

ATSDR Public Health Investment

Tennessee

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

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

Public Health in Action

Northeast Roane County Area — The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) monitors environmental contamination remaining at the Oak Ridge Reservation. TDEC tested private drinking water in several neighborhoods near the site. The Tennessee Department of Health (TDH) visited people in their homes and had calls with homeowners to explain the results of the water testing and share any evidence of elevated levels of chemicals in their water.

Key projects

- **Southside Chattanooga** — Chattanooga has a long history of industrial operations. Foundry sand and other wastes have been identified in several areas. Already 82 residential yards on the Southside have been excavated due to heavy metal contamination. The Tennessee Department of Health Environmental Epidemiology Program (EEP) assisted with environmental investigations, provided elevated blood level maps, and held a SoilSHOP in October 2016 to promote National Lead Prevention Week. ATSDR works with the state to provide SoilShop resources and community involvement support.
- **Former Custom Cleaners** — EEP prepared a health consultation to protect the health of a tenant in a Memphis art supply store. Chemical vapors from a former dry cleaner were detected in the building. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed and added this site to the National Priorities List (NPL) because a dry cleaner solvent found in soil and groundwater could contaminate local drinking water.

State Priorities

- **Vapor Intrusion** — Evaluating many sites each year for vapor intrusion (VI), including former drycleaners, manufacturing plants, and groundwater plume sites; setting new guidelines for environmental consultants when performing VI investigations.
- **Children's Health and Safety** — Partnering with other programs to identify and investigate lead sources in the environments of children with elevated blood lead levels; performing outreach and education at special events like National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week.
- **Healthy Communities** — Cooperating with ATSDR and EPA to host a SoilSHOP in Chattanooga, testing for lead and other heavy metals in residents' soil, and explaining what their lead value means and how to make healthy eating choices.

Tennessee

Award amount:

\$305,258 per year

Term: 3 years

Grantee since: 2001

About ATSDR

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Diseases 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.

“We are appreciative for the help we receive from the Tennessee Department of Health’s Environmental Epidemiology Program in prevention of future exposures and mitigation of adverse health effects at sites with documented exposures.” – Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation Director

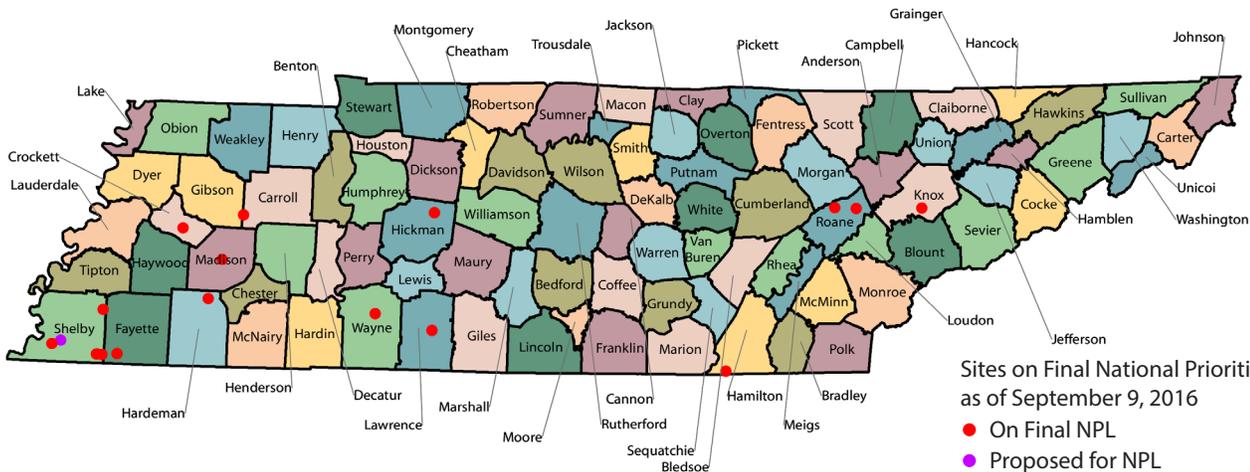
Did You Know?

- About 450 sites in Tennessee are on TDEC’s and EPA’s environmental remediation lists.
- TDH takes over 700 calls annually from citizens concerned about environmental hazards in their homes, such as mold, mercury, radon, pesticides, pests, and potential poisonings.
- Together TDH and TDEC promote testing homes, schools, and businesses for radon to prevent exposure that could lead to lung cancer. TDH has tracked and mapped radon professionals’ data to better understand risk. Average radon test results in Tennessee show that everyone should test their home for the presence of radon, especially in counties that are colored in red and have readings above U.S. EPA’s action level of 4 picocuries per liter (pCi/L).

Average Indoor Radon Test Results by County
2009 - 2014



Average Radon Test Results ■ < 2.0 pCi/L ■ 2.0 to 4.0 pCi/L ■ > 4.0 pCi/L



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 Tennessee:

ATSDR — <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/>

Division of Community Health Investigations (DCHI) — <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/HAC/PHA/HCPHA.asp?State=TN>

Tennessee’s Environmental Epidemiology Program (EEP) — <http://www.tn.gov/health/topic/environmental>

Tennessee’s Public Health Assessments and Health — Consultations

<http://www.tn.gov/health/article/EE-list>

Tennessee’s Environmental Public Health Tracking Program — (EPHT) <http://www.tn.gov/health/topic/epht>

Tennessee’s National Toxic Substance Incidents Program (NTSIP) — <http://www.tn.gov/health/article/ntsip>

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

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