



Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation

# Climate Justice Working Group Draft DAC Criteria Update


June 15, 2021

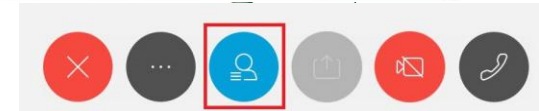
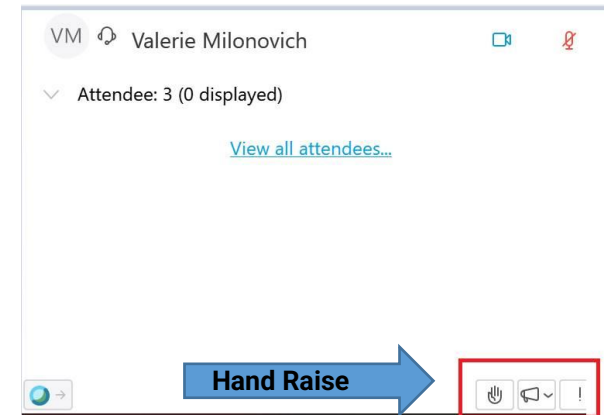
# Meeting Procedures

## Before beginning, a few reminders to ensure a smooth discussion:

- Working Group Members should be on mute if not speaking.
  - If using phone for audio, please tap the phone mute button.
  - If using computer for audio, please click the mute button on the computer screen (1<sup>st</sup> visual).
- Video is encouraged for Working Group members, particularly when speaking.
- In the event of a question or comment, please use the hand raise function (2<sup>nd</sup> visual). Click the participant panel button (3<sup>rd</sup> visual) for the hand raise function. Rosa or Alanah will call on members individually, at which time please unmute.



You'll see  when your microphone is muted



# Welcome and Roll Call



# Agenda

- 12:00 Intros, Business Items
- 12:10 DAC Definition Status & Timeline
- 12:20 DAC Scenario Overview
- 12:35 DAC Scenario Demo
- 12:50 DAC Scenario Review Process

