6)  [12.3, 31.8] | 21.6 (5.0)  [5.4, 38.5] | 21.4 (6.4)  [4.3, 44.2] | 22.7 (5.5)  [4.3, 44.2] |
|  | Construct: Walkability | | | | | | | |
|  |  | Walkability score | Ordinal | 7.1 (2.3)  [1.7, 16.2] | 6.6 (1.1)  [4.1, 13.8] | 5.9 (1.1)  [2.0, 10.5] | 5.3 (1.2)  [1.0, 9.5] | 6.3 (1.8)  [1.0, 16.2] |
|  | Construct: Green space | | | | | | | |
|  |  | County land area classified as natural cover and open space | % | 61.5 (24.4)  [3.9, 99.7] | 62.3 (28.0)  [5.3, 99.8] | 63.2 (28.6)  [6.9, 100.0] | 68.5 (27.7)  [6.2, 100.0] | 63.5 (27.0)  [3.9, 100.0] |
| NOTE: Means calculated using non-transformed variables | | | | | | | | |

*Variable Loadings on Environmental Quality Index Domains*

Air Domain

The loadings for the variables comprising the air domain are displayed in Table 9. Each variable has been annotated with a “+” or an “-“, which is the predicted direction for the loading. Because we want to ensure that higher values of the EQI are associated with worse environmental quality, those variables that we anticipate being associated with poor environmental quality are assigned a “+” indicating more of this attribute would be a negative for health. All variables except for SO2 and benzidine (in certain strata) loaded as intended; loadings for SO2 and benzidine were relatively low. Most variables loaded consistently across rural-urban strata.

Table 9. Variable loadings, valence determination of variables - air domain

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Air Domain | | | Metropolitan-Urbanized (RUCC1=1167) | Nonmetropolitan-Urbanized (RUCC2 = 306) | Less Urbanized (RUCC3 = 1026) | Thinly Populated (RUCC4 = 644) | OVERALL (n=3143) |
|  | Construct: Criteria Air Pollutants | | | | | | |
|  |  | PM10 (+) | 0.0007 | -0.0086 | 0.0016 | 0.0687 | 0.0272 |
|  |  | PM2.5 (+) | 0.1054 | 0.1191 | 0.1220 | 0.1204 | 0.1278 |
|  |  | Ozone (+) | 0.0224 | 0.0402 | 0.0273 | 0.0728 | 0.0398 |
|  |  | Sulfur dioxide (+) | -0.0036 | -0.0141 | -0.0200 | -0.0535 | -0.0221 |
|  |  | Nitrogen oxide (+) | 0.1306 | 0.1665 | 0.1652 | 0.1626 | 0.1514 |
|  |  | Carbon monoxide (+) | 0.1345 | 0.1215 | 0.1458 | 0.1745 | 0.1513 |
|  | Construct: Hazardous Air Pollutants | | | | | | |
|  |  | Ethylene dibromide (+) | 0.1120 | 0.1181 | 0.1131 | 0.1042 | 0.1179 |
|  |  | Formaldehyde (+) | 0.0443 | 0.0718 | 0.0794 | 0.0738 | 0.0798 |
|  |  | 1,1,2,2-Tetrachloroethane (+) | 0.1410 | 0.1208 | 0.1478 | 0.1551 | 0.1475 |
|  |  | 1,1,2-Trichloroethane (+) | 0.1654 | 0.1508 | 0.1583 | 0.1648 | 0.1616 |
|  |  | 1,2-Dibromo-3-chloropropane (+) | 0.0722 | 0.0657 | 0.0416 | 0.0879 | 0.0688 |
|  |  | 1,2-Dichloropropane (+) | 0.1069 | 0.1090 | 0.1095 | 0.1143 | 0.1129 |
|  |  | Acrylic acid (+) | 0.1714 | 0.1785 | 0.1727 | 0.1422 | 0.1661 |
|  |  | Benzidine (+) | -0.0031 | 0.0023 | -0.0058 | 0.0592 | 0.0135 |
|  |  | Benzyl chloride (+) | 0.1976 | 0.1926 | 0.1968 | 0.1850 | 0.1917 |
|  |  | Beryllium compounds (+) | 0.1761 | 0.1460 | 0.1343 | 0.1688 | 0.1557 |
|  |  | bis-2-Ethylhexyl phthalate (+) | 0.1046 | 0.1343 | 0.0872 | 0.1654 | 0.1192 |
|  |  | Carbon tetrachloride (+) | 0.0649 | 0.1127 | 0.0761 | 0.1272 | 0.0823 |
|  |  | Carbonyl sulfide (+) | 0.1524 | 0.1322 | 0.1439 | 0.1664 | 0.1580 |
|  |  | Chlorine (+) | 0.1791 | 0.1972 | 0.1877 | 0.1775 | 0.1866 |
|  |  | Chlorobenzene (+) | 0.2065 | 0.1810 | 0.1998 | 0.1995 | 0.2014 |
|  |  | Chloroform (+) | 0.1880 | 0.1674 | 0.1705 | 0.1713 | 0.1740 |
|  |  | Chloroprene (+) | 0.1724 | 0.1560 | 0.1479 | 0.1443 | 0.1537 |
|  |  | Chromium compounds (+) | 0.2012 | 0.2010 | 0.2010 | 0.1676 | 0.1904 |
|  |  | Cobalt compounds (+) | 0.2120 | 0.2223 | 0.2093 | 0.1908 | 0.2081 |
|  |  | Cyanide compounds (+) | 0.1722 | 0.1532 | 0.2033 | 0.1910 | 0.1825 |
|  |  | Dibutylphthalate (+) | 0.1923 | 0.2087 | 0.2029 | 0.1988 | 0.2000 |
|  |  | Ethyl chloride (+) | 0.1890 | 0.2047 | 0.1830 | 0.1946 | 0.1875 |
|  |  | Ethyl benzene (+) | 0.2407 | 0.2313 | 0.2343 | 0.2138 | 0.2306 |
|  |  | Ethyl dichloride (+) | 0.1275 | 0.1183 | 0.1299 | 0.1500 | 0.1344 |
|  |  | Glycol ethers (+) | 0.1882 | 0.1987 | 0.1965 | 0.1673 | 0.1884 |
|  |  | Hydrazine (+) | 0.1219 | 0.1434 | 0.1261 | 0.1186 | 0.1246 |
|  |  | Hydrochloric acid (+) | 0.1910 | 0.1987 | 0.2066 | 0.1974 | 0.1994 |
|  |  | Isophorone (+) | 0.1597 | 0.1775 | 0.1630 | 0.1667 | 0.1647 |
|  |  | Manganese compounds (+) | 0.1229 | 0.1369 | 0.1358 | 0.1187 | 0.1250 |
|  |  | Methyl bromide (+) | 0.1404 | 0.0889 | 0.1183 | 0.1355 | 0.1247 |
|  |  | Methyl chloride (+) | 0.1931 | 0.1905 | 0.1887 | 0.1756 | 0.1825 |
|  |  | Phosphine (+) | 0.0041 | 0.0014 | 0.0054 | 0.0439 | 0.0089 |
|  |  | Polychlorinated biphenyls (+) | 0.0971 | 0.1004 | 0.0933 | 0.1288 | 0.1040 |
|  |  | Propylene dichloride (+) | 0.1585 | 0.1529 | 0.1349 | 0.1254 | 0.1428 |
|  |  | Quinoline (+) | 0.1805 | 0.1881 | 0.1915 | 0.1560 | 0.1799 |
|  |  | Trichloroethylene (+) | 0.2283 | 0.2288 | 0.2296 | 0.1995 | 0.2210 |
|  |  | Vinyl chloride (+) | 0.1781 | 0.1577 | 0.1696 | 0.1767 | 0.1770 |

Water Domain

The loadings for the variables that comprise the water domain are displayed in Table 10. Each variable has been annotated with a “+” or an “-“, which is the predicted direction for the loading. Because we want to ensure that higher values of the EQI are associated with worse environmental quality, those variables that we anticipate being associated with poor environmental quality are assigned a “+” indicating more of this attribute would be a negative for health. The variables in the drought, chemical contamination, and drinking water quality constructs loaded in the direction as intended; however, some of the variables in the remaining constructs loaded in the opposite direction as intended.

Table 10. Variable loadings, valence determination of variables - water domain

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Water Domain | | | Metropolitan-Urbanized (RUCC1 = 1,167) | Nonmetropolitan Urbanized (RUCC2=306) | Less Urbanized (RUCC3=1,026) | Thinly Populated (RUCC4=644) | Total (All = 3,143) |
|  | Construct: Domestic Use | | | | | | |
|  |  | Percent of population on self-supply (+) | 0.0028 | 0.0155 | 0.0203 | 0.0279 | 0.0096 |
|  |  | Percent of public supply population on surface water (+) | 0.0197 | 0.0155 | -0.0004 | 0.0251 | 0.0191 |
|  | Construct: Overall Water Quality | | | | | | |
|  |  | % of stream length impaired in county (+) | 0.0142 | -0.0174 | -0.0053 | 0.0160 | 0.0111 |
|  | Construct: General Water Contamination | | | | | | |
|  |  | ALL NPDES permits per 1000 km of stream (+) | -0.0161 | -0.0415 | -0.0225 | 0.0164 | -0.0009 |
|  | Construct: Atmospheric Deposition | | | | | | |
|  |  | Calcium precipitation weighted mean (+) | 0.0378 | 0.0199 | 0.0347 | -0.0039 | 0.0206 |
|  |  | Potassium precipitation weighted mean (+) | -0.0108 | -0.0236 | -0.0075 | -0.0291 | -0.0204 |
|  |  | Nitrate precipitation weighted mean (+) | 0.0239 | 0.0014 | 0.0182 | 0.0009 | 0.0140 |
|  |  | Chloride precipitation weighted mean (+) | -0.0408 | -0.0329 | -0.0457 | -0.0077 | -0.0278 |
|  |  | Sulfate precipitation weighted mean (+) | -0.0162 | -0.0217 | -0.0086 | 0.0209 | -0.0035 |
|  |  | Total mercury deposition (+) | -0.0730 | -0.0632 | -0.0596 | 0.0015 | -0.0462 |
|  | Construct: Drought | | | | | | |
|  |  | Percent of county drought - extreme (+) | 0.0066 | 0.0179 | 0.0008 | 0.0142 | 0.0084 |
|  | Construct: Chemical Contamination | | | | | | |
|  |  | Arsenic (+) | 0.1669 | 0.1674 | 0.1605 | 0.1584 | 0.1641 |
|  |  | Barium (+) | 0.1673 | 0.1684 | 0.1609 | 0.1628 | 0.1655 |
|  |  | Cadmium (+) | 0.1460 | 0.1475 | 0.1533 | 0.1615 | 0.1523 |
|  |  | Chromium (+) | 0.1661 | 0.1658 | 0.1592 | 0.1596 | 0.1636 |
|  |  | Cyanide (+) | 0.1369 | 0.1383 | 0.1181 | 0.1230 | 0.1291 |
|  |  | Fluoride (+) | 0.1736 | 0.1770 | 0.1804 | 0.1729 | 0.1765 |
|  |  | Mercury (inorganic) (+) | 0.0634 | 0.0494 | 0.0478 | 0.0614 | 0.0575 |
|  |  | Nitrate (+) | 0.1666 | 0.1600 | 0.1485 | 0.1417 | 0.1565 |
|  |  | Nitrite (+) | 0.1356 | 0.1322 | 0.1212 | 0.1231 | 0.1298 |
|  |  | Selenium (+) | 0.1661 | 0.1740 | 0.1644 | 0.1626 | 0.1663 |
|  |  | Antimony (+) | 0.1639 | 0.1541 | 0.1538 | 0.1586 | 0.1597 |
|  |  | Endrin (+) | 0.1392 | 0.1369 | 0.1387 | 0.1480 | 0.1412 |
|  |  | Methoxychlor (+) | 0.1670 | 0.1650 | 0.1676 | 0.1752 | 0.1690 |
|  |  | Dalapon (+) | 0.1462 | 0.1444 | 0.1409 | 0.1473 | 0.1449 |
|  |  | Di(2-ethylhexyl) adipate (+) | 0.1614 | 0.1576 | 0.1568 | 0.1624 | 0.1605 |
|  |  | Simazine (+) | 0.1674 | 0.1635 | 0.1651 | 0.1666 | 0.1671 |
|  |  | Di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (+) | 0.1682 | 0.1607 | 0.1594 | 0.1580 | 0.1638 |
|  |  | Picloram (+) | 0.1344 | 0.1301 | 0.1308 | 0.1445 | 0.1350 |
|  |  | Dinoseb (+) | 0.1599 | 0.1570 | 0.1550 | 0.1591 | 0.1584 |
|  |  | Atrazine (+) | 0.1758 | 0.1747 | 0.1738 | 0.1763 | 0.1759 |
|  |  | 2,4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic acid (+) | 0.1612 | 0.1695 | 0.1565 | 0.1671 | 0.1623 |
|  |  | Benzo[a]pyrene (+) | 0.1578 | 0.1510 | 0.1538 | 0.1589 | 0.1561 |
|  |  | Pentrachlorophenol (+) | 0.1652 | 0.1622 | 0.1689 | 0.1715 | 0.1674 |
|  |  | Polychlorinated biphenyls (+) | 0.1244 | 0.1169 | 0.1081 | 0.1189 | 0.1185 |
|  |  | 1,2, -Dibromo-3-chloropropane (+) | 0.1606 | 0.1552 | 0.1622 | 0.1631 | 0.1613 |
|  |  | Ethylene dibromide (+) | 0.0947 | 0.1043 | 0.1051 | 0.1035 | 0.1000 |
|  |  | Xylenes (+) | 0.1685 | 0.1654 | 0.1790 | 0.1816 | 0.1744 |
|  |  | Chlordane (+) | 0.1734 | 0.1755 | 0.1755 | 0.1763 | 0.1751 |
|  |  | Dichloromethane (+) | 0.1877 | 0.1950 | 0.1986 | 0.1900 | 0.1921 |
|  |  | p-Dichlorobenzene (+) | 0.1814 | 0.1886 | 0.1807 | 0.1814 | 0.1820 |
|  |  | 1,1,1-Trichloroethane (+) | 0.1885 | 0.1917 | 0.1977 | 0.1906 | 0.1920 |
|  |  | Trichloroethylene (+) | 0.1893 | 0.1954 | 0.1992 | 0.1914 | 0.1932 |
|  |  | Carbon tetrachloride (+) | 0.1919 | 0.1968 | 0.2008 | 0.1926 | 0.1951 |
|  |  | Benzene (+) | 0.1880 | 0.1957 | 0.2008 | 0.1901 | 0.1929 |
|  |  | Toluene (+) | 0.1839 | 0.1736 | 0.1908 | 0.1876 | 0.1859 |
|  |  | Styrene (+) | 0.1822 | 0.1927 | 0.1980 | 0.1905 | 0.1896 |
|  |  | Alpha particles (+) | 0.0670 | 0.0537 | 0.0609 | 0.0771 | 0.0639 |
|  |  | Cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene (+) | 0.1892 | 0.1958 | 0.1998 | 0.1904 | 0.1930 |
|  | Construct: Drinking Water Quality | | | | | | |
|  |  | Total coliform proportion (+) | 0.0084 | -0.0088 | 0.0008 | 0.0105 | 0.0067 |

Land Domain

The loadings for the variables that comprise the mines construct of the land domain varied by RUCC (Table 11), but loadings for the variables that comprise the other constructs (agriculture, pesticides, radon and facilities) were consistent across RUCCs. Each variable has again been annotated with a “+” or an “-“, which is the predicted direction for the loading to ensure that higher values of the EQI represents worse environmental quality.

Table 11. Variable loadings, valence determination of variables - land domain

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Land Domain | | | Metropolitan-Urbanized (RUCC1 = 1,167) | Nonmetropolitan Urbanized (RUCC2=306) | Less Urbanized (RUCC3=1,026) | Thinly Populated (RUCC4=644) | Total (All=3,143) |
|  | Construct: Agriculture | | | | | | |
|  |  | Farms per acre (+) | 0.3742 | 0.3148 | 0.3275 | 0.3501 | 0.3487 |
|  |  | Irrigated acreage (+) | 0.2750 | 0.1364 | 0.1789 | 0.1720 | 0.2109 |
|  |  | Chemicals used to control nematodes (+) | 0.3127 | 0.2753 | 0.2883 | 0.3297 | 0.3070 |
|  |  | Manure (+) | 0.3701 | 0.3049 | 0.3174 | 0.3561 | 0.3483 |
|  |  | Chemicals used to control disease diseases in crops and orchards (+) | 0.3589 | 0.3384 | 0.3302 | 0.3420 | 0.3479 |
|  |  | Chemicals used to defoliate/control growth/thin fruit (+) | 0.2796 | 0.2486 | 0.2630 | 0.3209 | 0.2793 |
|  |  | Harvested acreage (+) | 0.4173 | 0.3943 | 0.4039 | 0.4074 | 0.4156 |
|  |  | Animal units (+) | 0.1876 | 0.1135 | 0.1118 | 0.1603 | 0.1479 |
|  | Construct: Pesticides | | | | | | |
|  |  | Fungicides (+) | 0.1055 | 0.2088 | 0.2125 | 0.0972 | 0.1582 |
|  |  | Herbicides (+) | 0.2007 | 0.3285 | 0.3177 | 0.2388 | 0.2742 |
|  |  | Insecticides (+) | 0.1759 | 0.2893 | 0.2604 | 0.1676 | 0.2272 |
|  | Construct: Mines | | | | | | |
|  |  | Primarily coal mines, mines per county population (+) | -0.0220 | -0.0497 | -0.0966 | -0.0583 | -0.0611 |
|  |  | Primarily metal mines, mines per county population (+) | -0.0836 | -0.2283 | -0.1961 | -0.2172 | -0.1754 |
|  |  | Primarily nonmetal mines, mines per county population (+) | 0.0076 | -0.0798 | -0.0904 | -0.0676 | -0.0521 |
|  |  | Primarily sand and gravel mines, mines per county population (+) | 0.1181 | -0.0229 | -0.0341 | 0.0058 | 0.0270 |
|  |  | Primarily stone mines, mines per county population (+) | 0.0740 | -0.0971 | -0.1101 | -0.1088 | -0.0515 |
|  | Construct: Radon | | | | | | |
|  |  | Radon zone (+) | -0.0680 | -0.0838 | -0.0517 | -0.1475 | -0.0827 |
|  | Construct: Facilities | | | | | | |
|  |  | Facilities (+) | 0.1389 | 0.2361 | 0.1930 | 0.1322 | 0.1598 |

Sociodemographic Domain

The loadings for the variables that comprise the sociodemographic domain varied by RUCC (Table 12), indicating some variables were more influential on the domain score in urban counties, whereas others exerted more of an effect in rural counties. For instance, percent unemployed loaded on the RUCC 1 sociodemographic domain at 0.16 compared to its loading on RUCC 4 sociodemographic domain of 0.44. Each variable has been annotated with a “+” or an “-“, which is the predicted direction for the loading. Because we want to ensure that higher values of the EQI are associated with worse environmental quality, those variables that we anticipate being associated with poor environmental quality are assigned a “+” indicating more of this attribute would be a negative for health. Most of the variables initially loaded in nearly the opposite direction as intended. The loadings are a function of the program’s starting point, or seed, which is not easily manipulable. Therefore, the loading valence needed to be corrected prior to the construction of the indices to ensure that higher values on a given index, and on the overall EQI, signify worse environmental quality. One important item to note is that the patterns of association within the socioeconomic construct across RUCC levels were not consistent. For instance, percent democratic voting in the 2008 election loaded negatively in the most urban counties (RUCC 1 and 2) but positively in the less urban counties (RUCC 3 and 4). Percent of individuals earning a Bachelor’s degree, percent unemployed, percent of families in poverty, median household value, and creative class are variables that loaded in a consistent direction across rural-urban strata. Appendix V provides the original and modified valence corrected variable loadings.

Table 12. Valence corrected variable loadings, valence determination of variables - sociodemographic domain

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Sociodemographic Domain** | | | **Metropolitan-Urbanized  (RUCC1 = 1167)** | **Nonmetropolitan-Urbanized  (RUCC2 = 306)** | **Less**  **Urbanized**  **(RUCC3 = 1026)** | **Thinly**  **Populated**  **(RUCC4 = 644)** | **OVERALL (n=3143)** |
|  | Socioeconomic Construct | | | | | | |
|  |  | Percent Bachelors (-) | -0.4689 | -0.4621 | -0.4174 | -0.4416 | -0.4585 |
|  |  | Percent unemployed (+) | 0.1625 | 0.3274 | 0.3546 | 0.4418 | 0.1269 |
|  |  | Percent families less than poverty level (+) | 0.2591 | 0.4293 | 0.4737 | 0.4904 | 0.298 |
|  |  | Percent vacant housing (+) | 0.2306 | -0.1331 | -0.0555 | -0.1381 | 0.1979 |
|  |  | Median household value (-) | -0.4034 | -0.4002 | -0.3476 | -0.2216 | -0.4331 |
|  |  | Household income (-) | -0.3700 | -0.0874 | -0.0640 | 0.2578 | -0.3824 |
|  |  | Count of occupants per room (+) | 0.0055 | 0.1371 | 0.1116 | -0.0141 | 0.1085 |
|  |  | Percent renter occupied housing (+) | -0.1827 | 0.0141 | 0.1523 | 0.0603 | -0.1458 |
|  |  | Gini coefficient (+) | -0.1162 | 0.1604 | 0.2725 | 0.2766 | 0.0118 |
|  | Crime Construct | | | | | | |
|  |  | Log violent crime (+) | -0.0094 | 0.2386 | 0.2997 | 0.2012 | -0.0234 |
|  | Creative class construct | | | | | | |
|  |  | Creative class (-) | -0.4668 | -0.4463 | -0.3829 | -0.2458 | -0.4833 |
|  | 2008 Political valence construct | | | | | | |
|  |  | Percent Democrat (-) | -0.2625 | -0.0929 | 0.0374 | 0.2313 | -0.211 |

Built Domain

Similar to the sociodemographic domain, the loadings for the variables that comprise the built domain varied by RUCC (Table 13), indicating some variables were more influential on the domain score in urban counties, whereas others exerted more of an effect in rural counties. Each variable has again been annotated with a “+” or an “-“, which is the predicted direction for the loading to ensure that higher values of the EQI represents worse environmental quality. Also similar to the sociodemographic domain, many of the initial variable loadings are opposite to that intended. These loading valences needed to be valence corrected prior to the construction of the indices to ensure that higher values on a given index, and on the overall EQI, signify worse environmental quality. The business-related environments loaded consistently across RUCC levels, as did the public transportation, commute time and walkability score (Table 13). Appendix V provides the original and modified valence corrected variable loadings.

