



# Environmental Public Health Tracking in New England

## Better Information for Better Health

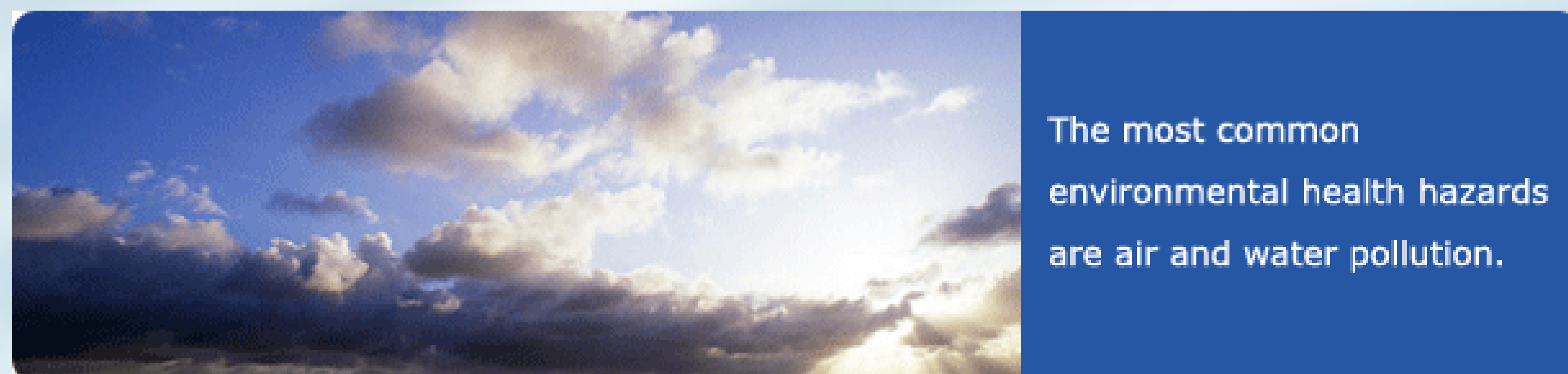
### What is Environmental Public Health Tracking (EPHT)

It is the ongoing collection, integration, analysis, and interpretation of data related to environmental hazards, exposure, and potential health effects related to exposure to environmental hazards. A tracking network is crucial to providing insight into the role the environment plays in human development, detecting unusual trends in health and exposure to hazards, identifying populations at risk, facilitating policy development, and guiding public health actions.

### Tracking in New England

Tracking brings together environmental and public health data in one place. Funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, six New England states are part of the National Environmental Public Health Tracking Program:

- Connecticut
- Maine
- Massachusetts
- New Hampshire
- Rhode Island
- Vermont



### Available Data Categories Include\*:

- |                           |                              |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Air Pollutants            | Child blood lead levels      |
| Asthma                    | Drinking water contaminants  |
| Birth Defects             | Heat Stress                  |
| Cancer                    | Myocardial Infarction        |
| Carbon Monoxide Poisoning | Reproductive Health Outcomes |

