

ATSDR Public Health Investment

Arkansas

CDC/ATSDR support helps Arkansas reduce exposures to hazardous substances in the environment

Arkansas is one of 25 states using cooperative agreement funds from ATSDR to build their capacity to assess and respond to site-specific issues involving human exposure to hazardous substances in the environment.

Public Health in Action

Hydrogen Sulfide Air Monitoring at a Georgia-Pacific Paper Mill in Crossett — In response to community concerns, the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) partnered with ATSDR to evaluate daily hydrogen sulfide air monitoring readings near the town's paper mill and wastewater treatment facility. Ongoing monitoring supports strategies that protect public health. Project partnerships like this allow community members to communicate with state and federal stakeholders, industry representatives, and environmental justice groups to understand neighborhood environmental conditions, based on scientific data and public health outreach.

Arkansas

Award amount:

\$419,585 per year

Term: 3 years

Grantee since: 1989

About ATSDR

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), based in Atlanta, Georgia along with 10 regional offices, is a federal public health agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. ATSDR serves the public by using the best science, taking responsive public health actions, and providing trusted health information to prevent harmful exposures and diseases related to toxic substances.

Key projects

- **MacMillan Ring-Free Oil** — This site was listed on the NPL in May 2014. Surface and subsurface soil, ground water, surface water, and sediment are contaminated with polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPHs), and metals. ADH are currently investigating potential for health effects from exposure to these contaminants at this site. ATSDR will provide subject matter expertise and guidance.
- **W. R. Grace, a.k.a. North Little Rock Auto Salvage** — Concentrations of asbestos from the former Libby mines are being cleaned up in the community surrounding this site. ATSDR will review the activity based sampling data for this site.
- **Vertac Chemical Corp., a.k.a. Hercules Incorporated** — This NPL site is contaminated with dioxins that migrated off-site into a recreational watershed. The site has undergone remediation, although fish flesh samples continue to be monitored and evaluated by ATSDR and the state health department. ATSDR works with states on NPL sites to support their recommended actions to protect the public's health.

State Priorities

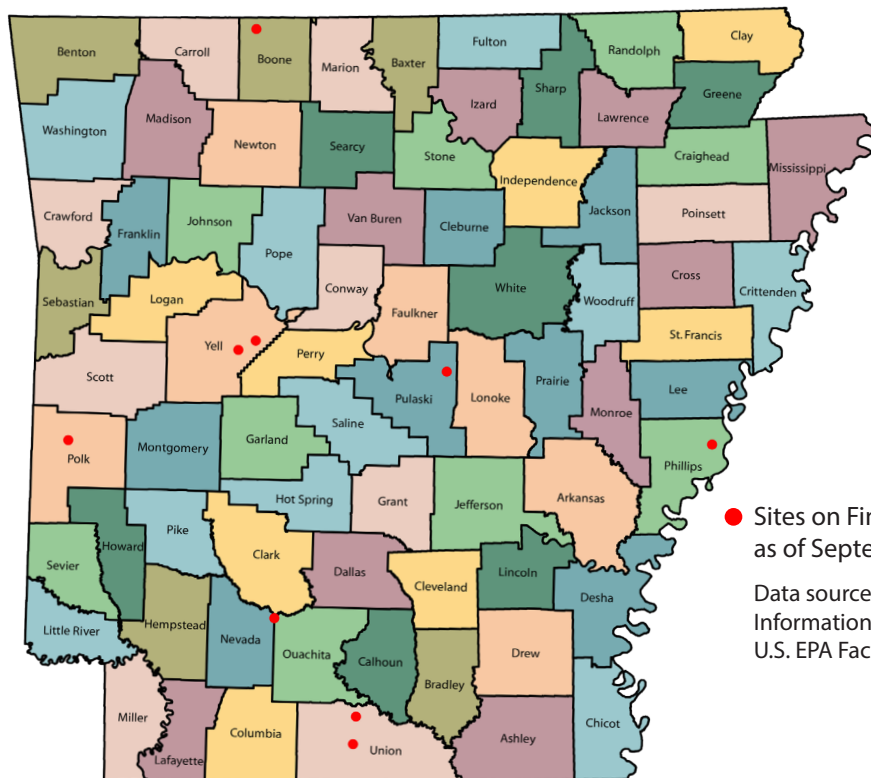
Exposures to environmental contaminants — Identifying and quantifying exposures to environmental contaminants; conducting risk assessments and risk communication; providing surveillance for adverse health effects; and providing health-based guidance on levels of exposure to such contaminants. ATSDR supports this priority by providing scientific and technical expertise during the health assessment process.

- **Indoor Air Quality** — Evaluating indoor air issues (vapor intrusion) at residences and businesses near hazardous waste sites and dry-cleaning facilities.
- **Safe Drinking Water** — Ensuring a constant supply of dependable, safe, clean water service to Arkansas homes, farms, businesses and industries.
- **Community Preparedness** — Ensuring that local partners throughout the state have assessed the hazards in their area and developed plans to address potential disaster events that may occur in their community; conducting drills and exercises with local community partners to prepare for real life emergencies.

"The ATSDR Cooperative Agreement Program has made an outstanding impact in Arkansas and for the Arkansas Department of Health through their expertise, resources, and quick response to community members' potential environmental exposures from contaminated air, water, and soil." - Nathaniel Smith, MD, MPH, ADH Director and State Health Officer

Did You Know?

- Arkansas has 15 Superfund (NPL) sites; over 5,000 contaminated exposure sites, hazardous waste generator sites, or Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) sites; and 24 active brownfields sites.
- Public health challenges in Arkansas include vapor intrusion in indoor air from volatile organic chemicals (VOCs), lead exposure, outdoor air quality, and contaminants in fish.
- ADH has provided technical assistance and health assessments to protect public health and prevent potential environmental contamination exposure for approximately 15,000 Arkansans.



● Sites on Final National Priorities List (NPL) as of September 9, 2016

Data sources: Esri, U.S. EPA "Search Superfund Site Information" query (2016), U.S. EPA SEMS (2016), U.S. EPA Facility Registry Service (2016).

Learn more

Follow these links to learn more about programs protecting public health in Arkansas:

ATSDR — <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/>

Division of Community Health Investigations (DCHI) — <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/hac/index.html>

ATSDR Public Health Assessments and Consultations for Arkansas — <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/HAC/PHA/HCPHA.asp?State=AR>

Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) — <http://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/Pages/default.aspx>

ADH ATSDR Cooperative Agreement —

<http://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/programs-services/topics/atsdr-toxic-substance-disease-registry>

State Fish Advisories — <http://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/programs-services/topics/fish-advisories>

Arkansas Drinking Water – Safety —

<http://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/programs-services/topics/drinking-water>

Arkansas Emergency Response and Preparedness —

<http://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/programs-services/topics/emergency-response-and-preparedness>

ATSDR – The most trusted Agency protecting American communities from environmental health threats through application of state of the art science.

Last updated 10/01/2017