Sensitive populations are populations with biological traits that may magnify the effects of pollutant exposures. It is well recognized that children and the elderly are more sensitive to certain pollutants than the general population. Hence, indicators representing the prevalence of these age groups were selected.

Sensitive Populations Indicators:
1. Prevalence of Children
2. Prevalence of Elderly

Areas with large numbers of one sensitive group (elderly or young children) tended to have smaller numbers of the other sensitive group. Since these measures are inversely related to each other, we approached combining the indicators to produce the component scores below differently. Here, the following conventions were used to assign scores for the Sensitive Population component:

- ZIP codes received a high score if either the percentile for children or the percentile for elderly was high, or if both percentiles were high.
- ZIP codes received a medium score if both population percentiles were medium.
- ZIP codes received a low score if both population percentiles were low.

Prevalence of Children

Prevalence of Elderly

Regional Sensitive Populations
(based on the decision rule for the two indicators)

Statewide Sensitive Populations
(based on the decision rule for the two indicators)