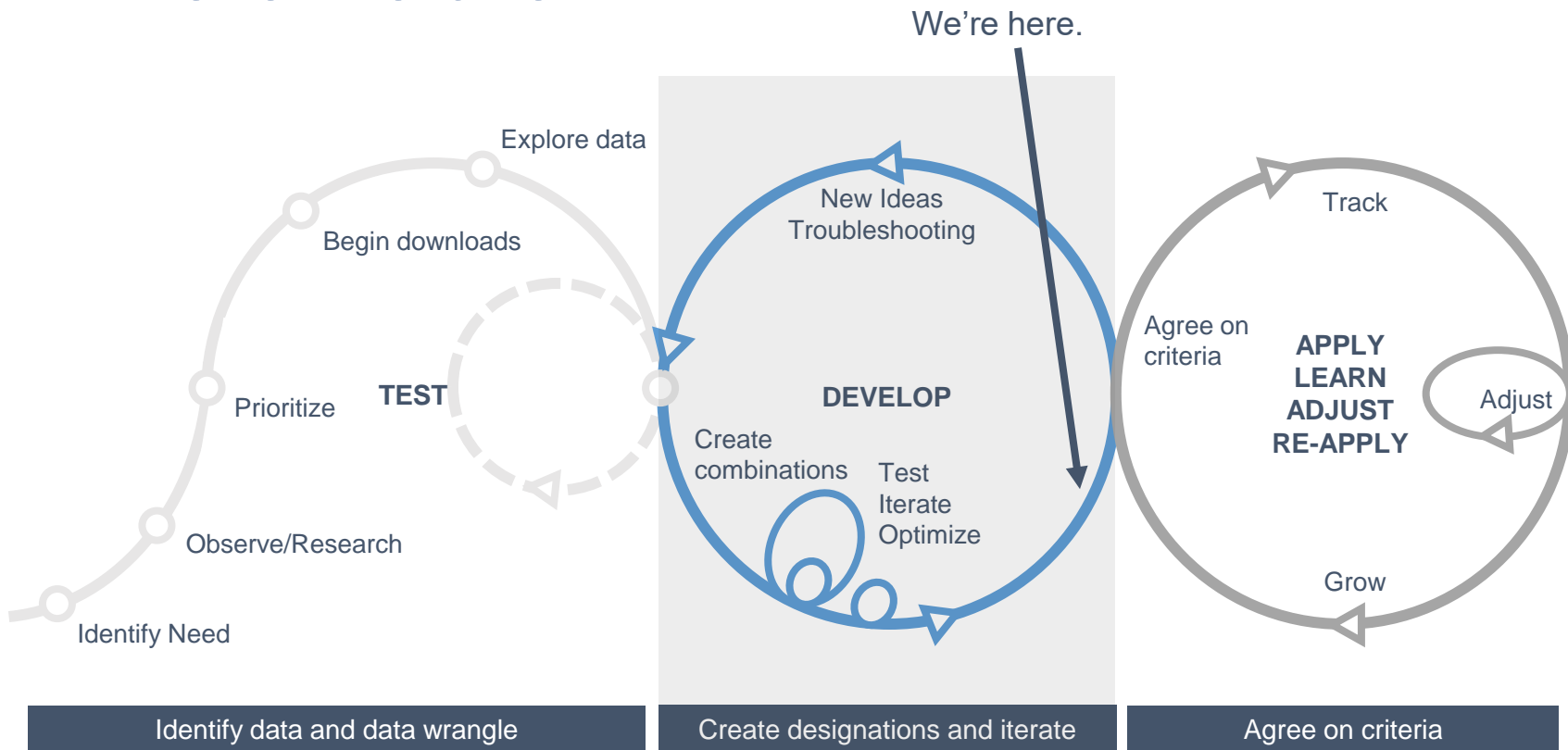
# Business Items

> Approval of Minutes

# Where we are with DAC criteria



# Where we are



# Indicator selection is just one of several decisions

## Indicator Selection

Ingredient List and Importance



*What indicators capture the legislation + stakeholder interest?*

*What data can support them?*

## Scoring Approach

How to Make the Cake



*How do we combine data, and score communities?*

## Designation

How to Slice the Cake



*Should we score communities statewide or regionally?*

*What percentage of communities should be DACs?*

## Groundtruthing

Testing the Cake  
(as we bake it!)



*How well do draft DACs reflect your experience on the ground?*

*Can we modify indicators or scoring?*



# Timeline

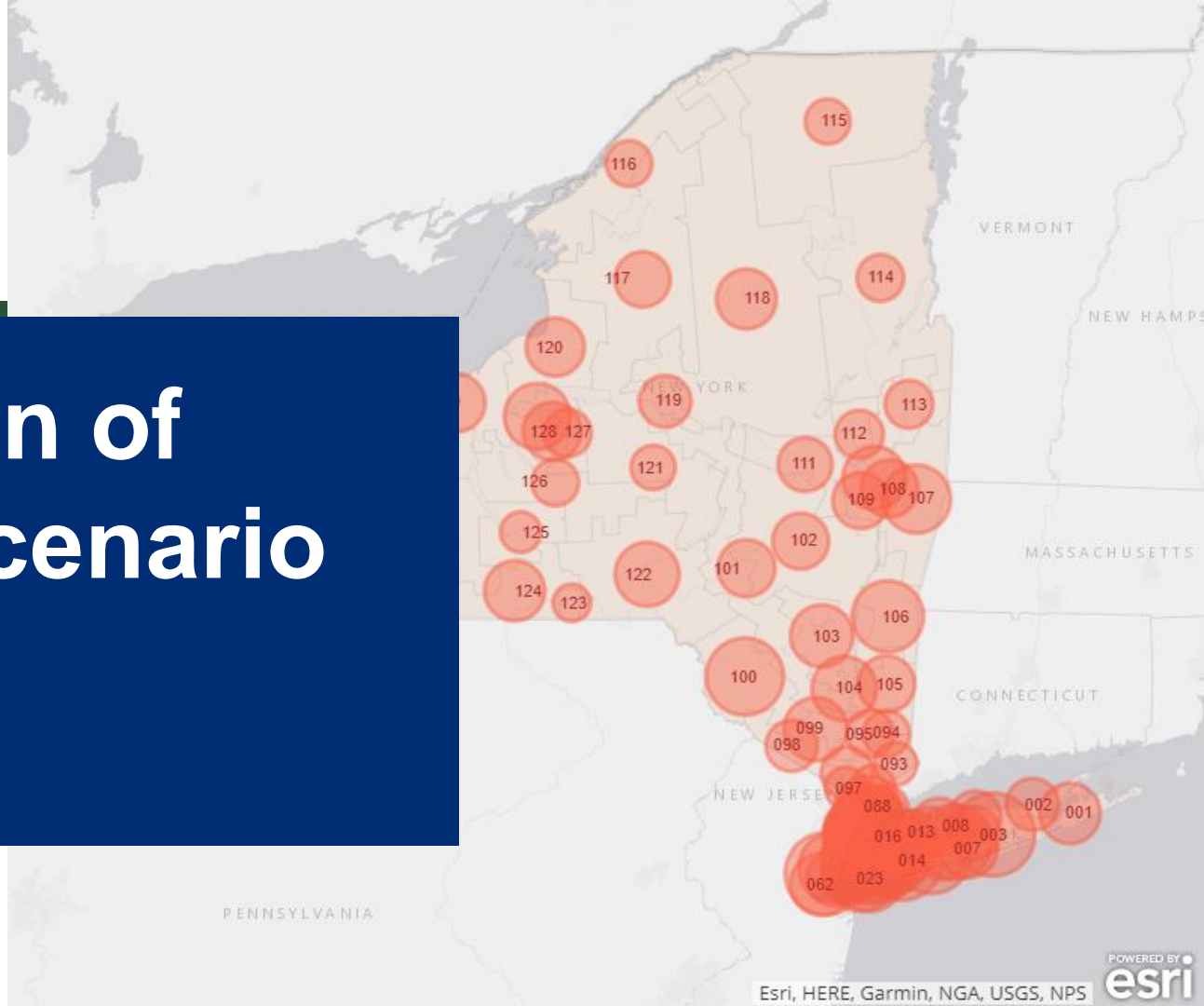
If our goal is to provide criteria to CAC by end of the year...

