

All Communities Are Not Created Equal:


**An Assessment of the Institutionalization of
Environmental Justice Principles by Rhode Island
NGOs and Government Agencies**

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ES Senior Thesis

4/10/08

Outline

- Thesis Question
 - Defining Environmental Justice
 - Environmental Justice in Rhode Island
 - Methodology
 - Results
 - Recommendations
- 

Thesis Question

- How thoroughly have non-governmental and governmental agencies operationalized environmental justice principles?

Definition of Environmental Justice

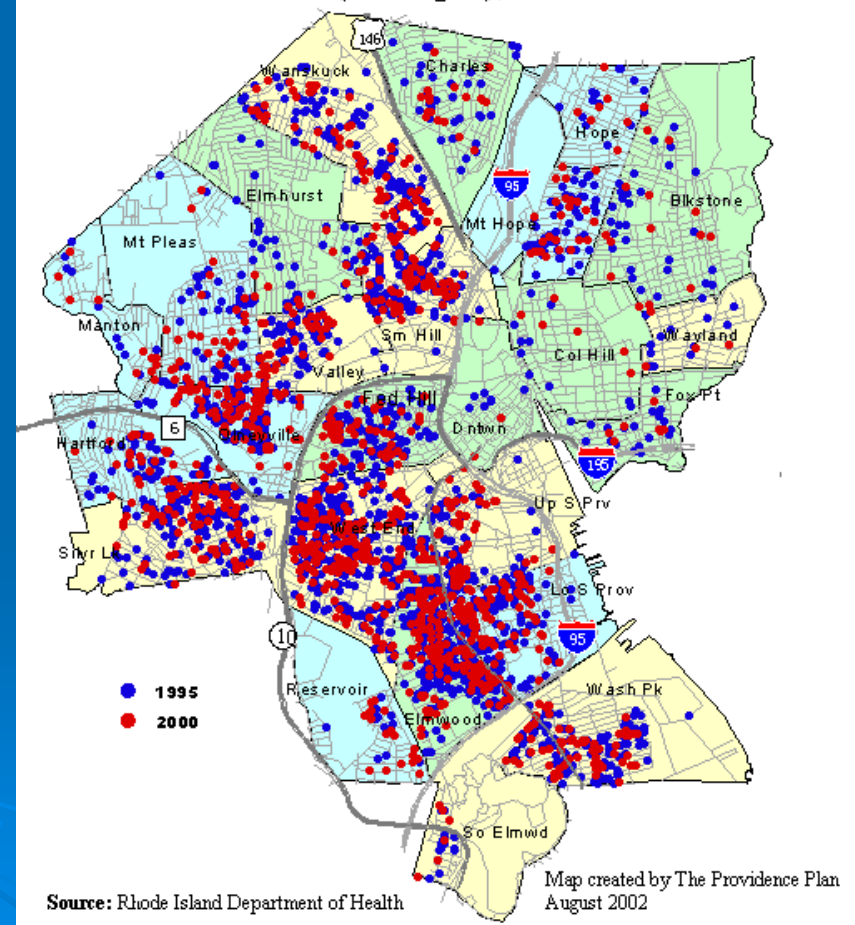
- Definition 1: “disproportionate environmental harm, the lack of social and political recognition and the differential access to environmental amenities received by individuals or communities based on race, ethnicity, economic class or gender.” (1991 First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit)
- Definition. 2: “..disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations.” (1994 E.O. 12898)
- Definition 3: “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, regulations, and policies.” (1994 EPA)

Environmental Justice in Rhode Island

➤ Lead poisoning

- 1 in 6 Providence children exposed to lead in 2000.
- African-American, Southeast Asian and Hispanic children twice as likely to be lead poisoned.
- Lead paint nuisance suit filed, \$2.4 billion fine ordered.

Dispersion of Children under Age 6 with Elevated Blood Lead Levels ($\geq 10\mu\text{g}/\text{dl}$), 1995 and 2000.

