

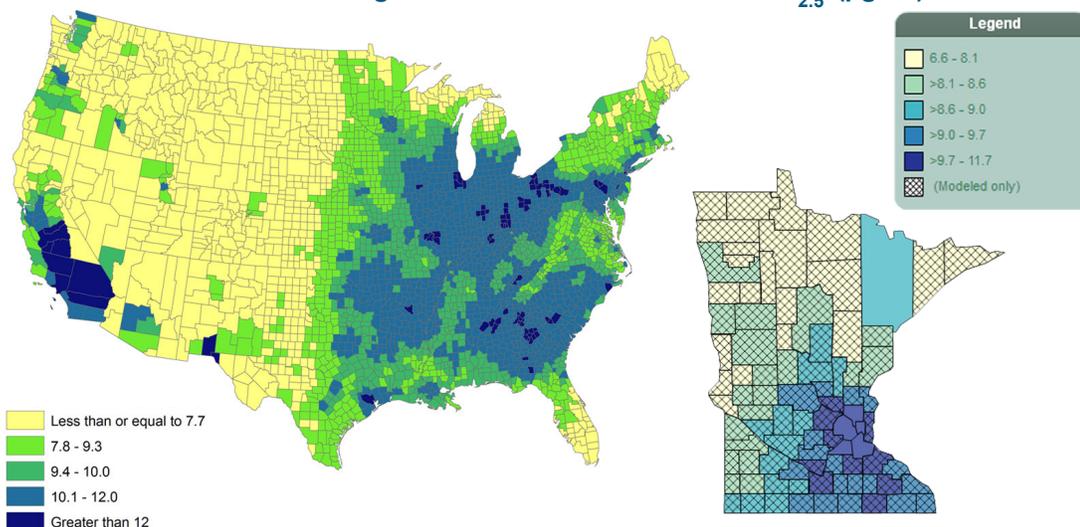
CDC's National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network

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} (µg/m³)



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 Minnesota:

40 Age-adjusted Rate of Emergency Department Visits for Asthma - 2011
/10,000



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



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Tracking Extreme Heat in Minnesota

Heat significantly impacts public health in Minnesota. Each year, hundreds of emergency department (ED) visits and hospital stays occur due to heat-related illnesses, from heat rashes to deadly heat stroke. The Minnesota Environmental Public Health Tracking Program collects data on heat-related illnesses and deaths. These data help inform state and local strategies to prevent heat-related illnesses and deaths, particularly in vulnerable populations, such as the elderly. Data are also used to evaluate the effectiveness of local actions to protect people from heat over time.

Environmental Hazards



6 out of the 15 warmest years in Minnesota history occurred since 2000



Minnesota was the **3rd** fastest warming state in the U.S. between 1970 and 2011

Health Effects



44 Minnesotans died from heat-related illnesses between 2000 and 2012



In the summer of 2011, **1,255** Minnesotans went to the ED for heat-related illness

Addressing Air Pollution to Improve COPD in Minnesota

Minnesota was one of the first states to develop state-specific data on hospital stays related to chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and to measure COPD prevalence statewide, using the Minnesota Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System. Air pollution can make COPD worse. In 2014, the MN Tracking Program published new data on COPD hospital stays by ZIP code for the Twin Cities area. The data are being used to target local efforts addressing air pollution in the Twin Cities.

Health Effects



An estimated **164,000** Minnesotans are living with COPD



4.9% of greater Minnesota residents are living with COPD vs. **3.8%** in the Twin Cities Metro area