We need to publish draft scenarios in early August (still aggressive) and start public comment period...

This means heavier review/discussion of maps/scenarios and documentation through early August (+ voting)

Let's circle back to the timeline.

# Description of Today's Scenario



# Review: Combining Data

Group Indicators into Factors



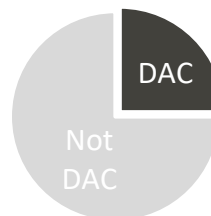
Combine Factors into Components



Calculate Statewide & Regional Scores



Designate DACs based on their relative score



# Some decisions move things more than others

## Designation Threshold

(High-scoring tracts to designate as DACs – e.g., top third?)



[https://www.clrp.cornell.edu/q-a/272-excavator\\_certification.html](https://www.clrp.cornell.edu/q-a/272-excavator_certification.html)

## Factor Importance

(Relative importance of exposures vs. climate, etc.)



<https://compactequip.com/excavators>

## Indicators

(With ~40 indicators, changing one doesn't shift much)



Photo by Andres Siimon on [Unsplash](#)

## Indicator Weights

(With highly-correlated indicators, weights don't shift results much)



Photo by Anaya Katlego on [Unsplash](#)

# Designation Threshold

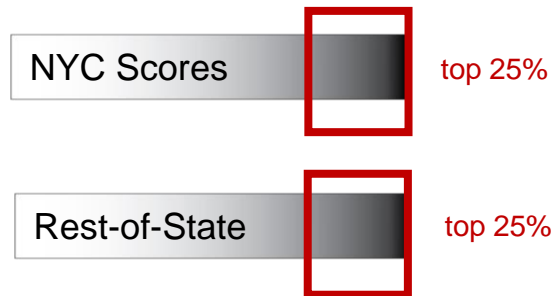
## Statewide Score

How each community ranks (on all of the data) within the **entire** state



## Regional Scores

How each community ranks (on all of the data) in NYC and Rest-of-State separately



About 1/3 designated

Designate communities that score in either top 25% statewide OR regionally



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# Community Burdens and Potential Risks: Indicators in Current Scenario

## Potential Pollution Exposures

- Vehicle traffic density\*
- Particulate Matter (PM2.5)
- Benzene
- Wastewater discharge\*

