

# ATSDR Public Health Investment

## Connecticut

### CDC/ATSDR support Connecticut to reduce exposure to hazardous substances in the environment

ATSDR funds 25 cooperative agreements to help states build their capacity to assess and respond to site-specific issues involving human exposure to hazardous substances in the environment.

### Public Health in Action

**Charles Batchelder Company** — At EPA's request, Connecticut Department of Public Health (CTDPH) evaluated site conditions and public health risks at this abandoned aluminum recycling/smelting facility. The assessment concluded that the site posed a public health hazard to trespassers from exposure to metals and PCBs. It was instrumental in EPA's decision to conduct a time-critical removal action. CTDPH outreach ensured that the cleanup proceeded safely and with the support of the local community. This brownfields site is now well positioned for further cleanup and productive re-use..

### Connecticut

**Award amount:**

\$420,000 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.

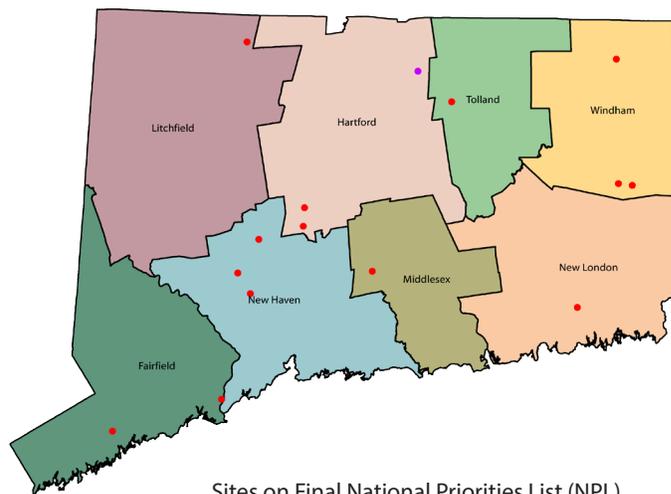
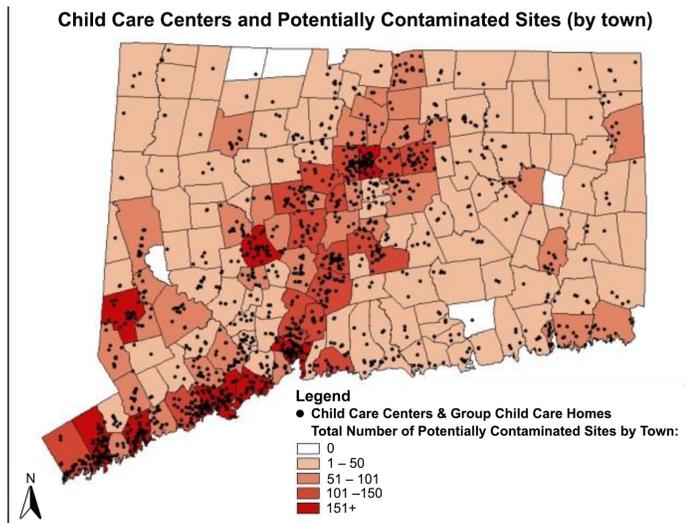
### Key projects

- **GE Pittsfield/Housatonic River Site** — General Electric's operations in Pittsfield, MA contaminated the Housatonic River with PCBs. In the CT portion of the river, eating contaminated fish is the only health concern. CTDPH reviews data, sets health protective consumption advisories and informs residents and fisherman about the advisories.
- **Raymark Industries National Priorities List (NPL) Site** — **Connecticut Department of Public Health** (CTDPH) is working with EPA to protect community health and safety during a large and complex cleanup of soil and sediments contaminated with asbestos, PCBs, lead and other chemicals.
- **Western Middle School** — The school district discovered elevated levels of PCBs, arsenic, lead and pesticides in soil on their athletic fields. CTDPH is working with the district to ensure that cleanup plans protect public health and the community understands the health risks.

### State Priorities

- **Protecting Children from Environmental Risks at Daycare Facilities** — Using Connecticut's Child Daycare Screening Assessment for Environmental Risk (SAFER) Program to identify and address hazardous contamination at or near daycare facilities and help ensure that new daycares are safely sited.
- **Safe Drinking Water** — Increasing the numbers of people testing their private well for contaminants. Helping residents with contaminated wells understand their health risks and how to reduce them.
- **Healthy Environments in CT Schools** — Leading a multi-agency group to improve indoor environmental quality in schools and helping schools use EPA's Tools for Schools resources.

“Your [CTDPH staff] presence and expertise at the site environmental update meeting were most helpful in reassuring residents. Our state is fortunate to have individuals like you who commit time, energy and expertise to benefit all our communities.” First Selectman, Town of Woodbridge, CT



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).

## Did You Know?

- CTDPH provides training for local health departments that helps them identify and respond to chemical hazards in their towns.
- The CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection provides CTDPH’s health alert, “TCE and Developmental Risk,” to businesses where TCE-contaminated groundwater could impact indoor air and encourages businesses to reduce TCE exposure to pregnant women in the building.
- Over the past 15 years, CTDPH distributed 230,000 copies of its “Woman’s Guide to Eating Fish Safely” pamphlet through doctors’ offices, the Women Infants and Children (WIC) program, and local health department offices throughout Connecticut. The guide contains CTDPH’s advice for pregnant women and young children about which fish and amounts that are safe to eat.

## Learn more

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

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

CT Department of Public Health — <http://www.ct.gov/dph/site/default.asp>

CT DPH Daycare SAFER Program — <http://www.ct.gov/dph/safer>

CT DPH Fish Consumption Advisory — <http://www.ct.gov/dph/fish>

School Indoor Air Quality — <http://www.ct.gov/dph/schools>

Safe Drinking Water for Private Well Owners — <http://www.ct.gov/dph/privatewells>

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

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