



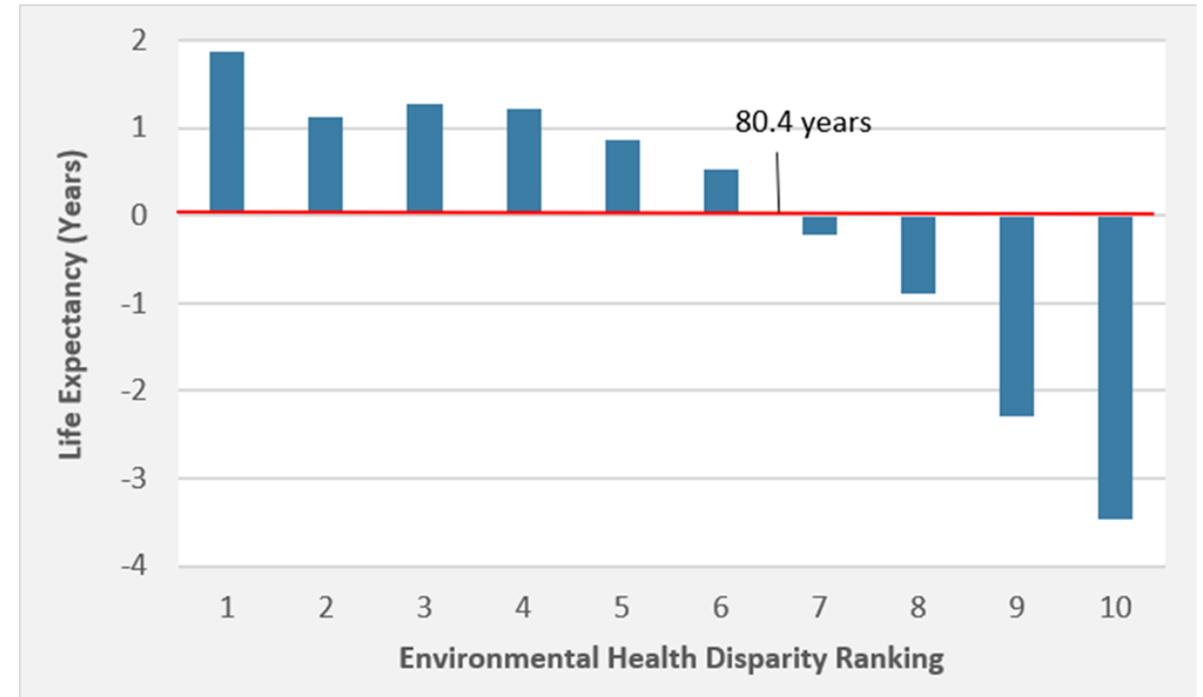
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND THE HEAL ACT

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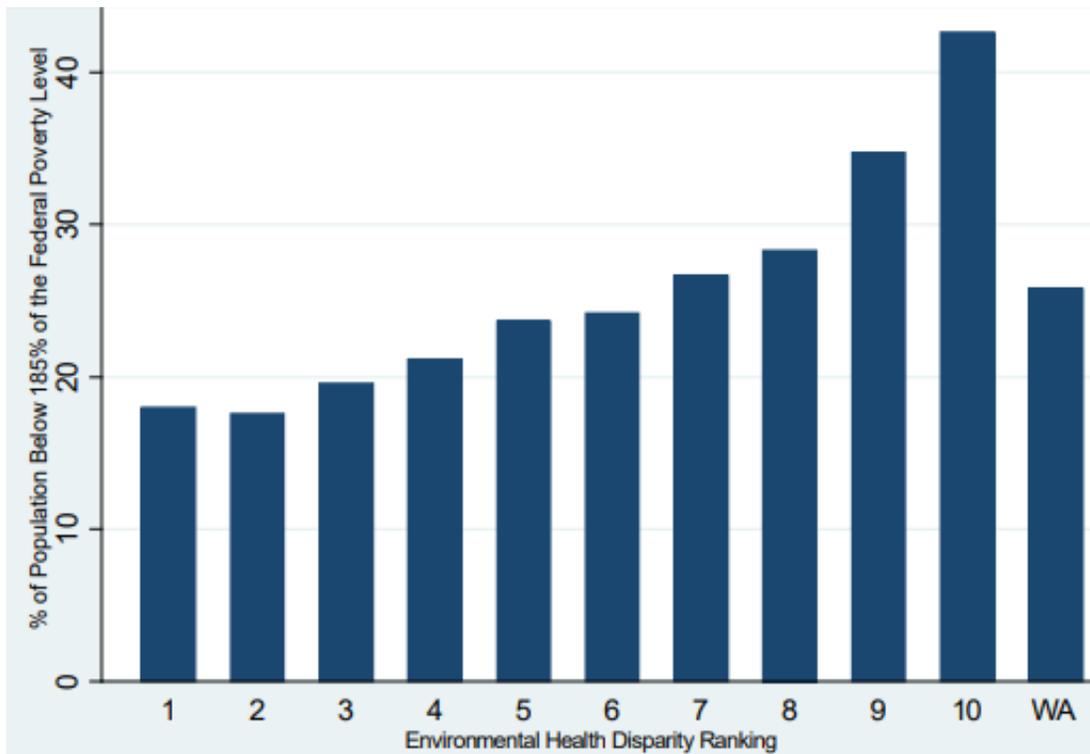
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DISPARITIES

