



"How To" User's Guide

January 2012



New York State Department of Health Environmental Public Health Tracking Program



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Introduction to Tracking

New York State’s Environmental Public Health Tracking (EPHT) Program “Tracking” focuses on understanding how hazards in the environment, exposures, and diseases change over time or across regions. Environmental Public Health Tracking is a national program led by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to share data and analyze trends in environmental health across the nation. It is intended to provide better public access to environmental health information and support research, programs and policies that may help protect our communities.

This publication provides a guide to navigating New York State’s Environmental Public Health Tracking website and New York State’s application the Environmental Public Health Tracker. The Environmental Public Health Tracking website is located on the New York State Department of Health’s website at www.health.ny.gov. To navigate to the Tracking home page, select “Environmental Public Health Tracking” in the Current Issues box on the left hand side of the home page. The home page of New York State’s Tracking Program is www.health.ny.gov/environmental/public_health_tracking/

The screenshot shows the New York State Department of Health website. The navigation menu on the left includes: Governor Cuomo, Commissioner Shah, Follow us on (Twitter, Facebook, YouTube), Current Issues (Emergency Preparedness & Response, METRIX, Marriage Equality Act, Medical Indemnity Fund, Smokers' Quit Line - 1-866-NY-QUTS, Obesity Prevention, Influenza (Flu), Controlled Substance Information, EMS/EMT, Accredited Office-Based Surgery Practices, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, Prevention Agenda Toward the Healthiest State, Prevention Quality Indicators, and **Environmental Public Health Tracking** (circled in red).

The main content area features a "Health News" section with several articles:

- DECEMBER 29, 2011**: State Health Department Awards \$500,000 in Doctors Across New York Funds to Support Physicians Practicing in Underserved Communities. State Health Commissioner Nirav R. Shah, M.D., M.P.H., today announced that five health care providers have been awarded grants totaling up to \$500,000 to support physicians who practice medicine in underserved communities through the "Doctors Across New York" Program.
- DECEMBER 16, 2011**: St. John's Episcopal Hospital Laboratory Permit Suspended for 30 Days. The New York State Department of Health (DOH) has suspended the laboratory permit of St John's Episcopal Hospital in Far Rockaway, Queens, for blood tra related testing. This action was taken after a DOH inspection found that the hospital failed to meet accepted standards for blood transfusion and blood bank sa patient safety at risk.
- NOVEMBER 30, 2011**: New York's World AIDS Day 2011 Observance to Honor People Making a Difference in the Fight Against HIV/AIDS. As part of New York's observance of World AIDS Day in Albany, State Health Commissioner Nirav R. Shah, M.D., M.P.H., today will honor youth groups and ind made outstanding contributions to promote HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention, and to assist individuals with HIV or AIDS.
- NOVEMBER 28, 2011**: State Health Department Announces \$450 Million in Funding to Help Health Care Providers Statewide Improve Care by Restructuring Faciliti. New York State Commissioner of Health Nirav R. Shah, M.D, M.P.H., today announced that \$450 million in grant funding will be available early in 2012 to help facilities improve primary and community-based care, eliminate excess bed capacity, and reduce over-reliance on inpatient care in hospitals and nursing home.
- NOVEMBER 23, 2011**: Governor Cuomo Launches "Help Your Neighbor" Initiative to Urge Businesses and New Yorkers to Give to Food Banks. Governor Andrew M. Cuomo today launched "Help Your Neighbor," a statewide initiative to urge businesses and New Yorkers to give directly to regional food l season. The Governor also announced \$1 million in grants will be given to eight food banks across the state and an additional \$620,000 in grants for emerger organizations in communities hit hard by the recent flooding and storms.



Tracking Website

Tracking Home Page

The screenshot shows the home page of the Environmental Public Health Tracking program. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'A-Z Index', 'A-Z En español', 'Help', 'Contact', and 'Home'. Below this, the main content area is titled 'Environmental Public Health Tracking' and 'Exploring Connections Between Environment and Health'. A left sidebar contains a 'Tracking Contents' menu with items like 'Tracking Home', 'About Environmental Health, Tracking and Exposure', 'Data', 'Publications', 'Tracking Program', and 'Glossary'. Below the menu is a link to the 'Environmental Public Health Tracker'. The main content area features a section titled 'Environmental and Health Data' which lists categories: 'Environmental' (Air, water, hazardous waste, radon, pesticides), 'Health' (Cancer, birth outcomes, asthma, and more), 'Exposures' (Measured concentrations of chemicals in people's bodies), 'Demographics and Property' (Data that describe people), and 'Personal Choices' (People's behavior or lifestyle choices). On the right side, there is a search bar and a 'Site Contents' menu listing various topics like 'Birth, Death, Marriage & Divorce Records', 'Health Insurance Programs', 'Employment Opportunities', 'Forms', 'Community, Family & Minority Health', 'Health Care Professionals & Patient Safety', 'Hospitals, Nursing Homes & Other Health Care Facilities', 'Diseases & Conditions', 'Health & Safety in the Home, Workplace & Outdoors', 'Healthy Lifestyles & Prevention', 'Laws & Regulations', 'Statistics & Data', 'Meetings & Training', 'Grants/Funding Opportunities', 'Permits, Licenses & Certification', 'Health Information Technology (Health IT)', 'Press Releases & Reports', 'Freedom of Information Law', 'Webcasts', and 'Related Sites'. At the bottom, there are links for 'Revised: February 2010', 'Disclaimer', 'Privacy Policy', 'Accessibility', and 'Questions or comments: eph@health.state.ny.us'.

The Tracking home page includes three main navigations areas:

- 1) A Tracking Contents menu in the upper-left of the page to explore information on the site
- 2) A link to the Environmental Public Health Tracker below the Tracking Contents menu to query select data and view maps, charts and tables
- 3) Direct links to select environmental and health data on the site in main area of the homepage.

Information on the site focuses largely on Tracking data and how it might be useful. Types of data include environmental data, health data, exposure data, demographics data and data on personal behaviors.