Table 13. Valence corrected variable loadings, valence determination of variables - build domain

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Built Domain** | | | **Metropolitan-Urbanized  (RUCC1 = 1167)** | **Nonmetropolitan-Urbanized  (RUCC2 = 306)** | **Less**  **Urbanized**  **(RUCC3 = 1026)** | **Thinly**  **Populated**  **(RUCC4 = 644)** | **OVERALL (n=3143)** |
|  | Socioeconomic Construct | | | | | | |
|  |  | Vice-related environment (+) | -0.2676 | -0.0331 | -0.2724 | -0.2595 | -0.2930 |
|  |  | Civic-related environment (-) | -0.1238 | -0.2057 | -0.1890 | -0.3102 | -0.3071 |
|  |  | Education-related environment (-) | -0.2409 | -0.2626 | -0.3278 | -0.3285 | -0.3495 |
|  |  | Health care- related environment (-) | -0.4189 | -0.3856 | -0.3179 | -0.2742 | -0.2798 |
|  |  | Negative food environment (+) | -0.3239 | -0.2707 | -0.2306 | -0.1527 | -0.2280 |
|  |  | Positive food environment (-) | -0.3405 | -0.2752 | -0.2660 | -0.2524 | -0.3179 |
|  |  | Recreation environment (-) | -0.2354 | -0.3484 | -0.3212 | -0.3222 | -0.3590 |
|  |  | Social service-related environment (-) | -0.3446 | -0.3503 | -0.3644 | -0.2793 | -0.3629 |
|  | Highway safety construct | | | | | | |
|  |  | Traffic fatality rate (+) | -0.1978 | 0.2340 | 0.2197 | 0.2312 | 0.1751 |
|  | Housing construct | | | | | | |
|  |  | Rate of low-rent + section 8 housing (+) | 0.1230 | -0.0459 | -0.0697 | 0.0178 | -0.0581 |
|  | Road construct | | | | | | |
|  |  | Proportion of secondary roads (+) | -0.0950 | 0.1319 | 0.1761 | 0.2054 | 0.1777 |
|  | Commuting behavior construct | | | | | | |
|  |  | Commute time (+) | 0.1886 | 0.2808 | 0.3230 | 0.3546 | 0.3329 |
|  |  | Public transportation (-) | -0.2253 | -0.1111 | -0.0777 | -0.0256 | -0.0463 |
|  | Walkability construct | | | | | | |
|  |  | Walkability score (-) | -0.3516 | -0.3310 | -0.3542 | -0.3787 | -0.1585 |
|  | Green space construct | | | | | | |
|  |  | Proportion green space (-) | 0.1065 | -0.0253 | 0.0418 | 0.1370 | 0.0451 |

### Changes to 2006-2010 index construction from original 2000-2005 EQI

*Valence Assignment*

The sole modification to the PCA methodology in the county 2006-2010 EQI compared to that of the 2000-2005 EQI is “valence correction”. We have also created a 2000-2005 valence corrected version of the EQI.

The loading pattern for the air domain, which is comprised of established pollutants, served as the reference for our index orientation. The vast majority of variables for the air domain loaded “+” for both the overall U.S. and across the rural-urban continuum. Thus, orientation for valence correction, if needed was toward variables with known poor environmental attributes be oriented toward “+” loadings. Valence correction was only applied to the sociodemographic and built environment domains. This is because only the sociodemographic and built domains had variables that were assigned as poor environmental attributes that loaded initially as “-“. For instance, we were reasonably certain that a high percentage of unemployed per county (variable in sociodemographic domain) is anticipated to have deleterious effects (and therefore could be assigned a “+” loading sign based on our determined index orientation). Appendix V provides the modified loadings, when applicable, along with the rationale for valence correction.

Comparison of 2000-2005 EQI to the 2000-2005 valence corrected EQI

To assess the impact of valence correction, we computed Pearson and Spearman correlation coefficients between the non-valence corrected and valence corrected 2000-2005 EQI. For the overall EQI, both the Pearson and Spearman correlation coefficients were roughly 1. For RUCC1, they were 0.99 across both. For RUCC2, the Pearson correlation coefficient was 0.99 while the Spearman correlation coefficient was 0.98. For RUCC3, the Pearson and Spearman correlation coefficients were -0.98 and -0.96, respectively. And, finally, for RUCC4, they were -0.96 and -0.98, respectively.

Comparison of 2000-2005 valence corrected EQI to the 2006-2010 EQI

We additionally computed Pearson and Spearman correlation coefficients between the valence corrected 2000-2005 EQI and the 2006-2010 EQI. The domain-specific loadings for the overall EQI differed over the two time periods, in terms of magnitude, rank, and direction. These differential loadings contributed to the relatively low correlation between the 2000-2005 and 2006-2010. For the overall EQI, the Pearson and Spearman correlation coefficients were both 0.34. For RUCC1, they were -0.71 and -0.72, respectively. For RUCC2, the Pearson correlation coefficient was -0.35 while the Spearman correlation coefficient was -0.37. For RUCC3, the Pearson and Spearman correlation coefficients were 0.64 and 0.69, respectively. And, finally, for RUCC4, they were 0.57 and 0.59, respectively. The loadings may have differed over the two time periods because of 1) inputs that were included in the domains, 2) valence correction procedures, and 3) potential changes in environmental quality over the two time periods. It is for these reasons that we recommend the two indices not be compared over time.

### Domain-Specific Index Description and Loadings on Overall EQI

The means, standard deviations, and ranges for each domain-specific index are presented in Table 14. As expected, the index loadings on the overall EQI index were mean (0) and standard deviation (1). In examining the ranges of each RUCC-stratified index, the larger the negative number (the smaller the minimum), the better the environmental quality whereas the larger the maximum value, the worse the environmental quality. In general, higher values of each domain’s index was found in the more metropolitan areas and the maximum values went down as counties became more thinly populated.

Table 14. Description of the domain indices contributing to the overall and rural-urban continuum codes (RUCCs) stratified environmental quality index for 3143 United States counties (2006-2010)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Mean** | **Standard Deviation** | **Minimum** | **Maximum** |
| **All Counties (n=3,143)** |  |  |  |  |
| Air Environment Index | -4.39E-10 | 1 | -6.72 | 3.71 |
| Water Environment Index | -3.48E-12 | 1 | -1.46 | 2.05 |
| Land Environment Index | -9.70E-10 | 1 | -4.54 | 1.84 |
| Built Environment Index | 1.20E-09 | 1 | -4.71 | 5.66 |
| Sociodemographic Environment Index | -2.11E-11 | 1 | -5.13 | 2.76 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Metropolitan-Urbanized (n=1,167)** |  |  |  |  |
| Air Environment Index | -2.20E-10 | 1 | -7.29 | 3.68 |
| Water Environment Index | -1.38E-09 | 1 | -1.48 | 1.93 |
| Land Environment Index | 1.28E-09 | 1 | -4.30 | 1.80 |
| Built Environment Index | -1.93E-09 | 1 | -3.62 | 7.29 |
| Sociodemographic Environment Index | -7.23E-10 | 1 | -4.28 | 2.78 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Non-Metropolitan-Urbanized (n=306)** |  |  |  |  |
| Air Environment Index | -2.96E-09 | 1 | -2.92 | 2.37 |
| Water Environment Index | -1.59E-09 | 1 | -1.61 | 1.56 |
| Land Environment Index | -2.11E-09 | 1 | -3.86 | 1.62 |
| Built Environment Index | -2.34E-09 | 1 | -3.50 | 3.28 |
| Sociodemographic Environment Index | -1.45E-10 | 1 | -4.14 | 2.84 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Less Urbanized (n=1,026)** |  |  |  |  |
| Air Environment Index | 8.32E-10 | 1 | -2.67 | 3.31 |
| Water Environment Index | 2.94E-10 | 1 | -3.95 | 2.37 |
| Land Environment Index | 7.79E-10 | 1 | -3.88 | 1.61 |
| Built Environment Index | 6.18E-10 | 1 | -3.22 | 3.77 |
| Sociodemographic Environment Index | 7.34E-10 | 1 | -4.79 | 3.64 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Thinly Populated (n=644)** |  |  |  |  |
| Air Environment Index | 1.40E-09 | 1 | -5.69 | 2.17 |
| Water Environment Index | 1.30E-10 | 1 | -1.21 | 1.96 |
| Land Environment Index | 5.36E-10 | 1 | -4.32 | 1.51 |
| Built Environment Index | -4.06E-10 | 1 | -2.64 | 4.20 |
| Sociodemographic Environment Index | -1.17E-09 | 1 | -3.51 | 3.81 |

*Description of Overall EQI*

The pattern of association for the domain-specific loadings differed by rural-urban status (Table 15). In the most urban areas, RUCC1, the sociodemographic and built-environment domains were both influential, as indicated by their loading values (0.68 and 0.67, respectively), followed by the land domain (0.23). For the nonmetropolitan-urbanized areas (RUCC2), the built and sociodemographic and domains loaded similarly on the overall EQI (0.58 and 0.53, respectively), followed more closely by the air domain. In all but the overall EQI, the water domain was least influential, based on its low PCA coefficients. In the most thinly populated counties, RUCC4, the water and land domains were characterized by the lowest loadings (0.13 and 0.14, respectively), whereas the built, sociodemographic and air domains were the most influential (loadings of 0.60, 0.56 and 0.54, respectively).

The built and the air domains loaded approximately equally on the overall EQI and unlike the loadings observed on the RUCC-stratified EQIs, the sociodemographic domain was relatively unimportant to the overall quality. Similar to the loadings for each domain, the loadings for each RUCC-stratified EQI was valence corrected to ensure that a higher EQI score corresponds to worse environmental quality. Appendix VI contains county mapping of the overall EQI 2006-2010 and RUCC-stratified domain-specific indices.

Table 15. Loadings of the domain indices contributing to the overall and rural-urban continuum codes (RUCCs) stratified environmental quality index for 3143 United States counties (2006-2010)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Overall (N=3,143)** | **Coefficient/Loading** | **95% Confidence Interval** |
| Air Domain | 0.6678 | 0.6238, 0.7118 |
| Water Domain | 0.2209 | 0.0940, 0.3479 |
| Land Domain | 0.3038 | 0.2054, 0.4021 |
| Built-environment Domain | 0.6240 | 0.5582, 0.6898 |
| Sociodemographic Domain | -0.1536 | -0.2966, -0.0107 |
| **Metropolitan-Urbanized RUCC1 (N =1,167)** |  |  |
| Air Domain | -0.1280 | -0.2414, -0.0146 |
| Water Domain | -0.0906 | -0.2522, 0.7010 |
| Land Domain | 0.2340 | 0.0856, 0.3824 |
| Built-environment Domain | 0.6730 | 0.6377, 0.7083 |
| Sociodemographic Domain | 0.6839 | 0.6476, 0.7201 |
| **Nonmetropolitan Urbanized Areas RUCC 2 (N=306)** |  |  |
| Air Domain | 0.4128 | 0.2771, 0.5484 |
| Water Domain | -0.2407 | -0.4204, -0.0611 |
| Land Domain | 0.3926 | 0.2514, 0.5337 |
| Built-environment Domain | 0.5274 | 0.4136, 0.6414 |
| Sociodemographic Domain | 0.5825 | 0.4939, 0.6712 |
| **Less Urbanized Areas RUCC 3 (N=1,026)** |  |  |
| Air Domain | 0.4785 | 0.4049, 0.5520 |
| Water Domain | -0.1569 | -0.2693, -0.0445 |
| Land Domain | 0.1769 | 0.0672, 0.2866 |
| Built-environment Domain | 0.6370 | 0.5939, 0.6802 |
| Sociodemographic Domain | 0.5562 | 0.4939, 0.6184 |
| **Thinly Populated RUCC 4 (N=644)** |  |  |
| Air Domain | 0.5402 | 0.4809, 0.5994 |
| Water Domain | 0.1323 | 0.0177, 0.2469 |
| Land Domain | 0.1430 | 0.0233, 0.2627 |
| Built-environment Domain | 0.5960 | 0.5469, 0.6450 |
| Sociodemographic Domain | 0.5612 | 0.5064, 0.6160 |

## 

# Discussion

This report describes the efforts to update the Environmental Quality Index (EQI) for all counties in the United States for the 2006-2010 period. The EQI was created for two main purposes: (1) as an indicator of ambient conditions/exposure in environmental health modeling and (2) as a covariate to adjust for ambient conditions in environmental models. However, with the release of the EQI and variables that constructed the EQI publicly, other uses may emerge. The methods applied provide a reproducible approach that capitalizes almost exclusively on publicly available data sources.

The EQI holds promise for improving the environmental estimation in public health. The EQI describes the ambient county-level conditions to which residents are exposed, whether they are at home, at school, or at work, provided these multiple human activity spaces occur in the same county. Since the creation of the EQI 2000-2005, multiple studies were conducted examining the relationship between overall environmental quality and health outcomes including preterm birth [3], mortality [4], cancer incidence [5], asthma prevalence [6], physical inactivity and obesity [7], infant mortality [8], and pediatric multiple sclerosis [9]. A complete list of references related to EQI and health outcomes is listed in Appendix I.

With the updated EQI 2006-2010, the hope is that the EQI can continue to be used to help public health researchers investigate cumulative impact of various diverse constructs that typically are viewed in isolation. Each of the domain-specific pieces of information, which contribute to the EQI, is also informative. Because most environmental health practice occurs on a domain-specific basis, this domain-specific information may be important to policymakers and environmental health activists. The domain-specific loadings to the EQI indicate which of the environmental domains accounts for the largest portion of the variability in the EQI; in essence, these loadings answer the question as to which domain is making the biggest contribution to the total environment. In addition, the variable loadings on each of the domains are also informative for the same reason.

The development of the EQI 2006-2010 followed mostly the same protocol as the EQI 2000-2005. Most of the constructs as well as the data sources identified for each of the five domains in the EQI 2000-2005 were maintained. Principal components analysis was used to develop the indices. However, using lessons learned from the creation of the EQI 2000-2005, some modifications were adopted to improve the EQI 2006-2010.

## Summary of changes made to 2006-2010 version compared to 2000-2005

Modifications to the EQI 2006-2010 included exploring new data sources that were not available during EQI 2000-2005 development, assessment of all variables for continued inclusion in the EQI, and assessment of variables’ valence within a domain and valence correction. Although most constructs were maintained from the EQI 2000-2005 in the updated EQI 2006-2010, the exceptions to this were the following: one deletion in the water domain and land domain, and constructs added to the water domain, land domain, sociodemographic domain, and the built environment domain. For data sources, we added seven new data sources and discontinued use of one data source. Lastly, we assessed the valence of each domain to ensure the orientation of the PCA output would have uniformity for interpretation of the domain indices and uniformity for orientation as input into the second PCA.

## Strengths and Limitations

Because modifications were made to the updated EQI 2006-2010, direct comparisons between EQI 2000-2005 and EQI 2006-2010 should not be made. The two indices should not be examined as continuous over time, (e.g., if a study period covers 2004 – 2007, only one index should be chosen or study population should be stratified by time period matched to appropriate EQI).

The EQI offers a comprehensive measure of environmental quality for all counties in the United States and is comprised of many of the best environmental measures currently available. The EQI can be used as an ambient exposure metric to help identify environmental issues related to community health. It provides information on overall environmental exposures faced in a community. In addition, because data sources were used for all United States counties, the EQI is comparable across communities to help identify areas of better and worse overall environmental quality. The development of domain-specific indices enables communities to assess the drivers of poor environmental quality in their community. Additionally, because it is comparable across counties, areas that are burdened most by poor environmental quality can be identified. Finally, the EQI can be used in a variety of environmental health research activities as a control variable to adjust for overall environmental exposure, while trying to isolate a specific effect. Such a control variable will provide better estimates of effects by reducing confounding by co-occurring environmental factors.

The EQI is a national-level index that potentially can provide a better understanding into how multiple environmental conditions affect United States counties. At its current county-level scale, the EQI may not reveal environmental injustices seen at the local community level. However, it does highlight those counties experiencing an increased burden of environmental impacts. Further, the EQI can contribute to environmental justice endeavors by describing

* the process by which EQI data were obtained,
* how the EQI was constructed, and
* the Web sites containing available data that can be used to construct indices at different levels of aggregation.

The EQI can be a tool for interested investigators to consider constructing local EQIs and adding relevant, local-level data for more focused comparisons.

Use of the EQI as a measure of exposure assumes exposure to “environment” is consistent for all individuals, but the extent of environmental exposure was not assessable. The EQI was focused solely on the outside environment, which may not be the most relevant exposure in relation to human health and disease. Finally, population-level analyses offer little predictive utility for individual-level risk. Therefore, although the index may be useful at identifying less healthy county environments, it will not be useful for predicting individual-level adverse outcomes.

The EQI was developed for research purposes and is not meant to be a diagnostic tool. The EQI would be useful to identify potential areas of concern for counties to target future research, but it should not be used to target regulatory purposes.

Data

Data sources evaluated represented each of the five environmentaldomains. Each data source was reasonably well documented. Despite finding a considerable number of data sources applicable to each environmental domain, significant data gaps exist.

The data used to create the index balanced quality measurement with geographic breadth of coverage. Therefore, the index does a solid job estimating the ambient environment but may be less useful for estimating specific environments (e.g., in a particular location in the United States [not county] at a specific time). Not all relevant environmental exposures were necessarily included in the index. Data inclusion was dependent on data collection and coverage; if relevant data were not being collected, the information was not captured in the EQI. Relatedly, in areas where little data collection occurs, the data may be overrepresenting the environmental profile of those areas. For example, a county that contains a National Park without data collected and a town with data collection will be solely represented by the town area, although that may be inaccurate for the entire county. Conversely, environments with a wealth of environmental measurements, like urban areas, will be better estimated by the EQI.

Environmental data sources often are plagued by inadequate spatial and temporal coverage. Most of the data sources obtained for the EQI required spatial interpolation to achieve county-level estimates. For example, even with extensive air monitoring networks, the measured spatial coverage of the United States was incomplete, particularly in rural areas. Some types of measures were located disproportionately in urban areas (e.g., PM air pollution), whereas others are found in rural areas (e.g., industrial livestock operations). The nonrandom distribution of environmental risk meant that virtually all interpolated data were inaccurate, impairing the assessment of how pollutants differentially impacted urban and rural areas.

From a human health perspective, probably the biggest limitation to existing environmental data sources is that data are collected with little thought given to potential health impacts. For instance, monitoring sites may collect relevant air pollutant data, but their location (e.g., air monitors located on top of buildings) is inappropriate for assessing the street-level values to which humans are exposed. Pesticide data, from the land domain, usually reports pesticide sales in relation to crops and livestock, not application, handling, or disbursement. Even the United States Census, which is widely used in health research, primarily is collected for tax and political districting purposes. Some of the data sources identified have not been used in human health research and, as such, are a limitation. Regularly collected, high-quality data that considers probable human health impacts would make the task of assessing differential exposures considerably easier.

Environmental data also were collected rarely with adequate temporal frequency. Although data on some parameters were collected on a consistent and frequent basis, the majority were not. Water data, for instance, were collected only sporadically in response to a particular query or based on regulatory statute. Within the sociodemographic domain, the complete United States Census was collected decennially, which limits investigators’ capacity to explore temporal changes. Some characteristics of places can change rapidly, but, under current data collection schedules, these changes cannot be assessed. Initially, the EQI sought to estimate yearly measures. However, ultimately, only a 5-year (2006-2010) and 6-year (2000-2005) measure was created because of the lack of yearly data for some of the variables.

Many environmental parameters were compiled at a smaller unit of aggregation (e.g., for a municipality or city), and most were not maintained in a single source, such as a data repository. Although national repositories for some domains exist (e.g., water, air), often in response to Federal regulations, no built-environment repository exists (for transit, walkability/physical activity, street connectivity, presence of sidewalks, or pedestrian lighting measures). Localities with limited funds may not be motivated—or able—to collect these data.

PCA Methodology

The use of PCA was not without limitations. Normality is an important assumption for PCA, and not all the data were normally distributed in their raw form. Many of the nonnormal variables were those with a substantial number of meaningful zeros (e.g., there were no public housing units contained within these counties). This “absence” of attribute is important information to convey, and, yet, it was problematic from a score-construction perspective. Although transforming the data improved their distribution, it reduced each variable’s interpretability. A PCA-derived score also can be challenging to interpret. Outliers in the data also can be a limitation. However, with 3143 counties and normality checks, this is less problematic in the EQI.

Although limited, the use of PCA was also an important strength of this project. PCA provided a means to overcome one of the significant limitations in the field of environmental health and combine multiple environmental domains into one index of ambient environmental quality; the whole endeavor would not have been possible without this data reduction strategy. The resulting scale is standardized, which will facilitate its comparison to other scales constructed in different countries or at different units of aggregation. Further, it is the approach that has been used in other scale or score construction activities[65, 66].

## Conclusion

The updated EQI 2006-2010 was constructed for all counties (N=3143) in the United States, incorporating data for five environmental domains, (1) air, (2) water, (3) land, (4) built, and (5) sociodemographic, and stratified by RUCCs. Mostly, the same reproducible approach used to create EQI 2000-2005 was also used to create EQI 2006-2010 with some noted changes that incorporate lessons learned from the first creation. The EQI will be used as a measure in environmental health research. This broad-based effort acknowledges the many factors that together impact environmental quality and, more generally, recognizes that these factors work together to impact public health. Updates to the EQI for future years are planned, and the research team is actively creating a census tract version as a first step to explore other finer spatial aggregations.