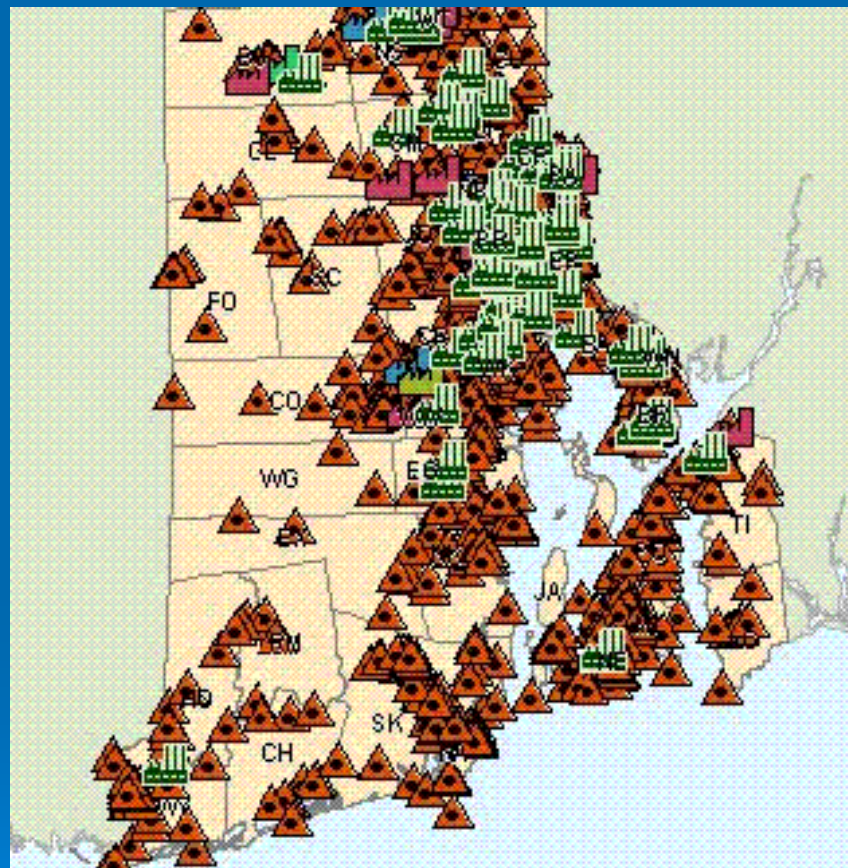


Environmental Justice in Rhode Island


➤ Brownfields

- 450,000 nationwide; race more influential than income
- RI's site remediation program brought 1100+ acres back to beneficial reuse.

➤ Other local EJ struggles: Fisheries, Superfund prioritization, access to environmental amenities



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- *How thoroughly have non-governmental and governmental agencies operationalized environmental justice principles?*

Methodology

- Survey (primary method)
 - 47 questions (multiple-choice, open-ended, scales)
 - What other groups does your group or agency work with, if any?
 - On a scale from 1 to 5, 1 being “not at all” and 5 being “very well,” how well has your group or agency implemented environmental justice principles?
 - Distributed to select NGOs and gov’t groups by mail (N=52, n=17)
- Triangulated with findings from their literature and website