Environmental and Health Data Links

When users click on the Environmental and Health data links in main area of the home page they will go to pages to learn more about Tracking data, including the data types, possible uses, limitations, information on how New York State collects the data, and finally some national and state data sources for each type of data.

Example of Environmental Health Data link Destination

You are Here: [Home Page](#) > [Environmental Public Health Tracking Data](#) > Health Data

Health Data

What it Can Tell Us

Health data can tell us about rates of some diseases and health conditions.

What it Cannot Tell Us

The data provide little information about possibly related environmental hazards or exposures. Most county and ZIP Code maps and tables reflect people's addresses at the time of their diagnoses. This information tells us very little about their contact with environmental hazards (environmental [exposures](#)) that may be related to their health condition. Many diseases, like cancer, take a long time to develop. So, it is likely that exposures that occurred many years in the past would be more related to the disease. Those exposures might not be associated with a person's residence when they were diagnosed.

Data Sources

We identify the type and/or source of data, timeframe, geographic coverage and presentation (tables, maps or reports). Links to national data or data from other states are also provided.

- [Asthma](#)
- [Birth Defects \(Congenital Malformations\)](#)
- [Birth Outcomes](#)
- [Cancer](#)
- [Heart Disease and Stroke](#)
- [Vital Statistics](#)
- [Other Health Data](#)

About

The Department of Health collects information on many diseases and health conditions on an ongoing basis. Information is compiled into data tables, maps and reports, which are updated periodically. Data are provided geographically, for example, for New York State as a whole, by county, or by ZIP code. In some cases, users will find explanations about how data are collected, presented and checked for accuracy. These are usually entitled "Frequently Asked Questions" (FAQs), "About the data," or "Please read first."

Not all data sets were developed for tracking. For example, some are intended to provide a record of births and deaths, or to track hospital use. Factors related to how data are collected and which data are presented might affect estimates and comparisons when using them to estimate disease rates or to track trends across the state.

Users may select a Data Source to view pages that include data descriptions and, if available, links to the Environmental Public Health Tracker, a tool to view maps, graphs and tables of select environmental health data. This information may be useful to provide basic introduction to the types of health and environmental data used in Tracking.

Example of Data Source Destination

Asthma Data

New York State

Track Asthma Hospitalizations

View the number and rate of asthma hospitalizations on maps, graphs, and tables. Find more about the symptoms, causes and control of asthma.

Links to Environmental Public Health Tracker Application

Asthma hospital discharge data

Provides asthma hospital discharge rates from the Statewide Planning and Research Cooperative System (SPARCS), a database containing information about all hospitalizations in NY State. Rates are rates per 10,000 persons. [Includes information about asthma hospital discharge data.](#)

Data type: Hospital discharges
Data source: SPARCS
Timeframe: For state, region and county, annual data for 3 years with average annual rate, updated annually. For ZIP Code, 3-year totals with average annual rate, updated annually.
Geographic coverage: NY State, region, county, ZIP code (tables and maps)
Comments: Data are numbers of hospitalizations, so if these data are used to examine the number of people with asthma, double counting may occur when the same person has multiple hospitalizations. Also, people who are hospitalized with asthma represent only a portion of people with asthma.

Asthma deaths and death rates

Provides data from death certificates where primary reason for death was asthma. Mortality rates are per 1,000,000 persons. Both non-adjusted and adjusted rates are presented, with rates adjusted using the 2000 U.S. Standard Population. [Includes information about asthma deaths and death rates data.](#)

Data source: Vital Records, Bureau of Biometrics and Health Statistics
Timeframe: Annual data for 3 years with average annual rate, updated annually.
Geographic coverage: NY State, region, county (tables and maps)

Adult asthma prevalence

Information from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), an annual statewide telephone surveillance system designed by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that monitors factors contributing to the leading causes of illness, injury and mortality. New York State's BRFSS sample represents the non-institutionalized adult household population, aged 18 years and older.

Data source: BRFSS
Timeframe: Annual Data
Geographic coverage: NY State
Comments: There are potential sources of error associated with a telephone survey. People without telephone service or who live in non-residential settings such as military bases or nursing homes are not included. Since estimates are based on results from a sample of the population that is interviewed, sampling error may also be an issue.



The Environmental Public Health Tracker

The Environmental Public Health Tracker (Tracker) is a tool for users to query data and view select environmental health data, maps and charts. It allows users to learn more about environmental and health topics, view data for New York State, or link to national data on the Center for Disease Control's Environmental Public Health Tracking Network.

The Tracker can be accessed from the Tracking home page by clicking inside the box marked New Interactive Tool underneath the Tracking Contents Box, as shown below. Users can also go directly to the Tracker via www.health.ny.gov/ephtracker.

Finding the Environmental Public Health Tracker

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the Environmental Public Health Tracking website. The browser title is "Environmental Public Health Tracking - Windows Internet Explorer" and the address bar shows "http://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/public_health_tracking/". The website header includes "New York State" and "Department of Health Information for a Healthy New York". A navigation menu on the left lists "Tracking Contents" with sub-items: "Tracking Home", "About Environmental Health, Tracking and Exposure", "Data", "Publications", "Tracking Program", and "Glossary". Below this menu is a box titled "New Interactive Tool" with a red circle around it. The box contains the text "Environmental Public Health Tracker" and "Use this tool to view maps, graphs and tables of select environmental health data." The main content area of the website features the heading "Environmental Public Health Tracking" and "Exploring Connections Between Environment and Health". It includes a paragraph about the EPHT program and a list of data categories: "Environmental and Health Data", "Environmental", "Health", "Exposures", "Demographics and Property", and "Personal Choices". The footer contains "Revised: February 2010" and links for "Disclaimer", "Privacy Policy", and "Accessibility".



Navigating the Tracker

Once in the Environmental Public Health Tracker, users can use the View Data menu to select the types of environmental, health or exposure data that they are interested in viewing. These types of data are referred to as content areas. Select a content area by clicking on the link underneath View Data. Users can also use the Learn More links to get more information about Tracking and environmental health data.