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# Appendix I: List of References Related to 2000-2005 Environmental Quality Index

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# Appendix II: Identified Variables by Source for Each Domain

**Variables by Data Source - Air Domain**

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| **Air quality system (AQS)** |
| Notes: Raw data is from monitoring stations across the country, daily and hourly values downloaded and averaged to yearly (2006-2010) for each monitoring station/pollutant. Averaged data were then kriged to get a value for each county centroid. |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Variable** | **Variable Name** | **Counties/Monitors** | **Variable Notes** | **EQI version** |
| Particulate Matter <10 micrometers in aerodynamic diameter (PM10) | PM10 | 3143 / 303 | µg/m3 | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |
| Particulate Matter <2.5 micrometers in aerodynamic diameter (PM2.5) | PM25 | 3143 / 1146 | µg/m3 | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |
| Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2) | ln\_NOx | 3143 / 442 | ppm, log-transformed | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |
| Sulfur Dioxide (SO2) | ln\_SO2 | 3143 / 575 | ppb, log-transformed | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |
| Ozone (O3) | O3 | 3143 / 1187 | ppb | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |
| Carbon Monoxide (CO) | ln\_CO | 3143 / 499 | ppm, log-transformed | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |

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| **National Air Toxics Assessment (NATA)** |
| Notes: When data is missing/not recorded zero values were deemed appropriate. Most variables kept for eqi have been log-transformed. EQI 2006-2010= NATA 2005. All variables reported in tons emitted per year. unless otherwise noted all variables are log-transformed. Variables were dropped due to insufficient data (high numbers of missing or zero observations) or due to high correlation with other variables. |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Variable** | | **Variable Name** | | **Counties** | **Variable Notes** | **EQI version** |
| 1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethane | | A\_TeCA\_ln | | 3137 |  | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |
| 1,1,2-trichloroethane | | A\_112TCA\_ln | | 3137 |  | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |
| 1,2-dibromo-3-chloropropane | | A\_DBCP\_ln | | 3137 |  | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |
| 1,3-dichloropropene | | A\_DCl\_propene\_ln | | 3061 |  | 2006-2010 |
| Acrylic acid | | | A\_Acrylic\_acid\_ln | 3107 |  | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |
| Benzidine | | | A\_Benzidine\_ln | 3137 |  | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |
| Benzyl chloride | | | A\_Benzyl\_Cl\_ln | 3137 |  | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |
| Beryllium compounds | | | A\_Be\_ln | 3137 |  | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |
| Bis-2-ethylhexyl phthalate | A\_DEHP\_ln | | | 3137 |  | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |
| Carbon tetrachloride | A\_CCl4 | | | 3137 |  | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |
| Carbonyl sulfide | A\_CylS\_ln | | | 3137 |  | 2006-2010 |
| Chlorine | A\_Cl\_ln | | | 3137 |  | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |
| Chlorobenzene | A\_C6H5Cl\_ln | | | 3137 |  | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |
| Chloroform | A\_chloroform\_ln | | | 3137 |  | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |
| Chloroprene | A\_Chloroprene\_ln | | | 3137 |  | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |
| Chromium compounds | A\_Cr\_ln | | | 3137 |  | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |
| Cobalt compounds | A\_Co\_ln | | | 3132 |  | 2006-2010 |
| Cyanide compounds | A\_CN\_ln | | | 3137 |  | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |
| Dibutylphthalate | | A\_DBP\_ln | | 3137 |  | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |
| Ethyl chloride | | A\_EtCl\_ln | | 3136 |  | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |
| Ethylbenzene | | A\_Ebenzine | | 3137 |  | 2006-2010 |
| Ethylene dibromide | | A\_EDB | | 3137 |  | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |
| Ethylene dichloride | | A\_EDC\_ln | | 3137 |  | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |
| Formaldehyde | | A\_Formaldehyde | | 3137 |  | 2006-2010 |
| Glycol ethers | | A\_Glycol\_ethers\_ln | | 3057 |  | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |
| Hydrazine | A\_N2H2\_ln | | | 3137 |  | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |
| Hydrochloric acid | A\_HCl\_ln | | | 3137 |  | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |
| Isophorone | A\_Isophorone\_ln | | | 3131 |  | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |
| Manganese compounds | A\_Mn\_ln | | | 3137 |  | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |
| Methyl bromide | A\_Me\_Br\_ln | | | 3137 |  | 2006-2010 |
| Methylene chloride | A\_MeCl2\_ln | | | 3137 |  | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |
| Phosphine | A\_PH3\_ln | | | 3062 |  | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |
| Polychlorinated biphenyls | A\_PCBs\_ln | | | 3137 |  | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |
| Propylene dichloride | A\_ProCl2\_ln | | | 3137 |  | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |
| Quinoline | A\_Quinolin\_ln | | | 3137 |  | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |
| Trichloroethylene | A\_C2HCl3\_ln | | | 3137 |  | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |
| Vinyl chloride | A\_VyCl\_ln | | | 3137 |  | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |

**Variables by Data Source - Water Domain**

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| **WATERS Program Database/Reach Address Database** |
| Notes: These measures were computed, lots of missing data so several variables can’t be used. Variables calculated using REACH stream length database. Data for 2006, 2008, and 2010 were Averaged. data was updated based on 2010 FIPS Codes. |
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| **Variable** | **Variable Name** | **Counties** | | **Variable Notes** | **EQI version** | **Notes** |
| % of stream length impaired in county | D303\_Percent | 2513 | Calculated with REACH database information | | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |  |
| All NPDES Permits grouped per 1000km of stream length in county | ALLNPDESperKM | 3141 | All types of NPDES permits | | 2006-2010 | Grouped variable of Sewage Permits per 1000 km of Stream in County; Industrial Permits per 1000 km of Stream in County; Stormwater Permits per 1000 km of Stream in County |

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| **Estimate Use of Water in US** | | | | |  | |
| Notes: These measures were computed for 2005 and 2010 data and averaged. USGS provides estimates at county level so no additional manipulation required. | | | | | | |
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| **Variable** | **Variable Name** | **Counties** | **Variable Notes** | **EQI version** | |  |
| Percent of Population on Self Supply, 2005, 2010 | Per\_TotPopSS | 3141 | Estimate provided at county level | 2006-2010 | |  |
| Percent of Public Supply Population which is on Surface Water, 2005, 2010 | Per\_PSWithSW | 3067 | Estimate provided at county level | 2006-2010 | |  |

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| **National Atmospheric Deposition Program** |
| Notes: Measures provided at various monitoring stations. Values for 2006-2010 were kriged to national level coverage. Data for all years was averaged together. |
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| **Variable** | **Variable Name** | **Counties** | **Variable Notes** | **EQI version** |
| Calcium (Ca) precipitation weighted mean (mg/L) | CaAve\_ln | 3141 | Kriged & log transformed | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Potassium (K) precipitation weighted mean (mg/L) | KAve\_ln | 3141 | Kriged & log transformed | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Nitrate (NO3) precipitation weighted mean (mg/L) | NO3Ave | 3141 | Kriged – transformation not needed | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |
| Chloride (Cl) deposition | ClAve\_ln | 3141 | Kriged & log transformed | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |
| Sulfate (SO4) deposition | SO4Ave\_ln | 3141 | Kriged & log transformed | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |
| Total Mercury deposition (ng/M2)  Use only values with A or B quality rating | HgAve | 3141 | Kriged – transformation not needed | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |

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| **Drought Monitor Data** |
| Notes: Raster data aggregated to the county level. Data for all years 2006-2010 was averaged together. |
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| **Variable** | **Variable Name** | **Counties** | **Variable Notes** | **EQI version** |
| % of county drought – extreme (D3-D4) | AvgOfD3\_ave | 3141 |  | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |

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| **National Contaminant Occurrence Database (NCOD)** | | | | | |
| Notes: Will use 6 Year Review 2 (data collected between 1998-2005). | | | | | |
| Calculate the following variables for each chemical for each county (aggregating all PWS in county) for all years combined, Missing for those counties without any data, did not keep detects | | | | | |
|  | | | | | |
| **Variable** | **Variable Name** | **Counties** | **Variable Notes** | **EQI version** |  |
| Arsenic- average | W\_As\_ln (mg/L) | 2017 | Average for all samples in county, log transformed | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |  |
| Barium - average | W\_Ba\_ln (mg/L) | 1990 | Average for all samples in county, log transformed | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |  |
| Cadmium - average | W\_Cd\_ln (mg/L) | 1991 | Average for all samples in county, log transformed | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |  |
| Chromium (total) - average | W\_Cr\_ln (mg/L) | 1989 | Average for all samples in county, log transformed | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |  |
| Cyanide - average | W\_CN\_ln (mg/L) | 1385 | Average for all samples in county, log transformed | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |  |
| Fluoride - average | W\_FL\_ln (mg/L) | 2138 | Average for all samples in county, log transformed | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |  |
| Mercury (inorganic) - average | W\_HG\_ln (mg/L) | 2056 | Average for all samples in county, log transformed | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |  |
| Nitrate (as N) - average | W\_NO3\_ln (mg/L) | 1988 | Average for all samples in county, log transformed | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |  |
| Nitrite (as N) - average | W\_NO2\_ln (mg/L) | 1583 | Average for all samples in county, log transformed | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |  |
| Selenium - average | W\_SE\_ln (mg/L) | 1986 | Average for all samples in county, log transformed | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |  |
| Antimony - average | W\_Sb\_ln (mg/L) | 1994 | Average for all samples in county, log transformed | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |  |
| Endrin - average | W\_Endrin\_ln (ug/L) | 1509 | Average for all samples in county, log transformed | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |  |
| Methoxychlor - average | W\_methoxychlor\_ln (ug/L) | 1512 | Average for all samples in county, log transformed | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |  |
| Dalapon - average | W\_Dalapon\_ln (ug/L) | 1292 | Average for all samples in county, log transformed | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |  |
| Di(2-ethylhexyl)adipate (DEHA) - average | W\_DEHA\_ln (ug/L) | 1456 | Average for all samples in county, log transformed | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Simazine - average | W\_Simazine\_ln (ug/L) | 1669 | Average for all samples in county, log transformed | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |  |
| Di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP) - average | W\_DEHP\_ln (ug/L) | 1449 | Average for all samples in county, log transformed | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |  |
| Picloram - average | W\_Picloram\_ln (ug/L) | 1352 | Average for all samples in county, log transformed | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |  |
| Dinoseb - average | W\_Dinoseb\_ln (ug/L) | 1347 | Average for all samples in county, log transformed | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |  |
| Atrazine - average | W\_atrazine\_ln (ug/L) | 1726 | Average for all samples in county, log transformed | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |  |
| 2,4-D (2,4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic acid) - average | W\_24D\_ln (ug/L) | 1360 | Average for all samples in county, log transformed | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |  |
| Benzo[a]pyrene - average | W\_BenzoAP\_ln (ug/L) | 1430 | Average for all samples in county, log transformed | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |  |
| Pentachlorophenol - average | W\_PCP\_ln (ug/L) | 1547 | Average for all samples in county, log transformed | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |  |
| Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) - average | W\_PCB\_ln (ug/L) | 848 | Average for all samples in county, log transformed | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |  |
| 1,2-Dibromo-3-chloropropane (DBCP) - average | W\_DBCP\_ln (ug/L) | 1652 | Average for all samples in county, log transformed | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |  |
| Ethylene dibromide (EDB) - average | W\_EDB\_ln (ug/L) | 1630 | Average for all samples in county, log transformed | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |  |
| Xylenes (Total) - average | W\_xylenes\_ln (ug/L) | 2203 | Average for all samples in county, log transformed | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |  |
| Chlordane - average | W\_Chlordane\_ln (ug/L) | 1498 | Average for all samples in county, log transformed | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |  |
| Dichloromethane (Methylene chloride) - average | W\_DCM\_ln (ug/L) | 2245 | Average for all samples in county, log transformed | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |  |
| 1,4-Dichlorobenzene (p-Dichlorobenzene) - average | W\_PDCB\_ln (ug/L) | 2165 | Average for all samples in county, log transformed | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |  |
| 1,1,1-Trichloroethane - average | W\_111trichlorane\_ln (ug/L) | 2238 | Average for all samples in county, log transformed | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |  |
| Trichloroethylene - average | W\_Trichlorene\_ln (ug/L) | 2250 | Average for all samples in county, log transformed | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |  |
| Tetrachloroethylene - average | W\_C2Cl4\_ln (ug/L) | 2249 | Average for all samples in county, log transformed | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |  |
| Monochlorobenzene (Chlorobenzene) - average | W\_benzene\_ln (ug/L) | 2239 | Average for all samples in county, log transformed | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |  |
| Toluene - average | W\_Toluene\_ln (ug/L) | 2245 | Average for all samples in county, log transformed | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |  |
| Ethylbenzene - average | W\_ethylbenz\_ln (ug/L) | 2241 | Average for all samples in county, log transformed | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |  |
| Styrene - average | W\_styrene\_ln (ug/L) | 2235 | Average for all samples in county, log transformed | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |  |
| cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene - average | W\_DCE\_ln (ug/L) | 2238 | Average for all samples in county, log transformed | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |  |
| Alpha Particles (Gross Alpha, excl.Radon&U) - average | W\_alpha (PCl/L) | 1243 | Average for all samples in county |  |  |

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| **Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS)** | | | | | |
| Notes: Cumulative count of violations for all PWS in county for the year. Data is available annually. Data were compiled for 2006-2010. | | | | | |
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| **Variable** | **Variable Name** | **Counties** | **Variable Notes** | **EQI version** |  | |
| Total Coliform, Proportion | Coliform\_Sum | 2034 |  | 2006-2010 |  | |

**Variables by Source - Land Domain**

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| **2007 Census of Agriculture** |
| Notes: Acres of crop or treatment were divided by total county acres to get percentage of item per county. Some counties had SUPPRESSED ACREAGE due to identifiability issues. For these, the unaccounted-for acreage for each state was calculated (total state acreage – listed county acreage). The acreage was divided equally among the farms in counties with suppressed information. Data for Hawaii and Alaska are not available. these data are refreshed every five years. the next available data is for 2012. |

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| **Variable** | **Variable Name** | **Counties** | **Variable Notes** | **EQI version** |
| Commercial fertilizer, lime, and soil conditioners | pct\_lime\_acres | 3065 |  | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |
| Manure | pct\_manure\_acres\_ln | 2975 |  | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |
| Chemicals used to control Insects | pct\_insecticide\_acres | 3141 |  | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |
| Chemicals used to control Weeds, grass, or brush | pct\_weed\_acres | 3061 |  | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |
| Chemicals used to control Nematodes | pct\_nematode\_acres\_ln | 1933 |  | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |
| Chemicals used to control Diseases in crops and orchards | pct\_disease\_acres\_ln | 2530 |  | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |
| Chemicals used to control growth, thin fruit, or defoliate | pct\_defoliate\_acres\_ln | 1980 |  | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |
| Corn for grain (bushels) | pct\_corn\_acres | 2588 |  | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |
| Potatoes (cwt) | Pct\_potato\_acres | 1565 |  | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |
| Soybeans for beans (bushels) | pct\_soybean\_acres | 2082 |  | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |
| Wheat for grain, all (bushels) | pct\_wheat\_acres | 2520 |  | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |
| Animal units | pct\_au\_ln | 3078 | 1 AU is equal to 0.94 cattle and calves, 5.88 hogs and pigs, 250 egg laying chickens, and 455 broiler chickens. | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |
| Number of farms | farms\_per\_acre\_ln | 3039 |  | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |
| Irrigated acres | pct\_irrigated\_acres\_ln | 2815 |  | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |
| Harvested acres | pct\_harvest\_acres | 2755 |  | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |

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| **2009 National Pesticide Use Dataset (NPUD)** |
| Notes: Pesticide concentrations were grouped by class and added together to get class level estimates of pesticide application. these data are refreshed every five years. the next available data is for 2012. |

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| **Variable** | **Variable Name** | **Counties** | **Variable Notes** | **EQI version** |
| Insecticides | insecticides\_ln | 2761 |  | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |
| Herbicides | herbicides\_ln | 2907 |  | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |
| Fungicides | fungicides\_ln | 2256 |  | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |

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| **Map of Radon zone (EPA)** |
| Notes:  The EPA Radon Zone map identifies areas of the United States with the potential for elevated indoor radon levels. Each United States county (3142) is assigned to one of three zones based on radon potential. Data years unavailable. Presumably radon is a stable feature and the map is not variable, but refresh dates are not available. No other information available in data documentation. |

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| **Variable** | **Variable Name** | **Counties** | **Variable Notes** | **EQI version** |
| Radon zones | Radon\_zone | 3142 | 3-level variable | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |

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| **Superfund National Priorities List (NPL) sites** |
| Notes: NPL site locations available through the EPA geospatial data access project. Sites were included in the counts if they were identified between 2006-2010. published August 2016. start and end dates not available. data refreshed monthly. |

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| **Variable** | **Variable Name** | **Counties** | **Variable Notes** | **EQI version** | **Notes** |
| Count of superfund national priority list sites per county | sf\_county\_count | 719 |  | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 | Included as part of composite count variable |

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| **Resource conservation and recovery act (RCRA) treatment, storage and disposal facilities (TSD) and RCRA corrective action facilities** |
| Notes: RCA TSD and correction action facilities site locations available through the epa geospatial data access project. Sites were included in the counts if they were identified between 2006-2010. published august 2016. start and end dates not available. data refreshed monthly. |

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| **Variable** | **Variable Name** | **Counties** | **Variable Notes** | **EQI version** | **Notes** |
| Count of RCRA TSD and corrective action facilities per county | rcra\_tsd\_count\_by\_fips | 874 |  | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 | Included as part of composite count variable |

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| **Resource conservation and recovery act (RCRA) large quantity generators (lqg)** |
| Notes: RCA LQG site locations through the epa geospatial data access project. Sites were included in the counts if they were identified between 2006-2010. published august 2016. start and end dates not available. data refreshed monthly. |

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| **Variable** | **Variable Name** | **Counties** | **Variable Notes** | **EQI version** | **Notes** |
| Count of RCRA LQG facilities per county | rcralqg\_count | 1963 |  | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 | Included as part of composite count variable |
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| **Toxic release inventory (TRI) sites** |
| Notes: TRI sites available through the EPA geospatial data access project. Sites were included in the counts if they were identified between 2006-2010. published august 2016. start and end dates not available. data refreshed monthly. |

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| **Variable** | **Variable Name** | **Counties** | **Variable Notes** | **EQI version** | **Notes** |
| Count of TRI sites per county | tri\_county\_count | 2671 |  | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 | Included as part of composite count variable |

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| **Assessment, cleanup and redevelopment exchange (ACRES) brownfield sites** |
| Notes: Brownfield site locations available through the epa geospatial data access project. Sites were included in the counts if they were identified between 2006-2010. published august 2016. start and end dates not available. data refreshed monthly. |

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| **Variable** | **Variable Name** | **Counties** | **Variable Notes** | **EQI version** | **Notes** |
| Count of ACRES sites per county | acres\_county\_count | 1273 |  | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 | Included as part of composite count variable |

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| **section seven tracking system (SSTS) pesticide producing site locations** |
| Notes: SSTS pesticide producing site locations available through the EPA geospatial data access project. Sites were included in the counts if they were identified between 2006-2010. published august 2016. start and end dates not available. data refreshed but not annually. |

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| **Variable** | **Variable Name** | **Counties** | **Variable Notes** | **EQI version** | **Notes** |
| Count of SSTS sites per county | ssts\_county\_count | 2099 |  | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 | Included as part of composite count variable |
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| **MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION (MSHA)** |
| Notes: The Mine dataset lists all Coal and Metal/Non-Metal mines under MSHA's jurisdiction since 1/1/1970. It includes such information as the current status of each mine (Active, Abandoned, NonProducing, etc.), the current owner and operating company, commodity codes and physical attributes of the mine. Mine ID is the unique key for this data (https://arlweb.msha.gov/OpenGovernmentData/OGIMSHA.asp). Data refreshed weekly. Counties with zero mines were given a value of minimum value/2. these data were transformed (log) to account for the large number of zeros and to result in nearly normally distributed data. |

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| **Variable** | **Variable Name** | **Counties** | **Variable Notes** | **EQI?** | **Notes** |
| Primarily coal mines, mines per county population | Std\_coal\_prim\_pop\_ln | 464 | See notes above | 2006-2010 |  |
| Primarily metal mines, mines per county population | Std\_coal\_prim\_pop\_ln | 386 | See notes above | 2006-2010 |  |
| Primarily nonmetal mines, mines per county population | Std\_coal\_prim\_pop\_ln | 1135 | See notes above | 2006-2010 |  |
| Primarily sand and gravel mines, mines per county population | Std\_coal\_prim\_pop\_ln | 2342 | See notes above | 2006-2010 |  |
| Primarily stone mines, mines per county population | Std\_coal\_prim\_pop\_ln | 1965 | See notes above | 2006-2010 |  |

**Variables by Source - Sociodemographic Domain**

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| **United States Census summary files** |
| Notes: Many, many more variables are available from the United States census than will be described here. the variables identified here are those that will be used in the eqi and not the plethora of variables that could be constructed. data are available for multiple units of geographic aggregation, including the county-level. full population data are collected decennially; sample data are collected more frequently. data are available for download from the United States Census Bureau website. |

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| **Variable** | **Variable Name** | **Counties** | **Variable Notes** | **EQI version** | **Notes** |
| Percent renter-occupied units | Pct\_RenterOcc | 3143 |  | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |  |
| Percent vacant units | Pct\_Vacant\_Housing | 3143 |  | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |  |
| Median household value | med\_hh\_value | 3143 |  | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |  |
| Median household income | ln\_HH\_Inc | 3143 |  | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |  |
| Bachelor's degree or higher, percent of persons age 25 years+ | Pct\_BS | 3143 |  | 2006-2010 | This variable replaced percent < HS |
| Percent of persons who are unemployed | Pct\_Unemp\_total | 3143 |  | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |  |
| Percent of families in poverty | Pct\_Fam\_Pov | 3143 |  | 2006-2010 | This variable replaced percent families in poverty |
| Occupants per Room | ln\_Occs\_Room | 3143 |  | 2006-2010 | This variable replaced number rooms / house |
| Measure of income inequality (proportion) | GINI\_est | 3143 |  | 2006-2010 |  |

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| **FBI Uniform Crime Reports** |
| Notes: FBI UCR data were downloaded for each county in each state from the website (<http://www.ucrdatatool.gov/>). data are available by year and by crime type (Violent = murder and non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery and aggravated assault; property = burglary, larceny-theft, and motor vehicle theft). data from 2006-2010 were temporally and spatially kriged for use in the eqi. data reporting is voluntary. data are available at the city and county levels but many counties do not report these data. data for law enforcement agencies serving city jurisdictions with populations of 10,000 or more and county agencies of 25,000 or more. therefore data may not be available for each jurisdiction each year. data are available from 1960 to current year. rates were obtained from the FBI. The violent crime rate data were transformed (log) to account for the large number of zeros and to result in nearly normally distributed data. |

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| **Variable** | **Variable Name** | **Counties** | **Variable Notes** | **EQI version** | **Notes** |
| Violent crime rate | ln\_ViolAv | 3143 | Variable kriged to estimate values for counties with no reported violent crime data | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |  |
| Murder-manslaughter crime rate | murder\_manslaughter\_rate | 1062 | Variable kriged to estimate values for counties with no reported violent crime data | No | Constituent of violent crime rate |
| Rape crime rate | rape\_rate | 1055 | Variable kriged to estimate values for counties with no reported violent crime data | No | Constituent of violent crime rate |
| Robbery crime rate | rob\_rate | 1062 | Variable kriged to estimate values for counties with no reported violent crime data | No | Constituent of violent crime rate |
| Aggravated assault crime rate | agg\_assault\_rate | 1062 | Variable kriged to estimate values for counties with no reported violent crime data | No | Constituent of violent crime rate |

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| **United States Department of Agriculture Economic research service creative class index** |
| Notes: the economic research service (ers) class codes indicate a county’s share of population employed in occupations that require “thinking creatively.” This skill element is defined as "developing, designing, or creating new applications, ideas, relationships, systems, or products, including artistic contributions." data are available for download from the USDA ERS website. |

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| **Variable** | **Variable Name** | **Counties** | **Variable Notes** | **EQI version** |
| Percent county employed in creative class | Num\_CreatClass | 3143 |  | 2006-2010 |

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| **United States election atlas** |
| Notes: the political climate of a county was represented by the david leip election map. county-specific percents voting republican or democratic were reported. the report voting democratic in the 2008 presidential election were included in the eqi |

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| **Variable** | **Variable Name** | **Counties** | **Variable Notes** | **EQI version** |
| Percent county voting Democrat in 2008 | DEMO2008 | 3143 |  | 2006-2010 |