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Results: Familiarity

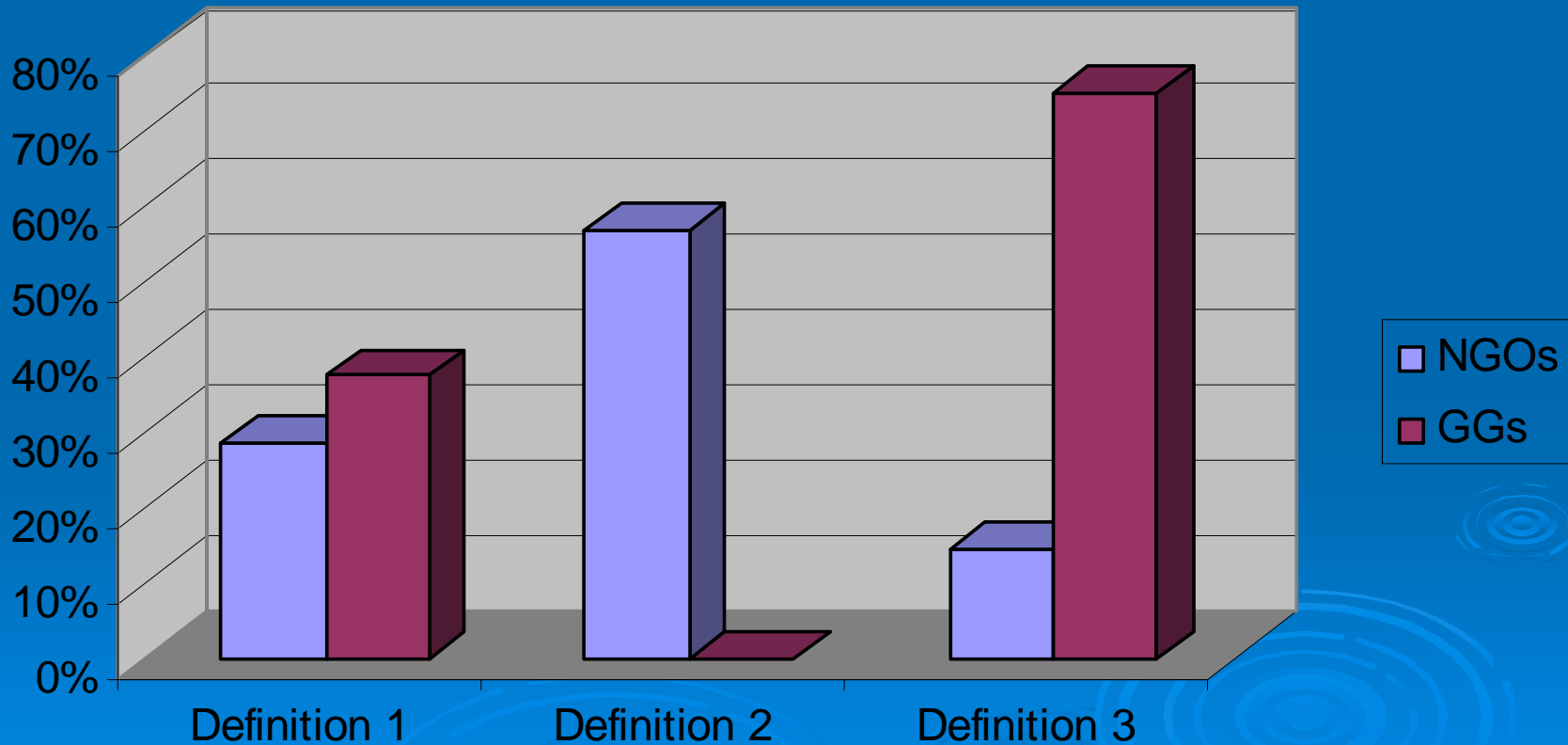
- 88.9% of NGOs and 87.5% of GGs were familiar with local environmental justice struggles.
- 88.9% of NGOs and 100% of GGs were familiar with the terms environmental justice, environmental racism and/or environmental injustice.

Definition of Environmental Justice

- Definition 1: “disproportionate environmental harm, the lack of social and political recognition and the differential access to environmental amenities received by individuals or communities based on race, ethnicity, economic class or gender.” (1991 First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit)
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- Definition 3: “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, regulations, and policies.” (EPA 1994)