Tracker Content Areas

Department of Health
Information for a Healthy New York

skip to main content

A-Z Index | En Español | Help | Contact | Home

You are Here: [Home Page](#) > [Environmental Public Health Tracking](#) > Environmental Public Health Tracker

Environmental Public Health Tracker

Environmental Public Health Tracker

Use this site to view maps, charts and tables of select environmental health data and learn more about environmental health topics. These health effects were selected because their occurrence has been shown to be related to environmental hazards. Environmental hazard data also will be added to provide greater insight into environmental health in New York State.

Some of these data are shared on the national [Environmental Public Health Tracking Network](#). The Network is an effort led by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to share data and analyze trends in environmental health across the nation. It is intended to provide better public access to environmental health information and support research, programs and policies that may help protect our communities.

View Data

- [Air Pollution](#)
- [Asthma Hospitalizations](#)
- [Birth Defects](#)
- [Birth Outcomes](#)
- [Cancer Incidence](#)
- [Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Hospitalizations](#)
- [Childhood Lead Poisoning](#)
- [Drinking Water](#)
- [Heart Attack Hospitalizations](#)

Learn More

- [Environmental Public Health Tracking Home](#)
- [About Environmental Health, Tracking and Exposure](#)
- [Other Data](#)
- [Publications](#)
- [Tracking Program](#)
- [Glossary](#)

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Each content area has different query options and lets the user view data by a county or by various measures or indicators. Each content area has options for displaying data including maps, tables, and charts. The data available for each content area is decided by the national and state Environmental Public Health Tracking Programs.

The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene has its own Environmental Public Health Tracking Program where the user can view New York City data at <http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/tracking/tracking.shtml>.



Tracker Functionality

When users selects a content area, they will have a choice to view data by geography (county or New York State) or by indicator. The Tracker has several functionalities and displays that vary by content area. Here are some of the most common querying functionalities and display options. For a summary of all available Tracker displays by content area see the tables on pages 15-16.

1) Select by Indicator

Most content areas allow the user to select by indicator. Indicators are a measure of environmental contaminants or exposures or health outcomes. Below are examples.

In the Air Pollution content area, users select and display indicators by pollutant.

In the Birth Outcomes content area, users select and display indicators by birth outcomes such as birth weight, preterm births, mortality, etc.

Users can select indicators by using drop down lists, or by selecting a tab from the Tracker's **View By** option.



2) Select by Year

Use the drop down lists to select year(s) to display to data. Some content areas allow the user to view data by specific years while others may only show data in pre-defined years or groupings of years.

Select by Year

3) Select by Sex and Age

Content areas may allow the user to select indicators by age or by sex. Socio-demographics like these are often linked to differences in health outcomes and exposures.

Selecting by Sex and Age

4) Map display or Select by Region

Some content areas display maps or tables by regions in New York State. These regions include New York City, New York State excluding New York City, and the entire state. Regional level data can be selected in the Map display drop down lists or by selecting by Region tabs.

Select by Region



Tracker Functionality continued

5) Select by County

Most content areas display data at the county level. Users can view data by county by selecting a county from the County drop down list or by clicking on the county from a map like the one shown below.

Selecting a County on the Map

View by: **County** Cancer

Select a county to view a table showing incidence of cancers in that county.

County:

The map displays all 62 counties of New York State. The counties shown are: St. Lawrence, Franklin, Clinton, Jefferson, Lewis, Essex, Hamilton, Warren, Herkimer, Washington, Fulton, Saratoga, Schenectady, Oswego, Oneida, Montgomery, Rensselaer, Niagara, Orleans, Monroe, Wayne, Onondaga, Madison, Otsego, Schoharie, Albany, Erie, Livingston, Ontario, Cayuga, Cortland, Chenango, Delaware, Greene, Columbia, Chautauque, Cattaraugus, Allegany, Steuben, Chemung, Tioga, Broome, Sullivan, Ulster, Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Westchester, New York, Bronx, Queens, Kings, Richmond, Nassau, and Suffolk. An inset map shows the New York City area with labels for Bronx, New York, Queens, Kings, and Richmond.

6) Refresh Maps

Users can select different indicators or change displays by using the refresh map button that updates displays when users make changes.

Refresh Option

Birth outcome:

Map shading ⓘ:



Tracker Data Displays

Data Tables

All content areas use tables to display data, although table structures vary by content area. All data that are charted and mapped are also display in a tabular format to meet New York State usability requirements for web sites.

Sample Data Tables

Birth Outcomes in Albany County

Birth Outcomes 2001-2005

Birth Outcome	County		State		State Excluding New York City		New York City	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Low Birth Weight	909	5.94	73,591	6.11	34,532	5.47	39,049	6.83
Very Low Birth Weight	177	1.16	13,900	1.15	6,535	1.03	7,365	1.29
Term Low Birth Weight	310	2.24	27,641	2.55	12,228	2.14	15,413	3.02
Preterm Births	1,437	9.4	120,532	10.02	58,677	9.29	61,855	10.82
Very Preterm Births	250	1.63	19,055	1.58	8,840	1.4	10,215	1.79

Region	Males	Females	Sex Ratio
County	7,042	6,815	1.03
State	551,951	530,294	1.04
State Excluding New York City	260,164	249,506	1.04
New York City	291,787	280,788	1.04

Birth Outcomes 2005-2009

Birth Outcome	County		State		State Excluding New York City		New York City	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Infant Mortality	133	8.37	6839	5.5	3674	5.74	3165	5.25
Neonatal Mortality	97	6.11	4632	3.72	2567	4.01	2065	3.42
Post-neonatal Mortality	36	2.27	2207	1.77	1107	1.73	1100	1.82
Perinatal Mortality	182	10.91	13,191	9.9	5,650	8.4	7,541	11.43
Total Fertility Rate	---	1703.71	---	1874.94	---	1957.60	---	1853.46