**Variables by Source - Built Domain**

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| **Housing and Urban Development (HUD) data** |
| Notes: these data provide a count of the low-rent and section-eight housing in each housing authority area. these housing authority areas correspond to cities, which are then assigned fips codes. counties without housing authority cities are given a count of zero for low-rent and / or section-eight housing. these data were transformed (log) to account for the large number of zeros and to result in nearly normally distributed data. data are refreshed frequently (e.g., update on Alaska data were April 2012 in August 2012) but update frequency not provided. historic data does not appear to be available from website. data were collected in 2010 but since low-rent and section eight housing does not change substantially over time, these data are considered representative of the 2006-2010 time period. rates for each variable constructed by dividing count by county population. |

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| **Variable** | **Variable Name** | **Counties** | **Variable Notes** | **EQI version** | **Notes** |
| Rate of low-rent + section-eight units in county | total\_units\_ln | 3143 | Variable transformed (log) to allow it to approximate normal distribution | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 | Zeros considered meaningful zeros (lack of public housing) |
| Count of low rent units per county | low\_rent\_units | 2080 | Variable transformed (log) to allow it to approximate normal distribution | No | Constituent of total unit rate |
| Count of section eight unites per county | section\_eight\_units | 2080 | Variable transformed (log) to allow it to approximate normal distribution | No | Constituent of total unit rate |

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| **Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) data** |
| Notes: The fatality analysis reporting system (FARS) is a nationwide census providing the national highway traffic safety administration yearly data regarding fatal injuries suffered in motor vehicle traffic crashes. FARS data are available from 1975 (http://www.nhtsa.gov/FARS/). rates for the count of fatal crashes per county for 2006-2010 was constructed by dividing count by county population. these data were transformed (log) to account for the large number of zeros and to result in nearly normally distributed data. these data can be updated annually. |

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| **Variable** | **Variable Name** | **Counties** | **Variable Notes** | **EQI version** | **Notes** |
| Rate of fatal car crashes per county | ln\_fatalities | 3143 | Variable transformed (log) to allow it to approximate normal distribution | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |  |
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| **2010 United States Census summary files** | | | | | |
| Notes: Many, many more variables are available from the United States census than will be described here. the variables identified here are those that will be used in the eqi and not the plethora of variables that could be constructed. data are available for multiple units of geographic aggregation, including the county-level. full population data are collected decennially; sample data are collected more frequently. these data were transformed (log) to account for the large number of zeros and to result in nearly normally distributed data. data are available for download from the United States Census Bureau website. | | | | | |

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| **Variable** | **Variable Name** | **Counties** | **Variable Notes** | **EQI version** | **Notes** |
| Percent of county residents who report using public transportation | ln\_PubTrans | 3143 | Variable transformed (log) to allow it to approximate normal distribution | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |  |
| Time it takes from home to go to work | CommuteTime | 3143 | Recorded in minutes | 2006-2010 |  |

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| **TIGER Files** |
| Notes: Topologically integrated geographic encoding and referencing products provides maps and road layers worldwide and for the United States. These data are updated regularly but do not change substantially over time. the data used in the EQI are from 2009. data are available at Census geography. for the street types, the highway, secondary and local roads (tertiary roads) per county per state were downloaded. proportion of each road type was constructed by dividing the distance of each road type by the total amount of each road. |

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| **Variable** | **Variable Name** | **Counties** | **Variable Notes** | **EQI version** | **Notes** |
| Proportion of all roads that are secondary roads | SecondaryRoadProportion | 3143 |  | 2006-2010 | This single variable replaced proportion primary road and highways |

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| **Dun and Bradstreet** |
| Notes: Dun and Bradstreet collect commercial information on business. its database contains more than 195 million records and is proprietary. the data are put through an extensive quality assurance process, which includes over 2000 separate automated plus several manual checks. data are updated daily. Rates of each type of business in 2008 were calculated by dividing the counts of each variable by the county population. these data were transformed (log) to account for the large number of zeros and to result in nearly normally distributed data. |

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| **Variable** | **Variable Name** | **Counties** | **Variable Notes** | **EQI version** | **Notes** |
| Rate of positive food environment businesses per county | pos\_food\_rate\_ln | 3140 |  | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |  |
| Rate of negative food environment businesses per county | neg\_food\_rate\_ln | 3117 |  | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |  |
| Rate of alcohol, pawn, gaming businesses per county | al\_pwn\_gm\_env\_rate\_ln | 3039 |  | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |  |
| Rate of health care-related businesses per county | hc\_env\_rate\_ln | 3119 |  | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |  |
| Rate of recreation-related businesses per county | rec\_env\_rate\_ln | 3133 |  | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |  |
| Rate of education-related businesses per county | ed\_env\_rate\_ln | 3141 |  | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |  |
| Rate of social-service-related businesses per county | ss\_env\_rate\_ln | 3125 |  | 2000-2005; 2006-2010 |  |
| Rate of civic-related businesses per county | civic\_env\_rate\_ln | 3138 |  | 2006-2010 |  |

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| **Enviroatlas Land cover conterminous united states (epa)** |
| Notes: This EnviroAtlas dataset represents the percentage of land area that is classified as natural, barren, forest, tundra, shrubland, herbaceous, wetland, woody wetland, emergent wetland, all human land use, developed, open space developed, low intensity developed, medium intensity developed, high intensity developed, agricultural, pasture/hay, and cultivated crop using the 2011 National Land Cover Dataset (NLCD) for each county in the conterminous United States. This dataset was produced by the United States EPA to support research and online mapping activities related to EnviroAtlas. EnviroAtlas (https://www.epa.gov/enviroatlas) allows the user to interact with a web-based, easy-to-use, mapping application to view and analyze multiple ecosystem services for the contiguous United States. The dataset is available as downloadable data (https://edg.epa.gov/data/Public/ORD/EnviroAtlas) or as an EnviroAtlas map service. Additional descriptive information about each attribute in this dataset can be found in its associated EnviroAtlas Fact Sheet (https://www.epa.gov/enviroatlas/enviroatlas-fact-sheets). |

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| **Variable** | **Variable Name** | **Counties** | **Variable Notes** | **EQI?** | **Notes** |
| Combined natural land cover and open space developed | NINDEX\_open | 3109 | Green space composite variable | 2006-2010 |  |
| Percentage of county land area that is classified as natural land cover | NINDEX | 3109 | Composite variable of barren, forest, tundra, shrubland, herbaceous, and wetland land cover | 2006-2010 | Included as part of green space composite variable |
| Percentage of county land area that is classified as barren land cover | pbar | 3109 | Vegetation accounts for <15% total cover | 2006-2010 | Included as part of green space composite variable |
| Percentage of county land area that is classified as forest land cover | pfor | 3109 | Composite variable of deciduous, evergreen, and mixed forests. Areas dominated by trees generally greater than 5 meters tall, and greater than 20% total vegetation cover | 2006-2010 | Included as part of green space composite variable |
| Percentage of county land area that is classified as tundra land cover | ptun | 3109 | Alaska only areas | 2006-2010 | Included as part of green space composite variable |
| Percentage of county land area that is classified as shrubland land cover | pshb | 3109 | Areas dominated by shrubs; less than 5 meters tall; shrub canopy greater than 20% of total vegetation | 2006-2010 | Included as part of green space composite variable |
| Percentage of county land area that is classified as herbaceous land cover | phrb | 3109 | Areas dominated by graminoid and herbaceous vegetation, usually greater than 80% of total vegetation | 2006-2010 | Included as part of green space composite variable |
| Percentage of county land area that is classified as wetland land cover | pwtl | 3109 | Composite variable of woody and emergent wetlands. | 2006-2010 | Included as part of green space composite variable |
| Percentage of county land area that is classified as woody wetland land cover | pwtlw | 3109 | Soil or substrate is periodically saturated with or covered with water and forest or shrubland vegetation account for >20% vegetative cover | 2006-2010 | Included as part of green space composite variable |
| Percentage of county land area that is classified as emergent wetland land cover | pwtle | 3109 | Soil or substrate is periodically saturated with or covered with water and perennial herbaceous vegetation accounts for >80% vegetative cover | No | Included as part of green space composite variable |
| Percentage of county land area that is classified as all human land use land cover | UINDEX | 3109 | Composite variable of developed and agricultural land cover | No | Does not meet definition of green space |
| Percentage of county land area that is classified as developed land cover | pdev | 3109 | All developed land cover | No | Does not meet definition of green space |
| Percentage of county land area that is classified as open space developed land cover | pdevo | 3109 | Mixture of some constructed materials but mostly vegetation; < 20% impervious surface | No | Included as part of green space composite variable |
| Percentage of county land area that is classified as low intensity developed land cover | pdevl | 3109 | Mixture of constructed materials and vegetation; 20% to 49% impervious surface | No | Does not meet definition of green space |
| Percentage of county land area that is classified as medium intensity developed land cover | pdevm | 3109 | Mixture of constructed materials and vegetation; 50% to 79% impervious surface | No | Does not meet definition of green space |
| Percentage of county land area that is classified as high intensity developed land cover | pdevh | 3109 | Highly developed areas; 80% to 100% impervious surface | No | Does not meet definition of green space |
| Percentage of county land area that is classified as agricultural land cover | pagr | 3109 | Composite variable of pasture/hay and cultivated crop land cover | No | Does not meet definition of green space |
| Percentage of county land area that is classified as pasture/hay land cover | pagrp | 3109 | Grasses, legumes, or grass-legume mixtures for livestock grazing; production of seed or hay crops; pasture/hay vegetation accounts for >20% total vegetation | No | Does not meet definition of green space |
| Percentage of county land area that is classified as cultivated crop land cover | pagrc | 3109 | Production of annual crops; crop vegetation accounts for >20% total vegetation; includes land being actively tilled | No | Does not meet definition of green space |

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| **Enviroatlas land cover alaska (epa)** |
| Notes: This EnviroAtlas dataset represents the percentage of land area that is classified as natural, barren, forest, tundra, shrubland, herbaceous, wetland, woody wetland, emergent wetland, all human land use, developed, open space developed, low intensity developed, medium intensity developed, high intensity developed, agricultural, pasture/hay, cultivated crop, and perennial snow/ice using the 2011 National Land Cover Dataset (NLCD) for each county in Alaska. This dataset was produced by the United States EPA to support research and online mapping activities related to EnviroAtlas. EnviroAtlas (https://www.epa.gov/enviroatlas) allows the user to interact with a web-based, easy-to-use, mapping application to view and analyze multiple ecosystem services for the contiguous United States. The dataset is available as downloadable data (https://edg.epa.gov/data/Public/ORD/EnviroAtlas) or as an EnviroAtlas map service. Additional descriptive information about each attribute in this dataset can be found in its associated EnviroAtlas Fact Sheet (https://www.epa.gov/enviroatlas/enviroatlas-fact-sheets). |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Variable** | **Variable Name** | **Counties** | **Variable Notes** | **EQI?** | **Notes** |
| Combined natural land cover and open space developed | NINDEX\_open | 29 | Green space composite variable | 2006-2010 |  |
| Percentage of county land area that is classified as natural land cover | NINDEX | 29 | Composite variable of barren, forest, tundra, shrubland, herbaceous, and wetland land cover | 2006-2010 | Included as part of green space composite variable |
| Percentage of county land area that is classified as barren land cover | pbar | 29 | Vegetation accounts for <15% total cover | 2006-2010 | Included as part of green space composite variable |
| Percentage of county land area that is classified as forest land cover | pfor | 29 | Composite variable of deciduous, evergreen, and mixed forests. Areas dominated by trees generally greater than 5 meters tall, and greater than 20% total vegetation cover | 2006-2010 | Included as part of green space composite variable |
| Percentage of county land area that is classified as tundra land cover | ptun | 29 | Alaska only areas; includes dwarf scrub, sedge/herbaceous, lichens, and moss land cover | 2006-2010 | Included as part of green space composite variable |
| Percentage of county land area that is classified as shrubland land cover | pshb | 29 | Areas dominated by shrubs; less than 5 meters tall; shrub canopy greater than 20% of total vegetation | 2006-2010 | Included as part of green space composite variable |
| Percentage of county land area that is classified as herbaceous land cover | phrb | 29 | Areas dominated by graminoid and herbaceous vegetation, usually greater than 80% of total vegetation | 2006-2010 | Included as part of green space composite variable |
| Percentage of county land area that is classified as wetland land cover | pwtl | 29 | Composite variable of woody and emergent wetlands. | 2006-2010 | Included as part of green space composite variable |
| Percentage of county land area that is classified as woody wetland land cover | pwtlw | 29 | Soil or substrate is periodically saturated with or covered with water and forest or shrubland vegetation account for >20% vegetative cover | 2006-2010 | Included as part of green space composite variable |
| Percentage of county land area that is classified as emergent wetland land cover | pwtle | 29 | Soil or substrate is periodically saturated with or covered with water and perennial herbaceous vegetation accounts for >80% vegetative cover | 2006-2010 | Included as part of green space composite variable |
| Percentage of county land area that is classified as all human land use land cover | UINDEX | 29 | Composite variable of developed and agricultural land cover | No | Does not meet definition of green space |
| Percentage of county land area that is classified as developed land cover | pdev | 29 | All developed land cover | No | Does not meet definition of green space |
| Percentage of county land area that is classified as open space developed land cover | pdevo | 29 | Mixture of some constructed materials but mostly vegetation; < 20% impervious surface | No | Included as part of green space composite variable |
| Percentage of county land area that is classified as low intensity developed land cover | pdevl | 29 | Mixture of constructed materials and vegetation; 20% to 49% impervious surface | No | Does not meet definition of green space |
| Percentage of county land area that is classified as medium intensity developed land cover | pdevm | 29 | Mixture of constructed materials and vegetation; 50% to 79% impervious surface | No | Does not meet definition of green space |
| Percentage of county land area that is classified as high intensity developed land cover | pdevh | 29 | Highly developed areas; 80% to 100% impervious surface | No | Does not meet definition of green space |
| Percentage of county land area that is classified as agricultural land cover | pagr | 29 | Composite variable of pasture/hay and cultivated crop land cover | No | Does not meet definition of green space |
| Percentage of county land area that is classified as pasture/hay land cover | pagrp | 29 | Grasses, legumes, or grass-legume mixtures for livestock grazing; production of seed or hay crops; pasture/hay vegetation accounts for >20% total vegetation | No | Does not meet definition of green space |
| Percentage of county land area that is classified as cultivated crop land cover | pagrc | 29 | Production of annual crops; crop vegetation accounts for >20% total vegetation; includes land being actively tilled | No | Does not meet definition of green space |
| Percentage of county land area that is classified as forest and woody wetland cover | Pfor90 | 29 | Composite variable of forest and woody wetland | No | Included as part of green space composite variable |
| Percentage of county land area that is classified as forest and emergent wetland cover | Pwetl95 | 29 | Composite of forest and emergent wetland | No | Included as part of green space composite variable |
| Percentage of county land area that is classified as perennial snow/ice | pice | 29 | Characterized by perennial cover of ice and/or snow, generally >25% total cover | No | Does not meet definition of green space |

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| **Enviroatlas land cover hawaii (epa)** |
| Notes: This EnviroAtlas dataset represents the percentage of land area that is classified as natural, barren, forest, tundra, shrubland, herbaceous, wetland, woody wetland, emergent wetland, all human land use, developed, open space developed, low intensity developed, medium intensity developed, high intensity developed, agricultural, pasture/hay, and cultivated crop land cover using the EnviroAtlas composite of the 2005-2011 Coastal Change Analysis Program (C-CAP) land cover dataset for each 12-digit hydrologic unit code (HUC) in Hawaii. This dataset was produced by the United States EPA to support research and online mapping activities related to EnviroAtlas. EnviroAtlas (https://www.epa.gov/enviroatlas) allows the user to interact with a web-based, easy-to-use, mapping application to view and analyze multiple ecosystem services for the contiguous United States. The dataset is available as downloadable data (https://edg.epa.gov/data/Public/ORD/EnviroAtlas) or as an EnviroAtlas map service. Additional descriptive information about each attribute in this dataset can be found in its associated EnviroAtlas Fact Sheet (https://www.epa.gov/enviroatlas/enviroatlas-fact-sheets). |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Variable** | **Variable Name** | **Counties** | **Variable Notes** | **EQI?** | **Notes** |
| Combined natural land cover and open space developed | NINDEX\_open | 5 | Green space composite variable | 2006-2010 |  |
| Percentage of county land area that is classified as natural land cover | NINDEX | 5 | Composite variable of barren, forest, tundra, shrubland, herbaceous, and wetland land cover | 2006-2010 | Included as part of green space composite variable |
| Percentage of county land area that is classified as barren land cover | pbar | 5 | Vegetation accounts for <15% total cover | 2006-2010 | Included as part of green space composite variable |
| Percentage of county land area that is classified as forest land cover | pfor | 5 | Composite variable of deciduous, evergreen, and mixed forests. Areas dominated by trees generally greater than 5 meters tall, and greater than 20% total vegetation cover | 2006-2010 | Included as part of green space composite variable |
| Percentage of county land area that is classified as tundra land cover | ptun | 5 | Alaska only areas | 2006-2010 | Included as part of green space composite variable |
| Percentage of county land area that is classified as shrubland land cover | pshb | 5 | Areas dominated by shrubs; less than 5 meters tall; shrub canopy greater than 20% of total vegetation | 2006-2010 | Included as part of green space composite variable |
| Percentage of county land area that is classified as herbaceous land cover | phrb | 5 | Areas dominated by graminoid and herbaceous vegetation, usually greater than 80% of total vegetation | 2006-2010 | Included as part of green space composite variable |
| Percentage of county land area that is classified as wetland land cover | pwtl | 5 | Composite variable of woody and emergent wetlands. | 2006-2010 | Included as part of green space composite variable |
| Percentage of county land area that is classified as woody wetland land cover | pwtlw | 5 | Soil or substrate is periodically saturated with or covered with water and forest or shrubland vegetation account for >20% vegetative cover | 2006-2010 | Included as part of green space composite variable |
| Percentage of county land area that is classified as emergent wetland land cover | pwtle | 5 | Soil or substrate is periodically saturated with or covered with water and perennial herbaceous vegetation accounts for >80% vegetative cover | 2006-2010 | Included as part of green space composite variable |
| Percentage of county land area that is classified as all human land use land cover | UINDEX | 5 | Composite variable of developed and agricultural land cover | No | Does not meet definition of green space |
| Percentage of county land area that is classified as developed land cover | pdev | 5 | All developed land cover | No | Does not meet definition of green space |
| Percentage of county land area that is classified as open space developed land cover | pdevo | 5 | Mixture of some constructed materials but mostly vegetation; < 20% impervious surface | No | Included as part of green space composite variable |
| Percentage of county land area that is classified as low intensity developed land cover | pdevl | 5 | Mixture of constructed materials and vegetation; 20% to 49% impervious surface | No | Does not meet definition of green space |
| Percentage of county land area that is classified as medium intensity developed land cover | pdevm | 5 | Mixture of constructed materials and vegetation; 50% to 79% impervious surface | No | Does not meet definition of green space |
| Percentage of county land area that is classified as high intensity developed land cover | pdevh | 5 | Highly developed areas; 80% to 100% impervious surface | No | Does not meet definition of green space |
| Percentage of county land area that is classified as agricultural land cover | pagr | 5 | Composite variable of pasture/hay and cultivated crop land cover | No | Does not meet definition of green space |
| Percentage of county land area that is classified as pasture/hay land cover | pagrp | 5 | Grasses, legumes, or grass-legume mixtures for livestock grazing; production of seed or hay crops; pasture/hay vegetation accounts for >20% total vegetation | No | Does not meet definition of green space |
| Percentage of county land area that is classified as cultivated crop land cover | pagrc | 5 | Production of annual crops; crop vegetation accounts for >20% total vegetation; includes land being actively tilled | No | Does not meet definition of green space |

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| **national walkability index (epa)** |
| Notes: The National Walkability Index is a nationwide geographic data resource that ranks block groups according to their relative walkability. The national dataset includes walkability scores for all block groups as well as the underlying attributes that are used to rank the block groups. data are available for download from the EPA smartgrowth website (https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/smart-location-mapping#walkability) |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Variable** | **Variable Name** | **Counties** | **Variable Notes** | **EQI?** | **Notes** |
| National walkability index score | Sum\_NWIBG | 3143 | Scores were available at block group; county score created by adding block group scores then taking mean of the block group scores based on county population proportions | 2006-2010 |  |

# Appendix III: Changes in variables from EQI 2000-2005 to EQI 2006-2010

Table A: Variables Added

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Domain | Data Source | Variable | Variable Name | Notes |
| Water | Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS) | Total Coliform, Proportion | Coliform\_Sum | Added to drinking water quality construct |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Land | Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) Mines Data Set | Primarily coal mines, mines per county population | Std\_coal\_prim\_pop\_ln | Part of new mining activity construct |
|  |  | Primarily metal mines, mines per county population | Std\_coal\_prim\_pop\_ln | Part of new mining activity construct |
|  |  | Primarily nonmetal mines, mines per county population | Std\_coal\_prim\_pop\_ln | Part of new mining activity construct |
|  |  | Primarily sand and gravel mines, mines per county population | Std\_coal\_prim\_pop\_ln | Part of new mining activity construct |
|  |  | Primarily stone mines, mines per county population | Std\_coal\_prim\_pop\_ln | Part of new mining activity construct |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Sociodemographic | United States Census | Measure of income inequality (proportion) | GINI\_est | Added to Socioeconomic construct |
|  | United States Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service Creative Class | Percent county employed in creative class | Num\_CreatClass | County creative typology construct |
|  | United States Election Atlas | Percent county voting Democrat in 2008 | DEMO2008 | County political valence construct |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Built | TIGER Files | Proportion of all roads that are secondary roads | SecondaryRoadProportion | Replaced proportion primary road and highways |
|  | EnviroAtlas Land Cover | Combined natural land cover and open space developed | NINDEX\_open | Green Space construct |
|  | National Walkability Index (EPA) | National walkability index score | Sum\_NWIBG | Walkability construct |

Table B: Variables Changed

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Domain** | **Data Source** | **Variable** | **Variable Name** | **Variable Replaced** | **Variable replaced name** |
| Sociodemographic | United States Census | Bachelor's degree or higher, percent of persons age 25 years+ | Pct\_BS | Percent of persons with more than a high school education | Pct\_hs\_more |
|  |  | Percent of families in poverty | Pct\_Fam\_Pov | Percent of persons less than poverty level | Pct\_pers\_lt\_pov |
|  |  | Occupants per Room | ln\_Occs\_Room | Median number of rooms in residence | Med\_rooms |