Results: Definitions

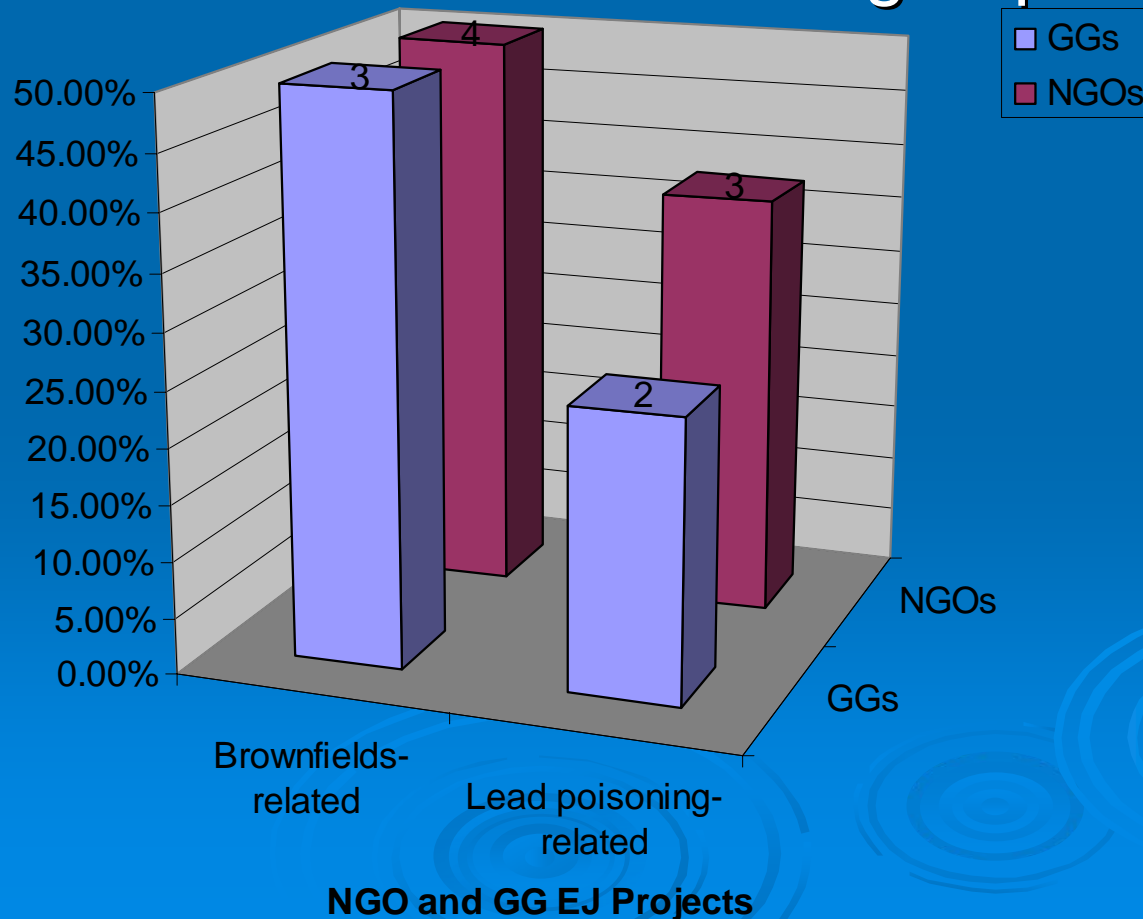
NGO and GG Definitions of EJ



Results: EJ Projects

➤ 88.9% of NGOs and 75% of GGs have done EJ projects.

•62.5% of NGOs and 25% of GGs mentioned projects done in conjunction with other groups.



Results: Women

- 88.9% of NGO respondents and 37.5% of GG respondents were female.
 - 88.9% of NGOs had female employee force over 50%.
 - No GG had a female employee force over 50%.
- Precedence for this in international environmental movements



Results: Low-Income

- No pattern to NGOs' low-income involvement; ranged from 0% to 100%, but not enough information supplied.
- No correlation btwn. paid memberships and low-income involvement.
- Not enough information supplied by GGs for conclusive answer—0% response rate.