- In WA, there is an over five-year life expectancy gap between census tracts most impacted by environmental hazards and those least impacted.
- The EHD map does not include tribal data

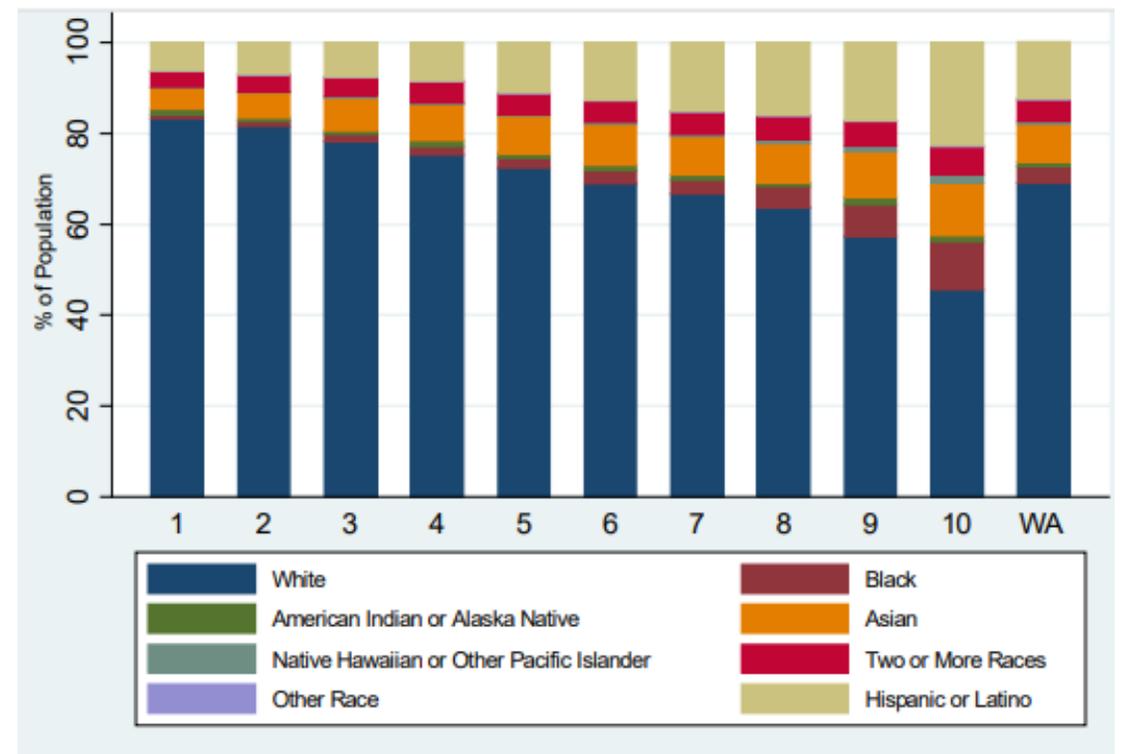


ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DISPARITIES

Poverty by
Environmental Health Disparity Ranking



Race/Ethnicity by
Environmental Health Disparity Ranking



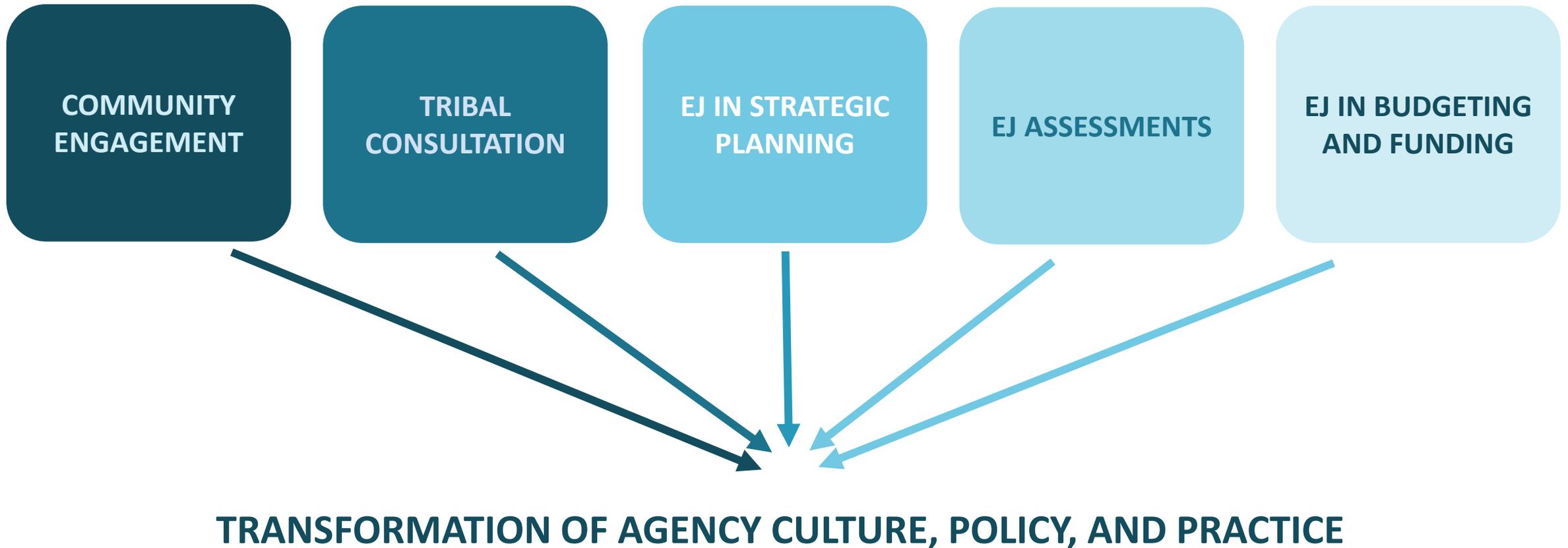
Please note: these charts were made using data from EHD Map v1.0 and does not represent data updates in v2.0

WHAT IS ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE?

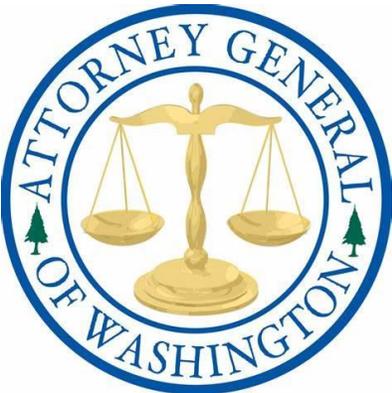
The Healthy Environment for All (HEAL) Act defines environmental justice as “**the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people** regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, rules, and policies.

Environmental justice includes **addressing disproportionate environmental health impacts** in all laws, rules, and policies with environmental impacts by **prioritizing vulnerable populations and overburdened communities, the equitable distribution of resources and benefits, and eliminating harm.**”