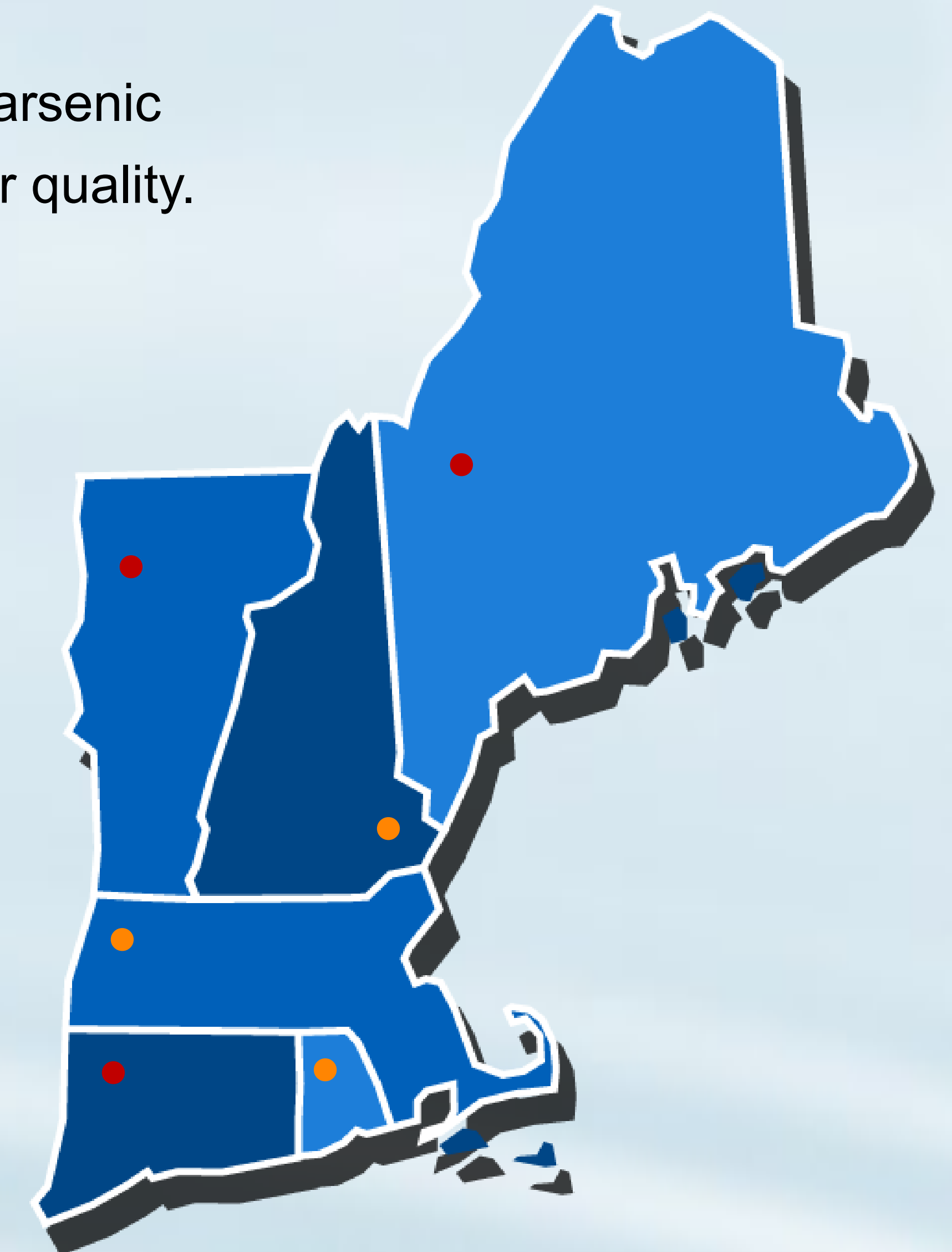
\*Varies by state.

### Tracking in Action: Arsenic in Drinking Water in New England

Whether drinking water comes from a public water system or a private well, it is important to know if it's safe to drink. Arsenic in water has no color or odor, even when present at elevated levels.

The only way to determine arsenic levels is by testing the water quality. State data varies.

- Type of data available:
- Private Well
  - Community Water System
  - Both



### What is arsenic?

Arsenic is an element that occurs naturally in rocks and soil and is used for a variety of purposes within industry and agriculture.

### Where and how does arsenic get into drinking water?

Arsenic can enter the water supply from natural deposits in the earth or from industrial and agricultural pollution. It is widely believed that naturally occurring arsenic dissolves out of certain rock formations when ground water levels drop significantly.

### What health outcomes exist from arsenic in drinking water?

Arsenic has the potential to cause skin damage, circulatory system, pulmonary, immunological, neurological, and endocrine problems, and increased risk of bladder, lungs, skin, kidney, nasal passages, liver, and prostate cancer.

### For local environmental and public health data, please contact your state tracking program:

State	Tracking Program Website	Phone Number
Connecticut	<a href="https://stateofhealth.ct.gov/">https://stateofhealth.ct.gov/</a>	(860) 509-7740
Maine	<a href="https://data.mainepublichealth.gov/tracking/">https://data.mainepublichealth.gov/tracking/</a>	(207) 287-4311
Massachusetts	<a href="http://www.mass.gov/dph/matracking">http://www.mass.gov/dph/matracking</a>	(800) 319-3042
New Hampshire	<a href="https://www.nh.gov/epht">https://www.nh.gov/epht</a>	(603) 271-4988
Rhode Island	<a href="http://www.health.ri.gov/data/">http://www.health.ri.gov/data/</a>	(401) 222-7766
Vermont	<a href="http://www.healthvermont.gov/tracking">http://www.healthvermont.gov/tracking</a>	(802) 863-7220