## Land use associated with historical discrimination or disinvestment

- Hazardous Waste treatment/storage/disposal facilities\*
- Remediation Sites (e.g., NPL Superfund or State Superfund/Class II sites)\*
- Regulated Management Plan (chemical) sites\*
- Industrial/manufacturing/mining land use (zoning)
- Utility/waste land use (zoning)
- Transportation facilities land use (zoning)
- Historical redlining score
- Housing vacancy rate

## Potential Climate Change Risks

- Extreme heat projections (>90° days in 2050)
- Coastal/tidal flooding projections (from sea level rise, storm surge, etc.)
- Inland/riverine flooding projections (from sea level rise, storm surge, etc.)
- Low vegetative cover
- Agricultural land
- Distance to grocery stores

NOTE: Future data may include modeled Woodsmoke exposure & other water quality metrics.  
\*We may replace EJScreen indicators.

NOTE: Future data will include several other types of regulated and permitted facilities (e.g., power generation, landfills).  
\*We may replace EJScreen indicators.

NOTE: Future data may include distance to urgent/emergency care

# Population Vulnerabilities: Indicators in Current Scenario

## Sociodemographics

- Pct <80% Area Median Income
- Pct <100% of Federal Poverty Line
- Pct without Bachelor's Degree
- Unemployment rate
- Pct Single-parent households
- Pct Latino/a or Hispanic
- Pct Black or African American
- Limited English Proficiency

NOTE: State staff are considering designating Tribal Land/Territory as DACs **after** the quantitative scoring

## Health Impacts & Burdens

- Asthma ED visits
- COPD ED visits
- Heart attack (MI) hospitalization
- Pct without Health Insurance
- Pct with Disabilities
- Pct Adults age 65+

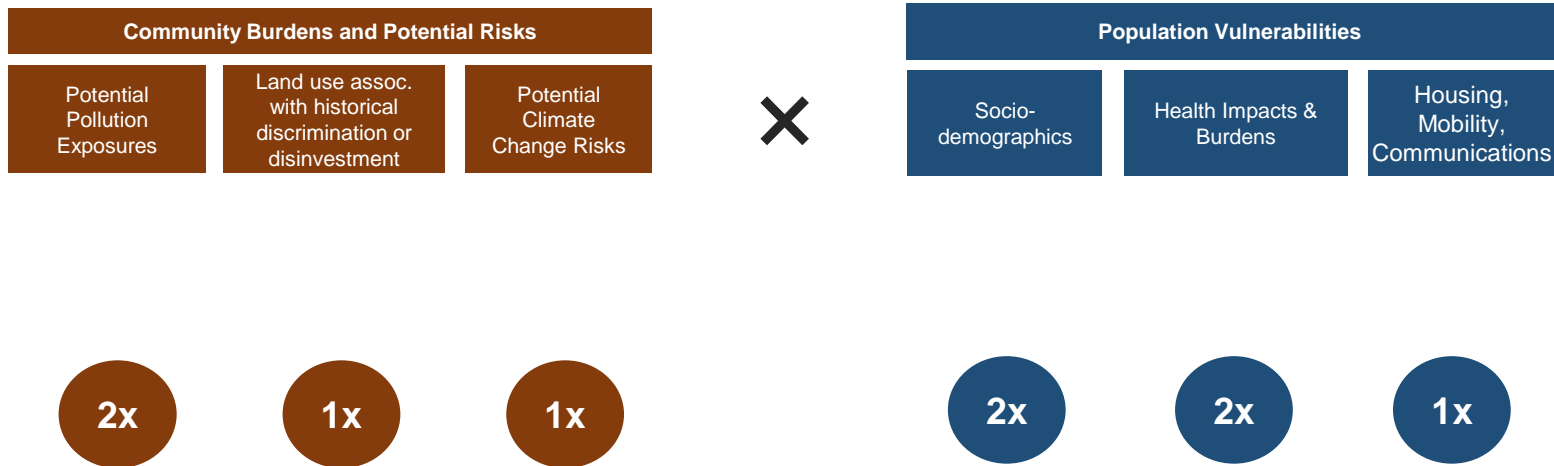
NOTE: Future data will include Low Birthweight births and Premature Deaths

## Housing, Mobility, Communications

- Pct Renter-Occupied Homes
- Housing cost burden (rental costs)
- Energy Poverty / Cost Burden
- Manufactured homes
- Homes built before 1960\*
- Percent without private vehicle
- Pct without Internet (home or cellular)

\*Short-term proxy for lead-based paint risk. We are working with DOH on how to represent risk.

