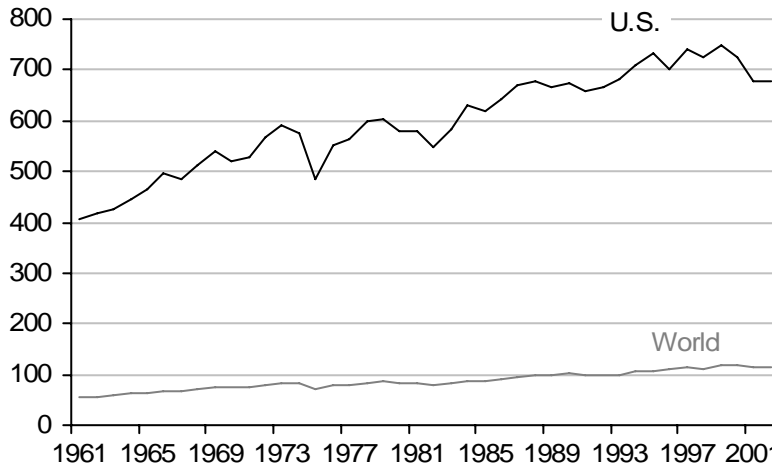
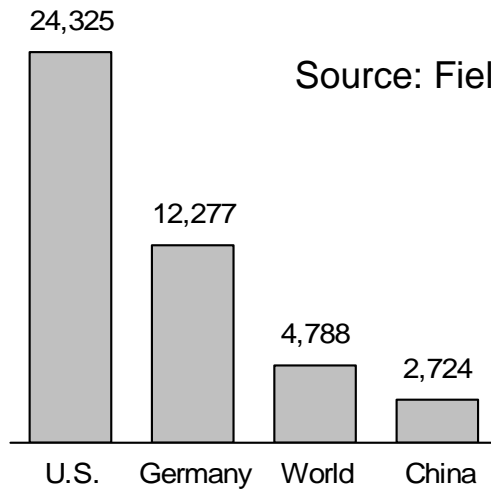


Econ 105: Lecture Twenty-Three

Pounds of paper and paperboard used per person each year, 1961-2002

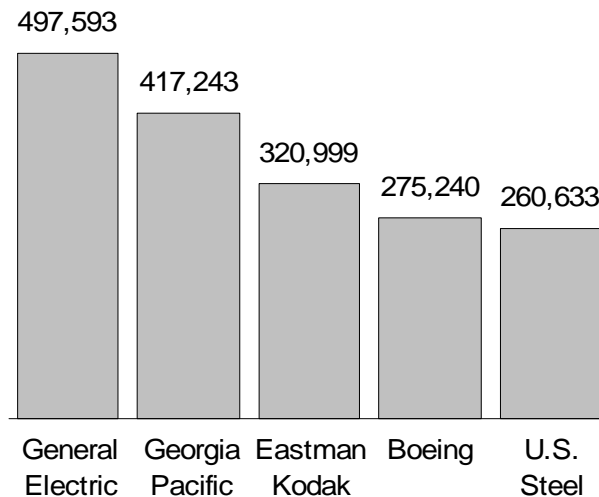


Average consumption of fossil fuels per person in 2003 (in equivalent pounds of coal)



