



CB7 MANHATTAN ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE REPORT

Southern Area

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AREAS OF CRITICAL CONCERN

According to the Environmental Justice Advisory Board for New York City two geographic locations were identified as “**Areas of Critical Concern**” within our district.

As a result, the following slides represent our findings for the following location.

**West 58th Street to West 66th Street between
Amsterdam and 12th Avenue (Southern Area)**

Environmental Justice Area bounded by West 66th Street to Amsterdam Avenue, south to 61st Street, west to West End Avenue, south to West 58th Street, west to 12 Avenue and/or the highway, including Pier 59.

Environmental Justice Area

Lincoln Square, Manhattan

Total Population: **9,253**

Percentage Minority: **69.1%**

Percentage Below Poverty: **19.7%**

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Environmental Justice Areas

Community Works ✕ 🔍

About NYC's EJ Areas

According to local law, an environmental justice area is a low-income community or a minority community, based on US Census data. Low-income communities are those where the population below poverty is equal to or greater than 23.59% of the total population, while minority communities are those where the minority population is equal to or greater than 51.1% of the total population.

Environmental Justice Zone

Environmental Justice Area
Lincoln Square, Manhattan

Total Population: 9,253

Percentage Minority: **69.1%**Percentage Below Poverty: **19.7%**

An environmental justice area is a low-income community or a minority community, based on US Census data (2014-18 ACS).

Potential EJ status means the differences between the census tract data and



**CRITERIA TO BE
CLASSIFIED AN
ENVIRONMENTAL
JUSTICE AREA**

At least 23.59 percent of the total population is at or below the poverty line (\$32,000 for a family of 4)

At least 51.1 percent of the total population is a member of a minority group.

The environment consists of many recent and brand new glass buildings, clearly middle-income and luxury towers, and Amsterdam Houses, a NYCHA development.



Amsterdam Houses

Amsterdam Houses was built in 1948. The area was known as San Juan Hill, a Black and Puerto Rican neighborhood that was largely razed to make way for Lincoln Center in 1956. At that time, West End Avenue was filled with auto-related uses.



Is this an Environmental Justice Area?

This does not appear to be an Environmental Justice Area. There are many new luxury towers such as Waterline Square and other new glass buildings. The neighborhood has gentrified since Amsterdam Houses was built in 1948. There has been a burst of construction within the past 20 years, but primarily within the past ten years, that has changed the look and demographics of the area.

We met no Black persons walking about except within Amsterdam Houses. It appeared unlikely that almost one-quarter of the population within the specified Environmental Justice Area is at or below the poverty line or that more than half of the population is non-white.

We recommend that the basis for determining this neighborhood as an Environmental Justice Area be checked.



HEALTHY FOOD ACCESS

Gracefully Market on West End Avenue between West 64th and 65th Streets advertises “gourmet groceries.” Western Beef, an inexpensive supermarket on West End Avenue across from Amsterdam Houses has closed; signs indicate that a Brooklyn Fare market, which also advertises “gourmet groceries,” will replace it. Trader Joe’s, known for its low prices, is on Broadway between 71st and 72nd Streets. There is also a greenmarket at Broadway and West 65th Street on Thursdays and Saturdays.

Playgrounds and Parks

The grounds and Bennerson Playground of Amsterdam Houses are well maintained. The playground is colorful and innovative and the basketball and playing courts are busy. A neighborhood park and playground on West End Avenue and West 64th Street (a Privately-Owned Public Space) is maintained by West End Towers, a market-rate building. The new Waterline Square playground is open to all. Riverside Park is little more than two blocks from the western end of Amsterdam Houses but it is not easily accessible

BENNERSON PLAYGROUND





Amsterdam Houses
Walkway looking
towards West End
Avenue

Amsterdam Houses-Roof Construction

- As this was a street walk through, there was no way to evaluate maintenance and environmental conditions within the buildings.
- All building roofs are being repaired/replaced and this work has been ongoing for over two years. Because of this, the area abutting Amsterdam Avenue is draped with white plastic safety netting which obscures the view from windows.
- The area abutting WEA has been completed. There are many areas within the construction area which have been enclosed for storage of construction materials. There is a sidewalk shed that snakes throughout the construction area. Although it is lighted, one resident reported that it is “scary” at night and should have cameras.
- In one construction area, there was an overflowing dumpster and the street needed repair.



