

## Total Population

This EnviroAtlas community demographic map layer displays the total population in 2010 by U.S. Census block group.

### Why is the total population important?

Total population is a baseline measure that also serves as the denominator when calculating proportional population metrics such as impervious cover per capita and percent population other than white, non-Hispanic. Population represents demand for ecosystem services, with larger populations requiring more clean drinking water, natural hazard buffering, recreational open space, and other amenities.

From a city planning perspective, the risks of adverse health conditions in the total population could be reduced by increasing the extent and distribution of urban [green infrastructure](#). Physical exercise and engagement with nature, facilitated by urban green space, have been linked in numerous studies to health and well-being in all age groups. Tree cover also reduces heat and provides cleaner air by reducing concentrations of airborne particles and gaseous pollutants. Addressing inequalities in the distribution of ecosystem services may improve the health and well-being of the entire community.

### How can I use this information?

This demographic information can be used in conjunction with EnviroAtlas data on ecosystem services and environmental hazards. Areas with significant disparities can be identified, and planners can consider additional investments to provide services to meet existing or projected demand.

Other pertinent EnviroAtlas data layers may be found in the Table of Contents under Community Ecosystem Services: Clean Air: Health Benefits of Pollutants Removed by Tree Cover, which includes data layers addressing negative health outcomes avoided (e.g., asthma exacerbation and acute respiratory symptoms) and the estimated monetary value of avoided health and productivity losses. Users may examine populations within 300 meters of busy roadways and roadways with and without tree buffers under Clean Air: Near Road Environments. Estimated views of green space from schools and daycare centers are mapped under Community Ecosystem Services: Recreation, Culture, and Aesthetics: Viewsheds.



### How were the data for this map created?

This map layer was created by combining the US Census 2010 TIGER/Shapefile boundary data with the population data found in US Census 2010 Summary File 1 Population Subjects Summarized to the Block Level, Table P12.

### What are the limitations of these data?

A block-group is a collection of census blocks, the smallest area mapped by the U.S. Census Bureau. Population data are supplied by census blocks to preserve the privacy of individuals. It is important to remember that residents are not distributed evenly throughout the area of a block-group. The U.S. Census Bureau maintains a website on information quality guidelines and [statistical quality standards](#).

### How can I access these data?

EnviroAtlas data can be viewed in the interactive map, accessed through web services, or downloaded. Data from the [2010 U.S. Census](#) may be viewed and downloaded from the census website.

### Where can I get more information?

Access the metadata for the data layer from the drop down menu on the interactive map table of contents. To ask specific questions about this data layer, please contact the [EnviroAtlas Team](#).

### Acknowledgments

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