Environmental Public Health Tracker					
Water Systems Sorted by Average Nitrate Concentration, 2008					
Concentration Range (mg/L)	County	Water System	Population	Concentration (mg/L)	Water System ID
10+	Jefferson	CHAMPION WD #1 (GREAT BEND)	400	13.89	NY2230021
10+	Jefferson	FORT DRUM	34,000	13.89	NY2212214
5 to 10	Putnam	FARM-TO-MARKET ASSOCIATES	48	8.58	NY3903710
5 to 10	Seneca	FINGERLAKES MOBILE HOME PARK	39	8.27	NY4900686
5 to 10	Ontario	PHELPS VILLAGE	2,118	7.77	NY3401162
5 to 10	Ontario	MARBLETOWN-WHITE ROAD WD	45	7.77	NY3420645
5 to 10	Dutchess	CLOVE BRANCH APARTMENTS	34	7.71	NY1303217
5 to 10	Putnam	CARMEL WD 9	440	7.61	NY3903648
5 to 10	Saratoga	BATTLEFIELD TRAILER PARK	30	7.1	NY4501824
5 to 10	Chautauqua	CLYMER WATER DISTRICT	650	6.98	NY0600359
5 to 10	Genesee	RIDGEWOOD VILLAGE MHP	130	6.83	NY1818326
5 to 10	Dutchess	PLEASANT RIDGE APARTMENTS	16	6.48	NY1330652
5 to 10	Nassau	HICKSVILLE WD	47,810	6.25	NY2902829
5 to 10	Ontario	RIVERSIDE PARK	56	6.25	NY3400719
5 to 10	Steuben	WAYLAND VILLAGE	1,993	6.24	NY5001220
5 to 10	Steuben	WAYLAND WATER DISTRICT	95	6.24	NY5030113
5 to 10	Nassau	GARDEN CITY (V)	25,000	6.16	NY2902824
5 to 10	Nassau	CARLE PLACE WD	9,005	6.11	NY2902818
5 to 10	Cortland	MOUNTAIN VIEW NORTH F COURT	60	6.02	NY1100636



Tracker Data Displays continued

Graphs and Charts

Some content areas display data in charts and graphs. Charts and graphs can be viewed by selecting the View by tabs at the top of the Tracker.

Sample Graphs and Charts

You are Here: [Home Page](#) > [Environmental Public Health Tracking](#) > [Environmental Public Health Tracker](#) > [Asthma Hospitalizations](#)

Environmental Public Health Tracker

Asthma Hospitalizations

Asthma hospitalization data identify a small percentage of people with asthma, those with the condition serious enough to require a hospital stay. Hospitalization data can be used to help identify people most in need of asthma prevention and care. [See this site to view the number and rate of asthma hospitalizations.](#)

View by:

Asthma Hospitalizations by Age Group per 10,000 Population, New York State, 2000-2005

Age Group	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
0-4 years	65.9	70.7	69.4	77.5	69.1	59.2
5-14 years	23.9	22.6	22.5	27.1	25.0	22.2
15-17 years	10.4	11.1	10.7	13.0	10.4	9.6
18-24 years	8.7	8.4	8.7	9.2	7.4	6.6
25-64 years	17.6	16.9	17.2	18.8	17.0	15.9
65 and above	24.8	24.8	25.8	29.9	30.0	29.0

Asthma Hospitalizations by Age Group, New York State

Age Group	Hospitalizations						Rate					
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
0-4 years	8,171	8,627	8,401	9,367	8,368	7,132	65.9	70.7	69.4	77.5	69.1	59.2
5-14 years	6,427	6,019	5,948	7,061	6,414	5,543	23.9	22.6	22.5	27.1	25.0	22.2
15-17 years	798	855	832	1,017	824	783	10.4	11.1	10.7	13.0	10.4	9.6
18-24 years	1,532	1,534	1,601	1,712	1,402	1,267	8.7	8.4	8.7	9.2	7.4	6.6
25-64 years	17,681	17,178	17,492	19,230	17,462	16,415	17.6	16.9	17.2	18.8	17.0	15.9
65 and above	6,070	6,116	6,379	7,446	7,446	7,494	24.8	24.8	25.8	29.9	30.0	29.0

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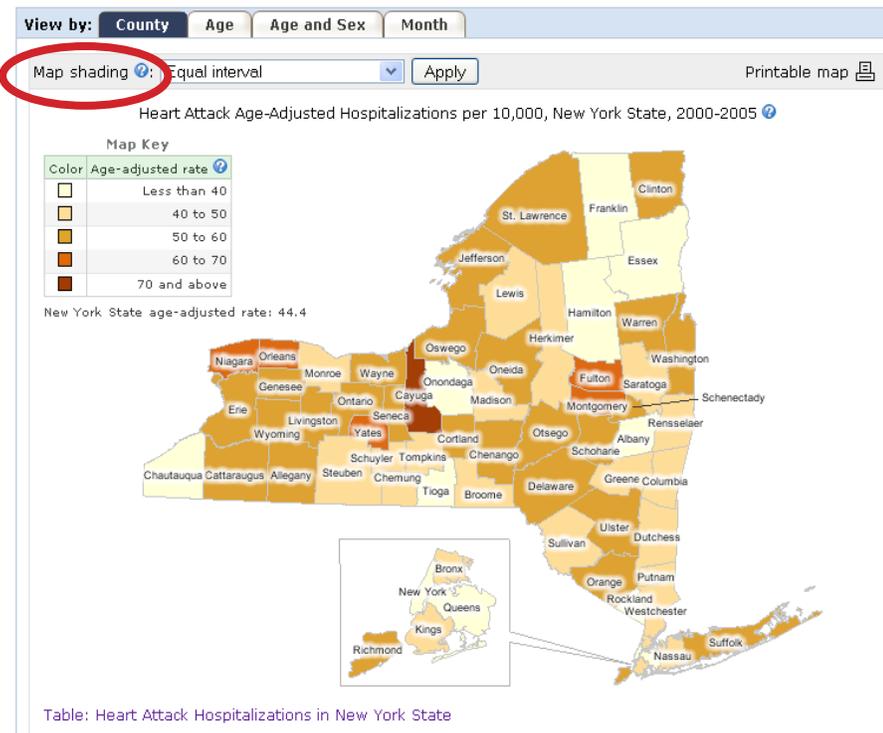


Maps

The Tracker uses different mapping templates to display data through thematic shading. The user has two choices for Map shading: Equal Interval and Percent Difference from the Mean. Users can select a Map shading from the Map shading drop down list shown below.