Amsterdam Houses – Roof Construction



**Building Entrance encased in Netting, Scaffolding and Trashbins –
Waste Material Unknown**

***Amsterdam Houses**

Amsterdam Houses - Grounds

Although the grounds and playground were well-maintained, there was peeling paint on the ground floor of many buildings. Iron bannisters were often rusted. While there is cobblestone edging on streets and sidewalks, chain link fencing predominates, separating the roads from the grounds.



Amsterdam Houses

*Garbage

Aside from the construction areas, there were many garbage containers and it was fairly neat. There appears to be a trash compactor for the development.



229

WEST 62ND STREET

8-4-2

NO BALL
PLAYIN
ALLOWE

2
2
9

PUZZLING QUESTIONS?

Why was the Lincoln Square Area identified as a Critical Area of Concern?

Is it due to a study by the Environmental Protection Agency?

We plugged in the address 229 West 62nd Street which you saw in the previous photo.

**We discovered it is listed as TRACT
36061015100, NEW YORK COUNTY, NY
"CANCER RISK INHALATION"**

If you wish to learn about your buildings' Risk status go to the Link below:

<https://www.epa.gov/>

Your Community



Learn about conditions where you live.

Go

Go to EPA's page about your state.

Go

FINDINGS:

After visiting the Environmental Protection Agency's website, we discovered the reason why the Lincoln Square Area was identified as an "Area of Concern?"

The EPA's report indicated that there is a significant cancer risk due to Toxic Pollutants in this area thereby designating it as a "Critical Area of Concern."

The Environmental Protection Agency study also included a chart with the names and percentage of the toxic pollutants identified in the Lincoln Square Area which are posted in the following slides."



229 W 62nd St, New York, 10023

Cancer Risk

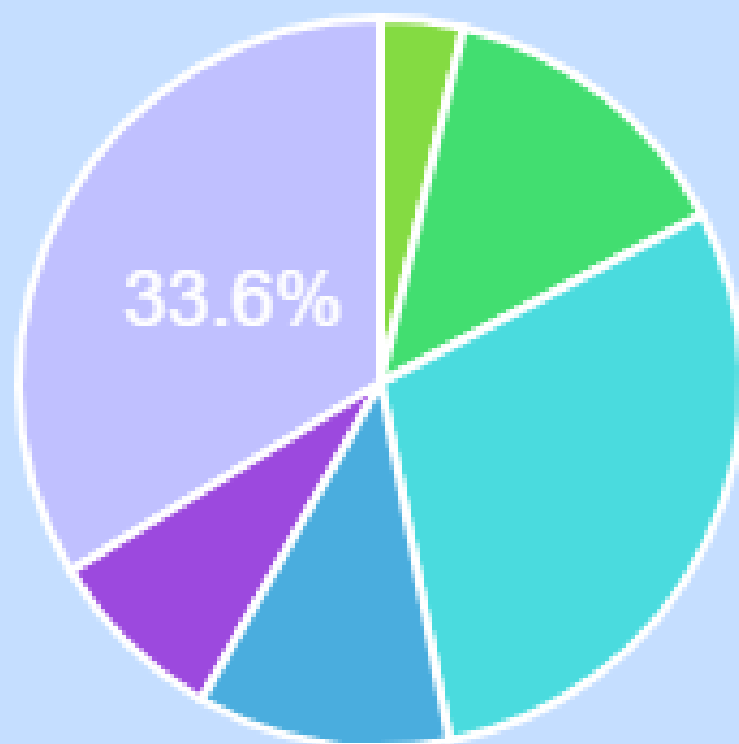
Toxic air pollutants, or air toxics, are those pollutants known or suspected of causing cancer or other serious health problems, such as birth defects. Cancer risk is expressed as a number in a million, e.g., 16 in a million chance of getting cancer due to air pollution. Not all air pollutants are considered - please visit the [NATA](#) Web site for more information on the 2014 NATA data.