# Starting point for Factor Importance

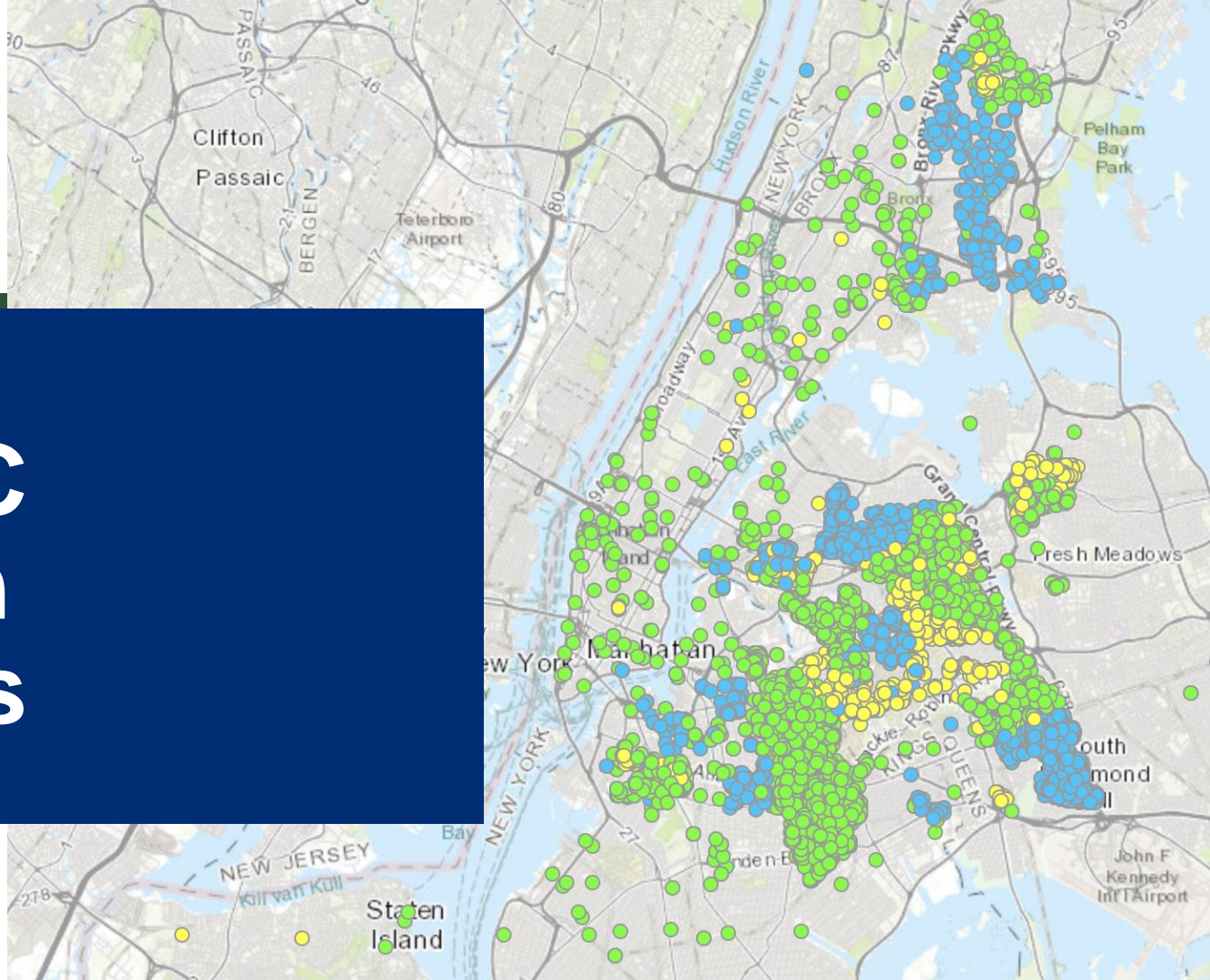




# Legislation allows for continuous improvement



# Draft DAC Definition Scenarios



# Early maps to get your reaction to big things

Map tool includes a short form for submitting comments on individual tracts

When you select one or more tracts in the map, the "Selected Census Tract Details" table will update to show key metrics for those tracts

**INSTRUCTIONS**

1. Click on a tract in the map.
2. Fill out form
3. Click the "SUBMIT" button. Try clicking the button again if the website does not open.
4. Close the website window and ...

