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
Information Network community profile.

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

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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.