TRACKING 101

INTRODUCTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH TRACKING

Description: This tutorial explains what Environmental Public Health Tracking does and how it operates in Wisconsin.

Objectives: By the end of this tutorial, users will be able to:

- Define Environmental Public Health Tracking
- Identify two resources created by the Tracking Program

WISCONSIN ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH TRACKING PROGRAM
Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Health

dhs.wisconsin.gov/epht | JULY 2019 | dhstracking@wi.gov
Wisconsin Department of Health Services | Division of Public Health | P-01201-101 (rev. 07/2019)

TRACKING 101
INTRODUCTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL
PUBLIC HEALTH TRACKING

Welcome to "Tracking 101 – Introduction to Environmental Public Health Tracking." In this tutorial, you will learn what Environmental Public Health Tracking is and how it works. Let's get started!

YOUR SOURCE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH DATA.

Environmental Public Health Tracking is first and foremost your source for environmental public health data.
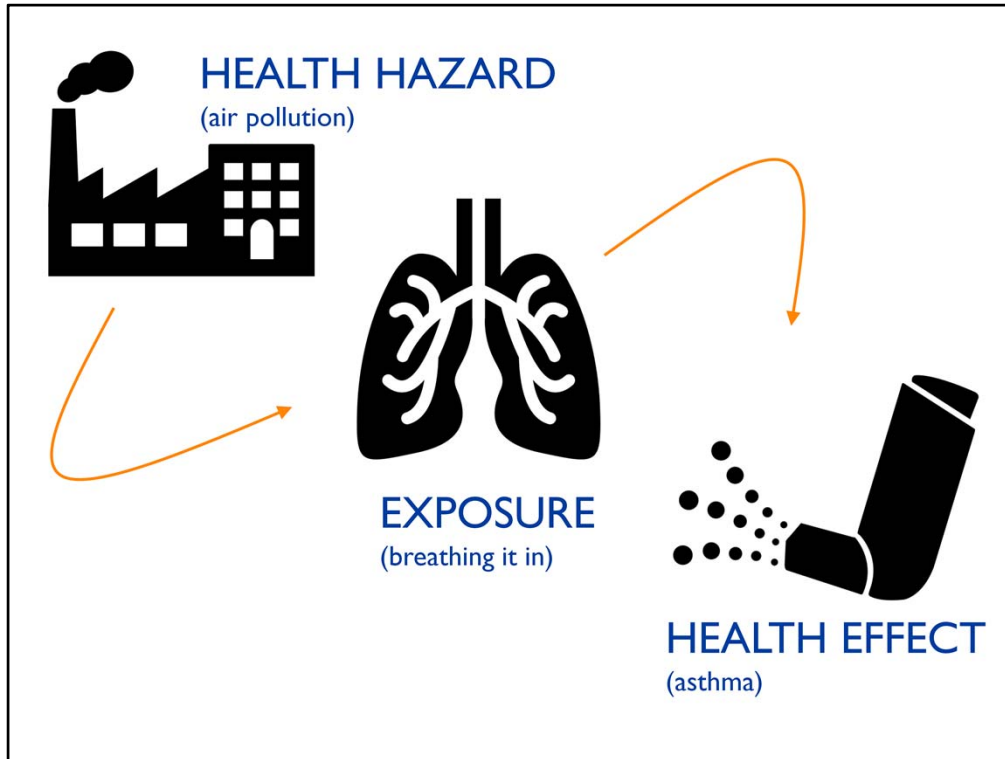
For example, we track pollution, like particulate matter in the air, which is a health hazard. We also track a health effect to that hazard, which is asthma.

We do this tracking through our free, publicly available data portal, our county profiles, and other free resources. We'll talk more about these things throughout the presentation.

To get the right data,
you might have to visit several databases.

CDC   DNR   EPA

Before Tracking existed, to get environmental public data for health assessments and reports, you might check the CDC, DNR, EPA, and likely several others. That's a lot! These sites have great information, but it's scattered across several databases.

Tracking pulls that information from these sources and other data partners into one spot, one data portal. The data portal allows users to investigate specific environmental measures with tables, charts, and maps.
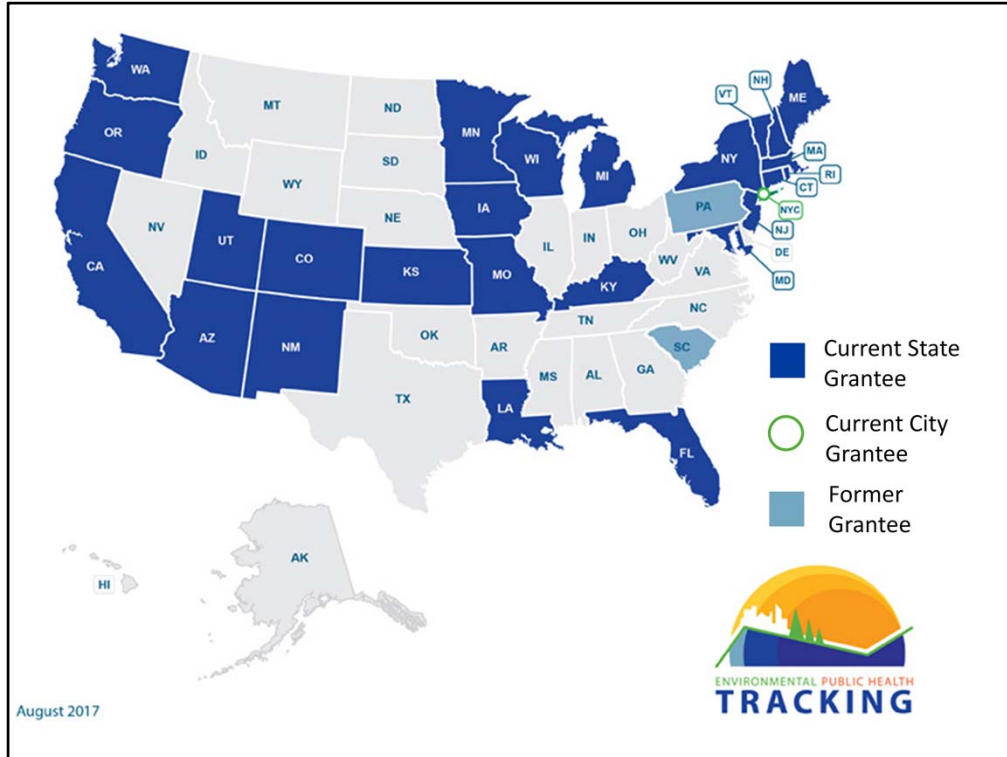
We are funded by the CDC to do this work, along with 26 other grantees. Wisconsin has been funded since 2002.

