

AUGUST 9, 2023

NC EPHT NEWSLETTER

North Carolina Environmental Public Health Tracking Program

Newsletter Overview

Our team has been hard at work, making strides toward our mission to empower communities by providing data and context to inform data driven policies, funding, and solutions to build a healthier and more equitable environment for all North Carolinians.

Highlights in this Edition:

- Made website improvements based on your feedback.
- Received \$1 million in Component B funds for Farmworker Hurricane Recovery and Resilience.
- Applied for funds to address farmworker community needs.
- Launched the GIS tool on our website for data exploration.
- Engaged in impactful presentations at public events.
- Submitted crucial data to the CDC data portal.

You Suggested, We Listened

Your opinions matter! In response to our meeting evaluation survey, 5 out of 7 respondents chose to keep the name for our dashboard as "**Environmental Health Data Dashboard (EHDD)**." Your input guides us in shaping a user-friendly experience!

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GIS Tool Launch:

Our GIS tool is now live on our website!

Layered Insights:

Our GIS tool comes packed with layers thoughtfully suggested by our esteemed Advisory Committee. Dive deep into a wealth of environmental and public health data, all at your fingertips.

Unlimited Potential:

This is just the beginning! Stay tuned for an exciting rollout of even more layers, including layers focused on additional environmental metrics. We're committed to expanding the horizons of knowledge.

Home Gallery Map Scene Groups

North Carolina Environmental Health Data Dashboard - BETA VERSION_2

Overview

North Carolina Environmental Health Data Dashboard - BETA VERSION

Web Map by francena.scott

Item created: Mar 1, 2023 Item updated: Mar 7, 2023 View count: 76

Description

The Occupational and Environmental Epidemiology Branch of the Division of Public Health has received funding from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to build a new NC Environmental Public Health Tracking (EPHT) Program, as part of the National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network. NC EPHT staff have worked with state and local stakeholders to create a North Carolina Environmental Health Data Dashboard (EHDD) that allows users to view interactive maps and environmental health data visualizations at the state and county levels. The NC EHDD will include monitoring data and track environmental and climate hazards that can affect human health throughout the state.

Layers

- Boundary Layers
 - Group Layer
 - NC Counties
 - Feature Layer
 - NC Recognized Tribes
 - Feature Layer
 - Environmental Justice Index
 - Map Image Layer
 - Social Vulnerability Index
 - Feature Layer

Details

Size: 4.135 MB

ID: 1e65be6442d34ce9bf7671e94bafddb5

☆☆☆☆☆

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Owner

FR francena.scott

Categories

Current events

Tags

1. Select this arrow and select Open in Map Viewer

Visit [EHDD GIS Tool](#) to unlock the full potential of our GIS tool with a quick tutorial.



Collaboration and Achievements:

Drumroll, please! We've secured \$1 million in Component B funds over the next four years. These funds will propel our collaborative efforts with the Farmworker Health Program and NC State Cooperative Extension for the Farmworker Hurricane Recovery and Resilience project.

Our collaborative initiatives will focus on these key areas:

- **Financial Support for Farmworker Health and Safety:** Providing crucial financial support to ensure the continuation of Farmworker Health and Safety personnel.
- **Farmworker Household Needs Assessment:** Conducting comprehensive needs assessments in Southeastern NC farmworker communities to better understand their specific challenges and needs.
- **Free Private Well Testing:** Offering free private well testing to farmworker households, ensuring access to clean and healthy water sources.
- **Translation of Educational Materials:** Translating existing educational materials into Spanish and Haitian Creole, and developing new materials for low-literacy audiences.
- **Hurricane Recovery and Resilience Training:** Equipping those serving the Farmworker Community, including Community Health Workers, with hurricane recovery and resilience training.

Together, we empower farmworkers, address their unique needs, and drive positive change in our communities.



Our Team Has Been Making Waves Across the Nation:



Capturing the camaraderie and enjoyment of the 2023 Annual CSTE Conference.

Public Health Preparedness and Response (PHP&R) Symposium:

- We had the honor of sharing our expertise on incorporating environmental justice into preparedness and response at the prestigious PHP&R Symposium held in Greensboro, NC from May 10 to 12, 2023.

North Carolina Public Health Association (NCPHA) Data Summit:

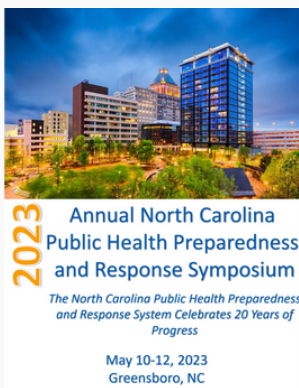
- Our data enthusiasts showcased environmental data sources and offered a roadmap for accessing vital information. Led by the NC Division of Public Health data office, the summit fostered collaboration and efforts to streamline workflows, enhancing data access for informed decision-making. As a result, collaborative discussions were initiated to improve state data system access together. Empowering professionals to excel in public health operations, we strive to build a more prepared and informed North Carolina.

Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologist (CSTE) Conference:

- Our CSTE fellows made significant contributions at the highly anticipated CSTE Conference, held from June 24 to 28, 2023 in Salt Lake City, Utah. With a focus on injury and violence prevention and farm worker health, they conducted engaging roundtable discussions, provided a platform for knowledge exchange and fostered collaborative solutions. Additionally, our team delivered impactful presentations on crucial topics such as wastewater surveillance for COVID-19 and pesticide surveillance, showcasing our commitment to empowering public health advocacy. As we continue to drive positive change, the data revolution thrives through the power of collaboration and innovation.



