Sunset Park: A Community on the Frontlines

Elizabeth Yeampierre

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Sunset Park

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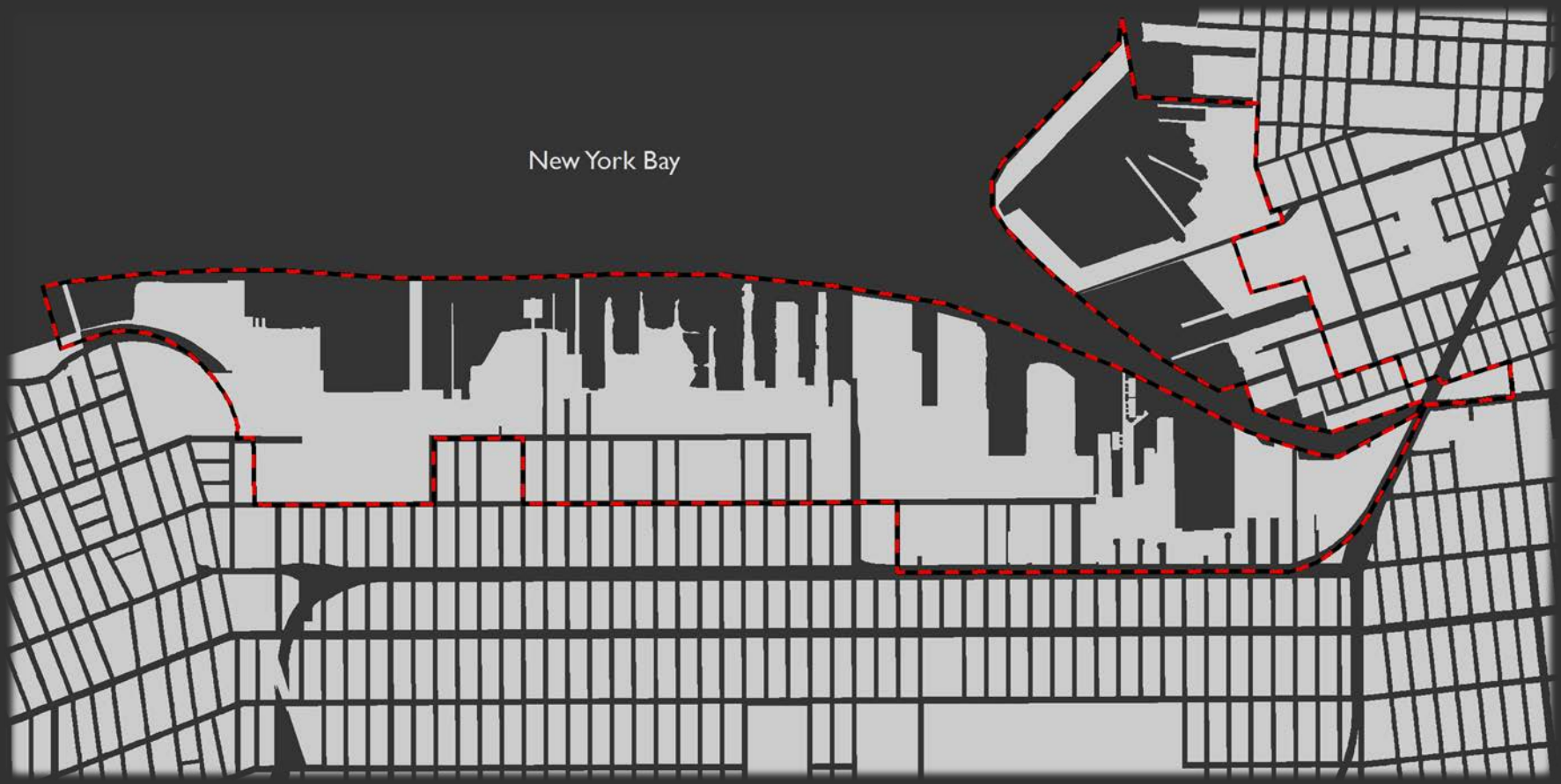
Sunset Park Significant Maritime and Industrial Area



