



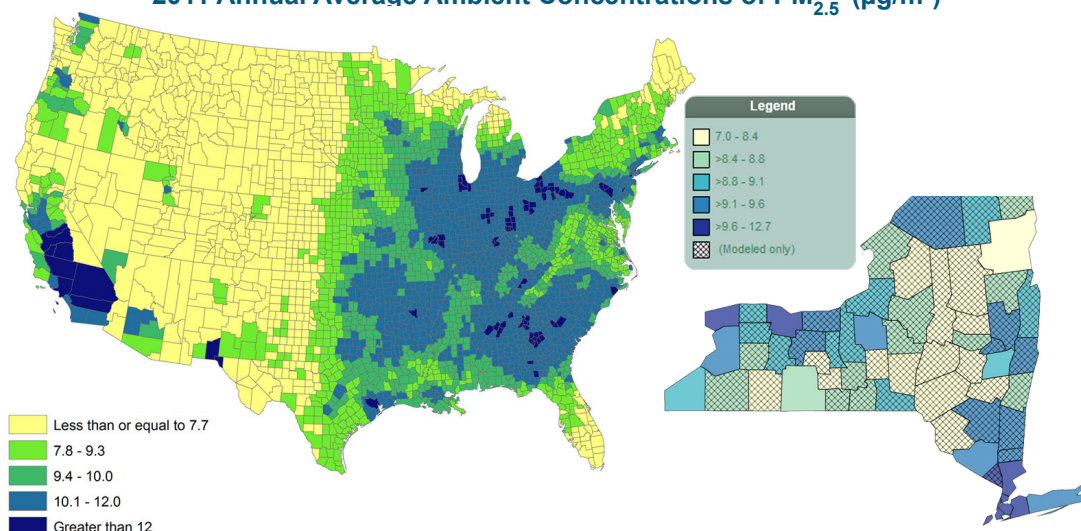
## CDC's National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network

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 City:

**117** Age-adjusted Rate  
of Emergency  
Department Visits  
for Asthma - 2012  
/10,000



**16** Age-adjusted Rate  
of Hospitalizations  
for Heart Attacks  
(Adults 35-64) - 2012  
/10,000



[cdc.gov/ephtracking](http://cdc.gov/ephtracking)





## CDC's National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network

### Tracking Cockroaches, Mice and Asthma

Besides causing annoyance and stress, cockroaches and mice are sources of allergens that can trigger symptoms in some people who have asthma. The New York City (NYC) Environmental Public Health Tracking Program provides access to data at a neighborhood level on the presence of pests that can aggravate asthma. The program also has data on asthma symptoms, emergency department visits and hospital stays. These data are used to identify neighborhoods where actions can be targeted to control pests and to help people with asthma.

#### Environmental Hazards



Nearly **30%** of NYC adults report seeing cockroaches and **15%** report seeing mice or rats in their homes



In 2012, rates of emergency room visits for asthma among children aged 5 to 14 varied **18-fold** across NYC neighborhoods

### Investigating Community Health Concerns

The home environment is important for health and safety. Cracks and holes in walls, plumbing disrepair and other housing maintenance deficiencies can attract pests. Housing disrepair can cause exposure to lead when peeling lead paint is present. Disrepair can also lead to injuries, including slips and falls, scalding and electrical shocks. Carbon monoxide poisonings are more likely when no carbon monoxide detector is present. People can use the data on housing conditions and exposures in the home to improve conditions and to help New Yorkers stay healthy.

#### Environmental Hazards



**15.7%** of homes in NYC have cracks or holes in walls



In some neighborhoods in the Bronx, Northern Manhattan and Brooklyn, **more than 30%** of homes have cracks or holes in walls