CDC's National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network

Keeping Track, Promoting Health

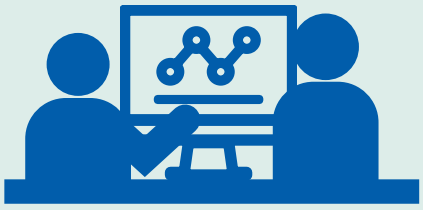
Tracking Environmental Health Data

The environment where we live, work, and play can affect our health. The CDC's National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network was created in order to better understand the connection between health and the environment. **The Tracking Network is a dynamic, web-based data system** that CDC, its partners, and community members use to track environmental health factors over time and improve the health of communities.

Data You Can Use

The Tracking Network displays environmental health data so it's easy to understand and use. With the Tracking Network, you can create customized maps, tables, and charts of local, state, and national data. The Tracking Network includes data about:

- **Health conditions and diseases**, like asthma and heart disease
- **Contaminants in the environment**, like pollution in the air
- **Climate**, like extreme heat events
- **Community design**, like access to parks
- **Behaviors**, like smoking
- **Population characteristics**, like age and income



Tracking Network data are useful for many different people:

Public health professionals can access data to monitor trends and help design programs or needs assessments

Individuals, parents, and families can use the data to discover what environmental health issues are important in their communities

Decision makers can use the data to inform health policy

Health care professionals can advise patients based on environmental and health data specific to their community

Students and researchers can use the data in studies and projects

National Center for Environmental Health
Division of Environmental Hazards and Health Effects

How We Collect Data

CDC funds 26 state and local health departments to:

- Collect environmental health data in their communities
- Develop local tracking networks for their health departments
- Share data with CDC

CDC also gets data from national sources, like other federal agencies and national organizations.

The Tracking Network is more than just data – **it's also a network of people and resources**

Beyond Data

The Tracking Network is more than just data – it's also a network of people and resources that transform data into public health action. Tracking programs provide essential environmental health infrastructure and expertise to keep communities safe and help improve where we live, work, and play.

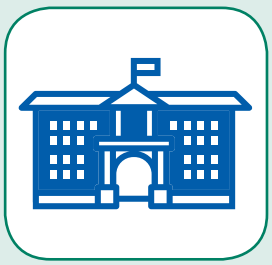
Tracking in Action

Tracking COPD in Minnesota

Minnesota was one of the first states in the country to track chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). Tracking Program staff analyzed data to determine the number of COPD cases, rates of hospital stays, and death rates by race and ethnicity. Now, Minnesota uses Tracking Network COPD data to **inform communities about air pollution** and respiratory health.

California Tracking Program Informs Policy on Pesticide Use Near Schools

California studied the use of pesticides near schools using Tracking Network data. Over a third of the schools included in the study were within a quarter mile of agricultural pesticides — and Hispanic children were much more likely to attend those schools. These studies help to **limit pesticide use** near schools to protect students and staff.



Tracking Data in Hurricane Sandy Disaster Surveillance and Response

During Hurricane Sandy, Tracking Network staff from New Jersey, New York State, and New York City assisted with surveillance and response efforts. They developed web-based mapping applications to help track and manage health care facility needs; tracked health issues after the storm; and developed fact sheets and alerts to **educate the public**.

Learn more about the Tracking Network at cdc.gov/ephtracking