

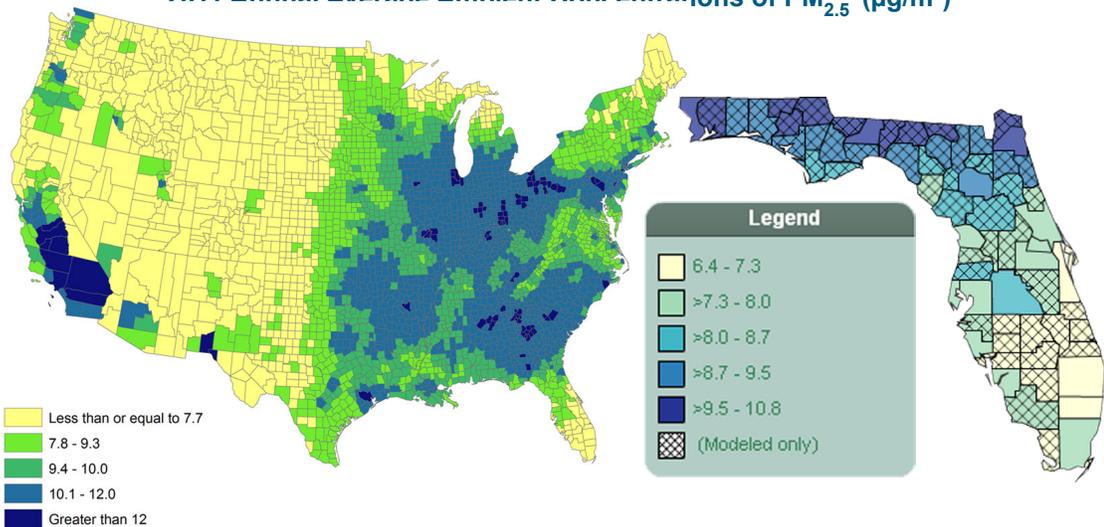
## CDC's National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network

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<sub>2.5</sub>) 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<sub>2.5</sub>.

2011 Annual Average Ambient Concentrations of PM<sub>2.5</sub> (µg/m<sup>3</sup>)



PM<sub>2.5</sub> 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 Florida:

**71** Age-adjusted Rate of Emergency Department Visits for Asthma - 2012  
/10,000



**30** Age-adjusted Rate of Hospitalizations for Heart Attacks (Over 35) - 2012  
/10,000



# CDC's National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network

## Hospitalizations and Proximity to Congested Roadways

The Florida Environmental Public Health Tracking Program (Florida Tracking Program) is tracking the link between proximity of homes, schools, and daycares to busy roadways and asthma hospitalization and emergency department visit rates. A busy roadway is defined as one that has more than 25,000 cars per day. The state is doing this to increase awareness of areas that may be at an increased risk of exposure to poor air quality, and to encourage people to spend time indoors instead of outside during times when air quality is poor, such as rush hour.

The Florida Tracking Program has partnered with the Florida Asthma Control Program to encourage schools and daycares to become more informed of indoor and outdoor air quality through the Asthma-Friendly Schools and Daycares Recognition Program.

### Environmental Hazards



9% of Floridians live within 500 feet of a busy roadway\*



20% of schools and daycares in Florida are located within 500 feet of a busy roadway



Age-adjusted rate of asthma hospital stays is **14.63 per 10,000**



The state rate of asthma hospitalizations among youth less than 18 years of age is **19 per 10,000**

## Tracking Access to Healthy Food Sources, Park, & Green Spaces

Tracking access to healthy food sources and places that provide opportunities for outdoor activity such as parks, green spaces, and off-street trails is important due to the potential relationship between access to these resources and preventing obesity. The Florida Tracking Program uses Geographic Information Systems to calculate the percentage of Florida's population that has access to healthy food sources that sell fresh produce, such as grocery stores, supermarkets, produce stands, and farmer's markets. In addition, Florida understands the importance of making sure that residents have access to parks and green spaces that encourage outdoor activities such as walking and biking and tracks these locations too. These measures are available for every county and most zip codes in Florida.

### Environmental Hazards



45% of Floridians live within a ½ mile (10 minute walk) of a park or green space



32% of Floridians live within a ½ mile (10 minute walk) of a healthy food source



26% of adults are obese



12% of middle and high school students are obese (2014)

\*All data are from 2013