Table C: Variables Deleted

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Domain** | **Data Source** | **Variable** | **Variable Name** | **Reason not used** |
| Land | National Geochemical Survey | Mean level of arsenic from sampled county sources | Mean\_as\_ln | Data quality |
|  |  | Mean level of selenium from sampled county sources | Mean\_se\_ln | Data quality |
|  |  | Mean level of mercury from sampled county sources | Mean\_hg\_ln | Data quality |
|  |  | Mean level of lead from sampled county sources | Mean\_pb\_ln | Data quality |
|  |  | Mean level of zinc from sampled county sources | Mean\_zn\_ln | Data quality |
|  |  | Mean level of copper from sampled county sources | Mean\_cu\_ln | Data quality |
|  |  | Mean level of aluminum from sampled county sources | Mean\_al\_pct | Data quality |
|  |  | Mean level of sodium from sampled county sources | Mean\_na\_pct | Data quality |
|  |  | Mean level of magnesium from sampled county sources | Mean\_mg\_pct\_ln | Data quality |
|  |  | Mean level of titanium from sampled county sources | Mean\_ti\_pct\_ln | Data quality |
|  |  | Mean level of calcium from sampled county sources | Mean\_ca\_pct\_ln | Data quality |
|  |  | Mean level of manganese from sampled county sources | Mean\_mn | Data quality |
|  |  | Mean level of iron from sampled county sources | Mean\_fe\_pct\_ln | Data quality |
|  |  | Mean level of phosphorus from sampled county sources | mean\_al\_pct | Data quality |
| Built | Dun & Bradstreet | Rate of transportation-related businesses per county | rate\_trans\_env\_log | Captured by public transportation, commuting times and roads |
|  |  | Rate of entertainment businesses per county | rate\_ent\_env\_log | Dropped because there was no clear association with health |
| Built | TIGER files | Proportion of all roads that are highways  Proportion of all roads that are primary roads | hwyprop  primaryprop | Both variables replaced with secondary roads |
| Sociodemographic | United States Census | Percent of persons less than poverty level | pct\_pers\_lt\_pov | Replaced with Percent of families below poverty level |
|  |  | Percent of persons who do not speak English | pct\_no\_eng |  |
|  |  | Percent of persons with more than high school education | pct\_hs\_more | Replaced with Percent of persons with a bachelor’s degree |
|  |  | Percent of persons who work outside their county of residence | work\_out\_co |  |
|  |  | Median number of rooms in residence | med\_rooms | Replaced with Occupants per room |
|  |  | Percent of residences with more than 10 units | pct\_mt\_10units\_log |  |
| Water | Watershed Assessment, Tracking and Environmental Results Program Database/REACH Address Database | Sewage Permits per 1000 km of Stream in County | SEWAGENPDESperKM | Used group variable |
|  |  | Industrial Permits per 1000 km of Stream in County | INDNPDESperKM | Used group variable |
|  |  | Stormwater Permits per 1000 km of Stream in County | STORMNPDESperKM | Used group variable |
|  |  | # of days closed per event in county 2002 | numDays\_Close\_Activity\_2002 | Not enough counties |
|  |  | # of days per contamination advisory event in county 2002 | numDays\_Cont\_Activity\_2002 | Not enough counties |
|  |  | # of days per rain advisory event in county 2002 | numDays\_Rain\_Activity\_2002 | Not enough counties |
| Water | National Atmospheric Deposition Program | Magnesium (Mg) precipitation weighted mean (mg/L) | Mg\_ln | Correlated |
|  |  | Sodium (Na) precipitation weighted mean (mg/L) | Na\_ln | Correlated |
|  |  | Ammonium (NH4) precipitation weighted mean (mg/L) | NH4\_mean | Correlated |
| Water | National Contaminant Occurrence Database | Beryllium - average | W\_Be\_ln (mg/L) | Zeros |
|  |  | Thallium – average | W\_Tl\_ln (mg/L) | Correlated |
|  |  | Lindane - average | W\_Lindane\_ln (mg/L) | Correlated |
|  |  | Toxaphene - average | W\_Toxaphene\_ln (ug/L) | Correlated |
|  |  | Oxamyl (Vydate) – average | W\_Oxamyl\_ln (ug/L) | Correlated |
|  |  | Hexachlorocyclopentadiene - average | W\_HCCPD\_ln (ug/L) | Correlated |
|  |  | Carbofuran - average | W\_Carbofuran\_ln (ug/L) | Correlated |
|  |  | Alachlor - average | W\_Alachlor\_ln (ug/L) | Correlated |
|  |  | Heptachlor - average | W\_Heptachlor\_ln (ug/L) | Correlated |
|  |  | Heptachlor Epoxide - average | W\_Heptachlor\_epox\_ln (ug/L) | Correlated |
|  |  | 2,4,5-TP (Silvex) - average | W\_silvex\_ln (ug/L) | Correlated |
|  |  | Hexachlorobenzene - average | W\_HCB\_ln (ug/L) | Correlated |
|  |  | 1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene - average | W\_124TCIB\_ln (ug/L) | Correlated |
|  |  | 1,2-Dichlorobenzene (o-Dichlorobenzene) - average | W\_ODCB\_ln (ug/L) | Correlated |
|  |  | Vinyl chloride - average | W\_VCM\_ln (ug/L) | Correlated |
|  |  | Carbon Tetrachloride - average | W\_CCl4\_ln (ug/L) | Correlated |
|  |  | 1,1,2-Trichloroethane - average | W\_112TCA\_ln (ug/L) | Correlated |
|  |  | 1,1-Dichloroethylene - average | W\_11DCE\_ln (ug/L) | Correlated |
|  |  | trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene - average | W\_t12DCE\_ln (ug/L) | Correlated |
|  |  | 1,2-Dichloroethane (Ethylene Dichloride) - average | W\_EDC\_ln (ug/L) | Correlated |
|  |  | 1,2-Dichloropropane - average | W\_PDC\_ln (ug/L) | Correlated |
|  |  | Benzene - average | W\_Cl1benz\_ln (ug/L) | Correlated |
| Air | National-Scale Air Toxics Assessment | 2,4-toluene diisocyanate | A\_TDI\_ln | Correlated |
|  |  | 2-chloroacetophenone | A\_2Clacephen\_ln | Correlated |
|  |  | 2-nitropropane | A\_2NP\_ln | Correlated |
|  |  | 4-nitrophenol | A\_PNP\_ln | Correlated |
|  |  | acetonitrile | A\_CH3CN\_ln | Correlated |
|  |  | Acetophenone | A\_Acetophenone\_ln | Correlated |
|  |  | Acrolein | A\_Aroclein\_ln | Correlated |
|  |  | Acrylonitrile | A\_C3H3N\_ln | Correlated |
|  |  | Antimony compounds | A\_Sb\_ln | Correlated |
|  |  | Biphenyl | A\_biphenyl\_ln | Correlated |
|  |  | Bromoform | A\_Bromoform\_ln | Correlated |
|  |  | Cadmium compounds | A\_Cd\_ln | Correlated |
|  |  | Carbon disulfide | A\_CS2\_ln | Correlated |
|  |  | Carbon sulfide | A\_CS\_ln | Correlated |
|  |  | Cresol/cresylic acid | A\_Cresol\_ln | Correlated |
|  |  | Cumene | A\_Cumene\_ln | Correlated |
|  |  | Diesel engine emissions | A\_Diesel\_ln | Correlated |
|  |  | Dimethyl formamide | A\_DMF\_ln | Correlated |
|  |  | Dimethyl phthalates | A\_Me2\_phatalte\_ln | Correlated |
|  |  | Dimethyl sulfate | A\_Me2SO4\_ln | Correlated |
|  |  | Epichlorohydrin | A\_ECH\_ln | Correlated |
|  |  | Ethyl acrylate | A\_Etacrylate\_ln | Correlated |
|  |  | Ethylene glycol | A\_EGLY\_ln | Correlated |
|  |  | Ethylene oxide | A\_EOx\_ln | Correlated |
|  |  | Ethylidene dichloride | A\_EdCl2\_ln | Correlated |
|  |  | Hexachlorobenzene | A\_HCB\_ln | Correlated |
|  |  | Hexachlorobutadiene | A\_HCBD\_ln | Correlated |
|  |  | Hexachlorocyclopentadiene | A\_HCCPD\_ln | Correlated |
|  |  | Hexane | A\_Hexane\_ln | Correlated |
|  |  | Lead compounds | A\_Pb\_ln | Correlated |
|  |  | Mercury compounds | A\_Hg\_ln | Correlated |
|  |  | Methanol | A\_MeOH\_ln | Correlated |
|  |  | Methyl isobutyl ketone | A\_MIBK\_ln | Correlated |
|  |  | Methyl methacrylate | A\_MMA\_ln | Correlated |
|  |  | Methyl chloride | A\_MeCl\_ln | Correlated |
|  |  | Methylhydrazine | A\_Mehydrazine\_ln | Correlated |
|  |  | MTBE | A\_MTBE\_ln | Correlated |
|  |  | Nitrobenzene | A\_nitrobenzene\_ln | Correlated |
|  |  | N,N-dimethylaniline | A\_DMA\_ln | Correlated |
|  |  | o-toluidine | A\_otoluidine\_ln | Correlated |
|  |  | PAH/POM | A\_PAHPOM\_ln | Correlated |
|  |  | Pentachlorophenol | A\_PCP\_ln | Correlated |
|  |  | Phosphorus | A\_P\_ln | Correlated |
|  |  | Propylene oxide | A\_ProO\_ln | Correlated |
|  |  | Selenium compounds | A\_Se\_ln | Correlated |
|  |  | Styrene | A\_Styrene\_ln | Correlated |
|  |  | Tetrachloroethylene | A\_Cl4C2\_ln | Correlated |
|  |  | Toluene | A\_Toluene\_ln | Correlated |
|  |  | Triethylamine | A\_Et3N\_ln | Correlated |
|  |  | Vinyl acetate | A\_VyAc\_ln | Correlated |
|  |  | Vinylidene chloride | A\_11DCE\_ln | Correlated |

