

Transportation Planning Equity Assessment Frequently Asked Questions

About the Equity Assessment

1. Why has the Broward MPO developed this equity area map?

Historically, the Broward MPO has used different approaches to identify areas of the county where populations protected under federal non-discrimination laws live. The equity area map provides a standardized way to identify areas where statistically higher concentrations of these population groups live compared to the overall countywide average. Knowing where populations protected under federal non-discrimination laws live is critical to ensuring that Title VI and Environmental Justice are appropriately considered during the transportation planning process. It is our goal that this map will help to facilitate informed conversations about this topic and serve as a resource when considering Title VI and Environmental Justice in the transportation planning process.

2. How can the equity area assessment map be used?

The map illustrates the “equity score” calculated for each block group. Block groups with a “very high” equity score are those with the highest statistical concentration of the seven demographic indicators used to calculate the composite equity score. Conversely, block groups with a “low” equity score are those with the lowest statistical concentration of these demographic indicators. Comparing equity scores among block groups throughout the county can spatially illustrate where the highest or lowest concentrations of these population groups live relative to each other. The data for each demographic indicator used to develop the composite equity scores can also be examined by block group, which may help to inform the planning process.

3. How is the equity assessment map not intended to be used?

The equity scores are not intended to “rate” or “grade” how equitable a block group is or how well equity within a particular block group is addressed. The equity scores simply illustrate the concentration of the selected Title VI/Environmental Justice indicators within a block group relative to the county as a whole. The equity area map is intended to be a resource and is not intended to holistically define population groups within Broward County or replace public outreach and other analyses that should be completed during the planning process.

4. What population groups are included in the equity score?

Data for seven demographic indicators is used to calculate the equity score for each block group. These seven indicators are used as they all tied to federal non-discrimination authorities, such as Title VI and Environmental Justice, and include:

- *Racial minority*
- *Ethnic minority*
- *Youth (10-17 years)*
- *Older adults (65 years and older)*
- *Population below poverty*
- *Limited English Proficiency (LEP) population*
- *Population with a disability*

5. What is the difference between a racial minority and an ethnic minority?

A racial minority is defined by the U.S. Census Bureau as a person who is Black/African American, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian, other Pacific Islander, or some other non-White race, or a combination of two or more races.

An Ethnic minority is defined by the U.S. Census Bureau as a person who is Hispanic or Latino. While Hispanics and Latinos are considered minorities, they are defined by the U.S. Census Bureau as an ethnicity rather than a race. People who identify their origin as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race, including White.

6. Where can I find more information on how the equity area scores were calculated?

The equity score calculated for each block group is based on a statistically-driven calculation process.

Data Sources

7. What is the source of data used to develop the equity areas?

Data from the most current American Community Survey (ACS) Five-Year Estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau are used to calculate the composite equity score for each block group.

8. After looking at the countywide equity area assessment map, how can I look up more detail on the specific equity indicator data within an individual block group?

Demographic data specific to each block group in Broward County can be found on the interactive equity area map [here](#). Upon reaching this site, click on a specific block group on the interactive map to see the individual indicator data that comprise the overall equity score for each block group.

Related Federal Regulations

9. Is the Broward MPO required to do this equity assessment?

Federal-aid recipients, such as the Broward MPO, are required to prevent discrimination and ensure nondiscrimination in all of their programs, activities, and services whether they are federally funded or not. This equity assessment looks to go above and beyond the Broward MPO's current processes, which addresses federal requirements, to provide a more in-depth and consistent way of considering Title VI and Environmental Justice across all of the MPO's plans and programs.

10. Where can I find more information on Title VI and Environmental Justice?

Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Resources

- Title VI: <https://www.transit.dot.gov/title6>
- Environmental Justice: <https://www.transit.dot.gov/regulations-and-guidance/environmental-programs/environmental-justice/environmental-justice>

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Resources

- Title VI: <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/civilrights/programs/tvi.cfm>
- Environmental Justice: https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/environmental_justice/

11. How does this relate to the Broward MPO's Title VI Program?

Broward MPO has adopted a Title VI Program to ensure that it is in compliance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Title VI prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin in programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance. Presidential Executive Order 12898 addresses Environmental Justice in minority and low-income populations. Presidential Executive Order 13166 addresses services to those individuals with limited English proficiency. Discrimination on the basis of gender, age, and disability is prohibited under related statutes. These Presidential Executive Orders and the related statutes fall under the umbrella of Title VI and are addressed in the Broward MPO's Title VI Program and Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan, which can be found [here](#).

Next Steps

12. How can request more information on the Transportation Planning Equity Assessment process?

Please contact Erica Lychak at (954) 876-0058 or Lychake@browardmpo.org to learn more about the Broward MPO's Transportation Planning Equity Assessment process.

13. What will this information be used for in the future?

The Broward MPO has incorporated the equity assessment process across its plans and programs to provide a consistent way of considering Title VI and Environmental Justice in the transportation planning process. More information on the specifics of this, including documentation of the processes and outcomes is ongoing.

14. When will the equity tool be available for public use?

The spreadsheet tool used to calculate the equity areas is available for use. For assistance and more information, please contact Erica Lychak at Lychake@browardmpo.org