An Equal Interval Map is a thematic map classification scheme where the data are divided by the desired number of data classes, so that the data ranges in each class are the same (e.g. 10-20, 20-30, 30-40, etc.). The major advantage of equal interval classification is that the equal intervals are easy to interpret. The major disadvantage of this method is that the data distribution is not considered when determining class breaks for the intervals (only the lower and upper data values are used). This method has been adapted to deal with outliers by truncating the ranges at the upper and lower end of the distributions. Data are displayed using a sequential color scheme.

The Equal Interval Map





Summary: Displays by Content Area

Content Area	View by	Displays
Air Pollution	New York State by pollutant by year County trend	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statewide Average Concentration Map by pollutant and by year Tables of number of days of maximum concentration by county and pollutant Tables of person days with maximum concentration by county and pollutant Table and Chart by County and Pollutant
Asthma Hospitalizations	County Age Age and Sex Month	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equal Interval Map of hospitalizations by region and statewide Percent Difference from the Mean Map of hospitalizations by region by statewide Statewide tables, graphs and charts by age, age and sex, and month
Birth Defects	County Birth Defect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Table of combined birth defects by region and county Statewide Equal Interval Map of combined birth defects Statewide Percent Difference from the Mean Map of combined birth defects Table of birth defect by region and county
Birth Outcomes	County Birth Outcome Maternal Risk Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tables of County and regions by birth outcome Tables by birth outcomes for regions and county Statewide Equal Interval Map by birth outcome Statewide Percent Difference from the Mean Map by birth outcome Statewide Chart and table by Maternal Risk Factor
Cancer Incidence	County All Ages: By Cancer Type: and Sex Childhood Cancer: By Cancer Type: and Both Sexes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> County Tables for all cancer types Equal Interval Maps by cancer type, for all ages and sex Statewide Percent Difference from the Mean Map by Cancer type, for all ages and sex Statewide Equal Interval Maps by childhood cancer for all cancer types and both sexes Percent Difference from the Mean Map by childhood cancer for all cancer types and both sexes



Displays by Content Area continued

Content Area	View by	Displays
Carbon Monoxide Poisoning	Month and year Region Place of Exposure Cause: By Region Mortality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Graph and table by month and year · Chart and table by region · Chart and table by place of exposure · Chart and table by cause and region · Chart and table of mortality by year
Childhood Lead Poisoning	Elevated Blood Lead: select by county or by year of test Lead Testing: select by county or by year of birth: select by age at test Older housing Childhood poverty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Statewide Equal Interval maps for elevated blood lead and lead testing by age at test · Statewide Percent Difference from the Mean maps for elevated blood lead and lead testing by age at test · Statewide Equal Interval maps for older housing · Statewide Equal Interval maps for childhood poverty · Statewide Graph and table for elevated blood lead by year of test · Statewide Graph and table for lead testing by year of birth
Drinking Water	Statewide water system maps: select by contaminant, by measure and year Statewide summary charts: select by contaminant, by measure and year County water system results: select by county	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Statewide water system maps by contaminant, by measure and by year · Statewide summary charts by contaminant, by measure and by year · County water system tables by contaminant, by measure and by year · Water system tables sorted by average concentration · Statewide Table of Quarterly Contaminant Concentrations
Heart Attack Hospitalizations	County Age Age and Sex Month	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Statewide Equal Interval Map of hospitalizations · Statewide Percent Difference from the Mean Map of hospitalizations · Statewide Table and graph of hospitalizations by age · Statewide Table and chart of hospitalizations by age and sex · Statewide Table and graph of hospitalizations by month · Table of hospitalizations by region and county



About Content Area Box

Each content area has an About (Content Area) box that links to messages about each content area and the data used to produce Tracker displays. The "About (Content Area) " is located on the upper right hand side of the screen as shown below.

About Content Area Pages

The first About link page provides the user with some basic health messaging about the sources of exposure, health effects, individuals who are at risk for the particular exposure or health effect and some basic strategies for prevention. Each About page contains navigation links so the user can skip to any section by clicking the blue topic links underneath the title.

Example About Content Area Page

About Childhood Lead Poisoning

- Sources of exposure
- Who is at risk?
- Health effects
- Prevention
- Other resources

Lead is a naturally occurring metal in the environment, as well as in some products. Lead can be in soil, water, dust, paint, folk remedies, and cosmetics. Lead can harm children and adults when it gets into their bodies. This is called lead poisoning. Lead poisoning is a serious but preventable health problem. The most common cause of lead poisoning is dust and chips from old paint that contains lead.

Sources of exposure

Before 1978, lead was added to paint. In 1978, lead-based paint was banned for use in homes in the United States. However, many older homes and buildings may contain either lead-based paint, or a lead sealant in plumbing. The most common ways children are exposed to lead is by breathing in or eating dust or paint chips in the home. This can cause serious health problems. Things like deteriorating paint surfaces or making home repairs in older homes can create dust and paint chips that contain lead.

Lead can also pollute drinking water. This happens when older pipes with lead sealant in the home or in the water distribution system wear down. Even though Congress restricted the use of lead sealants in pipes and water appliances in 1986, older buildings may still have lead sealed pipes. Other products like lead glazed ceramics, metal jewelry, and imported food and medicinal products also have been known to contain lead and can be a source of exposure. Family members, who may be exposed to lead on certain jobs, can bring lead dust home on their clothing, shoes, and bodies. [View a list of common items containing lead.](#)

Who is at risk?

Lead is especially harmful to young children. The bodies of young children absorb more lead than adults, and their brains are still developing, making them more prone to the lead poisoning. Normal behaviors common to children under the age of three such as crawling, exploring and putting objects in their mouths put children at higher risk of swallowing or inhaling lead from their environment.

A blood lead test is the only way to know how much lead is in a person's body. A child with lead poisoning does not look or feel sick. New York State requires health care providers to test all children for lead at age one year and again at two years.