# Appendix IV: Table of Highly Correlated Variables for Each Domain

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Air Domain** | | | |
| **Variable** | **Correlated variable** | **Correlation  Coefficient** | **Variable Used to Represent Group** |
| 1-1-1-trichloroethane | Methylene chloride 1-4-dichlorobenzene | 0.73 0.70 | Methylene chloride |
| Vinylidene chloride | Ethylbenzene 2-2-4-trimethylpentane Carbon disulfide Cumene Diesel engine emissions Ethylene glycol Hexane Methanol Methyl isobutyl ketone MTBE Naphthalene Toluene Xylenes | 0.73 0.72 0.80 0.72 0.71 0.75 0.74 0.75 0.71 0.71 0.71 0.71 0.74 | Ethylbenzene |
| 2-2-4-trimethylpentane | Ethylbenzene Vinylidene chloride  4-4-methylenediphenyl diisocyanate  Acetophenone  Acrolein  Benzene  Biphenyl  1-3-butadiene  Tetrachloroethylene  Cresol cresylic acid  Cumene  Diesel engine emissions  Ethylene glycol  Triethylamine Hexane  Mercury compounds  Dimethyl phthalate  Methanol  Methyl isobutyl ketone  Methyl methacrylate  MTBE  Naphthalene  Pahpom  4-nitrophenol  Propionaldehyde  Selenium compounds  Styrene  2-4-toluene diisocyanate  Toluene  Vinyl acetate  Xylenes | 0.95 0.72  0.82  0.75  0.74 0.82  0.76  0.83 0.72  0.71 0.85  0.88 0.86  0.76 0.92  0.82  0.72  0.85  0.83  0.75  0.79  0.88  0.77  0.82  0.73  0.76  0.82  0.72 0.88  0.78  0.95 | Ethylbenzene |
| 2-chloroacetophenone | Benzyl chloride Bromoform Methylhydrazine | 0.71 0.95 0.96 | Benzyl chloride |
| 2-nitropropane | Chloroprene Allyl chloride n-n-dimethylaniline 2-4-dinitrotoluene Nitrobenzene o-toluidine | 0.70 0.76 0.77 0.74 0.76 0.72 | Chloroprene |
| 4-4-methylenediphenyl diisocyanate | Ethylbenzene  2-2-4-trimethylpentane Acetophenone  Acrolein Benzene  Biphenyl  1-3-butadiene  Cumene Diesel engine emissions  Ethylene glycol  Triethylamine  Hexane  Mercury compounds  Dimethyl phthalate  Methanol  Methyl isobutyl ketone  Methyl methacrylate  MTBE  Naphthalene Pahpom  Phenol  4-nitrophenol  Selenium compounds  Styrene  2-4-toluene diisocyanate  Toluene Vinyl acetate  Xylenes | 0.83 0.82  0.74  0.72  0.73  0.70  0.76  0.84  0.75  0.86  0.79  0.82  0.76  0.76  0.83  0.82  0.77  0.74  0.79  0.72  0.71  0.78  0.71  0.79  0.75  0.77  0.80  0.84 | Ethylbenzene |
| Acetophenone | Ethylbenzene  2-2-4-trimethylpentane 4-4-methylenediphenyl diisocyanate  Biphenyl  1-3-butadiene  Cresol cresylic acid  Cumene Ethylene glycol  Triethylamine  Hexane  Mercury compounds  Methanol  Methyl isobutyl ketone  MTBE  Naphthalene Pahpom  Phenol  4-nitrophenol  Selenium compounds  Toluene  Vinyl acetate  Xylenes | 0.76 0.75  0.74  0.78  0.72  0.76  0.78 0.78 0.71  0.74  0.75  0.78 0.76  0.74  0.76  0.76  0.73  0.81  0.72  0.70  0.70  0.77 | Ethylbenzene |
| Acrolein | Ethylbenzene 2-2-4-trimethylpentane  4-4-methylenediphenyl diisocyanate 1-3-butadiene  Cresol cresylic acid Cumene Ethylene glycol  Hexane  Methanol  Methyl isobutyl ketone MTBE  Naphthalene Pahpom Propionaldehyde  Xylenes | 0.77 0.74 0.72 0.74 0.81 0.74 0.76 0.73 0.76 0.75 0.73 0.75 0.71 0.75 0.77 | Ethylbenzene |
| Allyl chloride | Chloroprene 2-nitropropane Acetonitrile n-n-dimethylaniline Epichlorohydrin Ethyl acrylate Hexachlorobutadiene Hexachlorocyclopentadiene Nitrobenzene o-toluidine Propylene oxide 1-2-4-trichlorobenzene | 0.90 0.76 0.81 0.96 0.85 0.78 0.73 0.70 0.96 0.85 0.77 0.78 | Chloroprene |
| Arsenic compounds | Chromium compounds Cadmium compounds Lead compounds | 0.80 0.80 0.74 | Chromium compounds |
| Benzene | Ethylbenzene  2-2-4-trimethylpentane 4-4-methylenediphenyl diisocyanate  1-3-butadiene  Tetrachloroethylene  Cumene Diesel engine emissions  Ethylene glycol  Hexane  Mercury compounds  Methanol  Methyl isobutyl ketone  MTBE  Naphthalene 4-nitrophenol Styrene  Toluene  Xylenes | 0.85 0.82 0.73 0.90 0.85 0.77 0.76 0.80 0.81 0.71 0.79 0.74 0.70 0.80 0.74 0.70 0.96 0.85 | Ethylbenzene |
| Biphenyl | Ethylbenzene  2-2-4-trimethylpentane 4-4-methylenediphenyl diisocyanate  Acetophenone  1-3-butadiene Cresol cresylic acid Cumene Ethylene glycol Hexane  Mercury compounds Methanol  Methyl isobutyl ketone  MTBE  Naphthalene Pahpom  Phenol  4-nitrophenol  Selenium compounds  Toluene  Xylenes | 0.75 0.76 0.70 0.78 0.70 0.74 0.77 0.77 0.73 0.76 0.77 0.74 0.71 0.77 0.80 0.74 0.74 0.72 0.71 0.76 | Ethylbenzene |
| Bromoform | Benzyl chloride Methylhydrazine | 0.70 0.94 | Benzyl chloride |
| 1-3-butadiene | Ethylbenzene  2-2-4-trimethylpentane 4-4-methylenediphenyl diisocyanate  Acetophenone  Acrolein Benzene  Biphenyl  Tetrachloroethylene  Cresol cresylic acid Cumene Diesel engine emissions  Ethylene glycol  Triethylamine  Hexane  Mercury compounds  Methanol  Methyl isobutyl ketone  Methyl methacrylate  MTBE  Naphthalene Pahpom  4-nitrophenol  Selenium compounds  Styrene  2-4-toluene diisocyanate  Toluene  Vinyl acetate  Xylenes | 0.84 0.83 0.76 0.72 0.74 0.90 0.70 0.74 0.71 0.80 0.72 0.83 0.74 0.81 0.76 0.81 0.79 0.71 0.73 0.81 0.72 0.77 0.70 0.73 0.70 0.94 0.73 0.84 | Ethylbenzene |
| Acrylonitrile | Trichloroethylene | 0.74 | Trichloroethylene |
| Cadmium compounds | Chromium compounds Arsenic compounds | 0.71 0.80 | Chromium compounds |
| Acetonitrile | Chloroprene Allyl chloride n-n-dimethylaniline 2-4-dinitrotoluene Epichlorohydrin Nitrobenzene o-toluidine Propylene oxide | 0.80 0.81 0.80 0.75 0.76 0.79 0.75 0.77 | Chloroprene |
| Tetrachloroethylene | Ethylbenzene  2-2-4-trimethylpentane Benzene 1-3-butadiene  Naphthalene Toluene Xylenes | 0.72 0.72 0.85 0.74 0.73 0.82 0.72 | Ethylbenzene |
| Cresol cresylic acid | Ethylbenzene  2-2-4-trimethylpentane Acetophenone  Acrolein Biphenyl  1-3-butadiene  Cumene Ethylene glycol  Triethylamine Mercury compounds  Methanol  Methyl isobutyl ketone  Naphthalene Pahpom  Phenol  Propionaldehyde  Xylenes | 0.77 0.71 0.76 0.81 0.74 0.71 0.73 0.75 0.71 0.73 0.74 0.75 0.78 0.76 0.75 0.71 0.78 | Ethylbenzene |
| Carbon disulfide | Ethylbenzene  Vinylidene chloride  Cumene Ethylene glycol  Methanol  Methyl isobutyl ketone  Xylenes | 0.72 0.80 0.70 0.74 0.74 0.73 0.72 | Ethylbenzene |
| Cumene | Ethylbenzene  Vinylidene chloride  2-2-4-trimethylpentane 4-4-methylenediphenyl diisocyanate  Acetophenone  Acrolein Benzene  Biphenyl  1-3-butadiene Cresol cresylic acid  Carbon disulfide Diesel engine emissions  Ethylene glycol  Triethylamine  Hexane  Mercury compounds  Dimethyl phthalate  Methanol  Methyl isobutyl ketone  Methyl methacrylate  MTBE  Naphthalene Pahpom  Phenol  4-nitrophenol  Selenium compounds  Styrene  2-4-toluene diisocyanate  Toluene  Vinyl acetate  Xylenes | 0.87 0.72 0.85 0.84 0.78 0.74 0.77 0.77 0.80 0.73 0.70 0.77 0.89 0.82 0.88 0.81 0.74 0.88 0.86 0.76 0.83 0.84 0.79 0.78 0.81 0.76 0.81 0.77 0.81 0.80 0.88 | Ethylbenzene |
| 1-4-dichlorobenzene | Methylene chloride 1-1-1-trichloroethane | 0.80 0.70 | Methylene chloride |
| Diesel engine emissions | Ethylbenzene  Vinylidene chloride  2-2-4-trimethylpentane 4-4-methylenediphenyl diisocyanate  Benzene  1-3-butadiene  Cumene  Ethylene glycol  Triethylamine  Hexane  Mercury compounds  Methanol  Methyl isobutyl ketone MTBE  Naphthalene 4-nitrophenol  Selenium compounds  Styrene  2-4-toluene diisocyanate  Toluene  Vinyl acetate  Xylenes | 0.86 0.71 0.88 0.75 0.76 0.72 0.77 0.78 0.70 0.85 0.75 0.78 0.74 0.73 0.78 0.74 0.71 0.74 0.71 0.78 0.72 0.85 | Ethylbenzene |
| n-n-dimethylaniline | Chloroprene 2-nitropropane Allyl chloride Acetonitrile 2-4-dinitrotoluene Epichlorohydrin Ethyl acrylate Hexachlorobutadiene Hexachlorocyclopentadiene Nitrobenzene o-toluidine Propylene oxide 1-2-4-trichlorobenzene | 0.92 0.77 0.96 0.80 0.92 0.86 0.77 0.72 0.72 0.95 0.86 0.78 0.78 | Chloroprene |
| Dimethyl formamide | Ethyl chloride | 0.71 | Ethyl chloride |
| 2-4-dinitrotoluene | Chloroprene 2-nitropropane Allyl chloride A\_CH3CN n-n-dimethylaniline Epichlorohydrin Ethyl acrylate Hexachlorocyclopentadiene Nitrobenzene o-toluidine Propylene oxide 1-2-4-trichlorobenzene | 0.88 0.74 0.89 0.75 0.92 0.84 0.76 0.70 0.88 0.86 0.70 0.76 | Chloroprene |
| Epichlorohydrin | Chloroprene Allyl chloride Acetonitrile n-n-dimethylaniline 2-4-dinitrotoluene Ethyl acrylate Nitrobenzene o-toluidine Propylene oxide 1-2-4-trichlorobenzene | 0.84 0.85 0.76 0.86 0.84 0.77 0.81 0.80 0.75 0.74 | Chloroprene |
| Ethylidene dichloride | Vinyl chloride | 0.82 | Vinyl chloride |
| Ethylene glycol | Ethylbenzene  Vinylidene chloride  2-2-4-trimethylpentane 4-4-methylenediphenyl diisocyanate  Acetophenone  Acrolein Benzene  Biphenyl  1-3-butadiene  Cresol cresylic acid  Carbon disulfide  Cumene Diesel engine emissions  Triethylamine  Hexane  Mercury compounds  Dimethyl phthalate  Methanol  Methyl isobutyl ketone  Methyl methacrylate  MTBE  Naphthalene Pahpom  Phenol  4-nitrophenol  Propionaldehyde  Selenium compounds  Styrene  2-4-toluene diisocyanate  Toluene  Vinyl acetate  Xylenes | 0.88 0.75 0.86 0.86 0.78 0.76 0.80 0.77 0.83 0.75 0.74 0.89 0.78 0.83 0.87 0.84 0.76 0.93 0.91 0.79 0.81 0.86 0.78 0.75 0.83 0.73 0.78 0.81 0.78 0.84 0.82 0.90 | Ethylbenzene |
| Ethylene oxide | Ethylene dichloride | 0.72 | Ethylene dichloride |
| Triethylamine | Ethylbenzene  2-2-4-trimethylpentane 4-4-methylenediphenyl diisocyanate  Acetophenone 1-3-butadiene  Cresol cresylic acid  Cumene Diesel engine emissions  Ethylene glycol  Hexane  Mercury compounds  Methanol  Methyl isobutyl ketone  Methyl methacrylate  MTBE  Naphthalene Pahpom 4-nitrophenol Styrene  2-4-toluene diisocyanate  Toluene  Vinyl acetate  Xylenes | 0.79 0.76 0.79 0.71 0.74 0.71 0.82 0.70 0.83 0.79 0.75 0.80 0.81 0.72 0.70 0.80 0.70 0.71 0.73 0.74 0.74 0.77 0.81 | Ethylbenzene |
| Ethyl acrylate | Chloroprene Allyl chloride n-n-dimethylaniline 2-4-dinitrotoluene Epichlorohydrin Nitrobenzene o-toluidine | 0.80 0.78 0.77 0.76 0.77 0.75 0.76 | Chloroprene |
| Hexachlorobenzene | Polychlorinated biphenyls | 0.83 | Polychlorinated biphenyls |
| Hexachlorobutadiene | Chloroprene Allyl chloride n-n-dimethylaniline Hexachlorocyclopentadiene Nitrobenzene | 0.70 0.73 0.72 0.93 0.73 | Chloroprene |
| Hexachlorocyclopentadiene | Chloroprene Allyl chloride n-n-dimethylaniline 2-4-dinitrotoluene Hexachlorobutadiene | 0.71 0.70 0.72 0.70 0.93 | Chloroprene |
| Hexane | Ethylbenzene  Vinylidene chloride  2-2-4-trimethylpentane 4-4-methylenediphenyl diisocyanate  Acetophenone  Acrolein Benzene  Biphenyl  1-3-butadiene  Cumene Diesel engine emissions  Ethylene glycol  Triethylamine  Mercury compounds  Dimethyl phthalate  Methanol  Methyl isobutyl ketone  Methyl methacrylate  MTBE  Naphthalene Pahpom 4-nitrophenol  Selenium compounds  Styrene  2-4-toluene diisocyanate  Toluene  Vinyl acetate  Xylenes | 0.92 0.74 0.92 0.82 0.74 0.73 0.81 0.73 0.81 0.88 0.85 0.87 0.79 0.80 0.72 0.87 0.83 0.76 0.81 0.86 0.73 0.79 0.72 0.80 0.77 0.85 0.79 0.92 | Ethylbenzene |
| Hydrogen fluoride | Hydrochloric acid | 0.91 | Hydrochloric acid |
| Mercury compounds | Ethylbenzene  2-2-4-trimethylpentane 4-4-methylenediphenyl diisocyanate  Acetophenone  Benzene  Biphenyl  1-3-butadiene Cresol cresylic acid  Cumene Diesel engine emissions  Ethylene glycol  Triethylamine  Hexane  Methanol  Methyl isobutyl ketone  Methyl methacrylate  MTBE  Naphthalene Pahpom  Phenol  4-nitrophenol  Propionaldehyde  Selenium compounds  Styrene  Toluene  Vinyl acetate  Xylenes | 0.82 0.82 0.76 0.75 0.71 0.76 0.76 0.73 0.81 0.75 0.84 0.75 0.80 0.82 0.81 0.72 0.74 0.84 0.75 0.72 0.80 0.73 0.91 0.74 0.76 0.76 0.82 | Ethylbenzene |
| Dimethyl phthalate | Ethylbenzene  2-2-4-trimethylpentane 4-4-methylenediphenyl diisocyanate  Cumene Ethylene glycol  Hexane  Methanol  Methyl isobutyl ketone  Methyl methacrylate  Naphthalene Styrene  Xylenes | 0.73 0.72 0.76 0.74 0.76 0.72 0.74 0.73 0.76 0.71 0.75 0.74 | Ethylbenzene |
| Dimethyl sulfate | Benzyl chloride | 0.90 | Benzyl chloride |
| Methyl chloride | Carbon tetrachloride | 0.94 | Carbon tetrachloride |
| Methylhydrazine | Benzyl chloride 2-chloroacetophenone Bromoform | 0.71 0.96 0.94 | Benzyl chloride |
| Methanol | Ethylbenzene  Vinylidene chloride  2-2-4-trimethylpentane 4-4-methylenediphenyl diisocyanate  Acetophenone  Acrolein Benzene  Biphenyl  1-3-butadiene  Cresol cresylic acid  Carbon disulfide  Cumene Diesel engine emissions  Ethylene glycol  Triethylamine  Hexane  Mercury compounds  Dimethyl phthalate  Methyl isobutyl ketone  Methyl methacrylate  MTBE  Naphthalene Pahpom  Phenol  4-nitrophenol  Propionaldehyde  Selenium compounds  Styrene  2-4-toluene diisocyanate  Toluene  Vinyl acetate  Xylenes | 0.88 0.75 0.85 0.83 0.78 0.76 0.79 0.77 0.81 0.74 0.74 0.88 0.78 0.93 0.80 0.87 0.82 0.74 0.89 0.78 0.82 0.84 0.78 0.76 0.82 0.72 0.77 0.81 0.76 0.82 0.79 0.89 | Ethylbenzene |
| Methyl isobutyl ketone | Ethylbenzene  Vinylidene chloride  2-2-4-trimethylpentane 4-4-methylenediphenyl diisocyanate  Acetophenone  Acrolein Benzene  Biphenyl  1-3-butadiene  Cresol cresylic acid  Carbon disulfide  Cumene Diesel engine emissions  Ethylene glycol  Triethylamine  Hexane  Mercury compounds  Dimethyl phthalate  Methanol  Methyl methacrylate  MTBE  Naphthalene Pahpom  Phenol  4-nitrophenol  Selenium compounds  Styrene  2-4-toluene diisocyanate  Toluene  Vinyl acetate  Xylenes | 0.86 0.71 0.83 0.82 0.76 0.75 0.74 0.74 0.79 0.75 0.73 0.86 0.74 0.91 0.81 0.83 0.81 0.73 0.89 0.77 0.81 0.82 0.77 0.78 0.79 0.76 0.81 0.77 0.79 0.76 0.89 | Ethylbenzene |
| Methyl methacrylate | Ethylbenzene  2-2-4-trimethylpentane 4-4-methylenediphenyl diisocyanate  1-3-butadiene  Cumene Ethylene glycol  Triethylamine  Hexane  Mercury compounds  Dimethyl phthalate  Methanol  Methyl isobutyl ketone  Naphthalene 4-nitrophenol Styrene  Toluene  Vinyl acetate  Xylenes | 0.77 0.75 0.77 0.71 0.76 0.79 0.72 0.76 0.72 0.76 0.78 0.77 0.74 0.72 0.83 0.71 0.72 0.78 | Ethylbenzene |
| Mtbe | Ethylbenzene  Vinylidene chloride  2-2-4-trimethylpentane 4-4-methylenediphenyl diisocyanate  Acetophenone  Acrolein Benzene  Biphenyl  1-3-butadiene  Cumene Diesel engine emissions  Ethylene glycol  Triethylamine  Hexane  Mercury compounds Methanol  Methyl isobutyl ketone  Naphthalene Pahpom  Phenol  4-nitrophenol Selenium compounds  Styrene  2-4-toluene diisocyanate  Toluene  Xylenes | 0.79 0.71 0.79 0.74 0.74 0.73 0.70 0.71 0.73 0.83 0.73 0.81 0.70 0.81 0.74 0.82 0.81 0.78 0.71 0.71 0.74 0.70 0.72 0.73 0.73 0.79 | Ethylbenzene |
| Naphthalene | Ethylbenzene  Vinylidene chloride  2-2-4-trimethylpentane 4-4-methylenediphenyl diisocyanate  Acetophenone  Acrolein Benzene  Biphenyl  1-3-butadiene  Tetrachloroethylene  Cresol cresylic acid  Cumene Diesel engine emissions  Ethylene glycol  Triethylamine  Hexane  Mercury compounds  Dimethyl phthalate  Methanol  Methyl isobutyl ketone Methyl methacrylate  MTBE  Pahpom  Phenol  4-nitrophenol  Propionaldehyde  Selenium compounds  Styrene  2-4-toluene diisocyanate  Toluene  Vinyl acetate  Xylenes | 0.87 0.71 0.88 0.79 0.76 0.75 0.80 0.77 0.81 0.73 0.78 0.84 0.78 0.86 0.80 0.86 0.84 0.71 0.84 0.82 0.74 0.78 0.84 0.73 0.79 0.74 0.77 0.76 0.70 0.83 0.78 0.88 | Ethylbenzene |
| Nickel compounds | Chromium compounds | 0.79 | Chromium compounds |
| Nitrobenzene | Chloroprene 2-nitropropane Allyl chloride Acetonitrile n-n-dimethylaniline 2-4-dinitrotoluene Epichlorohydrin Ethyl acrylate Hexachlorobutadiene o-toluidine Propylene oxide 1-2-4-trichlorobenzene | 0.88 0.76 0.96 0.79 0.95 0.88 0.81 0.75 0.70 0.82 0.77 0.76 | Chloroprene |
| o-toluidine | Chloroprene 2-nitropropane Allyl chloride Acetonitrile n-n-dimethylaniline 2-4-dinitrotoluene Epichlorohydrin Ethyl acrylate Nitrobenzene Propylene oxide 1-2-4-trichlorobenzene | 0.84 0.72 0.85 0.75 0.86 0.86 0.80 0.76 0.82 0.77 0.76 | Chloroprene |
| Pahpom | Ethylbenzene  2-2-4-trimethylpentane 4-4-methylenediphenyl diisocyanate  Acetophenone  Acrolein Biphenyl  1-3-butadiene  Cresol cresylic acid  Cumene Ethylene glycol  Triethylamine  Hexane  Mercury compounds  Methanol  Methyl isobutyl ketone  MTBE  Naphthalene  Phenol  4-nitrophenol  Selenium compounds  Styrene  Xylenes | 0.76 0.77 0.72 0.76 0.71 0.80 0.72 0.76 0.79 0.78 0.70 0.73 0.75 0.78 0.77 0.71 0.84 0.79 0.76 0.72 0.73 0.78 | Ethylbenzene |
| Lead compounds | Chromium compounds Arsenic compounds | 0.74 0.74 | Chromium compounds |
| Phenol | Ethylbenzene  4-4-methylenediphenyl diisocyanate  Acetophenone  Biphenyl  Cresol cresylic acid  Cumene Ethylene glycol  Mercury compounds  Methanol  Methyl isobutyl ketone  MTBE  Naphthalene Pahpom  Styrene  Xylenes | 0.71 0.71 0.73 0.74 0.75 0.78 0.75 0.72 0.76 0.78 0.71 0.73 0.79 0.74 0.72 | Ethylbenzene |
| 4-nitrophenol | Ethylbenzene  2-2-4-trimethylpentane 4-4-methylenediphenyl diisocyanate  Acetophenone  Benzene  Biphenyl  1-3-butadiene  Cumene Diesel engine emissions  Ethylene glycol  Triethylamine  Hexane  Mercury compounds  Methanol  Methyl isobutyl ketone  Methyl methacrylate  MTBE  Naphthalene Pahpom  Propionaldehyde  Selenium compounds  Styrene  2-4-toluene diisocyanate  Toluene  Vinyl acetate  Xylenes | 0.81 0.82 0.78 0.81 0.74 0.74 0.77 0.81 0.74 0.83 0.71 0.79 0.80 0.82 0.79 0.72 0.74 0.79 0.76 0.71 0.75 0.75 0.70 0.77 0.73 0.81 | Ethylbenzene |
| Propylene oxide | Chloroprene Allyl chloride Acetonitrile n-n-dimethylaniline 2-4-dinitrotoluene Epichlorohydrin Nitrobenzene o-toluidine | 0.75 0.77 0.77 0.78 0.70 0.75 0.77 0.73 | Chloroprene |
| Propionaldehyde | Ethylbenzene  2-2-4-trimethylpentane  Acrolein Cresol cresylic acid  Ethylene glycol  Mercury compounds  Methanol Naphthalene 4-nitrophenol Selenium compounds  Xylenes | 0.74 0.73 0.75 0.71 0.73 0.73 0.72 0.74 0.71 0.70 0.73 | Ethylbenzene |
| Selenium compounds | Ethylbenzene  2-2-4-trimethylpentane 4-4-methylenediphenyl diisocyanate  Acetophenone  Biphenyl  1-3-butadiene  Cumene Diesel engine emissions  Ethylene glycol Hexane  Mercury compounds  Methanol  Methyl isobutyl ketone  MTBE  Naphthalene Pahpom   4-nitrophenol  Propionaldehyde  Xylenes | 0.76 0.76 0.71 0.72 0.72 0.70 0.76 0.71 0.78 0.72 0.91 0.77 0.76 0.70 0.77 0.72 0.75 0.70 0.77 | Ethylbenzene |
| Styrene | Ethylbenzene  2-2-4-trimethylpentane 4-4-methylenediphenyl diisocyanate Benzene  1-3-butadiene  Cumene Diesel engine emissions  Ethylene glycol  Triethylamine  Hexane  Mercury compounds  Dimethyl phthalate  Methanol  Methyl isobutyl ketone  Methyl methacrylate  MTBE  Naphthalene Pahpom  Phenol  4-nitrophenol  Toluene  Vinyl acetate  Xylenes | 0.82 0.82 0.79 0.70 0.73 0.81 0.74 0.81 0.73 0.80 0.74 0.75 0.81 0.81 0.83 0.72 0.76 0.73 0.74 0.75 0.74 0.73 0.83 | Ethylbenzene |
| 1-2-4-trichlorobenzene | Chloroprene Allyl chloride n-n-dimethylaniline 2-4-dinitrotoluene Epichlorohydrin Nitrobenzene o-toluidine | 0.70 0.78 0.78 0.76 0.74 0.76 0.74 | Chloroprene |
| 2-4-toluene diisocyanate | Ethylbenzene  2-2-4-trimethylpentane 4-4-methylenediphenyl diisocyanate 1-3-butadiene  Cumene Diesel engine emissions  Ethylene glycol  Triethylamine  Hexane  Methanol  Methyl isobutyl ketone  MTBE  Naphthalene 4-nitrophenol  Toluene  Vinyl acetate  Xylenes | 0.77 0.72 0.75 0.70 0.77 0.71 0.78 0.74 0.77 0.76 0.77 0.73 0.70 0.70 0.71 0.70 0.77 | Ethylbenzene |
| Toluene | Ethylbenzene  Vinylidene chloride  2-2-4-trimethylpentane 4-4-methylenediphenyl diisocyanate  Acetophenone  Benzene  Biphenyl  1-3-butadiene  Tetrachloroethylene  Cumene Diesel engine emissions  Ethylene glycol  Triethylamine  Hexane  Mercury compounds  Methanol  Methyl isobutyl ketone  Methyl methacrylate  MTBE  Naphthalene 4-nitrophenol  Styrene  2-4-toluene diisocyanate  Vinyl acetate  Xylenes | 0.88 0.71 0.88 0.77 0.70 0.96 0.71 0.94 0.82 0.81 0.78 0.84 0.74 0.85 0.76 0.82 0.79 0.71 0.73 0.83 0.77 0.74 0.71 0.73 0.88 | Ethylbenzene |
| Vinyl acetate | Ethylbenzene  2-2-4-trimethylpentane 4-4-methylenediphenyl diisocyanate  Acetophenone  1-3-butadiene  Cumene Diesel engine emissions  Ethylene glycol  Triethylamine  Hexane  Mercury compounds  Methanol  Methyl isobutyl ketone  Methyl methacrylate  Naphthalene 4-nitrophenol  Styrene  2-4-toluene diisocyanate  Toluene  Xylenes | 0.79 0.78 0.80 0.70 0.73 0.80 0.72 0.82 0.77 0.79 0.76 0.79 0.76 0.72 0.78 0.73 0.73 0.70 0.73 0.88 | Ethylbenzene |
| Xylenes | Ethylbenzene  Vinylidene chloride  2-2-4-trimethylpentane 4-4-methylenediphenyl diisocyanate  Acetophenone  Acrolein Benzene  Biphenyl  1-3-butadiene  Tetrachloroethylene  Cresol cresylic acid  Carbon disulfide  Cumene Diesel engine emissions  Ethylene glycol  Triethylamine  Hexane  Mercury compounds  Dimethyl phthalate  Methanol  Methyl isobutyl ketone  Methyl methacrylate  MTBE  Naphthalene Pahpom  Phenol  4-nitrophenol  Propionaldehyde  Selenium compounds  Styrene  2-4-toluene diisocyanate  Toluene Vinyl acetate | 0.99 0.74 0.95 0.84 0.77 0.77 0.85 0.76 0.84 0.72 0.78 0.72 0.88 0.85 0.90 0.81 0.92 0.82 0.74 0.89 0.89 0.78 0.79 0.88 0.78 0.72 0.81 0.73 0.77 0.83 0.77 0.88 0.80 | Ethylbenzene |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Water Domain** | | | |
| Variable | Correlated Variable(s) | Correlation Coefficient | Variable Used To Represent Group |
| Number of general facilities NPDES permits | Industrial permits per 1000 km of stream in county | 0.75 | Industrial permits per 1000 km of stream in county |
| NPDES\_INDIVIDUAL | Industrial permits per 1000 km of stream in county | 0.73 | Industrial permits per 1000 km of stream in county |
| NPDES\_TOTAL | Industrial permits per 1000 km of stream in county | 0.80 | Industrial permits per 1000 km of stream in county |
| Percent of population on public water supply, 2000 | Percent Self Supply | 0.80 | Percent of public water supply which is on surface water, average 2005 & 2010 |
| Percent of public water supply which is on groundwater, 2000 | Percent of public supply with surface water supply | 1.0 | Percent of public water supply which is on surface water, average 2005 & 2010 |
| Percent of domestic use from public water supply, 2000 | Percent of public supply with surface water supply | 0.73 | Percent of public water supply which is on surface water, average 2005 & 2010 |
| Percent of domestic use from self supply, 2000 | Percent Self Supply | 0.92 | Percent of population on self supply, average 2005 & 2010 |
| Percent of county without drought | Percent of county abnormally dry,  Percent of county drought - moderate,  Percent of county drought - severe,  Percent of county drought - exceptional | 1.00  0.94  0.86  0.71 | Percent of county drought - extreme |
| Percent of county abnormally dry | Percent of county without drought,  Percent of county drought - moderate,  Percent of county drought - severe,  Percent of county drought - extreme | 0.94  0.94  0.86  0.71 | Percent of county drought - extreme |
| Percent of county drought - moderate | Percent of county without drought,  Percent of county abnormally dry,  Percent of county drought - severe,  Percent of county drought - extreme | 0.94  0.94  0.86  0.71 | Percent of county drought - extreme |
| Percent of county drought - severe | Percent of county without drought,  Percent of county abnormally dry, Percent of county drought - moderate,  Percent of county drought - extreme | 0.86  0.86  0.94  0.71 | Percent of county drought - extreme |
| Percent of county drought - exceptional | Percent of county drought - moderate,  Percent of county drought - severe,  Percent of county drought - extreme | 0.94  0.86  0.80 | Percent of county drought - extreme |
| Lindane - average | Barium - average | 0.75 | Barium - average |
| Thallium - average | Cadmium - average | 0.76 | Cadmium - average |
| Toxaphene - average | Endrin - average | 0.80 | Endrin - average |
| Oxamyl (Vydate) – average | Dalapon - average | 0.70 | Dalapon - average |
| Alachlor - average | Simazine - average | 0.72 | Simazine - average |
| 2,4,5-TP (Silvex) - average | Picloram - average | 0.73 | Picloram - average |
| Hexachlorocyclopentadiene - average | Ethylene dibromide (EDB) - average | 0.80 | Ethylene dibromide (EDB) - average |
| Carbofuran - average | Chlordane - average | 0.79 | Chlordane - average |
| Heptachlor - average | Di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP) - average  Hexachlorobenzene - average Heptachlor - average | 0.77  0.70  0.81 | Di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP) - average |
| Heptachlor Epoxide - average | Di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP) - average  Hexachlorobenzene - average Heptachlor - average | 0.73  0.74  0.81 | Di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP) - average |
| Hexachlorobenzene - average | Di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP) - average  Heptachlor - average  Heptachlor Epoxide - average | 0.77  0.70  0.74 | Di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP) - average |
| 1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene - average | Ethylbenzene - average  Vinyl chloride - average  Benzene - average | 0.77  0.71  0.82 | Ethylbenzene - average |
| 1,2-Dichlorobenzene (o-Dichlorobenzene) - average | 1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene - detect Ethylbenzene - average  Benzene - average | 0.80  0.77  0.88 | Ethylbenzene - average |
| Vinyl chloride - average | 1,2-Dichlorobenzene (o-Dichlorobenzene) - average 1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene - detect  Ethylbenzene - average  Benzene - average | 0.73  0.80  0.77  0.82 | Ethylbenzene - average |
| Benzene - average | 1,2-Dichlorobenzene (o-Dichlorobenzene) - average  1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene - detect  Ethylbenzene - average  Vinyl chloride - average | 0.88  0.82  0.72  0.82 | Ethylbenzene - average |
| 1,1-Dichloroethylene - average | cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene - average Dichloroethylene - average  cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene - average | 0.70  0.70  0.81 | cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene - average |
| W\_t12DCE\_ln | cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene - average  1,1-Dichloroethylene - average cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene - average | 0.82  0.70  0.75 | cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene - average |
| cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene - average | cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene - average  1,1-Dichloroethylene - average Dichloroethylene - average | 0.82  0.81  0.75 | cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene - average |
| Carbon Tetrachloride - average | 1,1,1-Trichloroethane - average | 0.71 | 1,1,1-Trichloroethane - average |
| 1,2-Dichloropropane - average | 1,4-Dichlorobenzene (p-Dichlorobenzene) - average | 0.72 | 1,4-Dichlorobenzene (p-Dichlorobenzene) - average |
| 1,1,2-Trichloroethane - average | Tetrachloroethylene - average | 0.80 | Tetrachloroethylene - average |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Land Domain | | | |
| Variable | Correlated Variable(s) | Correlation Coefficient | Variable Used To Represent Group |
| Mean manganese | Mean iron percent | 0.90 | Mean iron percent |
| Percent weed acres | Percent harvested acres, percent lime acres | 0.96 0.95 | Percent harvested acres |
| Percent lime acres | Percent harvested acres, percent weed acres | 0.97 0.95 | Percent harvested acres |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Sociodemographic Domain** | | | |
| Variable | Correlated Variable(s) | Correlation Coefficient | Variable Used To Represent Group |
| Property crime rate | Violent crime rate | 0.91 | Violent crime rate |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Built Domain** | | | |
| Variable | Correlated Variable(s) | Correlation Coefficient | Variable Used To Represent Group |
| Secondary road proportion | Street proportion | 0.94 | Street proportion |