**Name**


**Tract Number**

**Should be a DAC?**  
 Yes  
 No

**Brief Explanation**

**Statewide Averages**

Burden Pctl	40
Vuln Pctl	48
Median Income	\$74,317
% BIPOC	45%
Redline Score	3.0
% PEJA	47%



**Selected Census Tract Details**

Tract	Is a DAC?	Burden Percentile	Vulnerability Percentile	Median Income	% BIPOC	Redline Score	% PEJA
36061022102	NON-DAC	73	54	\$96,154	79%	4.0	100%
36061022800	DAC	72	69	\$70,650	85%	4.0	100%
36061023000	DAC	73	79	\$36,124	92%	4.0	100%
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>73</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>\$67,643</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>100%</b>

Note: Draft maps exclude 138 census tracts (2.8%) with very low population because Vulnerabilities data is missing/unreliable; they can be scored separately on the basis of Burdens alone.



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## % Region Designated DAC

Region	
New York City	44%
Long Island	12%
Mid-Hudson	34%
Western NY	32%
Finger Lakes	31%
Capital Region	22%
Central NY	31%
Southern Tier	21%
Mohawk Valley	24%
North Country	13%
Grand Total	33%

Percent of tracts **within** a region that are a DAC

22% of tracts in the Capital Region are designated DACs

## DACs vs Non-DACs - Statewide Averages

	DAC	Non DAC	Grand Total
Burden Pctl	46	37	40
Vuln Pctl	63	41	48
Median Income	\$48,198	\$87,307	\$74,317
% BIPOC	70%	32%	45%
Redline Score	3.3	2.8	3.0
% PEJA	83%	29%	47%

Comparison of attributes of tracts that are designated DACs in this scenario

DAC census tracts have a higher vulnerability health score than non-DAC census tracts

## DAC Designation by Region

Region	% of NY Tracts	% of NY DACs
New York City	44%	58%
Long Island	12%	5%
Mid-Hudson	11%	11%
Western NY	7%	7%
Finger Lakes	6%	6%
Capital Region	6%	4%
Central NY	4%	4%
Southern Tier	3%	2%
Mohawk Valley	3%	2%
North Country	2%	1%
Grand Total	100%	100%

Percent of DACs in a region vs the total % of tracts in that region

Long Island has 12% of the state's tracts but 5% of the DAC tracts

# Groundtruthing: Buy One, Get One!

If you want to select a tract you think is **wrong**...

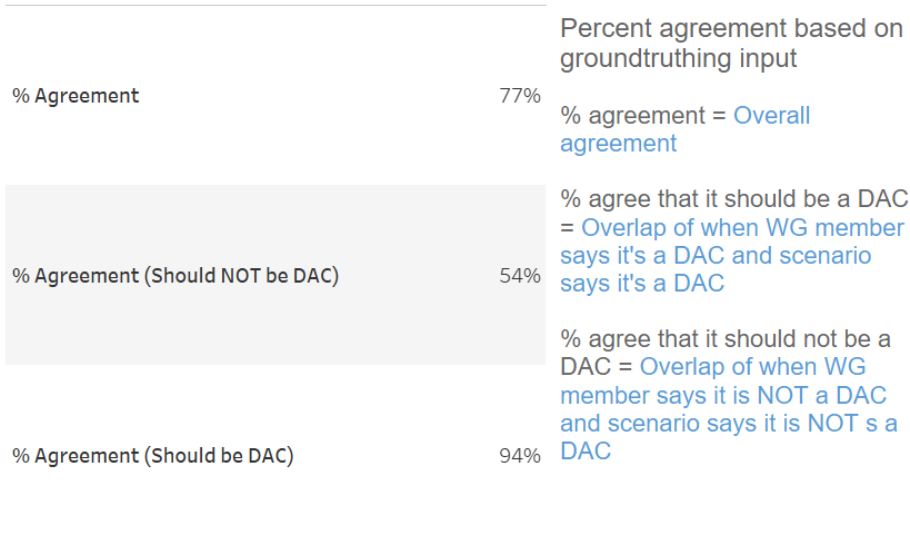


...First tell us a tract you think is **right!**

# What we're doing with your input

1. Look at agreement between DAC scenarios + your “groundtruthed” list
2. Understand, through your comments, what indicators are more important to you
3. Check whether our data/indicators capture the types of things you care about

## % Agreement with Responses



# Go to Tableau

Note: Draft maps exclude 138 census tracts (2.8%) with very low population because Vulnerabilities data is missing/unreliable; they can be scored separately on the basis of Burdens alone.