Source: Field Guide to the US Economy

Top five corporate air polluters in the U.S. in 2000, by toxic release score



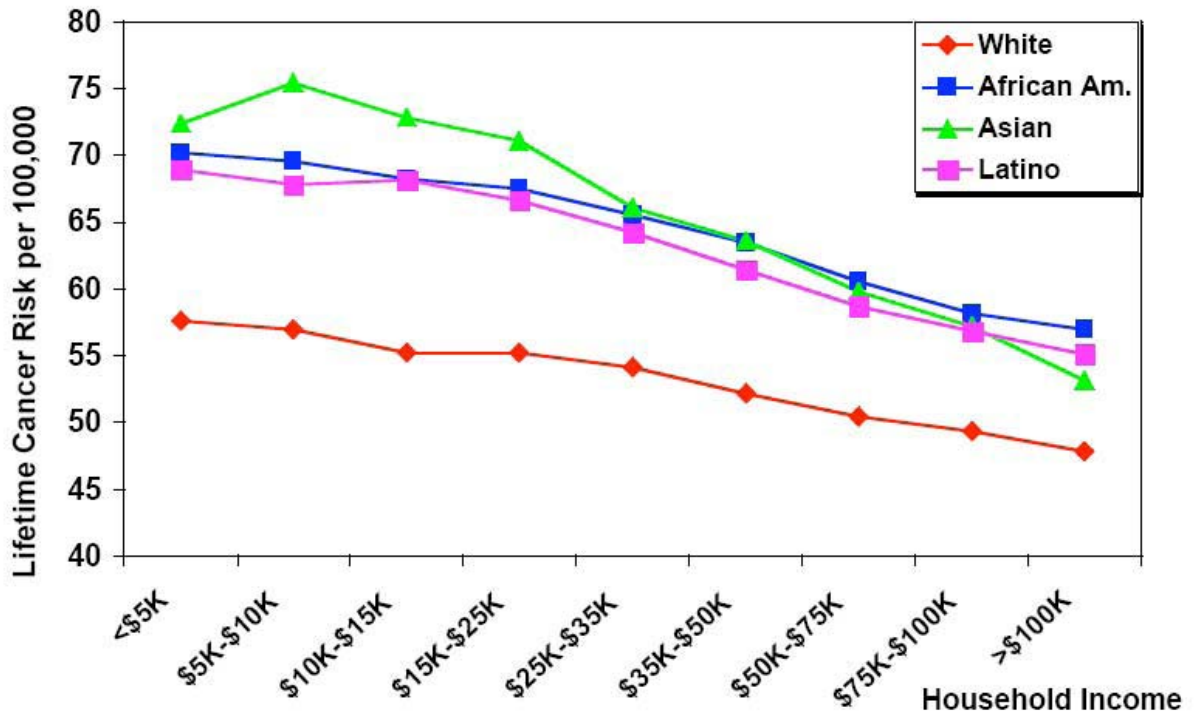
The EPA's Toxics Release Inventory was established after the Union Carbide chemical disaster killed hundreds and injured thousands 20 years ago in Bhopal, India. After the tragedy, activists argued that the public has a right to know how much pollution is coming into their communities.

- Racial inequality has many dimensions, including unequal exposure to industrial waste. New facilities producing toxic emissions are more likely to be located in neighborhoods where many of the residents are people of color.
- A study in California found that census tracts with higher levels of airborne pollution were home to higher proportions of people of color. As the risk for exposure to carcinogenic pollution rose, so did the percentage of Hispanic, African American, or Asian American/Pacific Islander residents.
- Because polluted neighborhoods tend to have lower housing costs, many poor people can't avoid living with the pollution. Yet income alone doesn't explain environmental disparities. Even when blacks, Hispanics and whites of equal income are compared, nonwhites are more likely to live in the most polluted sections of American cities.
- These injustices have become an issue only because activists in communities of color pushed them onto the radar screen of politicians and mainstream environmentalists. Environmental justice activists insist that every person has an equal right to a healthy environment.

Beyond five kilometers of the nation's hazardous waste facilities the proportion of people of color is only 22.2%.

However, at distances between three and five kilometers, the proportion of people of color increases to 35.7%.

It increases again to 46.1% between the distances of one and three kilometers, and reaches 47.7% within a distance of one kilometer.



Minorities are disproportionately at risk (TRI refers to the Toxics release Inventory which keeps track of facilities that emit hazardous chemicals).

Ethnic Composition Within One Mile of a TRI Facility (2000 TRI; 2000 Census)

