

Environmental Injustice and NYC Waste Management

Background

- People who live in Environmental justice areas are more exposed to pollution and are closer to waste transfer sites.
- There are many areas in New York City which are classified as environmental justice areas. These areas are more exposed to pollutants and are likely lower income communities
- Many of the environmental justice areas where historically redlined, causing segregation and inequality.

Methods

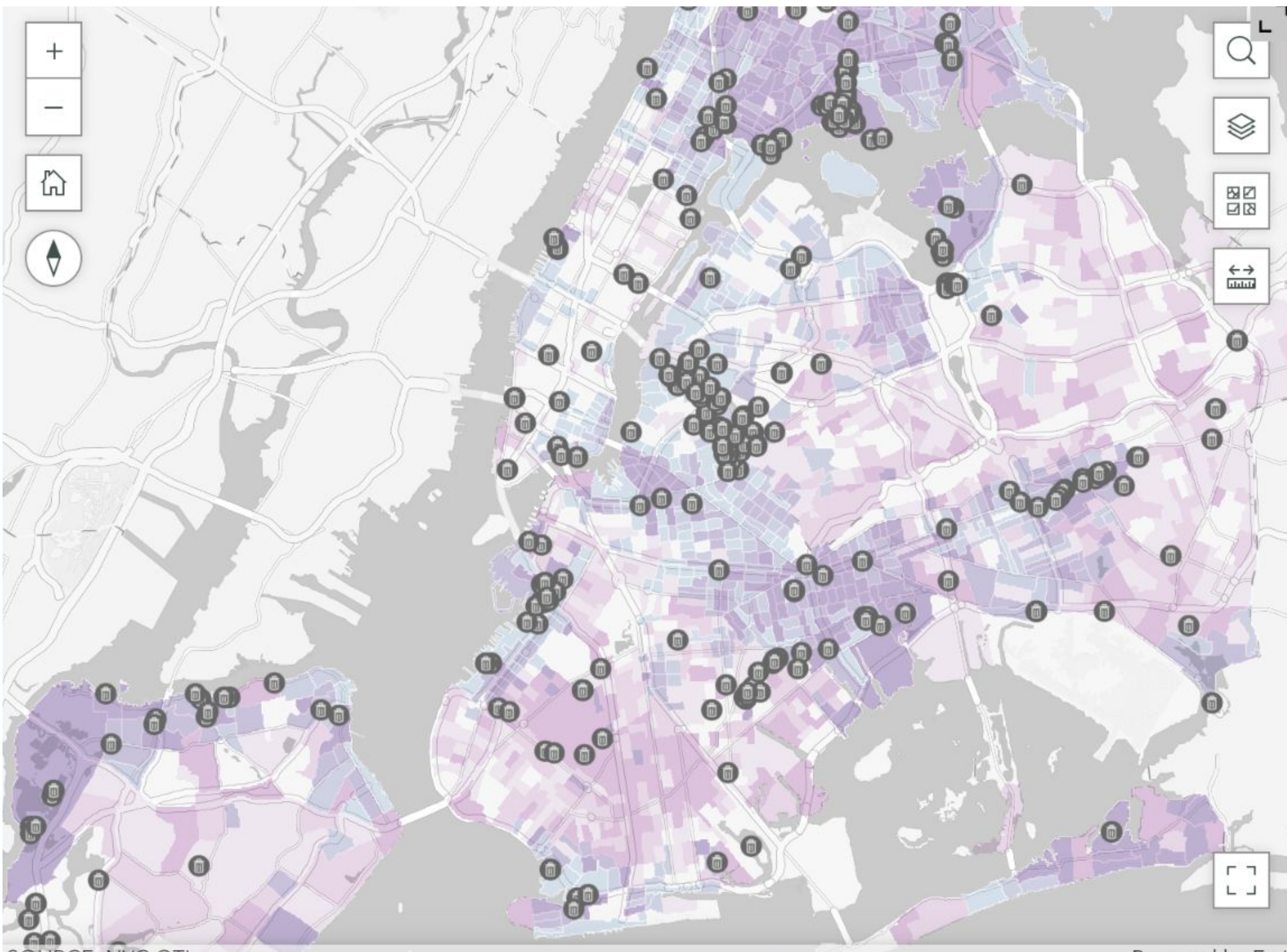
To get my results I used a map of all solid waste facilities combined with a map of environmental justice communities and communities with the most children.

I also researched what pollutants come from waste and how those pollutants effect their quality of life.