- NYC's largest SMIA
- Clusters the city's most toxic and polluting land uses

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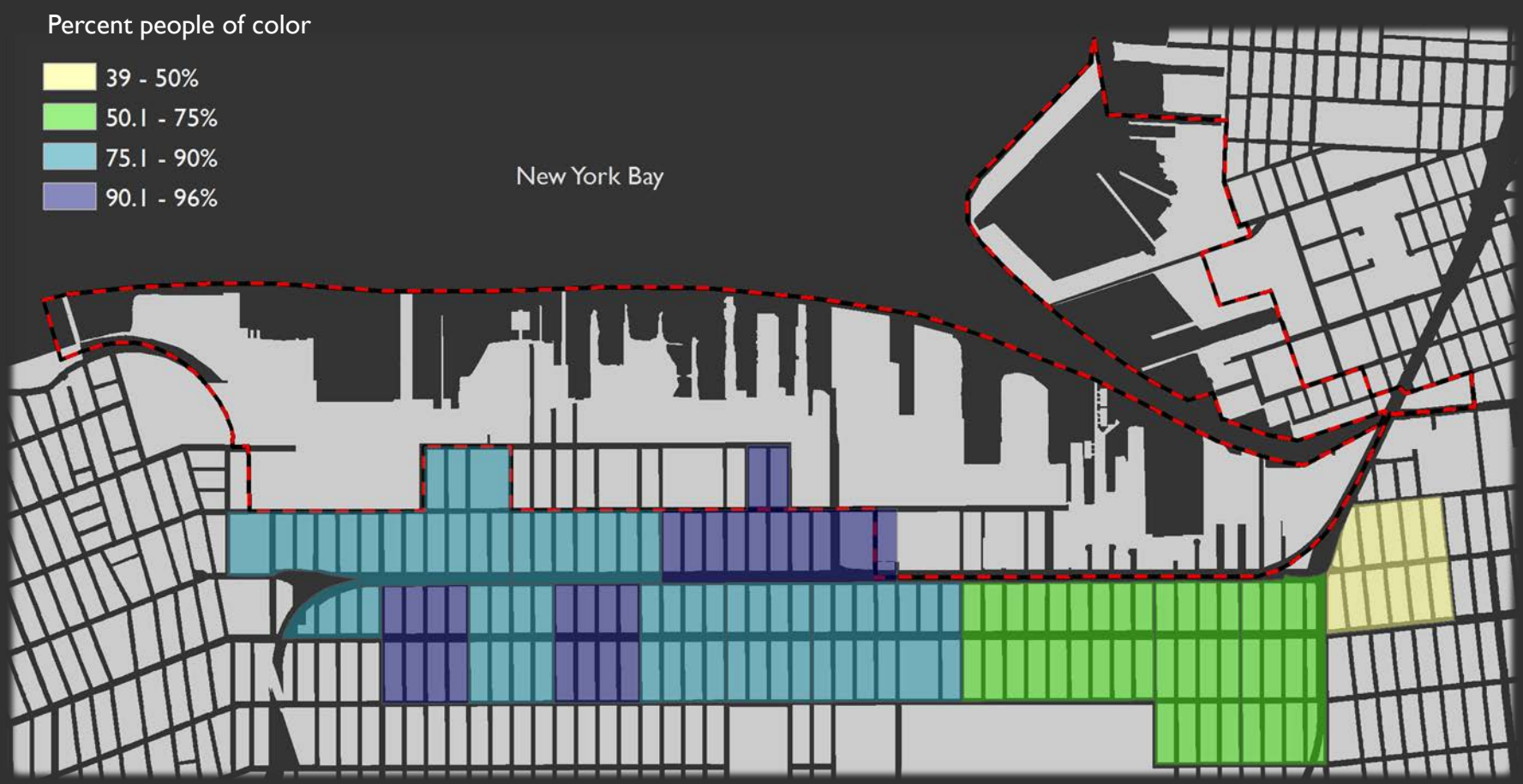
Community of color