# Appendix V: Sociodemographic and Built Domain Valence Correction

**Sociodemographic Overall**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **A priori variable characteristic** | **Loading (expected sign)** | **Loading (actual)** | **Match (expected vs observed)** | **Necessary to multiply vector of loadings by -1?** | **(Loading)^2** | **Modified Loadings** |
| Percent Bachelors | Beneficial | " - " | 0.4585 | No | **YES** | 0.2102 | -0.4585 |
| Percent unemployed | Harmful | " + " | -0.1269 | No | 0.0161 | 0.1269 |
| Percent families less than poverty level | Harmful | " + " | -0.298 | No | 0.0888 | 0.298 |
| Percent vacant housing | Harmful | " + " | -0.1979 | No | 0.0392 | 0.1979 |
| Median household value | Beneficial | " - " | 0.4331 | No | 0.1876 | -0.4331 |
| Household income | Beneficial | " - " | 0.3824 | No | 0.1462 | -0.3824 |
| Count of occupants per room | Harmful | " + " | -0.1085 | No | 0.0118 | 0.1085 |
| Percent renter occupied housing | Harmful | " + " | 0.1458 | Yes | 0.0213 | -0.1458 |
| Violent Crime | Harmful | " + " | 0.0234 | Yes | 0.0005 | -0.0234 |
| Percent creative class | Beneficial | " - " | 0.4833 | No | 0.2336 | -0.4833 |
| Percent democrat | Beneficial | " - " | 0.211 | No | 0.0445 | -0.211 |
| GINI  coefficient | Harmful | " + " | -0.0118 | No | 0.0001 | 0.0118 |

**Sociodemographic RUCC 1**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **A priori variable characteristic** | **Loading (expected sign)** | **Loading (actual)** | **Match (expected vs observed)** | **Necessary to multiply vector of loadings by -1?** | **(Loading)^2** | **Modified Loadings** |
| Percent Bachelors | Beneficial | " - " | 0.4689 | No | **YES** | 0.2199 | -0.4689 |
| Percent unemployed | Harmful | " + " | -0.1625 | No | 0.0264 | 0.1625 |
| Percent families less than poverty level | Harmful | " + " | -0.2591 | No | 0.0671 | 0.2591 |
| Percent vacant housing | Harmful | " + " | -0.2306 | No | 0.0532 | 0.2306 |
| Median household value | Beneficial | " - " | 0.4034 | No | 0.1627 | -0.4034 |
| Household income | Beneficial | " - " | 0.3700 | No | 0.1369 | -0.3700 |
| Count of occupants per room | Harmful | " + " | -0.0055 | No | 0.0000 | 0.0055 |
| Percent renter occupied housing | Harmful | " + " | 0.1827 | Yes | 0.0334 | -0.1827 |
| Violent Crime | Harmful | " + " | 0.0094 | Yes | 0.0001 | -0.0094 |
| Percent creative class | Beneficial | " - " | 0.4668 | No | 0.2179 | -0.4668 |
| Percent democrat | Beneficial | " - " | 0.2625 | No | 0.0689 | -0.2625 |
| GINI  coefficient | Harmful | " + " | 0.1162 | Yes | 0.0135 | -0.1162 |

**Sociodemographic RUCC 2**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **A priori variable characteristic** | **Loading (expected sign)** | **Loading (actual)** | **Match (expected vs observed)** | **Necessary to multiply vector of loadings by -1?** | **(Loading)^2** | **Modified Loadings** |
| Percent Bachelors | Beneficial | " - " | 0.4621 | No | **YES** | 0.2136 | -0.4621 |
| Percent unemployed | Harmful | " + " | -0.3274 | No | 0.1072 | 0.3274 |
| Percent families less than poverty level | Harmful | " + " | -0.4293 | No | 0.1843 | 0.4293 |
| Percent vacant housing | Harmful | " + " | 0.1331 | Yes | 0.0177 | -0.1331 |
| Median household value | Beneficial | " - " | 0.4002 | No | 0.1602 | -0.4002 |
| Household income | Beneficial | " - " | 0.0874 | No | 0.0076 | -0.0874 |
| Count of occupants per room | Harmful | " + " | -0.1371 | No | 0.0188 | 0.1371 |
| Percent renter occupied housing | Harmful | " + " | -0.0141 | No | 0.0002 | 0.0141 |
| Violent Crime | Harmful | " + " | -0.2386 | No | 0.0569 | 0.2386 |
| Percent creative class | Beneficial | " - " | 0.4463 | No | 0.1992 | -0.4463 |
| Percent democrat | Beneficial | " - " | 0.0929 | No | 0.0086 | -0.0929 |
| GINI  coefficient | Harmful | " + " | -0.1604 | No | 0.0257 | 0.1604 |

**Built (Overall)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **A priori variable characteristic** | **Loading (expected sign)** | **Loading (actual)** | **Match (expected vs observed)** | **Necessary to multiply vector of loadings by -1?** | **(Loading)^2** | **Modified Loadings** |
| Vice-related environment | Harmful | " + " | 0.2930 | Yes | Yes | 0.0858 | -0.2930 |
| Civic-related environment | Beneficial | " - " | 0.3071 | No | 0.0943 | -0.3071 |
| Education-related environment | Beneficial | " - " | 0.3495 | No | 0.1222 | -0.3495 |
| Health care- related environment | Beneficial | " - " | 0.2798 | No | 0.0783 | -0.2798 |
| Negative food environment | Harmful | " + " | 0.2280 | Yes | 0.0520 | -0.2280 |
| Positive food environment | Beneficial | " - " | 0.3179 | No | 0.1011 | -0.3179 |
| Recreation environment | Beneficial | " - " | 0.3590 | No | 0.1289 | -0.3590 |
| Social service-related environment | Beneficial | " - " | 0.3629 | No | 0.1317 | -0.3629 |
| Traffic Fatality Rate | Harmful | " + " | -0.1751 | No | 0.0307 | 0.1751 |
| Rate of low-rent + section 8 housing | Harmful | " + " | 0.0581 | Yes | 0.0034 | -0.0581 |
| Proportion of secondary roads | Harmful | " + " | -0.1777 | No | 0.0316 | 0.1777 |
| Commute time | Harmful | " + " | -0.3329 | No | 0.1108 | 0.3329 |
| Public Transportation | Beneficial | " - " | 0.0463 | No | 0.0021 | -0.0463 |
| Walkability Score | Beneficial | " - " | 0.1585 | No | 0.0251 | -0.1585 |
| Proportion green space | Beneficial | " - " | -0.0451 | Yes | 0.0020 | 0.0451 |

**Built RUCC 1**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **A priori variable characteristic** | **Loading (expected sign)** | **Loading (actual)** | **Match (expected vs observed)** | **Necessary to multiply vector of loadings by -1?** | **(Loading)^2** | **Modified Loadings** |
| Vice-related environment | Harmful | " + " | 0.2676 | Yes | YES | 0.0716 | -0.2676 |
| Civic-related environment | Beneficial | " - " | 0.1238 | No | 0.0153 | -0.1238 |
| Education-related environment | Beneficial | " - " | 0.2409 | No | 0.0580 | -0.2409 |
| Health care- related environment | Beneficial | " - " | 0.4189 | No | 0.1755 | -0.4189 |
| Negative food environment | Harmful | " + " | 0.3239 | Yes | 0.1049 | -0.3239 |
| Positive food environment | Beneficial | " - " | 0.3405 | No | 0.1159 | -0.3405 |
| Recreation environment | Beneficial | " - " | 0.2354 | No | 0.0554 | -0.2354 |
| Social service-related environment | Beneficial | " - " | 0.3446 | No | 0.1187 | -0.3446 |
| Traffic Fatality Rate | Harmful | " + " | 0.1978 | Yes | 0.0391 | -0.1978 |
| Rate of low-rent + section 8 housing | Harmful | " + " | -0.1230 | No | 0.0151 | 0.1230 |
| Proportion of secondary roads | Harmful | " + " | 0.0950 | Yes | 0.0090 | -0.0950 |
| Commute time | Harmful | " + " | -0.1886 | No | 0.0356 | 0.1886 |
| Public Transportation | Beneficial | " - " | 0.2253 | No | 0.0508 | -0.2253 |
| Walkability Score | Beneficial | " - " | 0.3516 | No | 0.1236 | -0.3516 |
| Proportion green space | Beneficial | " - " | -0.1065 | Yes | 0.0113 | 0.1065 |

**Built RUCC 2**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **A priori variable characteristic** | **Loading (expected sign)** | **Loading (actual)** | **Match (expected vs observed)** | **Necessary to multiply vector of loadings by -1?** | **(Loading)^2** | **Modified Loadings** |
| Vice-related environment | Harmful | " + " | 0.0331 | Yes | YES | 0.0331 | -0.0331 |
| Civic-related environment | Beneficial | " - " | 0.2057 | No | 0.2057 | -0.2057 |
| Education-related environment | Beneficial | " - " | 0.2626 | No | 0.2626 | -0.2626 |
| Health care- related environment | Beneficial | " - " | 0.3856 | No | 0.3856 | -0.3856 |
| Negative food environment | Harmful | " + " | 0.2707 | Yes | 0.2707 | -0.2707 |
| Positive food environment | Beneficial | " - " | 0.2752 | No | 0.2752 | -0.2752 |
| Recreation environment | Beneficial | " - " | 0.3484 | No | 0.3484 | -0.3484 |
| Social service-related environment | Beneficial | " - " | 0.3503 | No | 0.3503 | -0.3503 |
| Traffic Fatality Rate | Harmful | " + " | -0.2340 | No | -0.2340 | 0.2340 |
| Rate of low-rent + section 8 housing | Harmful | " + " | 0.0459 | Yes | 0.0459 | -0.0459 |
| Proportion of secondary roads | Harmful | " + " | -0.1319 | No | -0.1319 | 0.1319 |
| Commute time | Harmful | " + " | -0.2808 | No | -0.2808 | 0.2808 |
| Public Transportation | Beneficial | " - " | 0.1111 | No | 0.1111 | -0.1111 |
| Walkability Score | Beneficial | " - " | 0.3310 | No | 0.3310 | -0.3310 |
| Proportion green space | Beneficial | " - " | 0.0253 | No | 0.0253 | -0.0253 |

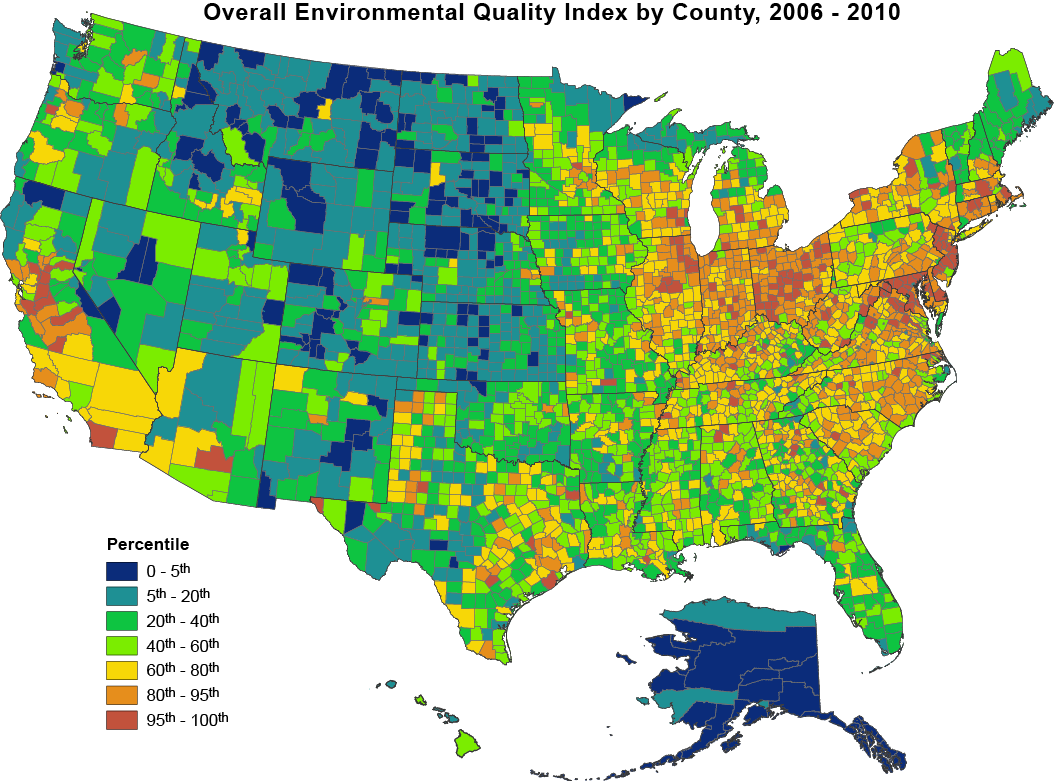
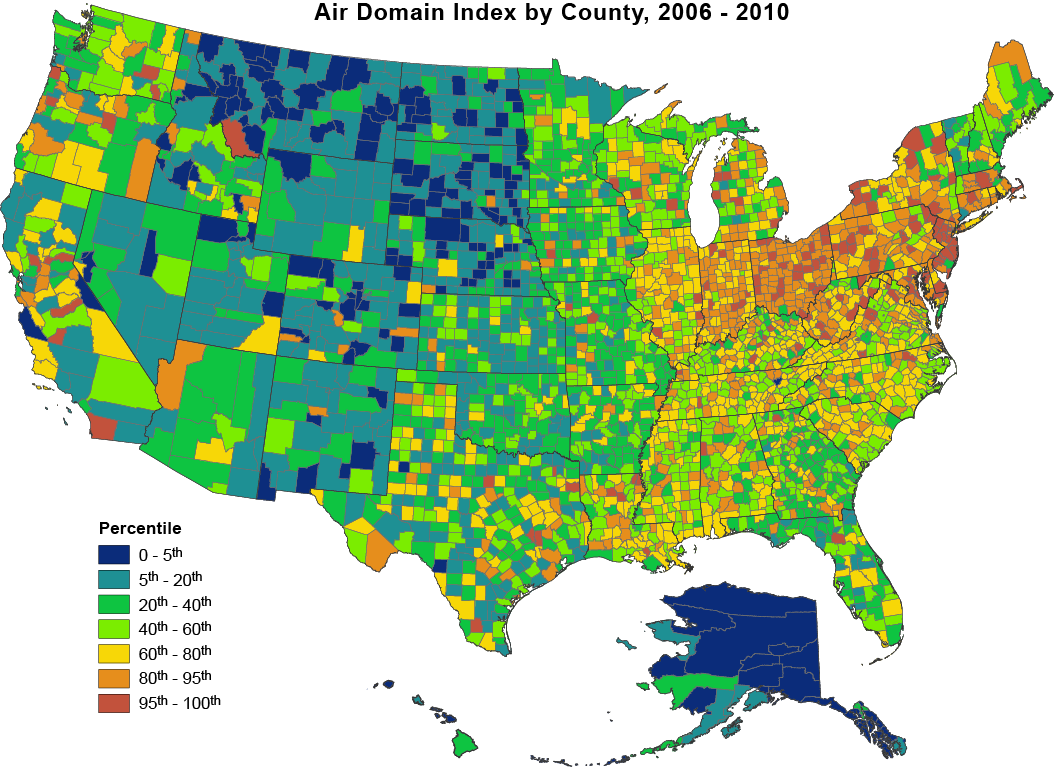
**Built RUCC 3**

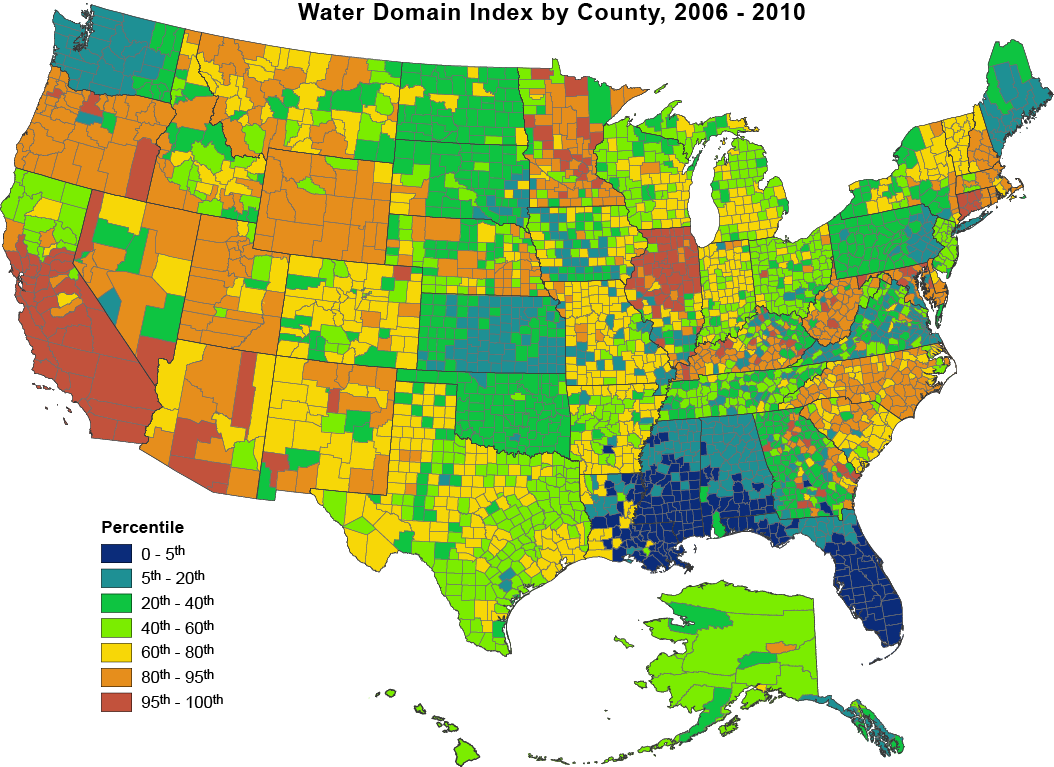
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **A priori variable characteristic** | **Loading (expected sign)** | **Loading (actual)** | **Match (expected vs observed)** | **Necessary to multiply vector of loadings by -1?** | **(Loading)^2** | **Modified Loadings** |
| Vice-related environment | Harmful | " + " | 0.2724 | Yes | YES | 0.0742 | -0.2724 |
| Civic-related environment | Beneficial | " - " | 0.1890 | No | 0.0357 | -0.1890 |
| Education-related environment | Beneficial | " - " | 0.3278 | No | 0.1074 | -0.3278 |
| Health care- related environment | Beneficial | " - " | 0.3179 | No | 0.1011 | -0.3179 |
| Negative food environment | Harmful | " + " | 0.2306 | Yes | 0.0532 | -0.2306 |
| Positive food environment | Beneficial | " - " | 0.2660 | No | 0.0707 | -0.2660 |
| Recreation environment | Beneficial | " - " | 0.3212 | No | 0.1032 | -0.3212 |
| Social service-related environment | Beneficial | " - " | 0.3644 | No | 0.1328 | -0.3644 |
| Traffic Fatality Rate | Harmful | " + " | -0.2197 | No | 0.0483 | 0.2197 |
| Rate of low-rent + section 8 housing | Harmful | " + " | 0.0697 | Yes | 0.0049 | -0.0697 |
| Proportion of secondary roads | Harmful | " + " | -0.1761 | No | 0.0310 | 0.1761 |
| Commute time | Harmful | " + " | -0.3230 | No | 0.1043 | 0.3230 |
| Public Transportation | Beneficial | " - " | 0.0777 | No | 0.0060 | -0.0777 |
| Walkability Score | Beneficial | " - " | 0.3542 | No | 0.1255 | -0.3542 |
| Proportion green space | Beneficial | " - " | -0.0418 | Yes | 0.0017 | 0.0418 |