Data Topics

Air quality
Alcohol environment (municipal)
Water quality
Asthma
Birth outcomes
Cancer
Carbon monoxide poisoning
Childhood lead poisoning (census tract)
Climate
Heart attack
Heat stress
Immunizations
Lyme disease
Oral health (fluoridation)
Toxic air emissions (census tract)

There are currently 15 topics available on our data portal. Our most recent topic is alcohol outlet density, which is available at the municipal level. Other popular topics include Lyme disease and childhood lead poisoning.

Be sure to watch "Tracking 201: Portal Basics" to learn more about using the data portal.

In addition to the data portal, we put out County Environmental Health Profiles, which we release every two years. We published the most recent version in May 2019. Be sure to watch "Tracking 110: County Environmental Health Profiles" to learn more about this helpful resource.

Once you have reviewed your data—either on our portal or in your county profile, or both!—you might be wondering, "Now what?"

Our program wanted to make it easier for communities to not only access their data but also take action on it. In 2015, we launched our *Taking Action with Data* mini-grant program. With this program, we fund local and Tribal health departments to complete small-scale environmental health projects. Applicants must use Tracking data in their application to support the need of the project.

Projects run from August 1 through July 31, so we

typically release the application in early June. Visit our website around that time for application details!
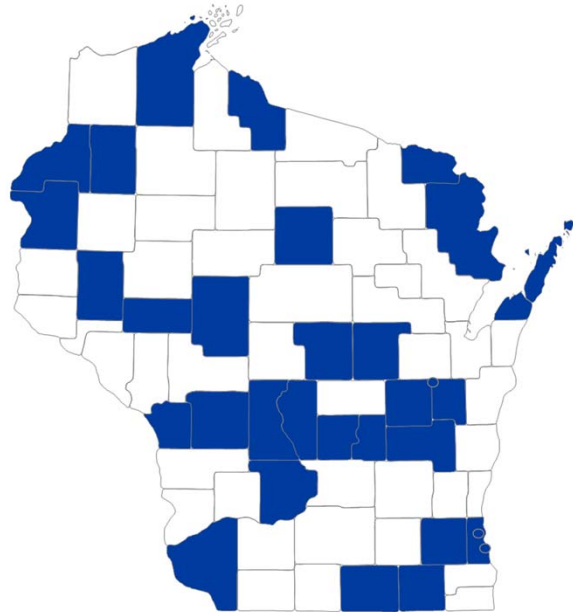
Since starting the mini-grant program, we have invested nearly $400,000 in 30 Wisconsin communities to improve environmental health. You can download the most up to date version of this map of past grantees under the resources section of our website.

You can read success stories from our program and mini-grantees on the resource section of our website.

You can find profiles, as well as a link to our public portal, right through our homepage. Also note the training tab, where you can find tutorials on everything Tracking. The resources tab is also helpful; it's where you can find our surveillance briefs, publications, newsletters, and other links of interest.

Keep in Touch

The best way to stay up to date on Tracking news is to join our newsletter and the envhealth listserv. The newsletter comes out quarterly and the listserv has 2-5 posts per month. Anyone subscribed to the listserv can post to it, so it's a great way to share new tools, resources, job opportunities, ask questions, etc.

Email dhstracking@wi.gov to request being added to the newsletter and/or listserv.

TRACK.
Explore the data, compare counties, age groups, and years

ANALYZE.
Create charts, maps, and tables to visualize and interpret the data

ACT.
Use the data to target education, programming, and policies to address your community's needs

To summarize, the Tracking Program strives to help folks **track** and explore environmental public health data; **analyze it** by creating charts, maps, and tables; and **act** upon the data through outreach, programming, and policies to address community needs.

TRACKING 101
INTRODUCTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL
PUBLIC HEALTH TRACKING

Have a question?
dhstracking@wi.gov

This concludes "Tracking 101: Intro to Environmental Public Health Tracking." Be sure to check out the tutorials we have available by visiting dhs.wisconsin.gov/epht and clicking on the Training tab. Happy Tracking!