- The majority of Census Tracts are majority people of color

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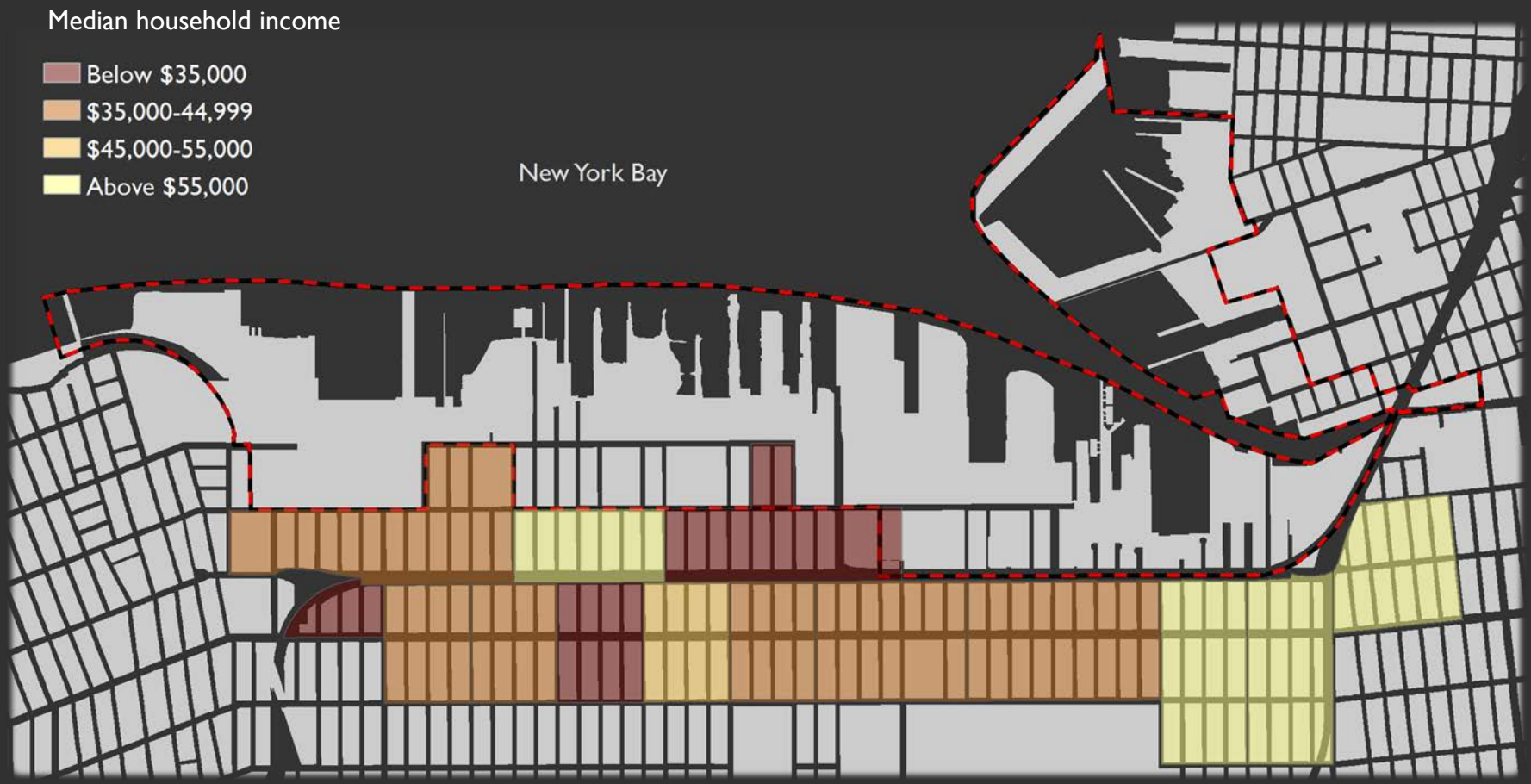
Source: American Community Survey, 2013