Navigation Links:

- About Childhood Lead Poisoning
- About Data
- Export Data
- Other Childhood Lead Poisoning Data
- Contact

Other Navigation Links:

- About Tracking
- Environmental Public Health Tracking
- Environmental Health, Tracking and Exposure
- Metadata Search
- Other Data
- Publications
- Tracking Program
- Glossary

**ABOUT
CONTENT
AREA BOX**



About Content Area Box continued

About Data

The second link in the About Box provides information about the data used to make the content area displays. Each page has navigation links under the page heading so users can skip to any section. The Overview table contains summary information about the data. The Interpreting data section provides some basic information to help users understand the data and outlines limitations and well as uses for the data. The Technical Notes provide the user with the methodologies used to calculate each of the indicators including formulas.

Example: About Data Page

About Childhood Lead Poisoning Data

- Overview
- Interpreting Data
- View Elevated Blood Lead Levels
- View Lead Testing
- View Older Housing
- Technical Notes

Overview

This site provides data about the number and percent of children under the age of 6 years who have elevated blood lead levels. It also provides data about the number and percent of children around the ages of one and two years who have been tested for lead. The data are for New York State excluding New York City and are given by county. This site also provides data about the number and percent of houses built before 1950, and number and percent of children living in poverty, under age 5 in New York State including New York City. The table below shows key information about the childhood lead poisoning data.

Data Sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NYSDOH Bureau of Maternal and Child Health Lead Poisoning Prevention Program The NYSDOH Bureau of Biometrics and Health Statistics The United States Census Bureau, US Census 2000
Time Frames	Lead testing (2001-2004), elevated blood lead levels (2004-2007), and older housing (2000)
Geographic Coverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Testing and blood lead level data cover New York State excluding New York City Housing data and childhood poverty data covers New York State including New York City
Last Update	2010
Data Methodology	See Technical Notes
Metadata	Childhood lead poisoning metadata (XML)

About Childhood Lead

- [About Childhood Lead Poisoning](#)
- [About Data](#)
- [Export Data](#)
- [Other Childhood Lead Poisoning Data](#)
- [Contact](#)

About Tracking

- [Environmental Public Health Tracking](#)
- [Environmental Health, Tracking and Exposure](#)
- [Metadata Search](#)
- [Other Data](#)
- [Publications](#)
- [Tracking Program](#)
- [Glossary](#)

Interpreting Data

- Pursuant to New York State Public Health Law and regulations, health care providers are required to test or refer a child for a blood lead test at one year of age and again at two years of age. The results of all blood lead tests performed in a health care provider's office or a laboratory are reported to the Commissioner of Health and to the local health officer in whose jurisdiction the child resides. New York State Lead testing data are collected by the New York State Department of Health Lead Poisoning Prevention Program.
- The Environmental Public Health Tracker uses lead data taken from the 2004-2005 and the 2006-2007 annual "Eliminating Childhood Lead Poisoning in New York State" surveillance reports published by the New York State Department of Health Bureau of Maternal and Child Health Lead Poisoning Prevention Program.
- The Environmental Public Health Tracker uses data on the number of births from the NYSDOH Bureau of Biometrics and Health Statistics, Vital Statistics Program.
- The lead testing data are the number and percentage of children tested around one year of age and around two years of age. Children tested around one year of age include those who were tested between 9 and 18 months of age. Children tested around two years of age include those who were tested between 18 and 36 months of age.
- County-specific lead testing data help state and local health departments determine strategies for improving lead testing practices across the state. Since the passing of the public health law requiring testing of all children at or around the one and two years of age, testing has continued to improve, but testing varies across the counties of New York State.
- Elevated blood lead data are the number and percentage of children under the age 6 years with blood lead levels at or above 10 mcg/dl the level that New York State currently considers elevated. A result greater than 10 mcg/dl from a

Technical Notes

- Information about lead testing or elevated blood lead data for the counties in New York City (Bronx, Kings, New York, Queens, and Richmond) can be obtained through the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Lead Poisoning Prevention Program's Education Unit. NYC also has its own Environmental Public Health Tracking portal and publishes childhood lead poisoning surveillance reports.
- Families may move from one county to another, resulting in the possibility that more than one county can report screening results for the same child. Travel across counties to get medical treatment may also distort the number of children reported if the office or lab is reported instead of the child's home address. This may result in some duplication in the number of children screened and, thus, increase the screening rates at the state and county level.
- In counties with low testing rates or small populations, a very small number of children with elevated blood lead tests may result in an artificial increase in rates of elevated blood lead. In counties where there are more children and more children are tested, the rates are affected less by small or large numbers.

On calculating lead testing percentages

- Percentage of children tested around age one year: the number of children born in 2001-2004 in NYS excluding NYC who had blood lead testing between 9 and 18 months of age divided by the number of children born in 2001-2004 in NYS excluding NYC.
- Percentage of children tested around age two years: the number of children born in 2001-2004 in NYS excluding NYC who had blood lead testing between 18 and 36 months of age divided by the number of children born in 2001-2004 in



Export Data

Each content area allows the user to export and download Tracker data.

About Childhood Lead
About Childhood Lead Poisoning
About Data
Export Data
Other Childhood Lead Poisoning Data
Contact

Click the link in the About Content Area box labeled Export Data.

Example: Export Data Page

Environmental Public Health Tracker

Export Childhood Lead Poisoning Data

Childhood lead poisoning data are available for download in comma-separated values (CSV) format. Text files explaining the data fields and values are also available.

Download

- [Childhood lead poisoning data \(CSV, 53KB\)](#)
- [Childhood lead poisoning data notes \(TXT, 6KB\)](#)

Data include

- The number and percentage of children with elevated blood lead levels who were tested 2004-2007 in New York State excluding New York City by county and by year.
- The number and percentage of children born 2001-2004 who were blood lead tested by around age 1 and around age 2 in New York State excluding New York City by county and by year.
- The number and percentage of housing units built before 1950 in New York State by county as designated by 2000 US Census.
- The number and percentage of children under age 5 living in poverty in 2000 in New York State by County as designated by 2000 US Census

Once on the Export Data page, click under the Download subhead to download data in a Comma Separated Value (CSV) format that is compatible with most data spreadsheet applications. The user should also download the data notes text file, which is compatible with any text reader, located underneath the CSV file link. The data notes give the user information on how to interpret the data including variable names and data sources.