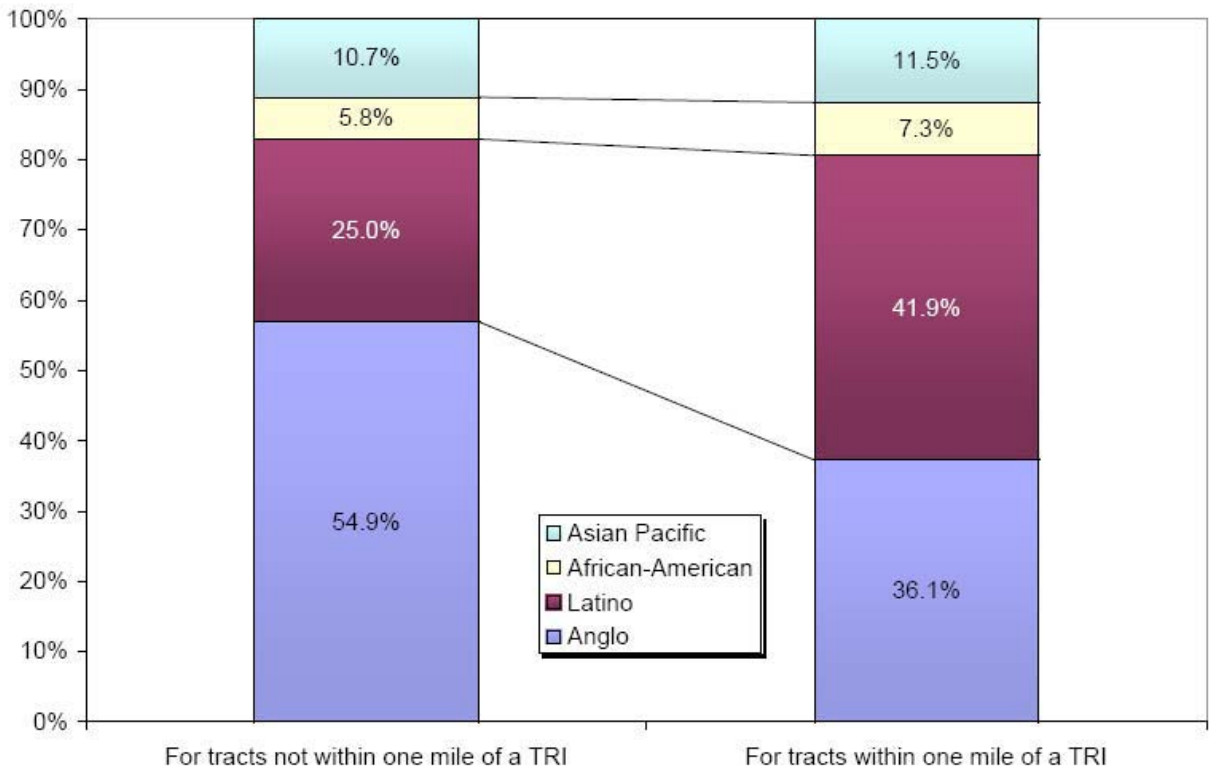
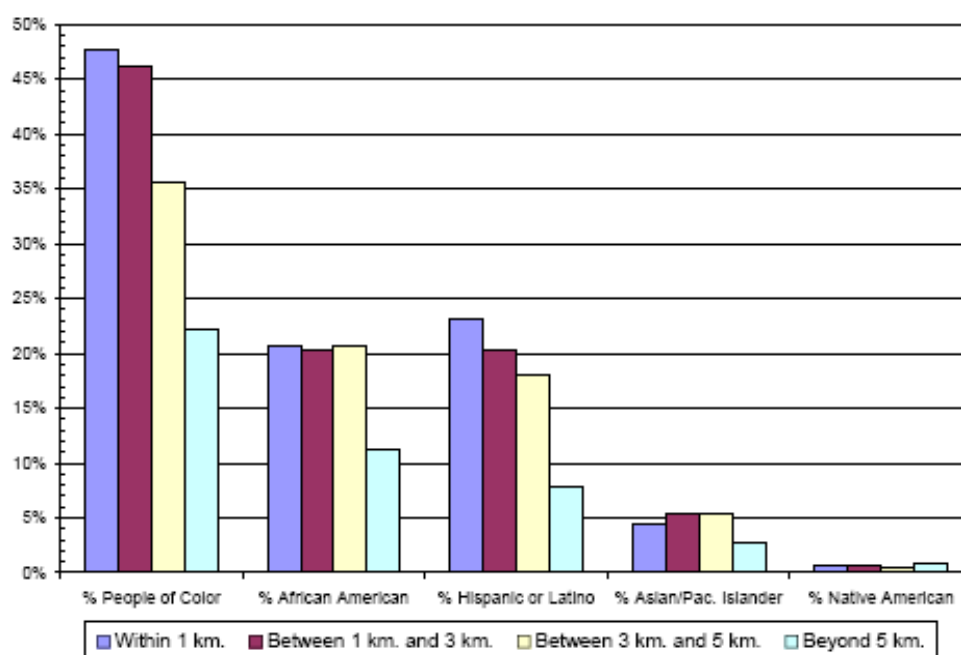


Figure 3.2 – Percent People of Color Living Near Hazardous Waste Facilities



Source: Bullard et al, Toxic Waste and Race at Twenty: 1987-2007
 Grassroots Struggles to Dismantle Environmental Racism in the United States

Table 3.1 – Racial and Socioeconomic Characteristics of People Living Near Hazardous Waste Facilities

	Within 1 km.	Between 1 km. and 3 km.	Between 3 km. and 5 km.	Beyond 5 km.
Population				
Total Population (1000s)	845	7,828	14,101	225,936
Population Density (persons per square kilometer)	690	840	810	24
Race/Ethnicity				
Percent People of Color	47.7%	46.1%	35.7%	22.2%
Percent African American	20.6%	20.4%	20.6%	11.2%
Percent Hispanic	23.1%	20.4%	18.1%	7.8%
Percent Asian/Pacific Islander	4.4%	5.4%	5.3%	2.7%
Percent Native American	0.6%	0.6%	0.5%	0.8%
Socioeconomic Characteristics				
Poverty Rate	20.1%	18.3%	16.9%	12.7%
Mean Household Income	\$31,192	\$33,318	\$36,920	\$38,745
Mean Housing Value	\$93,985	\$102,594	\$111,915	\$111,958

Today, global carbon emissions average about 1 metric ton per year (tC/year) per person.

U.S. per capita emissions exceed 5 tC/year, and Japan and Western European nations emit 2 to 5 tC/year per capita (3).

In comparison, per capita emissions are about 0.6 tC/year in the developing world, and more than 50 developing countries have emissions under 0.2 tC/year.