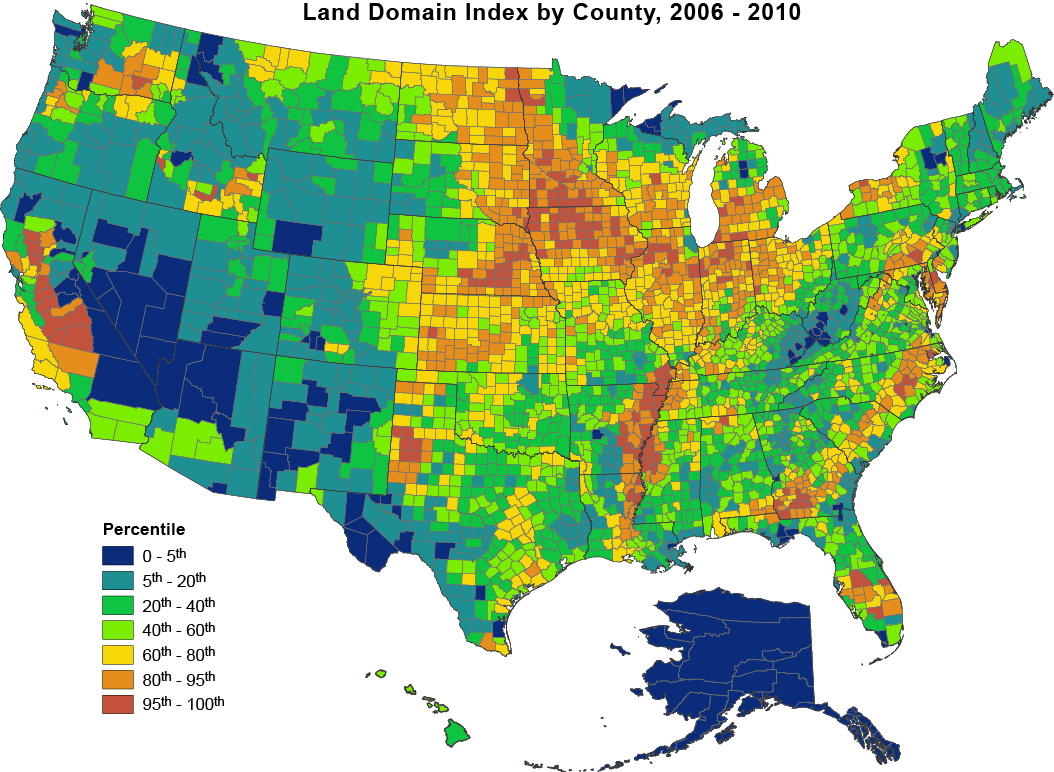
**Built RUCC 4**

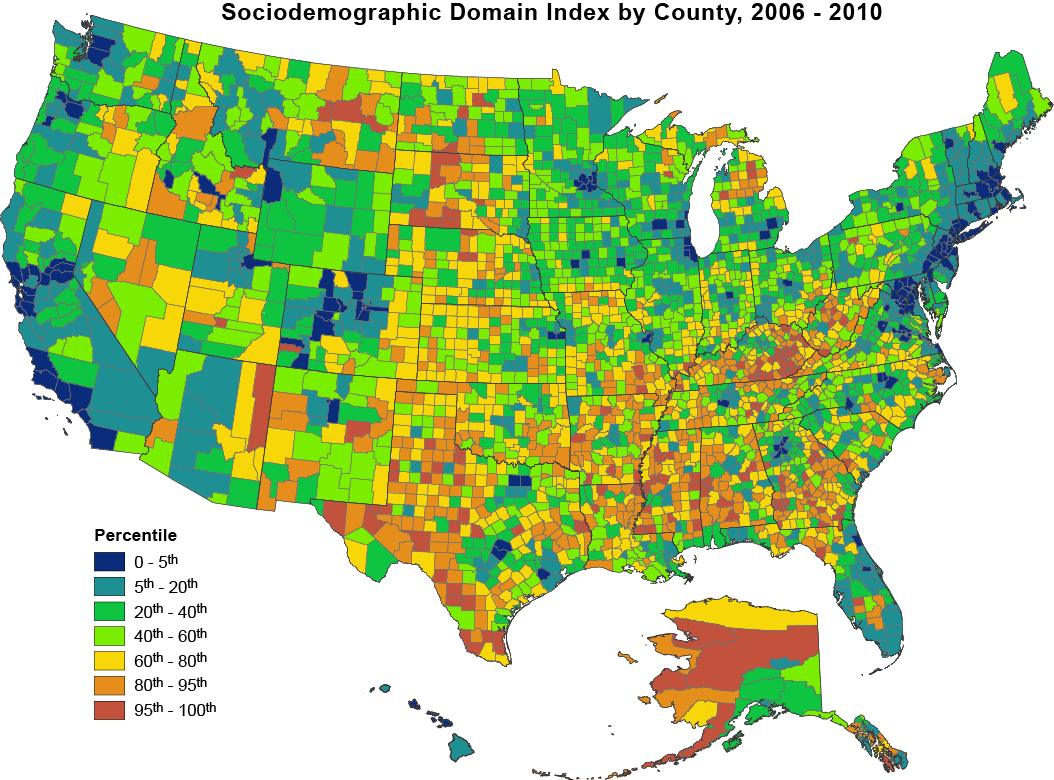
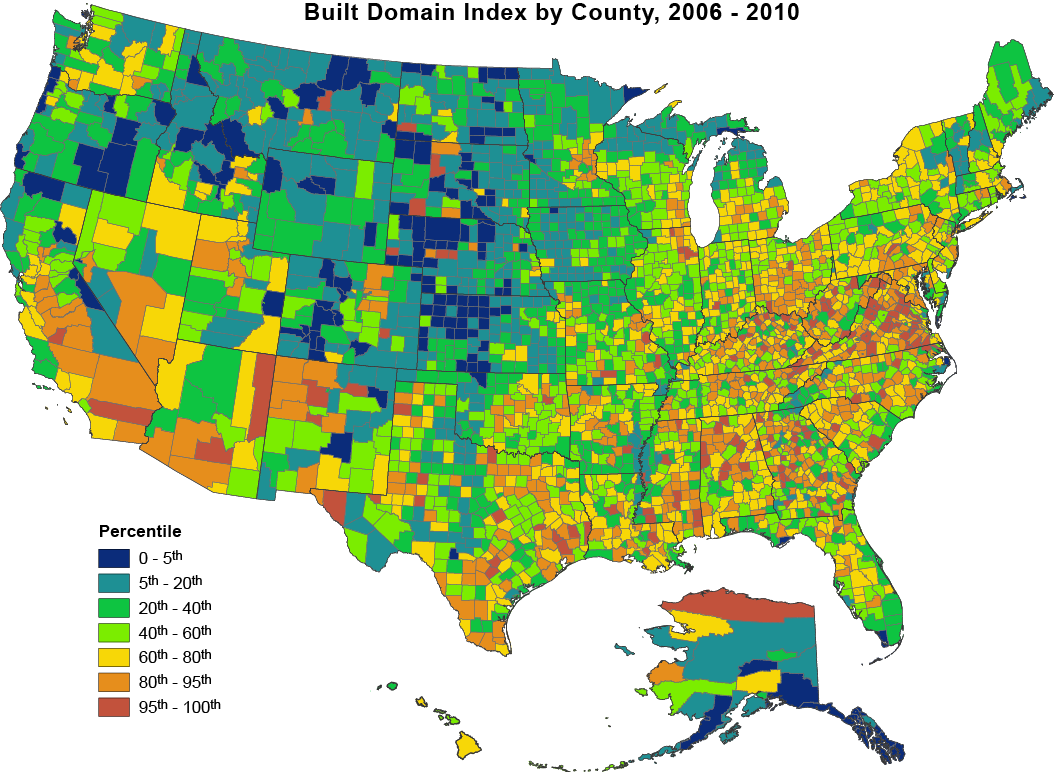
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **A priori variable characteristic** | **Loading (expected sign)** | **Loading (actual)** | **Match (expected vs observed)** | **Necessary to multiply vector of loadings by -1?** | **(Loading)^2** | **Modified Loadings** |
| Vice-related environment | Harmful | " + " | 0.2595 | Yes | YES | 0.0673 | -0.2595 |
| Civic-related environment | Beneficial | " - " | 0.3102 | No | 0.0962 | -0.3102 |
| Education-related environment | Beneficial | " - " | 0.3285 | No | 0.1079 | -0.3285 |
| Health care- related environment | Beneficial | " - " | 0.2742 | No | 0.0752 | -0.2742 |
| Negative food environment | Harmful | " + " | 0.1527 | Yes | 0.0233 | -0.1527 |
| Positive food environment | Beneficial | " - " | 0.2524 | No | 0.0637 | -0.2524 |
| Recreation environment | Beneficial | " - " | 0.3222 | No | 0.1038 | -0.3222 |
| Social service-related environment | Beneficial | " - " | 0.2793 | No | 0.0780 | -0.2793 |
| Traffic Fatality Rate | Harmful | " + " | -0.2312 | No | 0.0535 | 0.2312 |
| Rate of low-rent + section 8 housing | Harmful | " + " | -0.0178 | No | 0.0003 | 0.0178 |
| Proportion of secondary roads | Harmful | " + " | -0.2054 | No | 0.0422 | 0.2054 |
| Commute time | Harmful | " + " | -0.3546 | No | 0.1257 | 0.3546 |
| Public Transportation | Beneficial | " - " | 0.0256 | No | 0.0007 | -0.0256 |
| Walkability Score | Beneficial | " - " | 0.3787 | No | 0.1434 | -0.3787 |
| Proportion green space | Beneficial | " - " | -0.1370 | Yes | 0.0188 | 0.1370 |

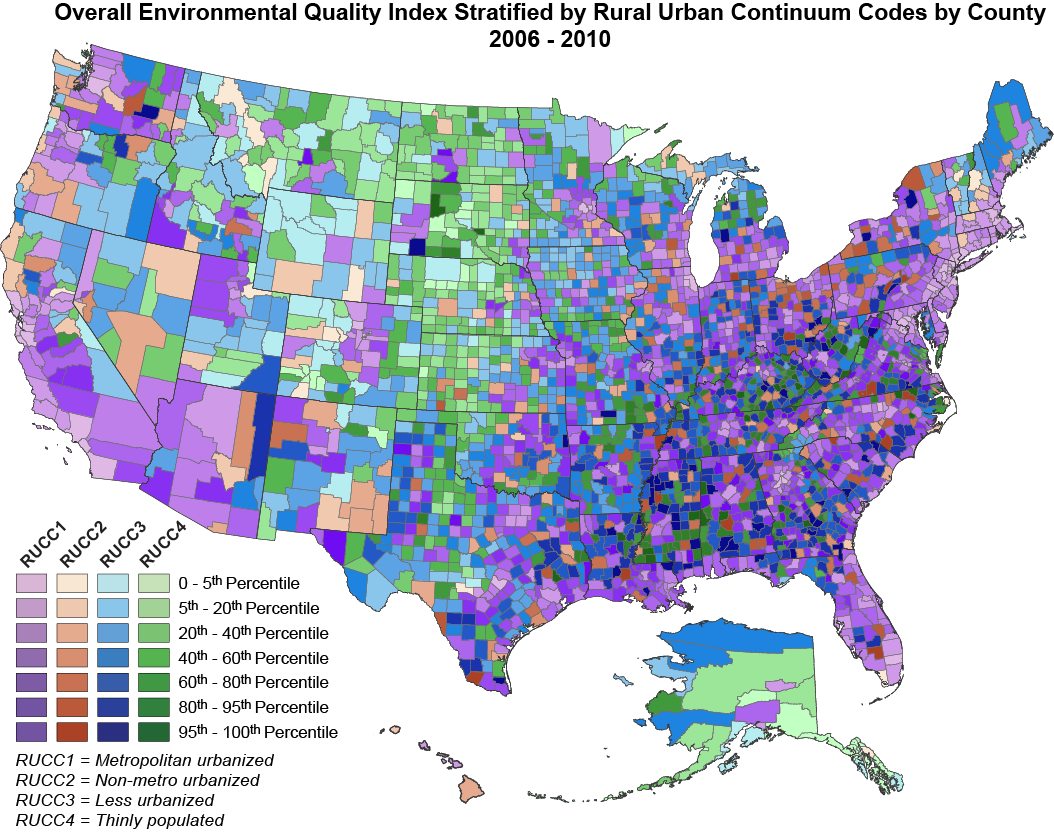
# Appendix VI: County Maps of Environmental Quality Index 2006-2010

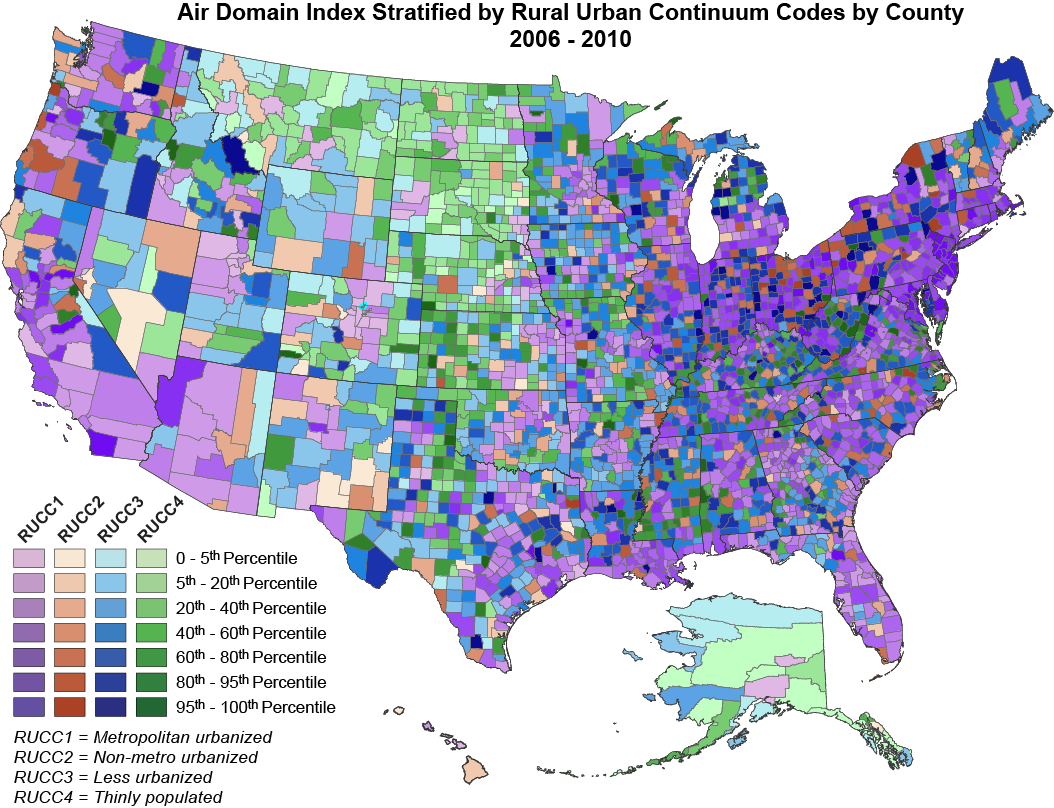


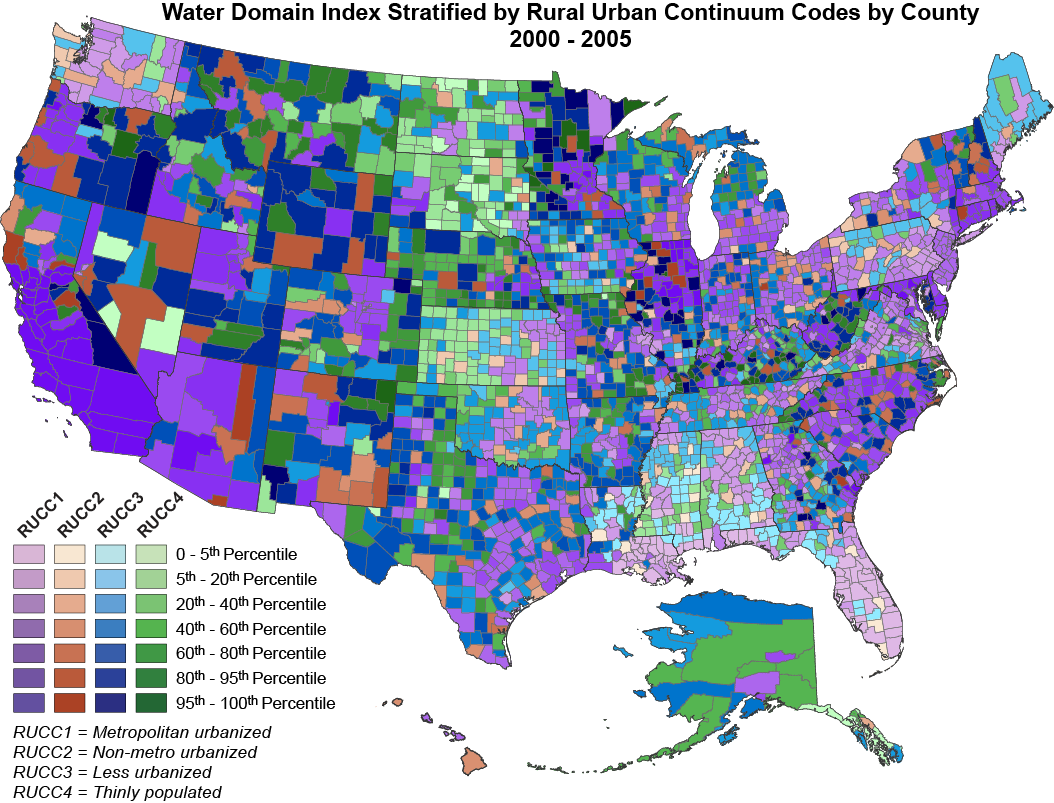
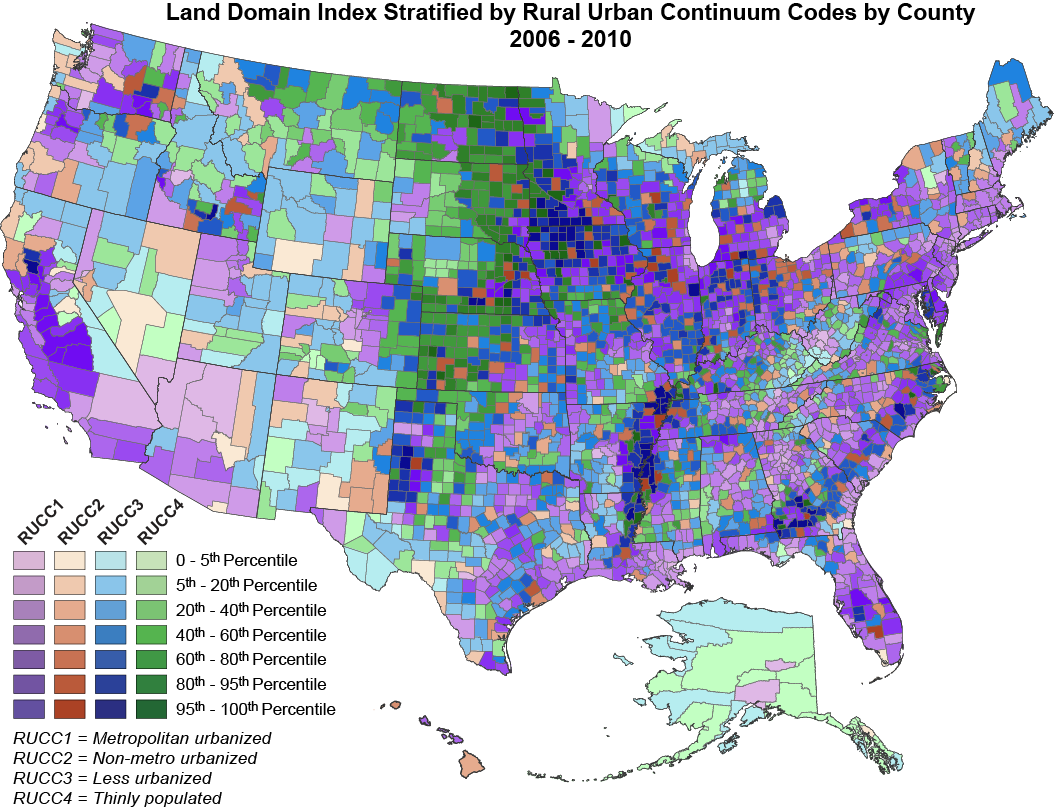


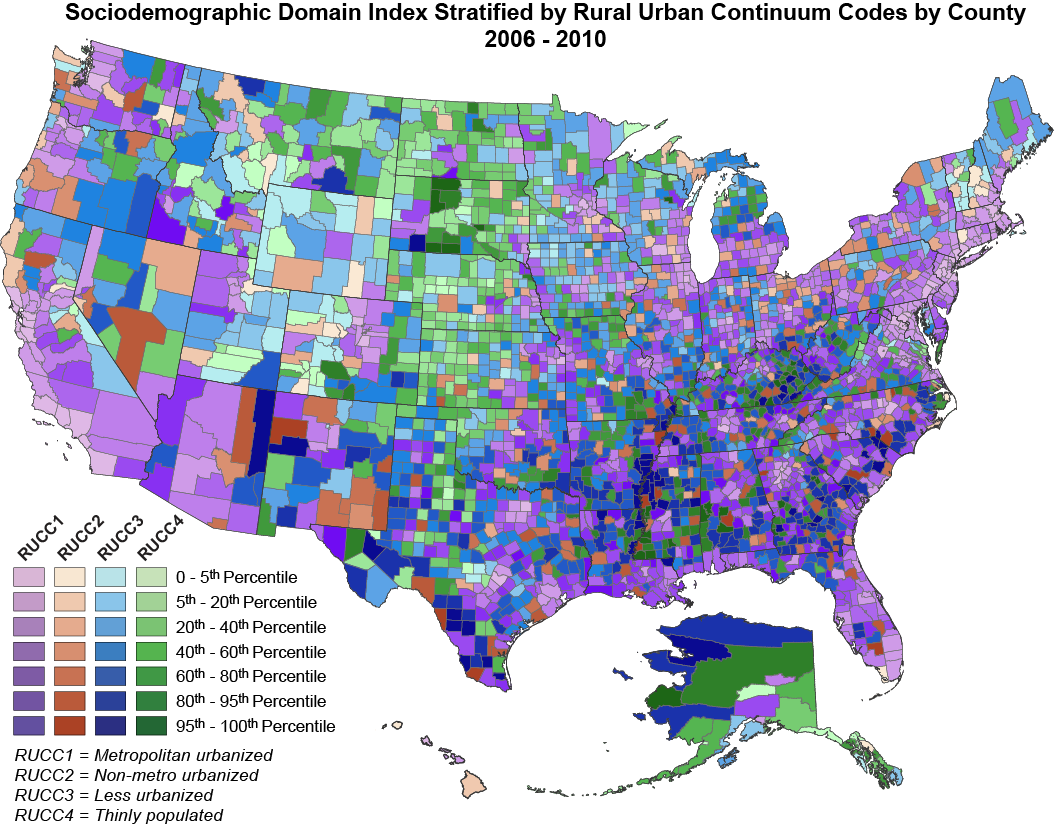


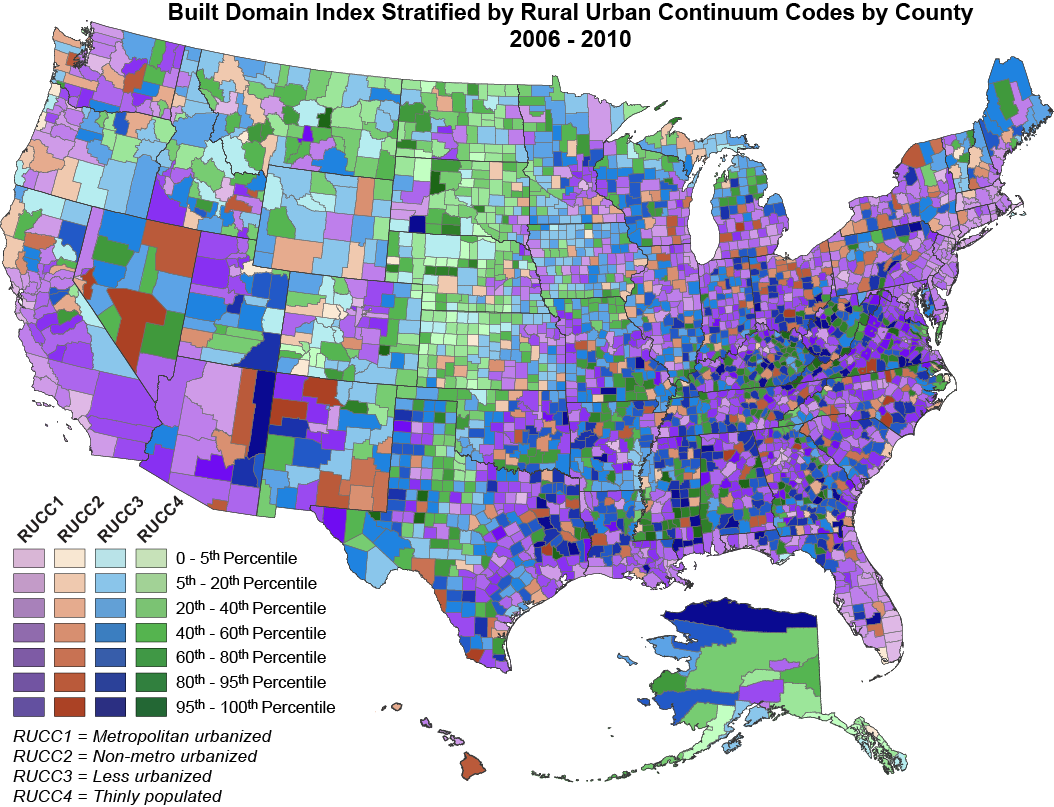












# Appendix VII: Quality Assurance

The approved Center for Public Health and Environmental Assessment (CPHEA) Public Health and Environmental Systems Division (PHESD) Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) for this project is “Creating an Overall Environmental Quality Index,” with Document Control Number IRP-NHEERL/HSD/EBB/DL/2008-01-QP-1-7. An internal EPA review of this report was conducted in April 2019. An external peer review was conducted March 2020.

The data sources used to create the EQI and the criteria used to select the data sources are mentioned in this report in Development of the EQI 2006-2010 section.

Information about uses of the EQI, as well as strengths and limitations of the EQI, is located under Discussion section of the report.

1. Current link is for EQI 2000-2005 only. This link will be updated once updated EQI 2006-2010 is made public [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Current link is for EQI 2000-2005 only. This link will be updated once updated EQI 2006-2010 is made public [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Current link is for EQI 2000-2005 only. This link will be updated once updated EQI 2006-2010 is made public [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Current link is for EQI 2000-2005 only. This link will be updated once updated EQI 2006-2010 is made public [↑](#footnote-ref-4)