About Content Area Box continued

Other Data

The About Box provides users with links to other sources of data related to each content area. This is useful for users who want to obtain additional data related to each content area. Below is an example of an Other Data destination page.

Example: Other Content Area Data Page

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publications Tracking Program Glossary New Interactive Tool <p>Environmental Public Health Tracker Use this tool to view maps, graphs and tables of select environmental health data.</p>	<p>Environmental Public Health Tracker</p> <p>Track Cancer Incidence View maps and tables showing the number and rate of people diagnosed with selected cancers in New York State.</p> <p>Environmental Facilities and Cancer Mapping The Environmental Facilities and Cancer Map shows the number of people diagnosed with cancer (cancer counts) for the years 2003-2007 in small geographic areas of New York State. Locations of certain environmental facilities can also be viewed.</p> <p>Cancer Registry The New York State Cancer Registry provides data on a variety of types of cancer. A few are described below.</p> <p>Cancer Incidence and Mortality By gender and site of cancer Data source: NY State Cancer Registry Timeframe: 5-year averages, updated annually Geographic coverage: NY State, NY City, NY State excluding NY City, county (tables)</p> <p>Incidence Trends by Five-year Time Period By gender and site of cancer Data source: NY State Cancer Registry Timeframes: Averages for several 5-year periods, updated annually Geographic coverage: NY State, NY City, NY State excluding NY City, county (tables)</p> <p>Cancer Surveillance Improvement Initiative Provides links to ZIP code data for four sites of cancer and maps of age adjusted cancer incidence rates by county and gender for more common types of cancer. It also provides More information about cancer and a Glossary.</p> <p>Observed and Expected Cancer Incidence by ZIP Code for Selected Sites of Cancer Lung, breast, colorectal, and prostate cancers. Also provides Zip Code Frequently Asked Questions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Birth, Death, Marriage Records Health Insurance Program Employment Opportunities Forms Community, Family & Health Health Care Profession Safety Hospitals, Nursing Home Health Care Facilities Diseases & Conditions Health & Safety in the Workplace & Outdoors Healthy Lifestyles & Programs Laws & Regulations Statistics & Data Meetings & Training Grants/Funding Opportunities Permits, Licenses & Certifications Health Information Technology (Health IT) Press Releases & Reports Freedom of Information Act Webcasts Related Sites
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Contact

The Contact link in the About Box provides contact information for the New York State Environmental Public Health Tracking Program and for programs who provide Tracking data. Contact links are also provided on the footer of most Tracker pages. Click on the e-mail link to e-mail Tracking staff with questions or comments.

Example: Contact Page

You are Here: [Home Page](#) > [Environmental Public Health Tracking](#) > [Childhood Lead Poisoning Contact Information](#)

Drinking Water Contaminants Contact Information

Questions About Data on the Environmental Public Health Tracking Web Site

- [New York State Environmental Public Health Tracking Project](#)
New York State Department of Health
Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Epidemiology
547 River Street, Room 200
Troy, NY 12180-2216
E-mail: eplt@health.state.ny.us

Questions About New York Drinking Water

- [New York State Bureau of Water Supply Protection](#)
(518) 402-7560 or toll free (800) 458-1158
E-mail bwsp@health.state.ny.us
- Contact information for all New York State water systems and the USEPA

Revised: December 2010 [Disclaimer](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Accessibility](#) | [Funding Acknowledgement](#) | [Questions or comments](#)



About Tracking Box

The About Tracking Box provides links to additional Environmental Public Health Tracking information, including data, related publications, a glossary of relevant environmental and health terms and a link to the metadata search.

About Tracking Box

The screenshot shows the 'Environmental Public Health Tracker' website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'NEW YORK STATE' and 'Department of Health' logos. Below this, a breadcrumb trail reads: 'You are Here: Home Page > Environmental Public Health Tracking > Air Pollution'. The main content area is titled 'Air Pollution' and includes a 'View:' section with 'New York State by Year' and 'County Trend' tabs. A dropdown menu shows 'Pollutant: Ozone' and 'Year: 2006'. Below this is a map of New York State counties, color-coded by the number of days with maximum eight-hour average concentration above the national ambient air quality standard. A 'Map Key' table is provided:

Color	Number of Days
White	Data Not Available
Lightest Blue	0 to 3
Light Blue	4 to 6
Medium Blue	7 to 9
Dark Blue	10 to 12
Darkest Blue	13 and above

On the right side of the page, there are several navigation menus. The 'About Tracking' menu is circled in red and contains the following links: 'Environmental Public Health Tracking', 'Environmental Health, Tracking and Exposure', 'Metadata Search', 'Other Data', 'Publications', 'Tracking Program', and 'Glossary'.

Environmental Public Health Tracking link

This link takes the user to the Tracking Program’s home page, shown on p. 4.

Environmental Health, Tracking and Exposure link

This link provides information about different types of data used in Tracking.



About Tracking Box continued

The Metadata Search Tool

Metadata is descriptive information about the data including who created the data, when it was created, how it was created, etc. The metadata search tool may be helpful when the user is looking for data pertaining to particular areas or topics.

Metadata Search



To use the Metadata Search tool, click on the Metadata Search link in the About Tracking Box on the right hand side of the page.

To search metadata, enter the search term in the Search box. Any metadata that matches the user's search criteria will be returned.

Search Metadata



Metadata Results





View Metadata

Users click the search result links to view the Metadata file. Metadata is created in the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) standard and can be navigated using the tabs at the top of each metadata style sheet (see below). Each tab is linked to the corresponding section of the metadata. By selecting the Show Definitions link, a short definition of each section of the metadata will appear in red font. For more on metadata and FGDC standards visit: <http://www.fgdc.gov/>.