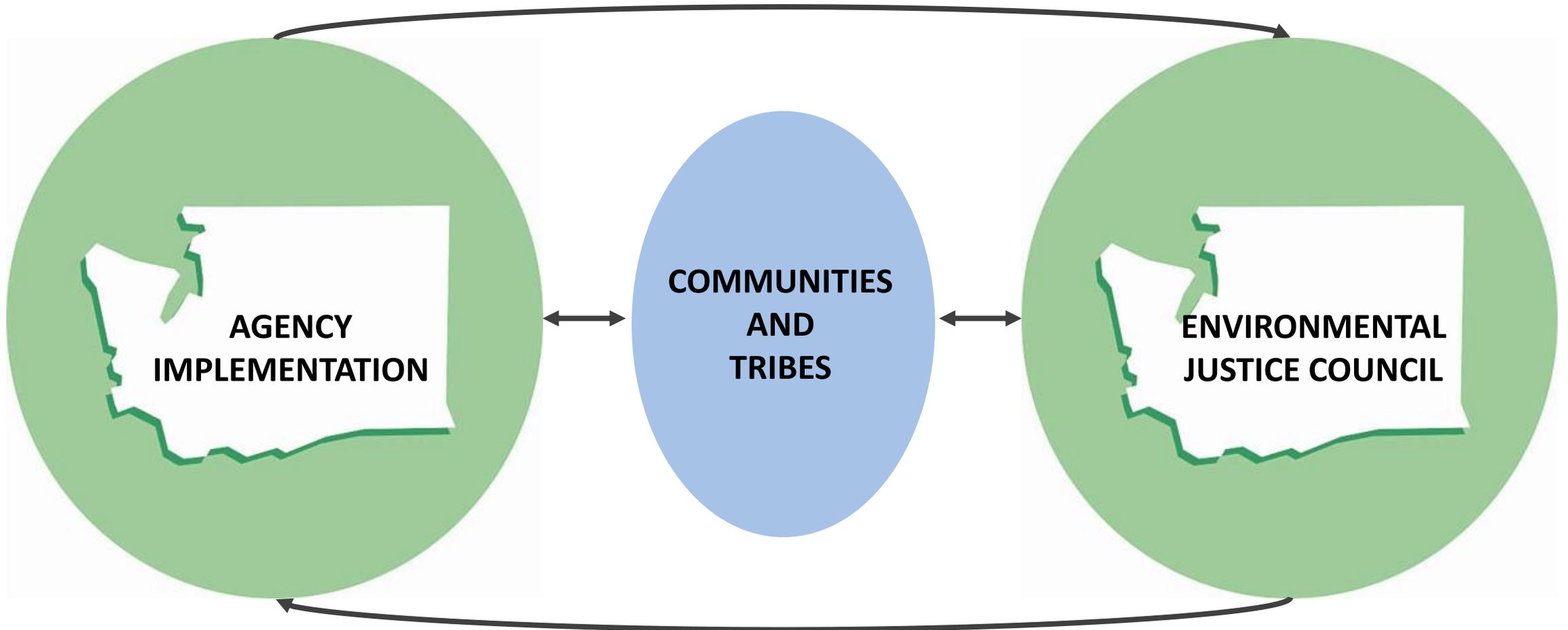
STATE AGENCY IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HEAL ACT



IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES



HEAL ACT IMPLEMENTATION



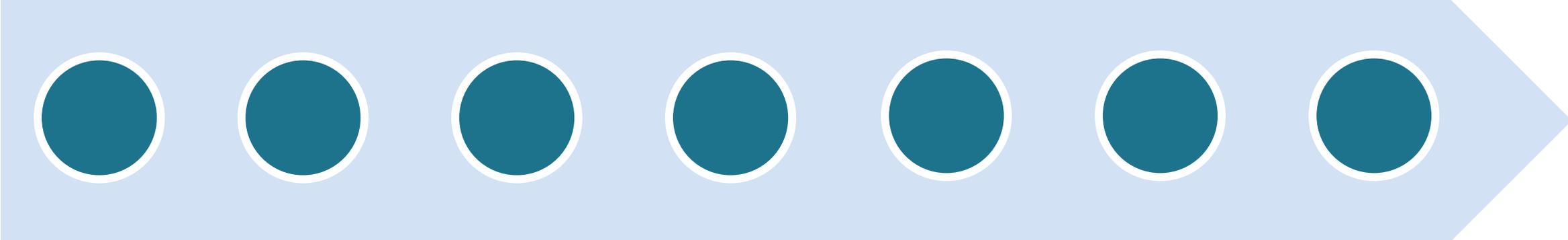
HEAL Implementation



July 1st, 2022
Community Engagement
Plans due

July 1st, 2023
EJ Assessments begin on
initial significant agency actions

Annually, starting 2024
Agencies publish dashboards
describing progress



Jan 1st, 2023
Strategic planning
obligation due

July 1st, 2023
Budgeting and funding
obligation due

Biennially, starting Dec 2023
EJ Council evaluates agency
implementation

July 1st, 2025
EJ Assessments begin on
additional significant agency
actions identified by agencies

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ASSESSMENTS

- Include overburdened communities and vulnerable populations in agency decision-making process
- Equitably distribute environmental benefits
- Reduce environmental harms
- Identify and reduce environmental and health disparities

“Prior to finalizing a significant agency action, an agency must conduct an environmental justice assessment”

SIGNIFICANT AGENCY ACTIONS

- Agency request legislation
- Significant legislative rules
- New grant or loan programs (started after July 1, 2023)
- Capital projects, grants, or loans of \$12M+ or transportation projects, grants, or loans of \$15M+
- Additional actions TBD after 2025

Agencies must implement EJ Assessments for these actions starting July 1, 2023

“...actions that may cause environmental harm or may affect the equitable distribution of environmental benefits to an overburdened community or a vulnerable population.”

