

ATSDR Public Health Investment

Massachusetts

CDC/ATSDR support Massachusetts 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

SoilSHOP in Lawrence — The decline of the textile industry left the city of Lawrence with abandoned mills and industrially contaminated areas. Because of its vulnerable, minority, and low-income populations, Lawrence is considered an environmental justice community. Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) partnered with ATSDR to reduce community exposures to lead in urban soil by screening soil samples from residential properties and community gardens. MDPH health educators provided technical expertise and environmental health information to families in a city with a history of elevated blood lead levels in children.

Massachusetts

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.

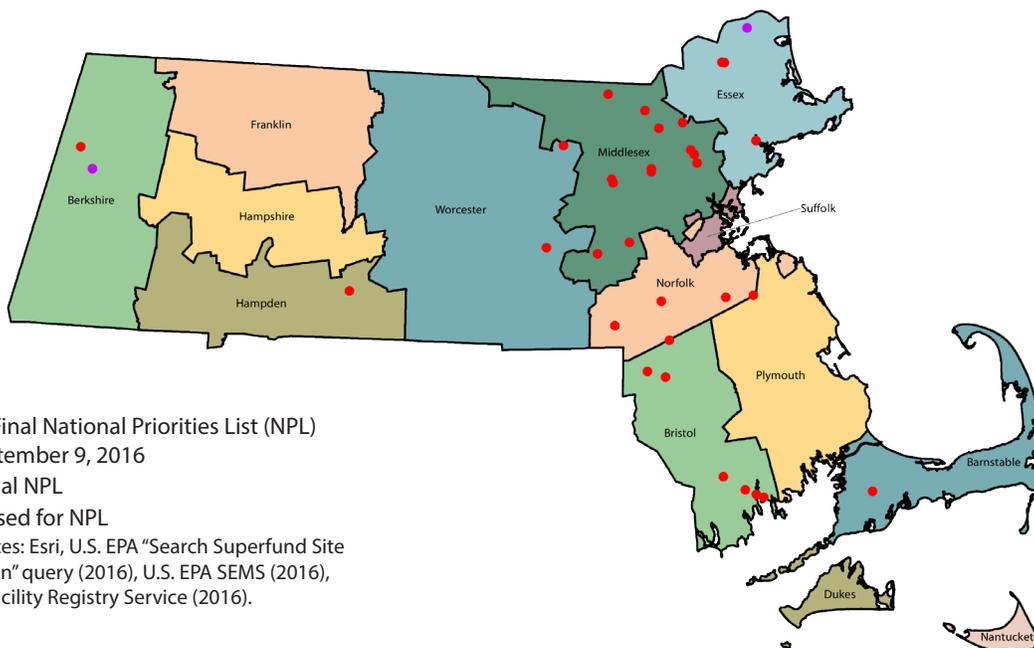
Key projects

- **Walton & Lonsbury** — This former chrome plating facility in Attleboro was added to the National Priorities List (NPL) in 2013. MDPH reviewed indoor air data collected in nearby homes to evaluate whether volatile organic compounds (VOCs) from the facility that were found in indoor air pose a public health threat to residents. ATSDR works with states on NPL sites to support their recommended actions to protect the public's health.
- **BJAT** — Once the site of rubber manufacturing in Franklin, this facility was added to the NPL in 2015. Because the site is in close proximity to public drinking water wells, MDPH is working with EPA and Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) to assess potential exposure to contaminants in drinking water.
- **MicroFab** — This former circuit board manufacturer in Amesbury was proposed to the NPL in 2016. MDPH will evaluate the site for potential health effects related to contamination left behind when the facility closed in 1987.

State Priorities

- **Environmental Justice** — Reducing health disparities in environmental justice communities. This priority aligns with ATSDR's priorities of protecting vulnerable populations and communities and empowering them to protect themselves from site-related hazards.
- **Safe Drinking Water** — MDPH is working with our partner agency, MassDEP, to evaluate drinking water contaminated with lead or perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). ATSDR supports this priority by developing guidelines for emerging and other contaminants and applying state-of-the-art science to characterize health risks.
- **Environmental Health in Schools** — Environmental Health in Schools—Working in public schools to reduce exposure to lead in drinking water and radon in indoor air. ATSDR supports programs that protect children's health from harmful exposures.

"I wanted to pass on my sincerest appreciation for your attendance at the neighborhood meeting regarding the cleanup and potential reuse of the former Cadillac Paint site." Anthony Schiavi, Ashland Town Manager



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?

- Massachusetts, the third most densely-populated state in the United States, has over 35 NPL sites and 4,000 state hazardous waste sites.
- Massachusetts requires all children to have blood lead testing at least once a year until they are three years old.
- Areas of central Massachusetts have naturally high concentrations of arsenic in drinking water.

Learn more

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

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 Massachusetts —

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

Massachusetts Department of Public Health —

http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/dph/programs_environmental-health/

Massachusetts Environmental Public Health Tracking Program —

<https://matracking.ehs.state.ma.us/>

Massachusetts Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program —

<http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/dph/programs/environmental-health/exposure-topics/lead/>

Biomonitoring Massachusetts Study —

www.mass.gov/dph/biomonitoring

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