# What can we do to help your review?

*What we heard on June 15:*

- More information on considered indicators, esp. health impacts/burdens
- Update Tutorial PDF
- Tutorials/one-on-sessions?





# Timeline & Next Steps



# Month Ahead – DAC Scenarios

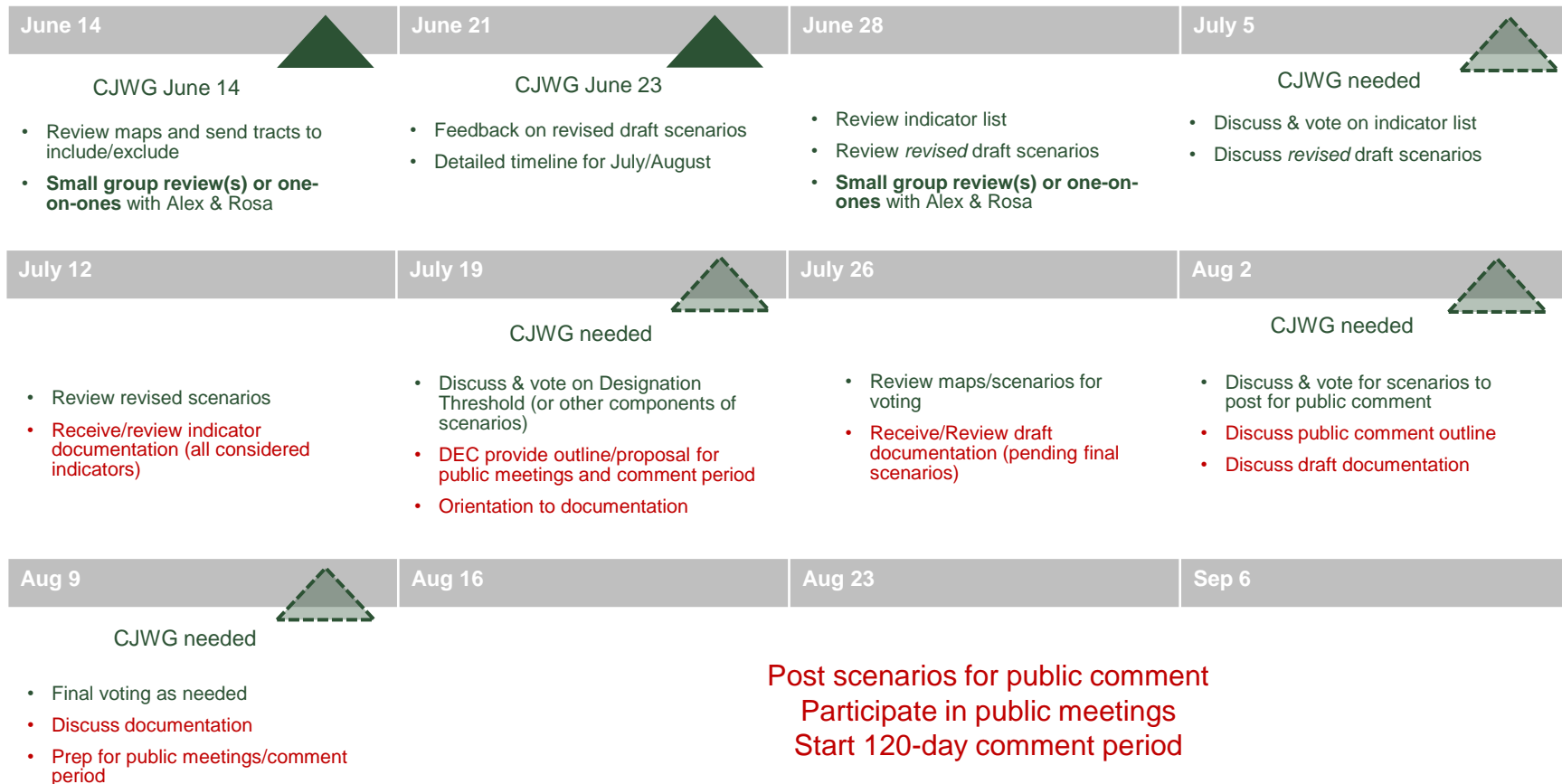
1. Review scenario iterations
2. Small group and one-on-one sessions
3. Voting on three critical parts:
  1. Indicator List
  2. Designation Thresholds (% of state designated as DAC)
  3. Scenario(s) to post to public comment (which will encompass other decisions like factor & indicator importance)