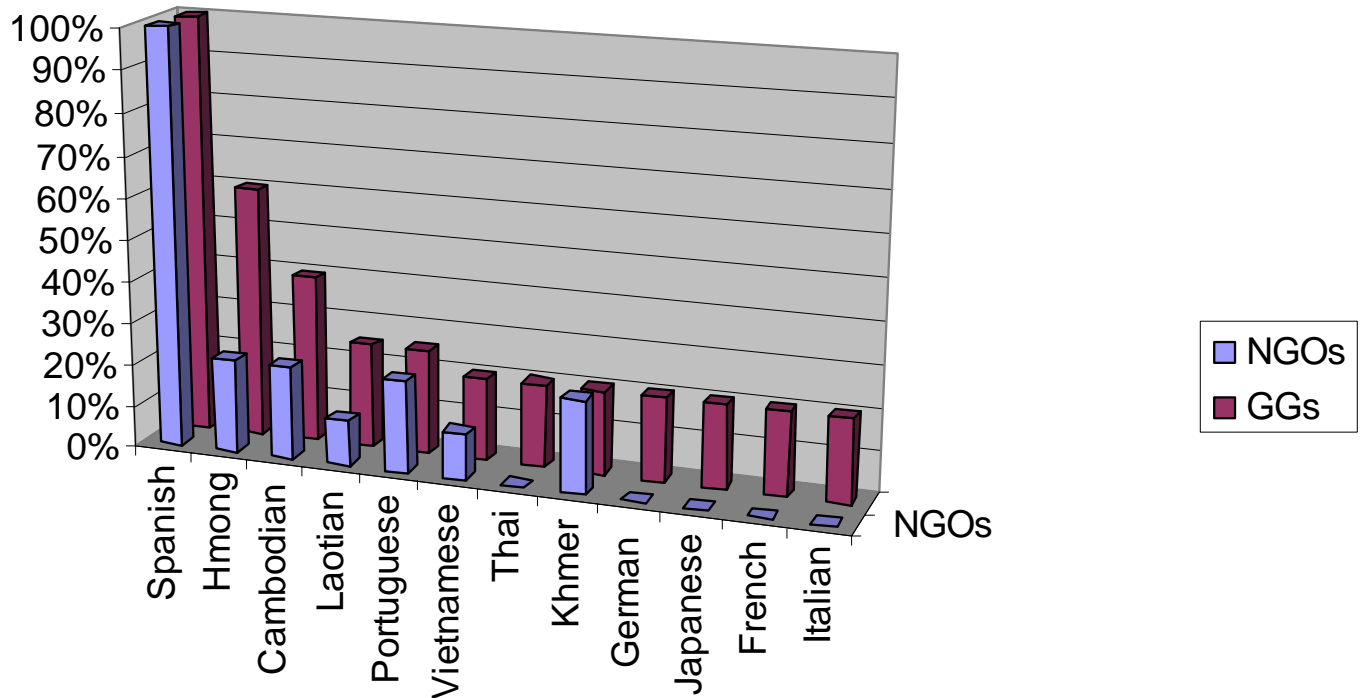
Results: Minorities

- Professional/technical employees: 57% of NGOs had 50% minority force; only one GG (Mayor's Office) above 50%--the majority were far below 50%.
- Executive boards: 50% of NGOs had a percentage of minority board members that was 25% or higher, and one NGO reported its board as being 80% minority.
- 33% of the Providence City Council are minorities.

Results: Multilingualism

- 66.7% of NGOs and 87.5% of GGs have materials in other languages.

Multilingual Materials Provided by NGOs and GGs



Results: Multilingualism



រឿងសេចក្តី ឱ្យបានត្រឹមត្រូវសំរាប់បរិភោគ

រូបអ្នក មិនទារកកំពុងលូតលាស់របស់អ្នកត្រូវការជាតិ ប្រូតេអ៊ីន ។ ត្រីជាប្រភពដ៏ល្អមួយសំរាប់ជាតិប្រូតេអ៊ីន ។ ក៏ប៉ុន្តែត្រីខ្លះមិនមានសុវត្ថិភាពសំរាប់បរិភោគទេ ។ អ្នក ត្រូវការមិនខ្វះរបៀបជ្រើសត្រី ឱ្យបានត្រឹមត្រូវសំរាប់ បរិភោគ ។ ល្មមអាចទិញប័ណ្ណនេះដើម្បីឱ្យមិនខ្វះរបៀប ជ្រើសរើស ។




រឿងសេចក្តី ចាប់បានក្នុងស្រុក

បើលិខិតត្រួតពិនិត្យ ឬមិនក៏ពីប្រទេសចិនចាប់ត្រីនៅក្នុងរដ្ឋ Rhode Island ហើយអ្នកបរិភោគត្រីដែលគេចាប់បាន ទោះ អ្នកត្រូវការចង់មិនចាំបាច់ត្រីណាមួយដែលមានសុវត្ថិភាព សំរាប់បរិភោគ ។ ត្រីទាំងឡាយទាំងនោះនេះគឺមាន សុវត្ថិភាព:

- ត្រីអណ្តាតឆ្នៃ ត្រី haddock និងត្រីទឹកប្រៃភាគច្រើន ដែលចាប់នៅក្នុងឆ្នេរ Narragansett Bay ប្រមូល (លើកលែងតែ ត្រីឆ្មាម ត្រី swordfish ត្រី bluefish, ឬត្រី striped bass) ។
- លៀង ក្បាម និងសត្វមានសំបកខ្លីទៅទៀត ។ សត្វមានសំបកក្នុងតែចាប់ពីកន្លែងដែលមានការយល់ ប្រមូល ។ ត្រូវចាំថា អ្នកត្រូវចម្លងឱ្យបានត្រឹមត្រូវមុន ពីលាវ ។
- ត្រី Trout ចាប់ពីទឹកស្អាត (ត្រីពីទឹកសាបណាមួយ មិនមានសុវត្ថិភាពសំរាប់បរិភោគទេ)។