2014 Cancer Risk Estimates (Inhalation)
Tract: 36061015100, New York County, NY
[More air toxics info...](#)

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Total Risk Per Million: 42

Source Category Breakdown of Risk



- Point
- Non-point
- Onroad
- Nonroad
- Background
- Secondary

FORMALDEHYDE RISK - 48.09

BENZENE RISK - 16.35

CARBON TETRACHLORIDE RISK - 7.89

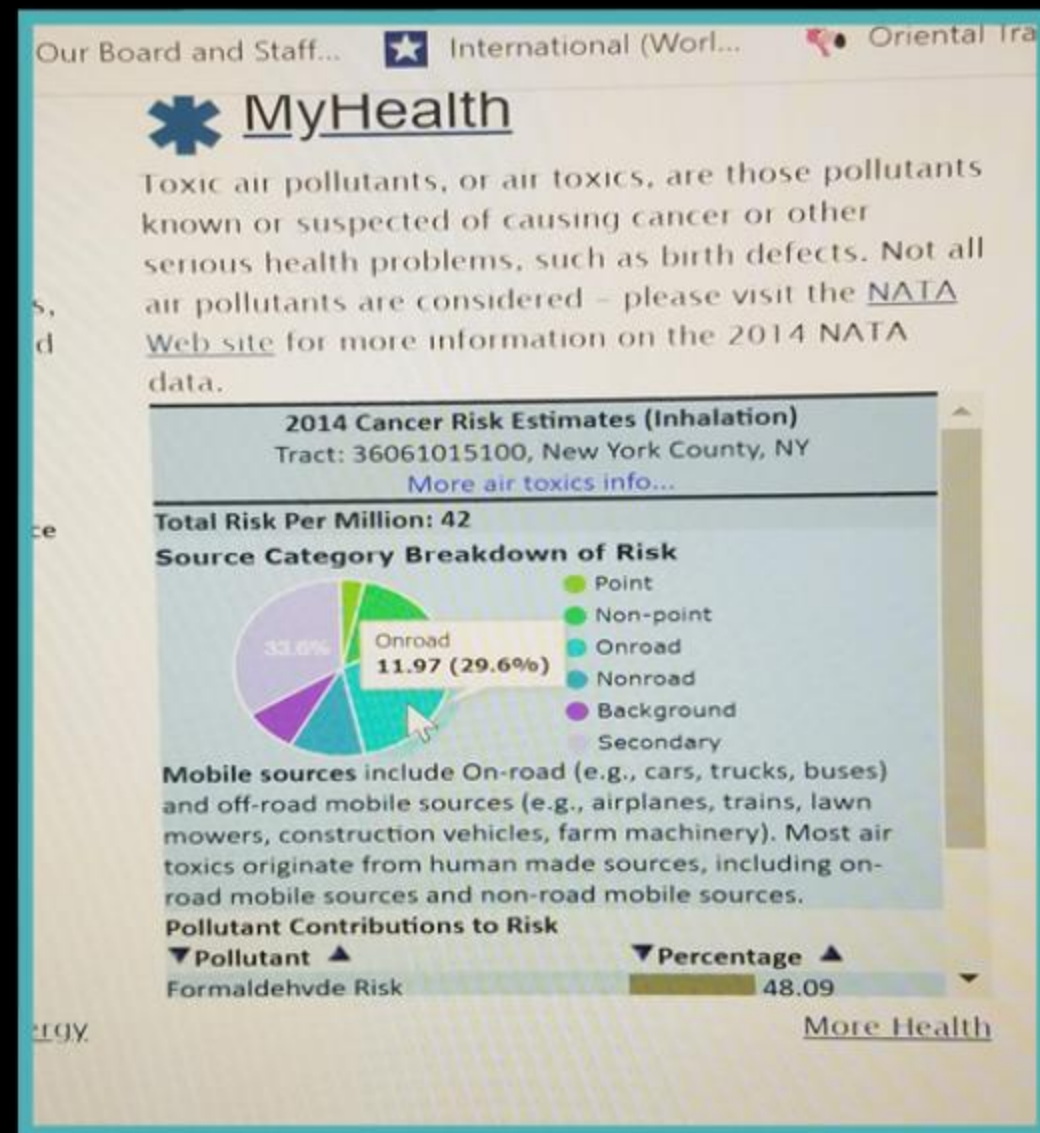


FORMALDEHYDE RISK - 48.09

ONROAD 11.97 (29.6%)

