

ATSDR Public Health Investment

Michigan

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

Michigan is one of 25 states using ATSDR cooperative agreement funds 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

Modern alchemy—turning mercury into gold — A man died when he fried liquid mercury in his kitchen in an attempt to make gold. Fumes from the mercury could have contaminated at least 14 other condominiums. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) helped coordinate the public health investigation and make public health determinations with local, state, and federal agencies. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) checked 45 condominiums in all, collected indoor air samples, and removed contaminants from the dead man's condominium.

Key projects

- **Wurtsmith Air Force Base** — Firefighting foam (aqueous film-forming foam [AFFF]) used on the base contaminated groundwater with per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). PFAS are now found in fish, wildlife, and public and private drinking water in the area. MDHHS has issued public health advisories and provided water filtration systems.
- **Vapor intrusion from non-permitted non-aqueous phase liquid** — MDHHS is working with the state regulatory agency to investigate and address several thousand sites where human exposure from vapor intrusion might still be a risk. ATSDR is providing expert guidance for development of screening values.
- **Dioxin-like chemical contamination of localized fish and wild game** — Historic releases and disposal practices of chloralkali plants have resulted in consumption advisories and extensive community outreach and education.

State Priorities

- **Safe Drinking Water** — Minimizing human exposure from drinking water contaminated by non-permitted chemical releases such as PFAS. ATSDR regional staff and PFAS subject matter experts ensure the proper application of the latest federal health advisories.
- **Safe Fish and Wild Game** — Minimizing human exposure to persistent chemicals found in locally harvested fish and wild game: methylmercury, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS), dioxin-like chemicals, and toxaphene.
- **Indoor Air Quality** — Minimizing human exposure to indoor air contaminated with non-permitted volatile chemical releases into groundwater and soil.

Michigan

Award amount:

\$404,467 per year

Term: 3 years

Grantee since: 1987

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.

“Concerned with the water contamination here in Oscoda, MI., I contacted Kory Groetsch regarding my well, the Au Sable River and Van Etnan Lake. He, along with Christina Bush and Jennifer Gray, answered all my concerns very quickly with great professionalism and promptness. I was amazed that I didn’t get the run-around and that I actually received immediate feedback with a caring attitude.” — A Michigan homeowner

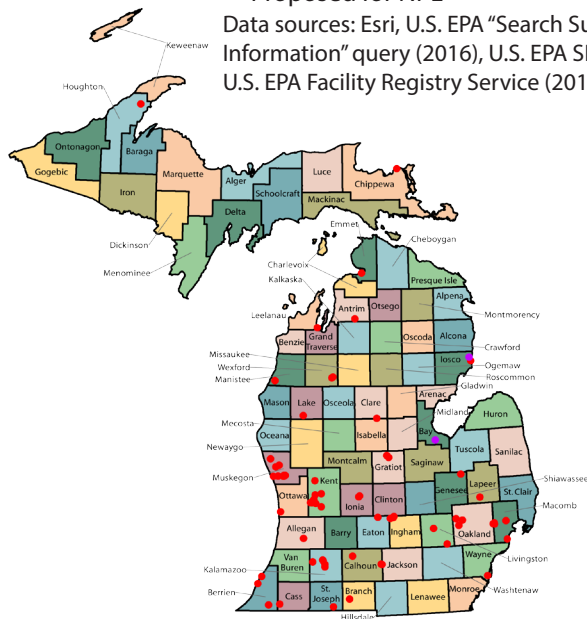
Did You Know?

- Michigan has 3,288 miles of shoreline, second only to Alaska, and a very successful Eat Safe Fish Program (www.michigan.gov/eatsafefish).
- Michigan has a statewide network of mercury air analyzers (e.g. Lumex) and a training program that allows local public health, fire departments, police, and hazmat teams to properly respond to small indoor liquid mercury spills.
- About 2.5 million Michigan residents rely on small, privately owned public water supply wells or private home wells that lack continued monitoring or oversight. These wells can be contaminated by one of more than 7,500 leaking underground storage tank sites and more than 9,700 other sites of environmental contamination.

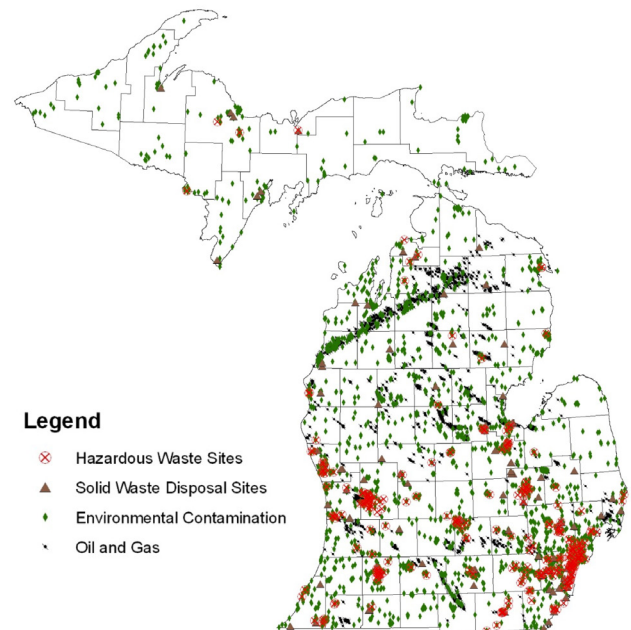
Sites on Final National Priorities List (NPL)
as of September 9, 2016

- On Final NPL
- Proposed for NPL

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



Michigan Environmental Sites



Learn more

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

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 Michigan —
<https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/HAC/PHA/HCPHA.asp?State=MI>

MDHHS Division of Environmental Health (DEH) —
<http://www.michigan.gov/>

MDHHS Eat Safe Fish Program —
<http://www.michigan.gov/eatsafefish>

MDHHS Mercury Spill Response —
<http://www.michigan.gov/mercury>

MDEQ Drinking Water —
http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,4561,7-135-3313_3675-,00.html

MDEQ Remediation and Redevelopment —
http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,1607,7-135-3306_28608-,00.html

US EPA On Scene Coordinator (OSC) —
<https://www.epaosc.org/>

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

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