Working class



- The majority of Census Tracts are below NYC's median household income

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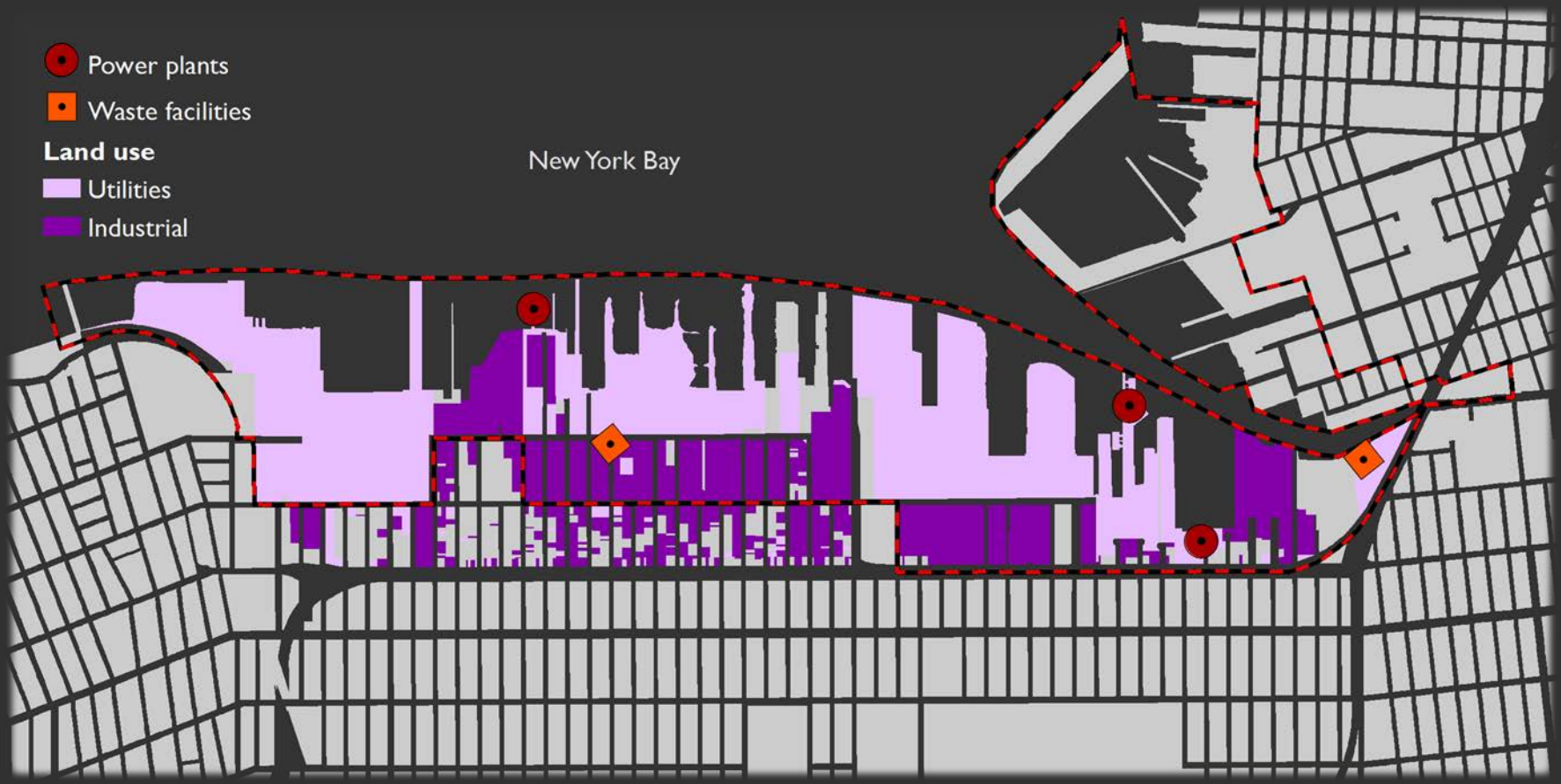
Source: American Community Survey, 2013

