

MISSOURI

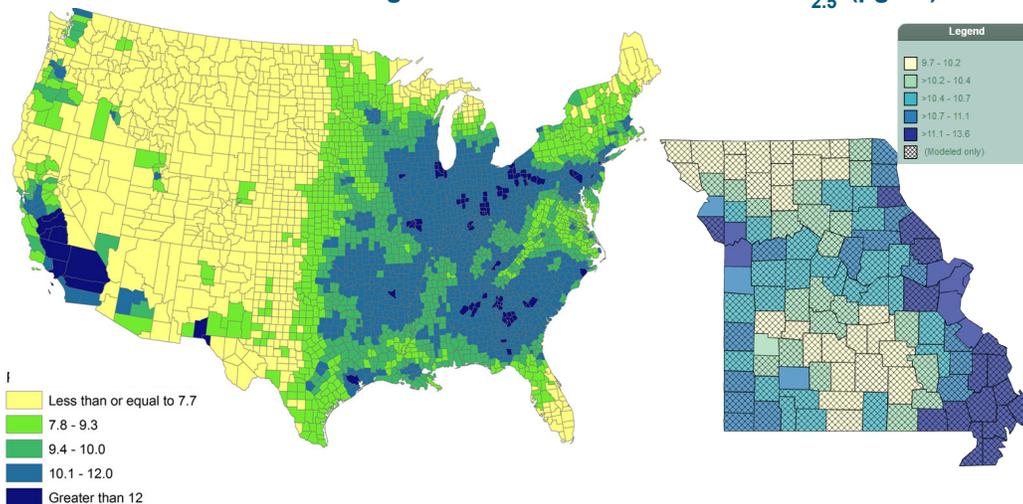
CDC's National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network

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 Missouri:

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



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



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Childhood Lead Poisoning

Lead-based paint and lead contaminated dust are the main sources of exposure for lead in U.S. children. Lead-based paints were banned for use in housing in 1978. Houses built before 1978 are likely to contain some lead-based paint. The deterioration of the lead paint causes a problem because the paint flakes into the air. Children under the age of 6 are at risk because they are growing so rapidly and they tend to put their hands or other objects, which may be contaminated with lead dust, into their mouths. Lead exposure in children can lead to developmental delays and behavioral problems. Anyone, child or adult, could be at risk for lead poisoning depending on where they live, work, and go to school. In Missouri, contamination from lead mining, milling, and smelting are other important sources of lead exposure.

Environmental Hazards



The Viburnum Trend produces approximately **250,000** tons of lead concentrates annually



About **60%** of Missouri's housing was built before the use of lead paint was banned

Health Effects



19.14% of children in MO less than 6 years old were tested for the presence of lead in their blood



Elevated levels of lead greater than 10 micrograms per deciliter were found in **.71%** of the children tested

The Health, Environment, and Community Profile

More than 30 of Missouri's 115 counties are classified as entirely rural; while overall, about 97% of the land area in the state of Missouri is classified as rural. However, only 30% of the population is classified as living in rural areas. This population distribution presents unique public health challenges when attempting to determine priorities because of the differences in needs of people living in rural areas and people living in more dense populations. To address that issue, the Missouri Environmental Public Health Tracking Program has created the Health, Environment, and Community Profile reports specific to each county and the most populated cities in the state. These reports comprise several important indicators that are of interest to the local populations.

Environmental Hazards



The average MO community: **10%** carpool, **1.5%** use public transportation, and **2%** walk or ride a bicycle to work



2.3 businesses sell fresh produce per 10,000 population



MO has nearly **5** times as many fast food restaurants compared to businesses selling fresh produce