

# Quick Start Guide: Head Start Environmental Exposure Mapping Tool and Resource Dashboard

Anne N. Junod and Chris Davis  
September 2023

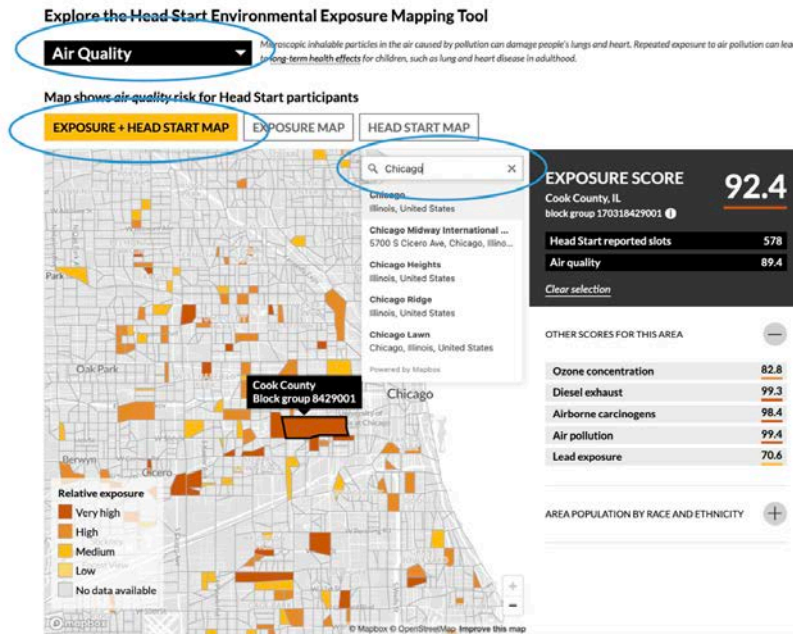
This Quick Start Guide provides information about how to use the Head Start Environmental Exposure Mapping Tool and companion Resources Dashboard.

## 1. ACCESSING THE MAP

- Navigate to the project page for the **Head Start Environmental Exposure Mapping Tool** at <https://www.urban.org/data-tools/where-are-children-head-start-exposed-environmental-hazards>, and scroll down to view the map.

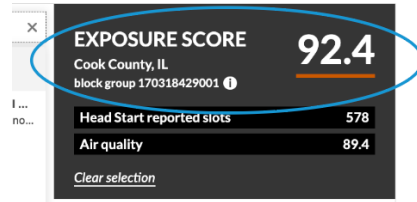
## 2. SELECTING HEAD START CENTER LOCATIONS TO VIEW AREA ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE EXPOSURES

- Select the **“Exposure + Head Start Map”** view button above the map.
- Select an **environmental or climate hazard** from the drop-down menu above the map.
- Navigate to a **preferred Head Start center location** by entering an address, ZIP code, or location using the search bar or navigating the map manually using the map zoom and drag functions.



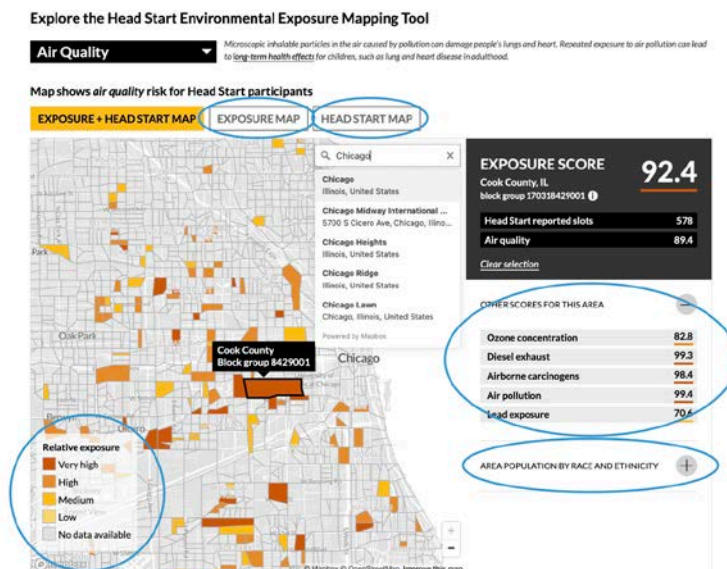
### 3. INTERPRETING ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE EXPOSURE SCORES FOR AREAS WITH HEAD START CENTERS

- Click a colored area on the map to view information about the selected hazard and the Head Start centers potentially exposed to it.
- The large number in the black box to the right of the map shows the **exposure score** for the selected area—this represents the potential exposure from the selected hazard for Head Start participants in the selected geographic area compared with the potential exposure of Head Start participants in other geographic areas nationwide.
- The recipient exposure score in the pictured example can be interpreted as follows: “Compared with Head Start participants in block groups nationwide, Head Start participants in the selected block group are in the 92.4th percentile for exposure to poor air quality.” This means that Head Start participants in this geography have greater potential exposure to poor air quality than do 92.4 percent of Head Start participants in block groups nationwide.



### 4. ADDITIONAL MAP FEATURES

- Below the “Exposure Score” box, view **environmental and climate exposure scores** for other data that are available for the selected geography.
- Below the “Other Scores” section, click to expand **race and ethnicity information** for the overall population of the selected geography. This displays race and ethnicity information for the selected geographic area as a whole, not for Head Start participants in the selected area.
- The map **legend** shows relative exposure for a selected hazard across all similar geographic areas nationwide, with darker orange indicating greater relative exposure to the selected hazard (such as air quality) and lighter yellow indicating less relative exposure.
- Above the map, click to view two other map view options: (1) the **exposure map**, which shows environmental and climate hazards nationwide, but without Head Start information; and (2) the **Head Start map**, which shows Head Start center locations and reported slot information nationwide, but without environmental and climate hazard information.



## 5. ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Navigate to the **Head Start Environmental Exposure Resources Dashboard** by visiting <https://www.urban.org/projects/where-are-children-head-start-exposed-environmental-hazards>. Explore **fact sheets** about different environmental and climate hazards, **case studies** exploring how Head Start and partner providers are addressing environmental and climate hazards, and a **resource library** with tools, information, and funding opportunities to understand and address environmental and climate hazards that affect children.
- For detailed information on the project methodology, see the **technical appendix** at <https://www.urban.org/research/publication/where-are-children-head-start-exposed-environmental-hazards>.



500 L'Enfant Plaza SW  
Washington, DC 20024

[www.urban.org](http://www.urban.org)

## ABOUT THE URBAN INSTITUTE

The Urban Institute is a nonprofit research organization that provides data and evidence to help advance upward mobility and equity. We are a trusted source for changemakers who seek to strengthen decisionmaking, create inclusive economic growth, and improve the well-being of families and communities. For more than 50 years, Urban has delivered facts that inspire solutions—and this remains our charge today.

Copyright © September 2023. Urban Institute. Permission is granted for reproduction of this file, with attribution to the Urban Institute.