Environmental burdens



- Three power plants
- Waste management facilities
- Multiple brownfields

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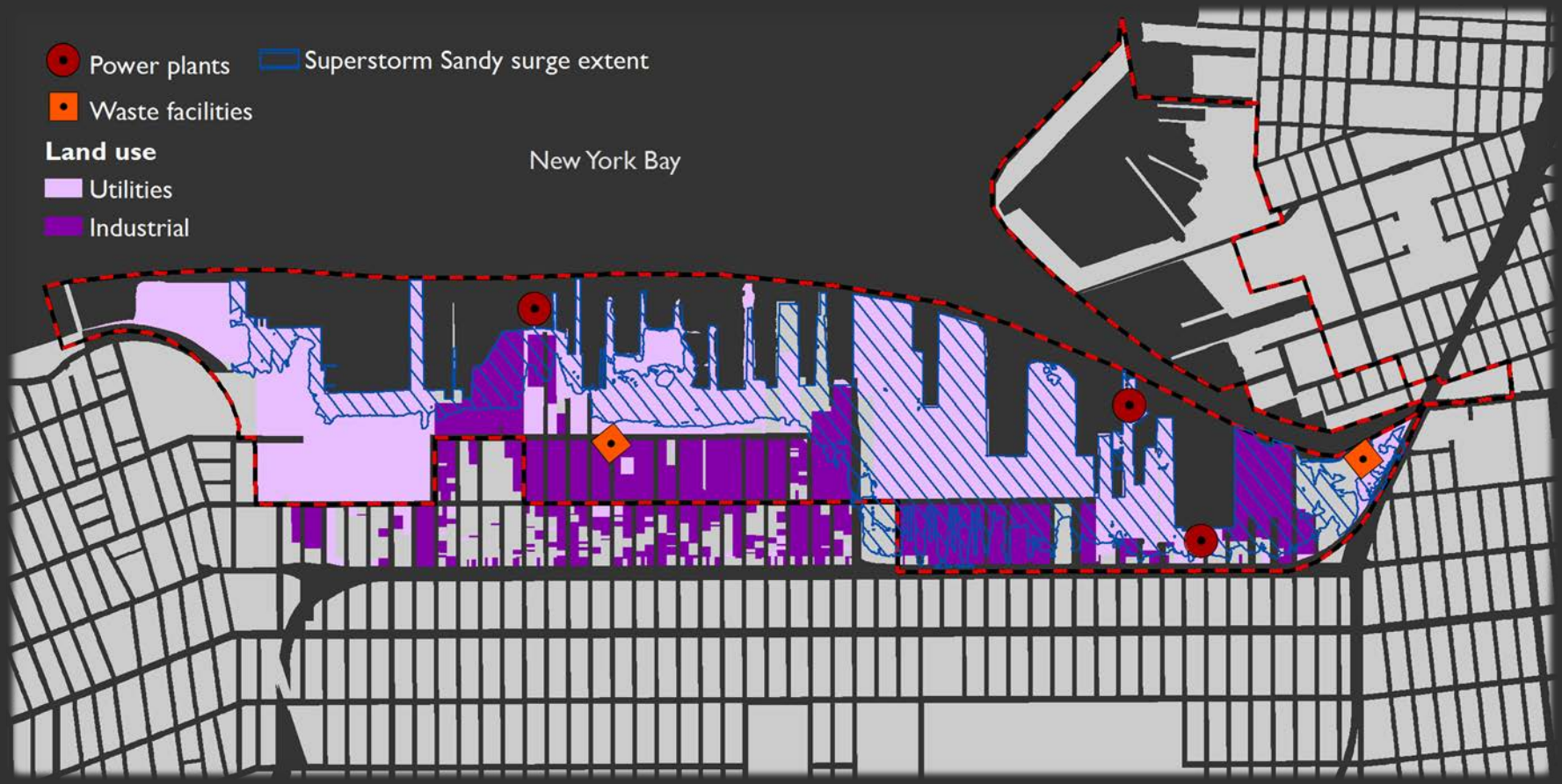
On the frontlines of climate change



- Climate change poses substantial threats to public health
- Storm surge and flooding can create a "toxic soup"

