

# ATSDR Public Health Investment

## Pennsylvania

### CDC/ATSDR support helps Pennsylvania reduce exposures 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

**Evaluation of ambient air near a large landfill** — The Keystone Dunmore Sanitary Landfill is one of the largest active landfills in the state. More than 2,000 people live within 500 feet of the active municipal solid waste collection site. The Pennsylvania Department of Health (PA DOH) and ATSDR are conducting a health consultation to see if exposure to air around the landfill poses a public health risk and if cancer incidence rates are increased among people living nearby.

### Key projects

- **Keystone Landfill** — PA DOH is conducting a health consultation to determine if exposure to ambient air surrounding the landfill poses a public health risk to the population that lives nearby and to determine cancer incidence rate among residents.
- **PADEP Long-Term Air** — This health consultation evaluates the available ambient air monitoring data collected by PADEP during its long-term air monitoring project to determine if communities near these natural gas drilling operations are exposed to levels of chemicals that could affect their health.
- **Baghurst NPL site** — This health consultation reviewed the quality of water after it was filtered to remove contaminants such as 1,4-dioxane, to see if steps by PADEP protect the health of people who use the water for showering.

### State Priorities

- **PFAS Contamination and Safe Drinking Water** — Collaborating with ATSDR to evaluate the public health implications of exposure to PFAS contamination in drinking water supplies; supporting EPA and Navy activities to characterize and reduce the exposure in Warminster, Willow Grove, and Horsham areas.
- **Blood Lead Levels in Children** — Working toward universal lead testing for children in PA to address lead exposure in PA homes built pre-1978.
- **Healthy and Green Initiative** — Using the environmental health hazard survey for child care centers to cross reference locations of proposed child care centers with the DOH environmental hazard database to identify any environmentally contaminated sites within 1/8 of a mile of the proposed site. This aligns with ATSDR's priority program for "Choosing Safe Places for Early Care and Education."
- **Health issues related to Marcellus Shale** — Collecting shale-related health complaints since 2011; current total is 127 shale related health complaints from 195 individuals in 110 households.

### Pennsylvania

#### Award amount:

\$480,284 per year

Term: 3 years

Grantee since: 1989

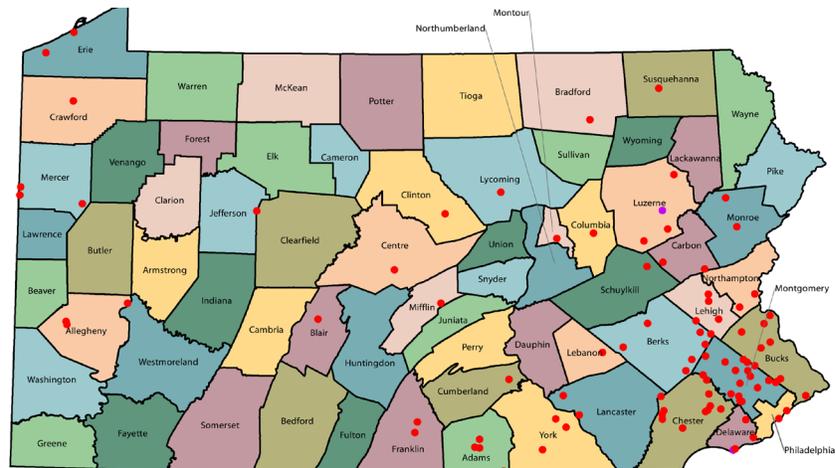
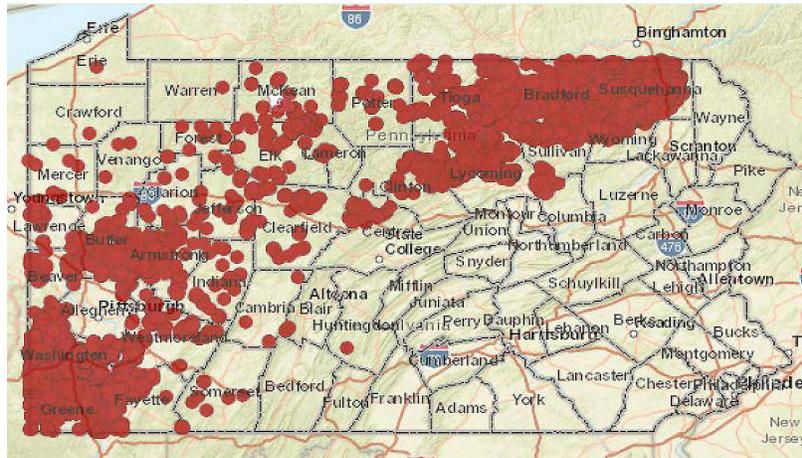
### About ATSDR

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.

## Did You Know?

- Pennsylvania has 95 active NPL sites (see map below) and 433 hazardous waste sites .
- Pennsylvania has 152 health assessments and consultation documents available for view on the ATSDR web site
- As of 09/28/2016, there are 8,544 active unconventional natural gas wells in Pennsylvania. (see map below).

## Map of Unconventional Natural Gas Wells



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).

## Learn more

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

ATSDR — <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/>

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

Consultations for Pennsylvania — <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/HAC/PHA/HCPHA.asp?State=PA>

PADOH Environmental Health —

<http://www.health.pa.gov/My%20Health/Environmental%20Health/Pages/default.aspx>

PA Health Assessment Program —

<http://www.health.pa.gov/My%20Health/Environmental%20Health/Health%20Assessment%20Program/Pages/default.aspx#.Wc5udiwpBPY>

Environmental Health Fact Sheets —

<http://www.health.pa.gov/My%20Health/Environmental%20Health/Environmental%20Fact%20Sheets/Pages/default.aspx#.Wc5uuSwpBPY>

*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