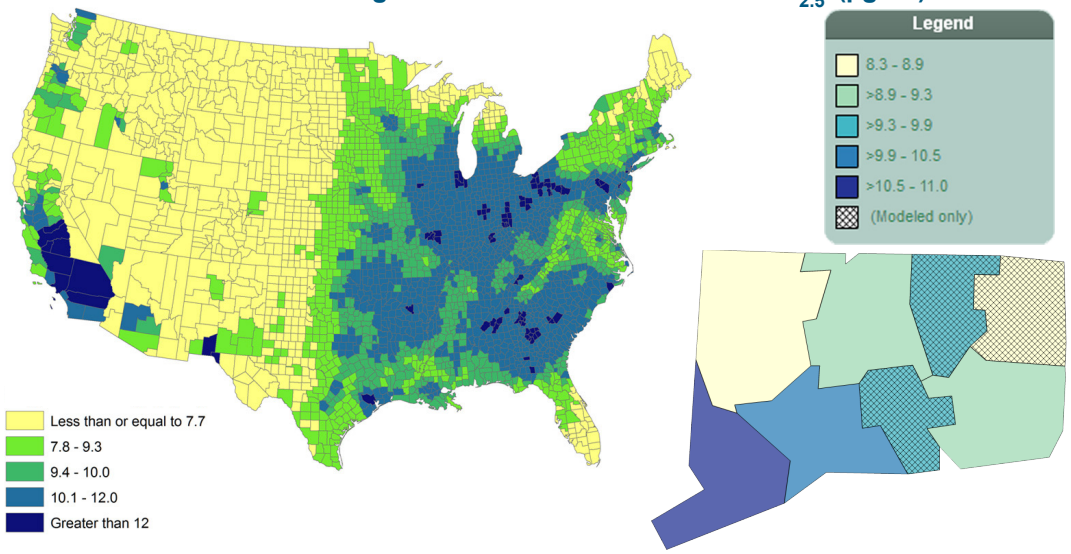
CDC's National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network

The Environmental Public Health Tracking Network is a dynamic system that provides information and data about environmental hazards and potentially related health problems. It presents what is known about environmental hazards, such as air pollution, and where they might exist, where people are exposed to hazards, and how targeted action can protect health, reduce illness, and save lives.

AIR POLLUTION ($PM_{2.5}$) AND HEALTH

Air pollution is a leading environmental threat to human health. Particles in the air such as dust, dirt, soot, and smoke are kinds of air pollution that have been linked with health problems. Some particles in the air are large or dark enough to be seen, like some kinds of smoke and soot. Other particles are so small that you cannot see them. Very small particles that are less than 2.5 micrometers wide (smaller than a grain of sand) are known as fine particulate matter or $PM_{2.5}$.

2011 Annual Average Ambient Concentrations of $PM_{2.5}$ ($\mu g/m^3$)

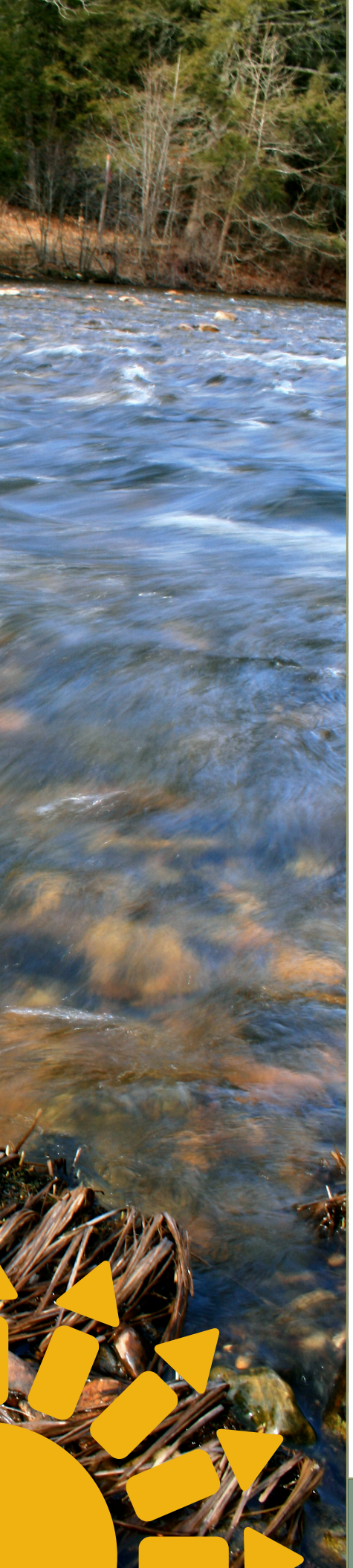


$PM_{2.5}$ particles are small enough to be inhaled deeply into the lungs. Once fine particles are in the lungs, they can affect the heart, blood vessels, and lungs. People exposed to fine particles over a long period of time can have more heart and lung problems than people who are not breathing this kind of air pollution. Being exposed to any kind of particulate matter may lead to increased emergency department visits and hospital stays for breathing and heart problems and other health problems. In Connecticut:

68 /10,000 *Age-adjusted Rate of Emergency Department Visits for Asthma - 2013*

27 /10,000 *Age-adjusted Rate of Hospitalizations for Heart Attacks (Over 35) - 2011*

cdc.gov/ephtracking



CDC's National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network

Carbon Monoxide (CO) Poisoning and Power Outages

In an average year, the Connecticut Department of Public Health (CT DPH) observes 100 cases of CO poisonings. CO poisonings can happen when people use generators and other appliances improperly, especially during power outages. In October 2011, Winter Storm Alfred hit the state. Without power to stay warm, many residents used other sources of heat that exposed them to CO. This resulted in an increase of CO poisonings. Between 2011 and 2013, the state experienced a number of severe storms and after each one, observed an increase in the number of CO poisonings as compared to similar time periods in previous years. This increase related to the number of people without power, the duration of the power outages, the location of the outages and the temperature at the time.

Environmental Hazards

60% of homes in the state were without power at some point after Storm Alfred

Health Effects

133 CO poisonings were reported after Storm Alfred in October 2011

Tracking Infectious Disease to Occupational Illnesses

The Connecticut Environmental Public Health Tracking Network has reportable disease data, which can be accessed in near real-time. The diseases most frequently reported are influenza (flu) and Lyme disease. The ability to access this data in near real time allows local health departments, medical professionals, and other decision makers to have a single point of access for multiple types of public health data.

Health Effects

2,918 cases of Lyme disease reported in 2013

9,331 cases of influenza reported in 2013

Tracking Occupational Illnesses

Occupational illnesses are reported to the Connecticut Environmental Public Health Tracking Program by physicians. The data are analyzed to identify clusters of occupational illnesses in specific work sites and industries throughout the state. The cases of occupational illness reported to CT DPH represent just a small portion of occupational illness in the state.

Health Effects

Approximately **2,500** cases of occupational illnesses are reported to CT DPH yearly