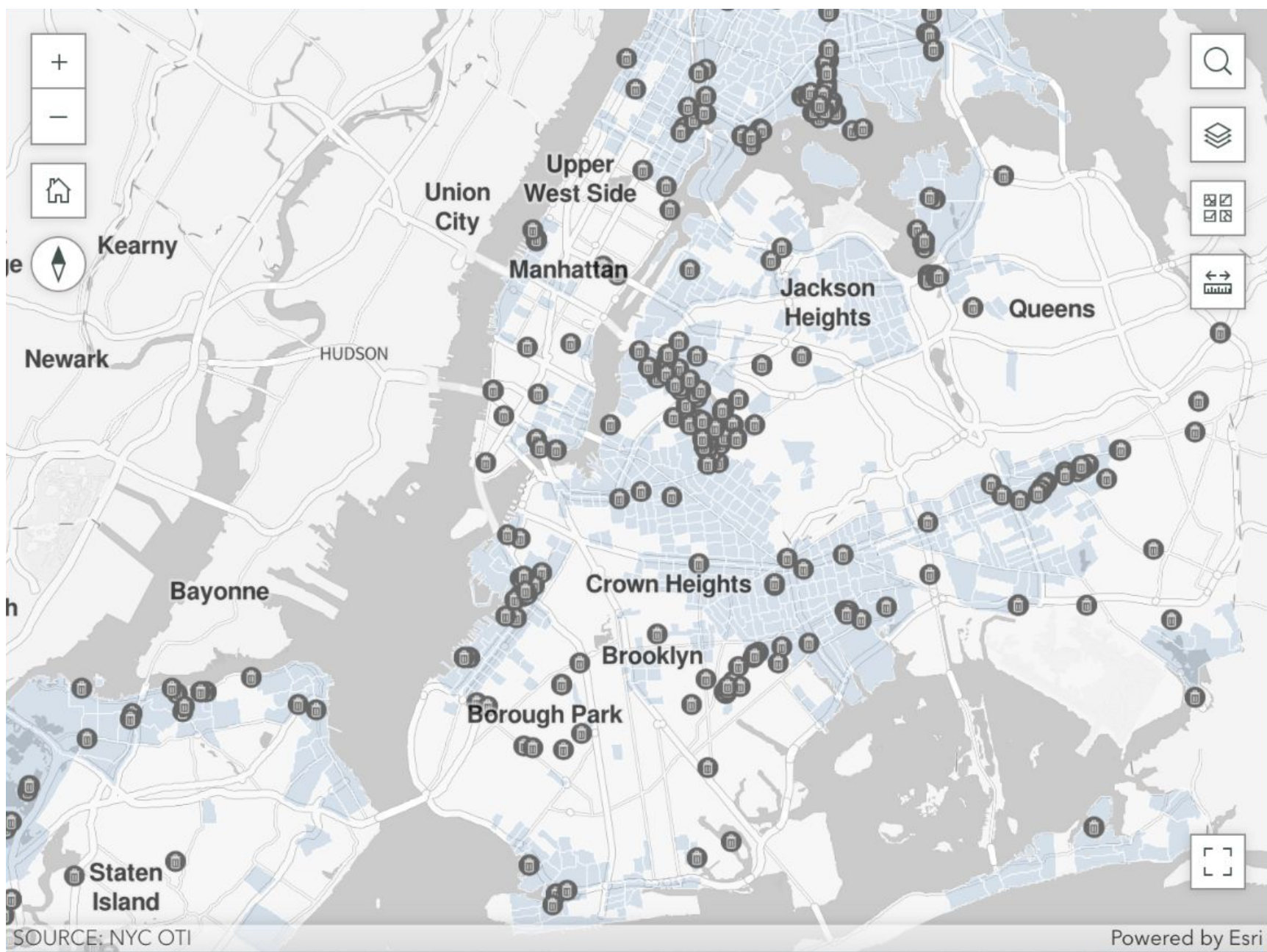
Works Cited:



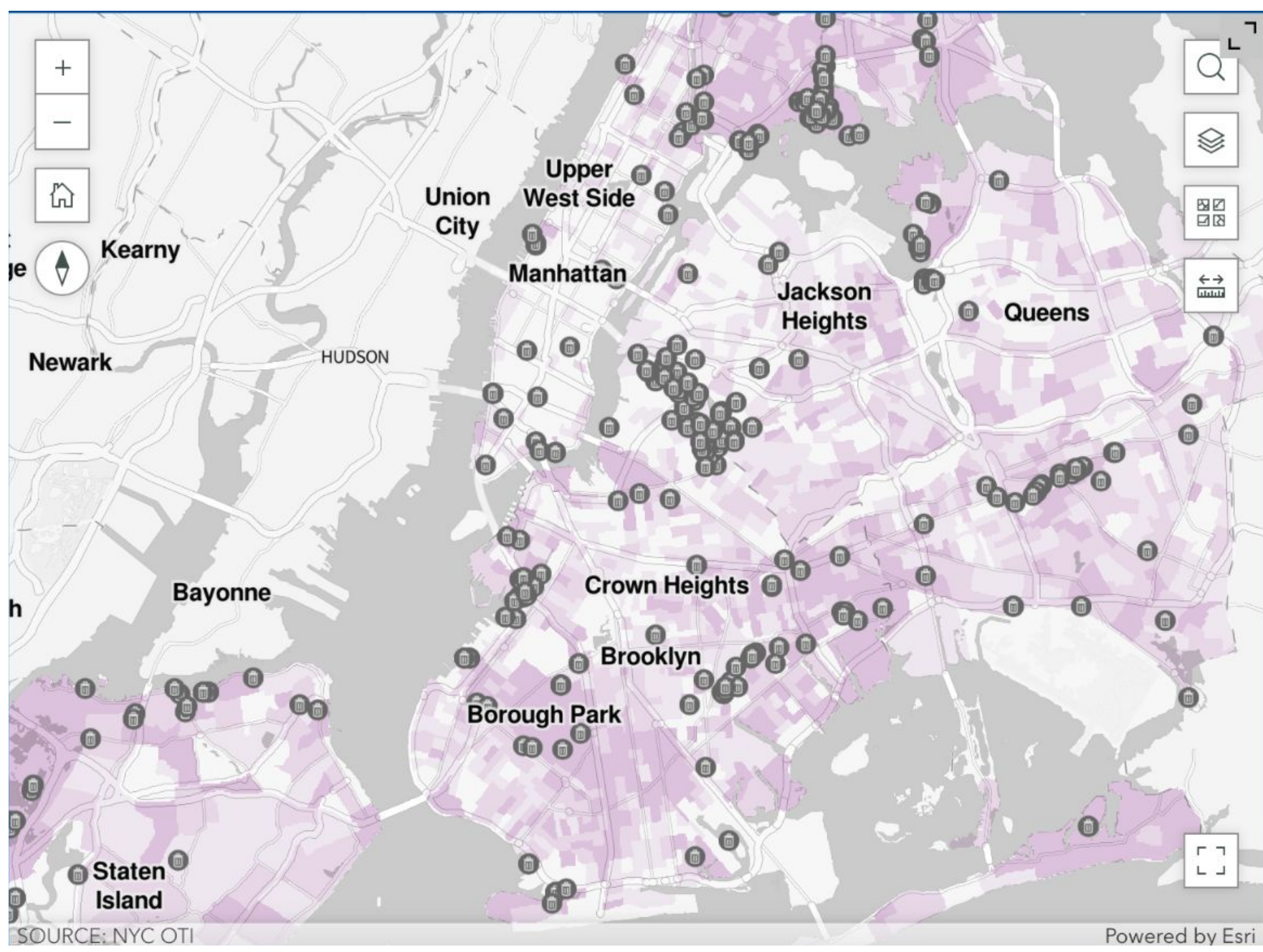
This map outlines solid waste facilities, density of children, and environmental justice communities. Many of the areas with a density of waste facilities are environmental justice communities. There is a disparity when comparing environmental justice communities to non environmental justice communities.



Map of Environmental Justice communities



Map of Density of Youth



Findings and Data

- 67 percent of the total population in historically redlined areas live in EJ Areas today (EJNYC).
- Areas that are densely populated by children are also densely populated with solid waste facilities.
- According to EJ NYC 75% of NYC’s waste is sorted or transferred in environmental justice areas.
- Both landfills and incinerators emit greenhouse gasses such as methane.
- Most of the emissions, from waste sources, come from landfills
- Areas with high density of children do still have significant amounts of solid waste facilities.

Why this matters

- Waste facilities contribute to the pollutants which environmental justice communities are exposed to.
- Due to the higher rate of pollution children in these communities are more likely to have asthma.
- Ulitimately pollution coming from waste management sites hurt us all, but affect lower-income communities more directly.