CRÉDITO AL IMPUESTO SOBRE EL INGRESO POR LA REDUCCIÓN DE PLOMO EN VIVIENDAS R.I.G.L. 44-30.3 (Promulgada el 30 de Julio, 2004)

Cuánto es el monto del crédito?
El crédito es igual al monto pagado por la reducción o por la mitigación de plomo hasta un máximo de \$1,500 por unidad de vivienda mitigada y hasta un máximo de \$5,000 por unidad de vivienda donde el plomo se ha reducido.

Quién es elegible para recibir este crédito?
Todos los propietarios de viviendas y arrendadores son elegibles para este crédito. Sin embargo, el pago a los solicitantes se basará en el total de fondos asignados anualmente para este crédito siguiendo el orden siguiente:

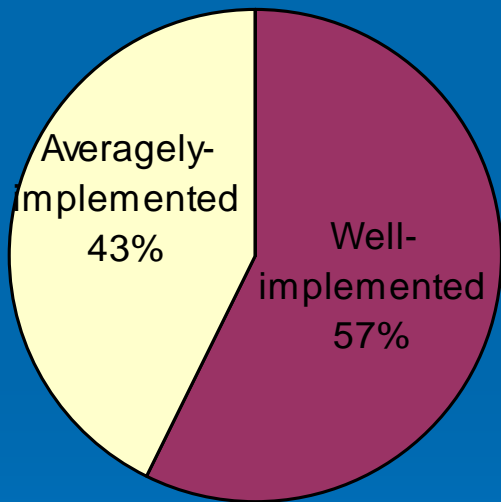
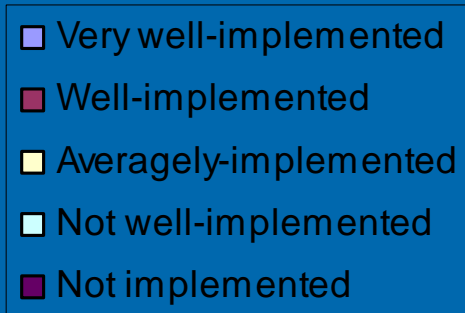
- Familias cuyo ingreso es igual o menor a \$35,200 durante el año para el cual la reclamación es presentada
- Arrendadores que alquilan su(s) unidad(es) de vivienda a familias cuyos ingresos sean igual o menor a \$35,200 durante el año para el cual la solicitud de reclamación es presentada.
- Cualquier otro solicitante, independientemente de sus ingresos o de si es el/la dueño(a) de la propiedad, siempre y cuando se les haya pagado a los solicitantes de las dos categorías anteriores.

Si existieran múltiples dueños de la unidad de vivienda, o si tanto el dueño y el inquilino han incurrido en gastos, el crédito al impuesto será otorgado basado en la contribución de cada uno a los gastos de mitigación o de reducción de plomo.

Si la cantidad solicitada excede los impuestos que el solicitante adeuda, o si éste no adeuda ningún impuesto personal