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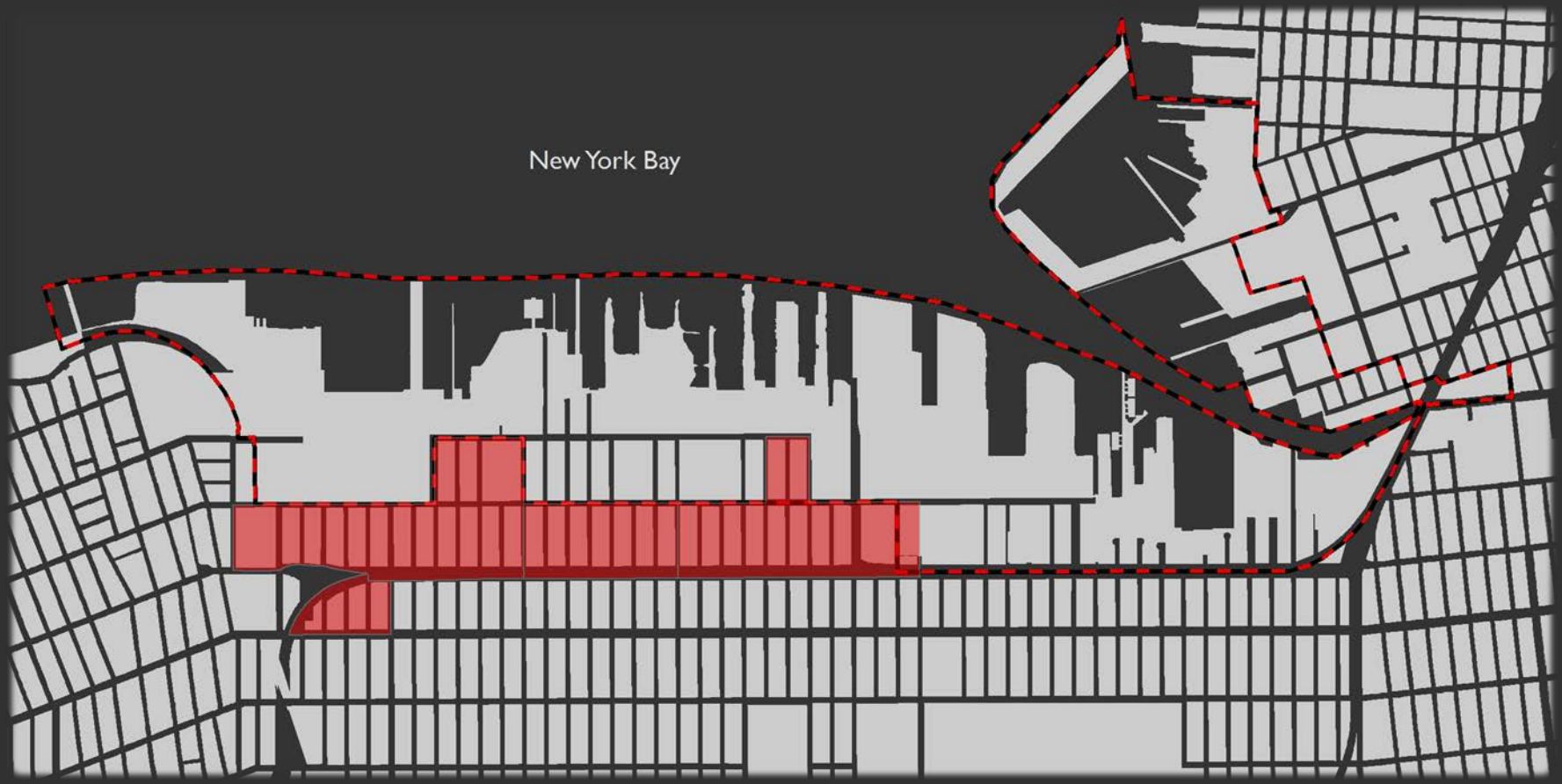
Health risks



- One of the highest cancer risks in NYC, according to EPA's EJView
- Population is closest to environmental burdens

Source: EPA EJView, http://epamap14.epa.gov/ejmap/

Climate Justice and Community Resiliency Center

- Organize block by block
- Facilitate community-based resiliency planning
- Help businesses become climate adaptable
- Develop renewable energy facilities
- Promote stormwater management infrastructure

