

Kentucky Environmental Public Health Tracking (EPHT)

Coordinator:

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State Website: [Environmental Public Health Tracking \(ky.gov\)](https://epht.ky.gov)

National Website: <http://ephtracking.cdc.gov>

Why is it used?

- Community level data for health assessments and health improvement planning.
- Compare environmental conditions, incidence and trends of chronic health conditions and environmental hazards between counties in Kentucky, as well as with other states.
- Generate hypotheses about possible associations between exposure to environmental hazards, social determinants of health and chronic health outcomes.
- Develop and evaluate plans for avoiding exposure to environmental hazards and mitigating the impacts of exposure.
- Design and implement public health actions specific to a community or jurisdiction.
- Identify opportunities to utilize data to improve health and racial equity and address environmental justice issues.

What data is collected?

Data is organized into a set of content areas defined by the CDC, which are reviewed and revised by the tracking program's content workgroup and include:

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|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| • Acute myocardial infarction. | • Reproductive and birth outcomes. |
| • Air quality. | • Climate and weather. |
| • Asthma. | • COPD. |
| • Birth defects. | • Heart disease and stroke. |
| • Cancer. | • Heat-related illness. |
| • Carbon monoxide poisoning. | • Immunizations. |
| • Childhood lead poisoning. | • Radon. |
| • Drinking water. | |

How is data collected?

- Data is collected from a variety of partners at national, state and local levels.

Data Strengths:

- Provides valid scientific information on environmental exposures and adverse health conditions and the possible spatial and temporal relationships between them.
- Allows data from census tract, county-level and/or state-level to be compared.
- It is currently the only surveillance system that organizes environmental and health data into a single source.
- Accessible to the public and researchers, decision-makers and public health professionals.
- Metadata further detailing the exact source of each content area is available on the national website listed at the top of the section.

Data Limitations:

- Statistical instability requiring spatial and temporal aggregation of data due to low numbers within small areas.
 - Data rates, proportions and percentages are checked for stability. Any rate or measure with a relative standard error (RSE) greater than or equal to 30% is flagged as unstable.
- Concerns regarding the release of sensitive information limit what data can be displayed for single years and small areas.
- CDC guidelines state that cell counts should be suppressed when the number of cases or underlying population is small.

How is the system evaluated?

- Data collection is routinely monitored utilizing CDC-developed quality control standards.
- Evaluation of quality is determined through monthly and annual reports of these performance standards.

Data Set Availability:

- Available at no cost through the national and state web portal.
- Users can obtain data based on area, indicator, geography, year and a number of other stratifying factors.
- Data can be viewed in map, table or graph form.
- National tracking program allows web-portal users to view and compare several data content areas or subsets side by side.

Data Release Policy:

- Requests for detailed data can be made to either the national tracking program or to individual grantee sites.

Data Publications:

- CDC has many peer-reviewed articles utilizing data from the tracking network that can be found on the publications page of the national tracking program website.

Suggested Citation:

Kentucky Tracking, Kentucky Department for Public Health, (content area and other details that were requested in query); Accessed From: healthtracking.ky.gov, [data year(s)].

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