MOBILE SOURCES

***CARS, TRUCKS, BUSES**

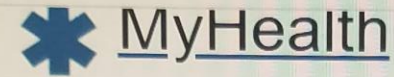


FORMALDEHYDE RISK - 48.09

NONROAD 4.57 (11.3%)

MOBILE SOURCES

***AIRPLANES, TRAINS,
CONSTRUCTION VEHICLES**



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2014 Cancer Risk Estimates (Inhalation)

Tract: 36061015100, New York County, NY

[More air toxics info...](#)

Total Risk Per Million: 42

Source Category Breakdown of Risk



Mobile sources include On-road (e.g., cars, trucks, buses) and off-road mobile sources (e.g., airplanes, trains, lawn mowers, construction vehicles, farm machinery). Most air toxics originate from human made sources, including on-road mobile sources and non-road mobile sources.

Pollutant Contributions to Risk

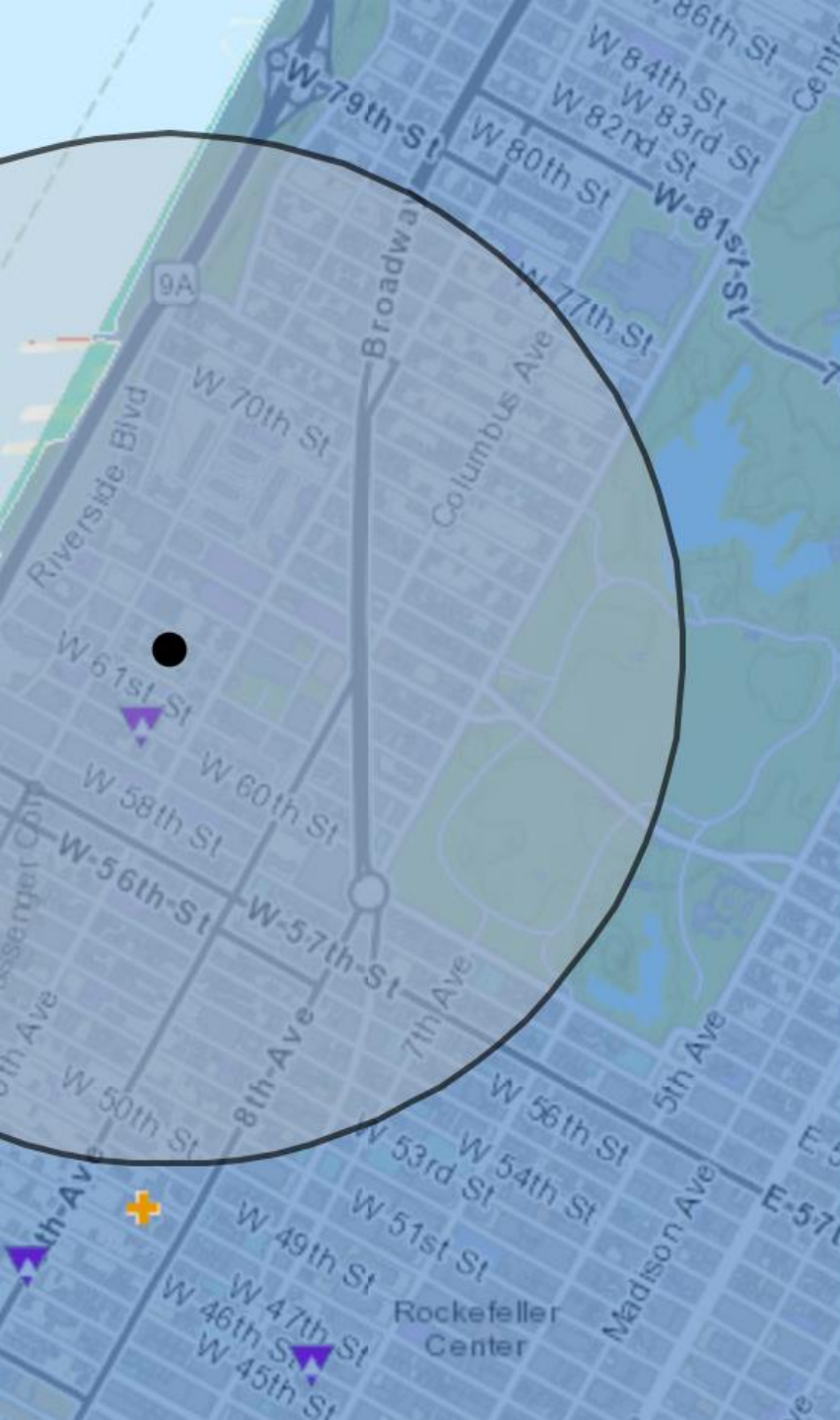
▼ Pollutant ▲	▼ Percentage ▲
Formaldehyde Risk	48.09