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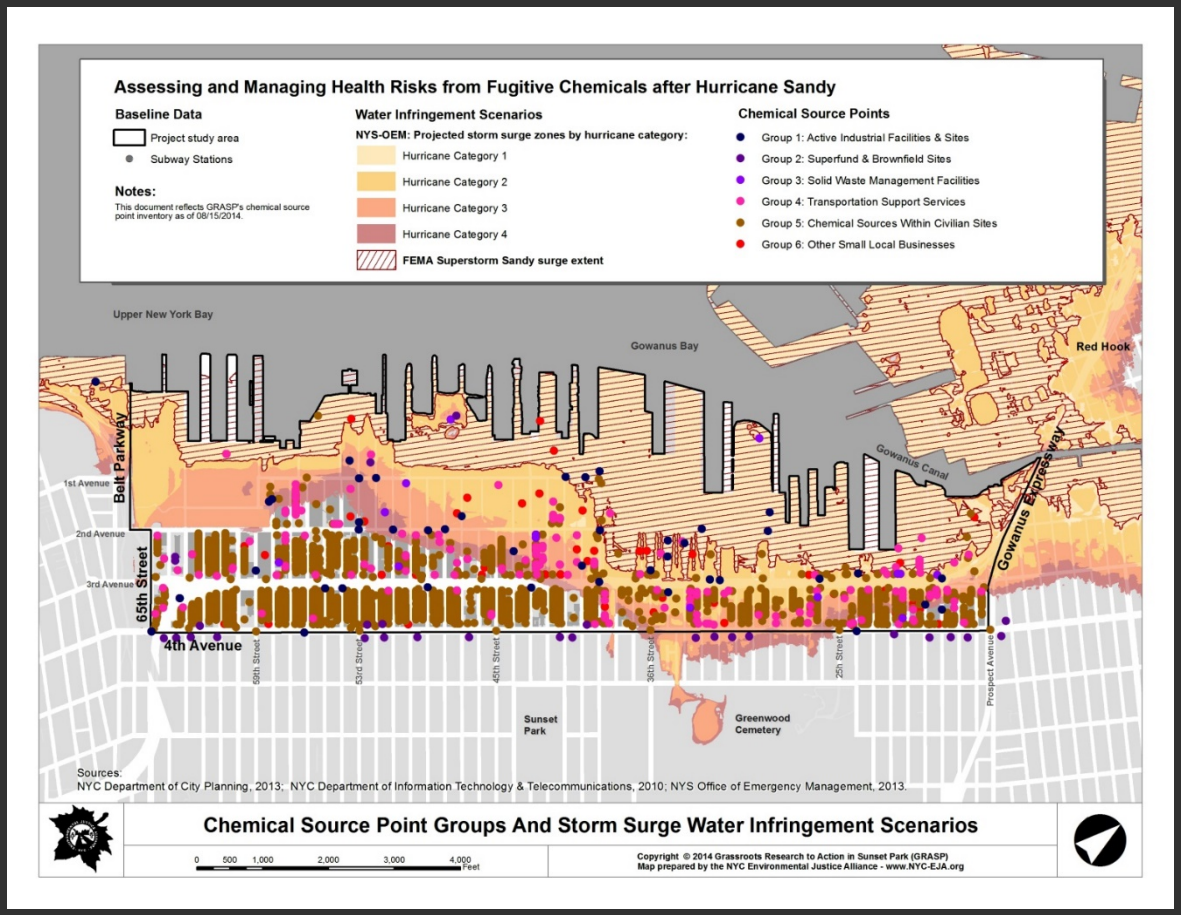
Community-based research



- Over 2,200 chemical source points mapped within study area
- Chemical source points maps overlaid to 9 different water infringement scenarios:

  5 storm surge scenarios

  4 flooding scenarios

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Community-based research

- Initial calculations suggest exposures may result in harmful health risks:
  - **Decabromodiphenyl ether (decaBDE):**
  - Flame retardant, used in electronics, wire and cable insulation, textiles, automobiles, marine vessels.
  - Possible health effects include: possible carcinogen, endocrine disrupter in males, thyroid enlargement, developmental neurotoxin

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