# Related Review

1. Draft documentation
2. Plan/outline for public meetings & comment period  
(DEC will provide proposal)





# Next Steps

## Work Ahead:

Groundtruthing – BOGO!

Compare several scenarios

Voting on indicators

Voting on designation threshold

Reviewing documentation

Voting on scenarios

## Next Meeting:

Discussion of health indicators

Discussion of tribal/indigenous land & communities

Feedback on first draft scenario



# Indicator Considerations



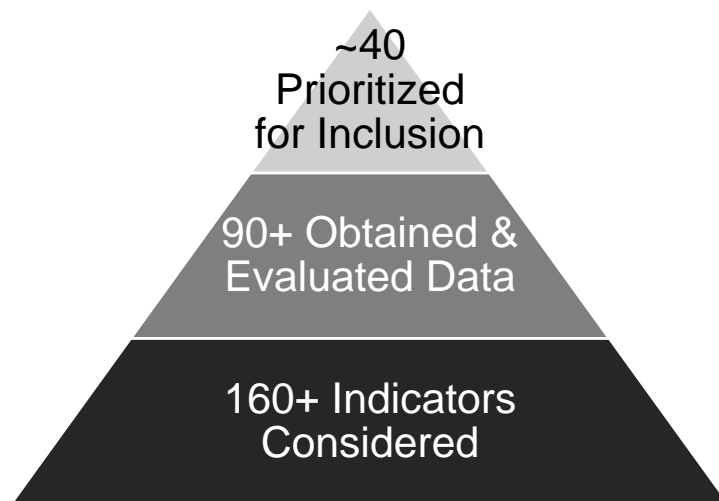
# Inclusion Considerations

Inclusion decisions consider:

- Data coverage & granularity
- Data quality (e.g., measurement or sampling error)
- Modeled vs. directly-collected or measured data
- Correlations
- Technical guidance (e.g., DEC, DOH, DOS)

So far, we obtained & evaluated data for 90+ indicators  
(a) on their own, and (b) in combination

Still waiting for key climate, health and environmental variables that require technical and/or GIS analysis



# Indicator Update

## Community Burdens and Potential Risks

Potential  
Pollution  
Exposures

Performing  
“custom” analysis  
with DEC data  
(using EJScreen  
in interim)

Land use  
associated with  
historical  
discrimination or  
disinvestment

Performing  
“custom” analysis  
with DEC data  
(using EJScreen in  
interim)

Potential  
Climate  
Change Risks

Tweaking inland/  
coastal flooding  
Waiting for  
distance to  
hospitals

## Population Vulnerabilities

Socio-  
demographics

Have all  
census data;  
assessing  
correlations

Health Impacts &  
Burdens

Waiting for Low  
Birthweight &  
Premature Deaths

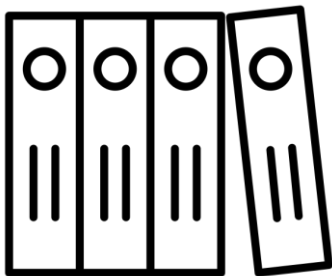
Housing,  
Mobility,  
Communication  
s

May improve lead  
paint risk indicator





# Indicator Limitations



Documentation (for public comment) will discuss:

- Indicators/data we **considered** but did not pursue, and why
- Data limitations, including Census (e.g., not specific enough to race/ethnicity), public health data (e.g., limited data @ sub-county level), and more
- Recommendations for future/additional community-level data (e.g., migration)
- Potential for periodic indicator review/updates