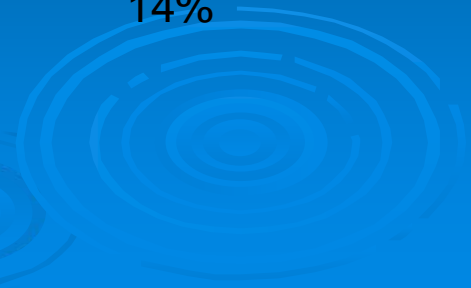
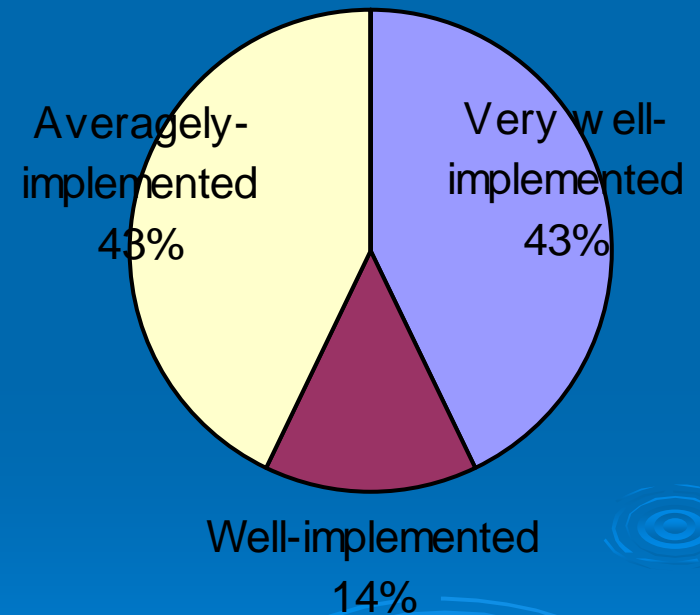


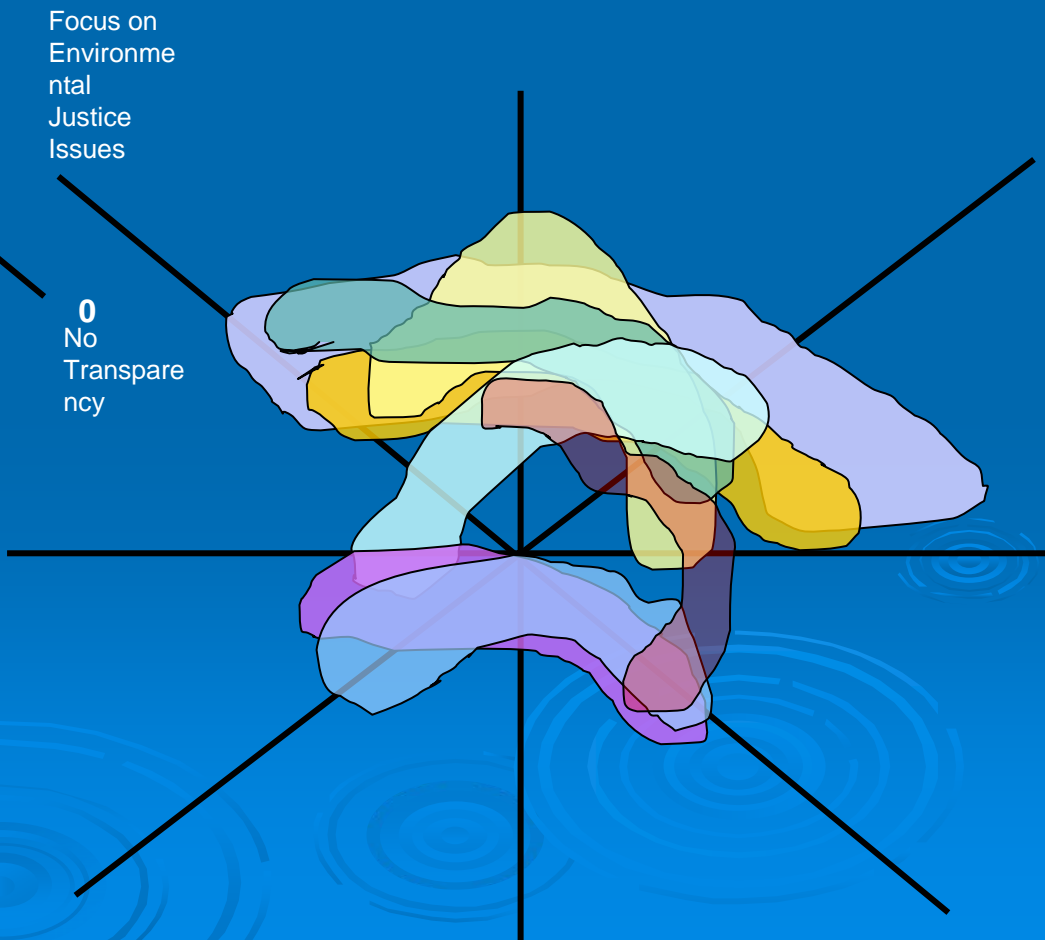
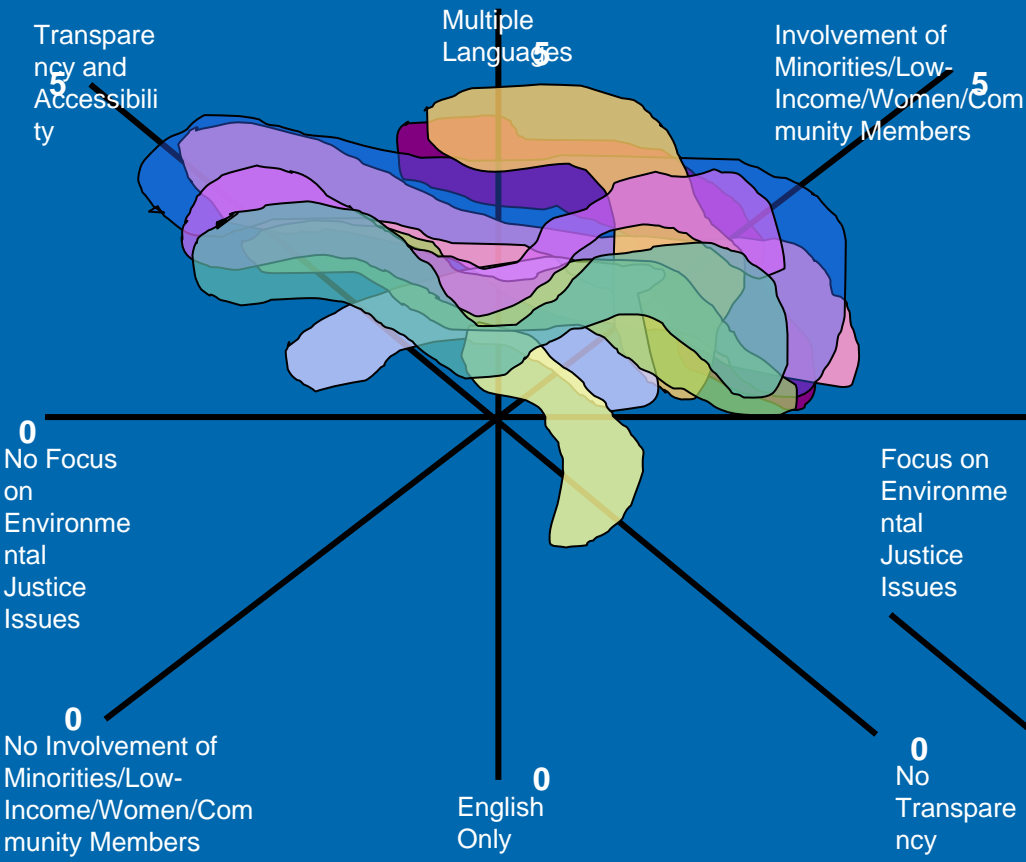
Results: Implementation of EJ Principles



GGs' Implementation

NGOs' Implementation





Thesis Question

- How thoroughly have non-governmental and governmental agencies operationalized environmental justice principles?

Conclusions

- Most groups have made efforts to operationalize EJ principles.
- NGOs demonstrated high level of women's involvement and coalition-building.
- GGs use a variety of languages.
- The majority have participated in EJ projects.
- However, improvements can be made.

Recommendations

- Address a wider variety of EJ projects (parks, fisheries)
- Increase amount of materials provided in other languages
- Increase transparency and accessibility as much as possible (low-income question)

Recommendations

- Who is EJ supposed to protect and why?
- Increase women's involvement, e.g., providing paid maternity leave and daycare options
- Increase low-income involvement, e.g., through workshops, job training and micro-lending
- Increase minority involvement; e.g., through youth programs and coalition-building

Thank You!

Caroline Karp

Brown University, Thesis Advisor

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Liz Stone

RIDEM Dept. of Waste Management, Thesis Reader

Liz Colon

Childhood Lead Action Project

Wei Ying Wong

Presentation Advisor

All of my survey respondents

Assorted NGOs and government groups

Maysa Jarudi and Aaron White

ES Concentrators

AnneMarie, Jen and Sonia

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