



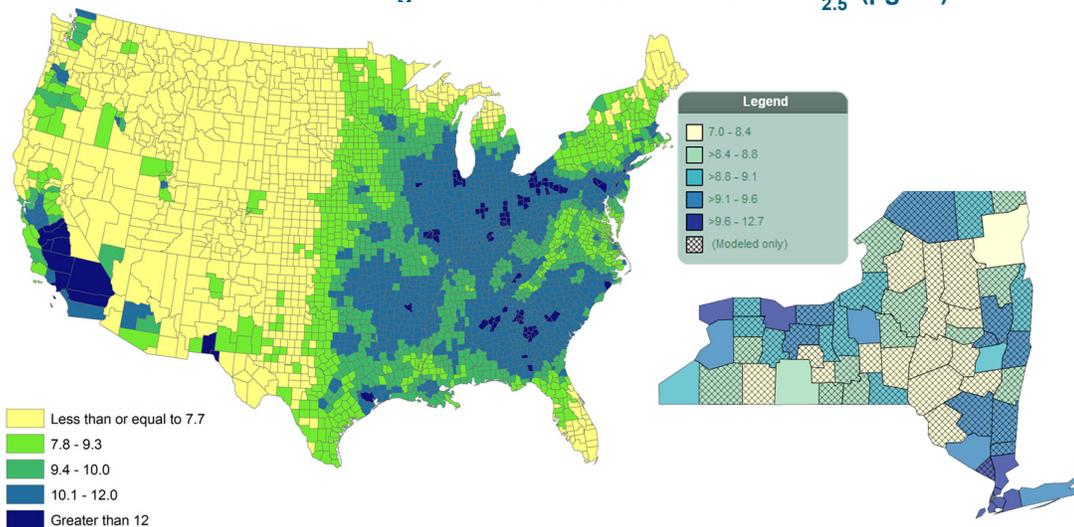
## CDC's National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network

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 New York:

**77**  
/10,000

Age-adjusted Rate of Emergency Department Visits for Asthma - 2011



**29**  
/10,000

Age-adjusted Rate of Hospitalizations for Heart Attacks (over 35) - 2011





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## Heat and Health

Heat waves are periods of high temperatures and humidity over extended periods of time. Heat-stress illnesses occur when the body is unable to cool itself. Heat stress can result in sun stroke, heat exhaustion, cramps, and rashes. People are at highest risk of heat-stress illness during the hottest months of the summer which, in New York State, correspond to the months May through September.

The New York Environmental Public Health Tracking Program is tracking the link between extreme summer heat and heat-stress illnesses. The program uses these data to identify communities and individuals at risk to provide information about how to prevent heat-stress illnesses such as heat exhaustion and heat stroke. Older adults, children, and people with certain chronic diseases are at risk for suffering from heat stress illnesses.

### Environmental Hazards



Temperatures in New York are on average about 7 degrees F higher in July than in the other warm weather months (2005-2012)

### Health Effects



New York State had a total of 17,377 heat stress emergency department visits in the years 2005-2012



Heat stress illness-related emergency department visits are about 3 times higher on average in July than in the other warm weather months (2005-2012)

## Investigating Community Health Concerns

The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) conducts environmental health investigations for a variety of reasons. Some investigations focus on chemicals that might be hazardous if people come into contact with them and the health problems related to exposures to hazardous chemicals.

The Community and Environmental Reports Library is an online map that shows locations where NYSDOH conducted environmental health and cancer surveillance investigations in New York. Users can search for reports based on an investigation location or by searching near their own home address. The map is a one-stop-shopping library of reports that enables users to be more aware of investigations done in their communities. The reports summarize environmental health investigations conducted at a number of sites with environmental concerns including landfills, industrial complexes, water supplies, and many others.

### Health Effects



There are 157 reports that assess multiple health measures including asthma, cancers and birth outcomes.