Metadata Navigation

TABS

New York Asthma Hospitalization

FGDC Metadata
Show Definitions

Description | Spatial | Data Structure | Data Quality | Data Source | Data Distribution | Metadata

+ Resource Description

Sample Metadata

New York Asthma Hospitalization

FGDC Metadata
Show Definitions

Description | Spatial | Data Structure | Data Quality | Data Source | Data Distribution | Metadata

+ Resource Description

Citation

Title: New York Asthma Hospitalization
Originators: SPARCS Administrative Unit
Publication date: 20091120

Description

Point Of Contact

Data Type

Time Period of Data

Status

Key Words

Data Access Constraints

Data Security Information

- Spatial Reference Information

Spatial Domain

Bounding Coordinates

In Unprojected coordinates (geographic)

Boundary	Coordinate
West	-79.762116000000006 (longitude)
East	-71.856147000000007 (longitude)
North	45.015855000000002 (latitude)
South	40.495865999999999 (latitude)

- Data Structure and Attribute Information

Overview

Viewing Definitions

New York Asthma Hospitalization

FGDC Metadata
Show Definitions

Description | Spatial | Data Structure | Data Quality | Data Source | Data Distribution | Metadata

+ Resource Description

Definition

Citation

Information used to cite the data.

Title: New York Asthma Hospitalization
Originators: SPARCS Administrative Unit
Publication date: 20091120

Description

Point Of Contact

Data Type

Time Period of Data

Status

Key Words

Data Access Constraints

Data Security Information

- Spatial Reference Information

Spatial Domain

The geographic areal domain of the data that describes the western, eastern, northern, and southern geographic limits of data coverage.

Bounding Coordinates



About Tracking Box continued

Other Data

About Tracking
Environmental Public Health Tracking
Environmental Health, Tracking and Exposure
Metadata Search
Other Data
Publications
Tracking Program
Glossary

The Other Data link provides descriptions of the different types of data and links to other sources of environmental health data. It also links to the New York City Environmental Public Health Tracking Program, the National Environmental Public Health Tracking Program and other state programs.

Environmental Public Health Tracking Data landing page

You are Here: [Home Page](#) > [Environmental Public Health Tracking](#) > Environmental Public Health Tracking Data

Environmental Public Health Tracking Data

National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network

- [New York State - Environmental Public Health Tracker](#)
- [New York City](#)
- [National Tracking Portal](#)
- [Other State and Local Portals](#)

Browse by Category

Includes New York State and national data.

Environmental
Air, water, hazardous waste, radon, pesticides

Health
Cancer, birth outcomes, asthma, and more

Exposures
Measured concentrations of chemicals in people's bodies (e.g. blood lead levels)

Demographics and Property
Data that describe people – such as age, race and sex – and real property

Personal Choices
People's behavior or lifestyle choices

About

- [About Environmental Public Health Tracking Data](#)

Publications

The Publications link lists relevant publications written by the New York State Environmental Public Health Tracking Program staff.



The Tracking Program

The Tracking Program link brings users to a detailed description of New York State's Environmental Public Health Tracking Program and some of its current activities and projects.

You are Here! [Home Page](#) > [Environmental Public Health Tracking](#) > Environmental Public Health Tracking Program

Environmental Public Health Tracking Program

Table of Contents

- [Introduction](#)
- [One-Stop-Shopping for Environmental and Health Outcome Data](#)
 - [The Environmental Public Health Tracker](#)
 - [Information System for State Health Researchers](#)
 - [Information System for Local Health Departments](#)
- [Research on the Connections Between Health and the Environment](#)
 - [Asthma and Air Quality](#)
 - [Asthma and the School Environment](#)
 - [Air Quality and Birth Outcomes](#)
 - [Drinking Water and Birth Outcomes](#)
 - [Evaluation of Air Quality Characterizations – Public Health Air Surveillance Evaluation \(PHASE\)](#)
- [Our Tracking Partners](#)
- [Where Can I Get More Information?](#)

Introduction

New York's Environmental Public Health Tracking Program (EPHT) focuses on building better environmental and health information systems. By collecting and examining environmental and health information on an ongoing basis, tracking (or surveillance) help understand how hazards in the environment, exposures to these hazards, and diseases change over time or across regions. Tracking might also help answer questions about the complex relationship between the environment and health.

The New York State Department of Health, 17 other states and New York City are part of the national [Environmental Public Health Tracking Network](#), an effort led by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This network was developed to provide national consistent environmental and health data. These data can be used to support research, programs and policies that help protect communities.

One-Stop-Shopping for Data

The Environmental Public Health Tracker

New York State launched its [Environmental Public Health Tracker](#) where anyone with Web access can view select environmental health data, maps and charts. Here users can also learn more about environmental and health topics, view data for New York or link to national data on the Center for Disease Control's [Environmental Public Health Tracking Network](#).

Information System for State Health Researchers

The New York State Health Department's Center for Environmental Health built a secure, information system to warehouse environmental and health data. This system helps our staff share data, identify unusual patterns and trends and respond to environmental health issues and concerns.

Glossary

The glossary provides definitions for common Tracking terminology and concepts.



The icon

Users can click on the  throughout the application to get more information about data displays.

Example of the Icon

Map shading : Equal interval 

Children with Elevated Blood Lead Levels Among Children Tested before Age 6 in 2004-2007 in New York State
Excluding New York City 

More Tracking Information

The New York State Environmental Public Health Tracking Program

New York State Department of Health
Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Epidemiology
547 River Street, Room 200
Troy, NY 12180-2216
www.health.ny.gov/environmental/public_health_tracking/
E-mail: epht@health.state.ny.us

The New York City Environmental Public Health Tracking Program

Bureau of Environmental Surveillance and Policy
New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
22 Cortlandt Street, 12th floor
New York, NY 10007
www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/tracking/tracking.shtml
trackingportal@health.nyc.gov

The CDC National Environmental Public Health Tracking Program

770-488-3670 (Local)
1-800-CDC-INFO (Toll-free CDC hotline)
770-488-1538 (Fax)
ephttracking.cdc.gov/showHome.action
E-mail: epht@cdc.gov