[More Health](#)

LIST OF TOXIC POLLUTANTS AND THE PERCENTAGES IDENTIFIED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY THAT POSE A KNOWN RISK TO A PERSON'S HEALTH

POLLUTANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO RISK

Pollutant	Percentage
Formaldehyde Risk	48.09
Benzene Risk	16.35
Carbon Tetrachloride Risk	7.89
1_3-Butadiene Risk	6.98
Acetaldehyde Risk	6.03
Naphthalene Risk	5.67
Ethylbenzene Risk	2.10
Ethylene Oxide Risk	1.69
Nickel Compounds Risk	1.08
Arsenic Compounds(Inorganic Including Arsine) Risk	0.93
Beryllium Compounds Risk	0.72
Cadmium Compounds Risk	0.72
Trichloroethylene Risk	0.62
Chromium VI (Hexavalent) Risk	0.57
PAHPOM Risk	0.34
Hydrazine Risk	0.07
Ethylene Dichloride (1_2-Dichloroethane) Risk	0.06
Acrylonitrile Risk	0.03
Tetrachloroethylene Risk	0.02
Ethylene Dibromide (Dibromoethane) Risk	0.01
1_4-Dichlorobenzene Risk	0.01
Vinyl Chloride Risk	0.01
Methylene Chloride Risk	0.01



Legend

ROFA Collective Action

Superfund NPL Sites

Responses

State Outlines



Latest Sites in CIMC



Toxic Release Inventory System

TRI



Superfund NPL Site boundaries

NPL Boundaries

NPL Activity / Use Limitation Bo



NPL Site Boundary



DOE Site Boundaries



LOCATED AT W59TH STREET BETWEEN
AMSTERDAM & WEST END AVENUE
TOXIC RELEASE INVENTORY SYSTEM

PREVIOUS SLIDE SHOWED
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AGENCY MAP INDICATING
GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS,
OIL RESIDUE FROM FORMER
GAS STATIONS,
MANUFACTURERS, AIR
MONITORING SYSTEMS.

QUESTION?
HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE FOR
THE TOXINS TO BE
COMPLETELY REMOVED FROM
THE ENVIRONMENT?



What is Environmental Justice?

IT IS SOMETHING THAT
WE ALL NEED...



- **We all need Environmental Justice!**
- **We agree that there should be an equitable distribution of environmental risks and benefits. Living in a crowded city where neighborhoods merge and overlap, we are all affected by environmental and health hazards. The poor, however, and those who labor under the many burdens of discrimination have fewer options to deal with problems caused by our environment. So, environmental justice is a subject of concern to everybody living in this community district, borough, city, state, country and nation, but especially so for minority persons living at or under the poverty line.**



CONCLUSION:

COMMUNITY BOARD 7'S ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE WORKING GROUP WILL CONTINUE TO RESEARCH AND GATHER DATA ON OTHER SECTIONS OF OUR DISTRICT TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER OR NOT THERE ARE ENVIRONMENTAL RISK FACTORS. WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH THE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ADVISORY BOARD TO PROVIDE AS MUCH INFORMATION AS WE CAN SO THAT COLLECTIVELY WE CAN HAVE A CITY WHERE EVERYONE ENJOYS OPTIMUM HEALTH.

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