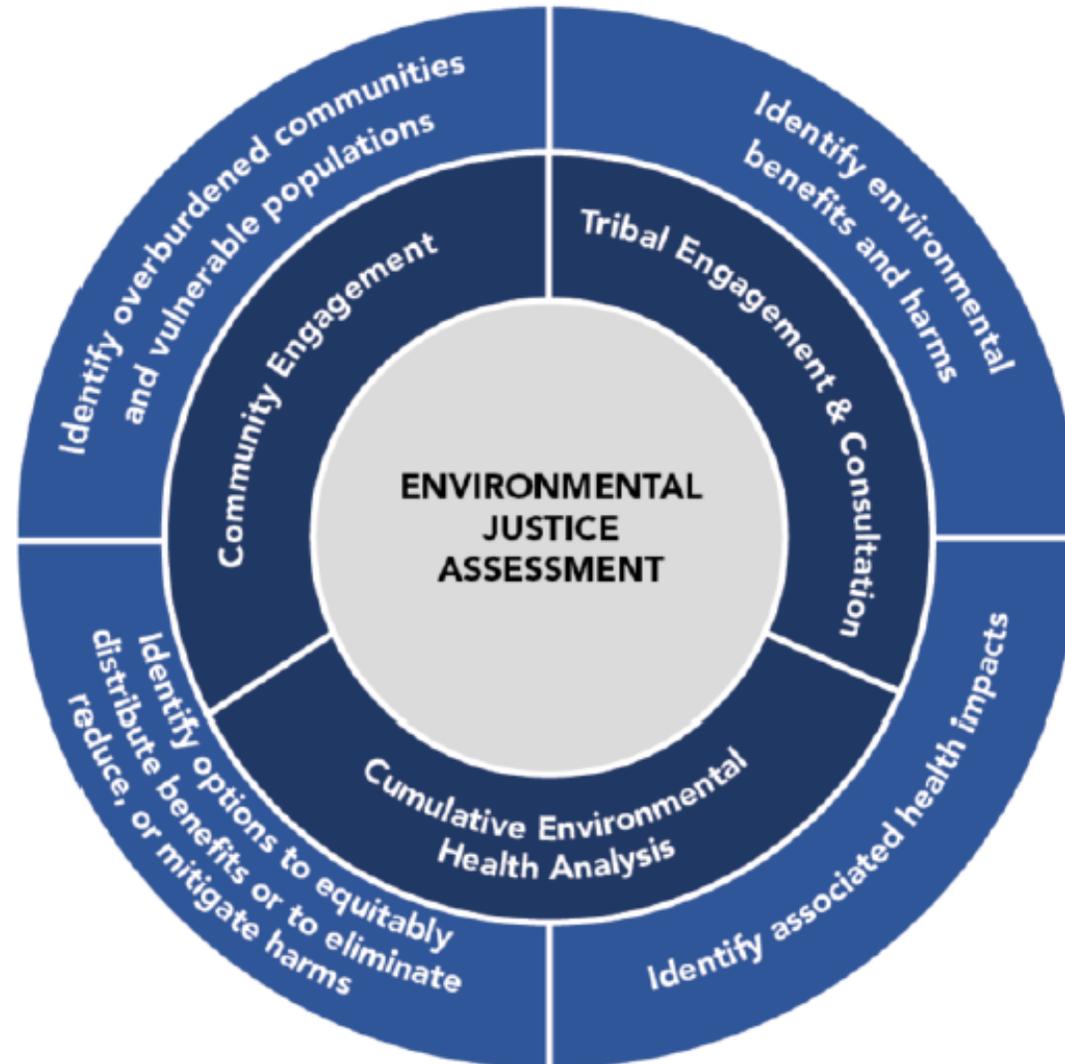
PHASE 1: Notification

In a public notice to OFM, describe the proposed action and any known or potential:

- Geographic impact areas
- Environmental impacts
- Health impacts
- Impacted communities, tribes, and populations
- Opportunities for public comment

Assess existing agency resources and relationships

PHASE 2: EJ Assessment



PHASE 3: Reporting & Communication of Results

Communicate selected strategies and/or justification for not implementing strategies, plan to further involve OBC/VP/tribes, and commitments to tracking and reporting



Report outcomes of EJA to OFM dashboard

PHASE 4: Ongoing Engagement & Accountability

Ongoing engagement with OBC/VP/tribes throughout SAA implementation

Ongoing evaluation of EJA and SAA

NEXT STEPS

- Public comment period on types of significant agency actions
- HEAL Agencies are finalizing shared interagency template and guidance for EJ Assessments
- DOH staff are tailoring EJA interagency template and guidance for our agency
- DOH staff are piloting EJ assessment process with select initial significant agency actions beginning July 1, 2023
- HEAL agencies will present initial reflections on EJ assessments to EJ Council in Fall 2023 for additional guidance and revisions to the EJ assessment process early 2024

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