



Environmental Public Health Tracking
Making the connection between health and environment

Vermont Tracking Program News & Updates

Here's what we've been up to:

- [Helped facilitate the testing of school drinking water for lead as part of the State's initiative](#)
- [Launched the Tick Tracker for the season](#)
- [Updated the Public Health Data Explorer](#)

Lead in School Drinking Water Initiative

In November 2017, the Tracking Program began a pilot project to test the drinking water for lead at 16 public schools. Water from nearly 900 taps was tested. Lead was detected (>1 ppb (parts per billion)) in the drinking water at all schools and elevated lead levels (≥ 15 ppb) were found in five schools. Schools removed taps with elevated lead levels from service and worked the Health Department and the Department of Environmental Conservation to find the best possible solutions to lower lead levels (e.g. replacing water fixtures).



[See the sampling results and learn more about the initiative](#)

Vermont Tick Tracker is Online for the Season

The 2018 Vermont Tick Tracker is live! Be sure to use the interactive Tick Tracker to share information about where and what kind of ticks you've found. Report on any ticks you come across - the more reports posted, the better the information for all! Be sure check out the 2017 season summary and learn how to prevent tick bites.



[Go to the Vermont Tick Tracker](#)

What's New on the Public Health Data Explorer

New data were added for [carbon monoxide mortality](#), [heat mortality](#), [birth defects](#), and the [Birth](#)

Hospitalization and emergency department data for [carbon monoxide](#), [asthma](#), [chronic obstructive pulmonary disease \(COPD\)](#), [heat](#), and [heart attack](#) were also added.

The [childhood lead poisoning](#) data were updated and the displays now incorporate the CDC's new reference level of 5 µg/dL--which used to be 10 µg/dL--to indicate an elevated blood lead level.

New [Healthy Vermonters 2020](#) updates include community profile reports for [chronic disease](#), [youth risk behaviors](#) and [demographics](#) plus many more.

[Search the Public Health Data Explorer](#)

The screenshot shows the 'Data Explorer' interface. It has three main steps: 'Step 1 - Select your Topic' with dropdowns for 'Environmental Public Health Tracking', 'Carbon Monoxide', 'CO Poisoning Hospitalization', and 'Carbon Monoxide Hospitalization Nu'; 'Step 2 - Location Type & Time Period' with 'Location Type' set to 'Vermont' and 'Time Period' set to '2015'; and 'Step 3 - Search...' with 'SEARCH' and 'Clear All' buttons. To the right, there's a header 'Tracking Carbon Monoxide Poisoning in Vermont' and a graphic titled 'CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) POISONING' with four icons: 'CAN'T BE SEEN', 'CAN'T BE SMELLED', 'CAN'T BE HEARD', and 'CAN BE STOPPED'. Below the graphic is text explaining that every year in the U.S. more than 4,000 people are hospitalized and more than 400 die from unintentional carbon monoxide poisoning, and that in Vermont, winter is a risky time for poisoning when buildings are closed and fossil fuels are burned for heat. It also defines carbon monoxide as an odorless, colorless gas that is given off whenever fossil fuels are burned.

About the Vermont Tracking Program

Vermont is one of 26 state and local health departments funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to develop a state and national tracking network of environmental and health data for the public, policy makers, researchers, and agencies. The [Vermont Public Health Data Explorer](#) provides these data in maps, charts, and tables as a part of the State's continuing effort to help Vermonters better understand the relationship between their environment and their health. Topics include air quality, asthma, birth defects, cancer, carbon monoxide, childhood lead poisoning, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, climate and health, cyanobacteria (blue-green algae), drinking water, heart attack, radon, and reproductive health outcomes.