We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Kim Gaetz, who was honored with the prestigious CSTE Mentor of the Year Award at the 2023 Annual Conference for her outstanding guidance and support.

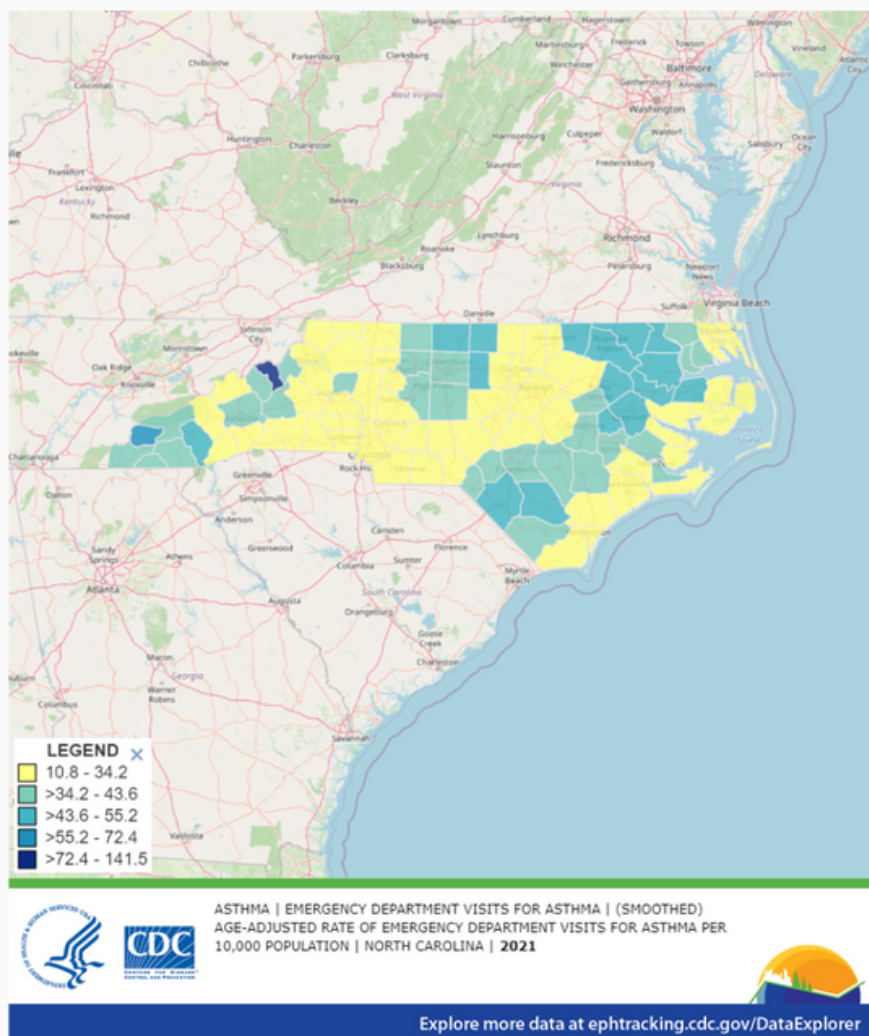


Unlocking Data Milestones and Empowering Insights

Sharing significant data milestones that showcase our commitment to providing valuable insights into public health and the environment.

Spring Data Call Success: In April, we successfully submitted Radon and Drinking water data to the CDC data portal. This achievement allows us to contribute crucial information that contributes to a comprehensive understanding of environmental health factors.

Fall Data Call Accessibility: The NC asthma, COPD, CO poisoning, and HRI ED (heat related illness) visit data, which we submitted during the Fall data call, are now accessible on the national CDC Data Explorer portal. These datasets offer valuable insights into health trends, enabling researchers, policymakers, and public health professionals to make informed decisions and improve community well-being.



Explore our powerful CDC tool for interactive health, environmental, and population data visualizations. This [screenshot](#) highlights ASTHMA data, including Emergency Department visits, age-adjusted rates, and trends from 2016 to 2021 in North Carolina. Unleash the potential of data-driven insights and discover key health indicators at your fingertips.

Fresh Faces, Bright Minds

NCEPHT, as a new program, carefully selected a diverse, passionate, and community-oriented team. Our investment in building this exceptional team is already proving to be the driving force behind our success. Together, we're blazing a trail toward a healthier North Carolina!



Colleen Tennant, MSPH
Public Health Informatician
She / Her / Hers

Colleen Tennant, a Public Health Informatician, recently joined the NC EPHT team, bringing expertise in Epidemiology and Business. With a profound connection to rural life, she is excited about the EPHT program's potential to provide accessible and reliable environmental data for communities like hers.



Faye Koenigsmark, Ph.D.
GIS Analyst
She / They

Dr. Faye Koenigsmark, a GIS analyst with a Ph.D. in Environmental Engineering from Duke University, is thrilled to join the EPHT team. Her expertise includes mercury exposure assessment and remediation, and she recently completed a postdoctoral fellowship at UNC Chapel Hill, exploring environmental and social determinants of health. With a passion for a safe and healthy environment, she aims to create positive change for everyone throughout NC.

Joyce Keith Hargrove, Ph.D.
Environmental Program Consultant

Dr. Joyce Keith Hargrove is an Environmental Program Consultant within our NCEPHT team. Her exceptional skills and notable contributions to our Climate and Health team have prepared her well for this new responsibility. With her dedication and expertise, Joyce will lead our initiatives and effectively manage the Component B funds, making a significant impact in addressing environmental health challenges. We wish her all the best as she embarks on this exciting new chapter in her career.



Aminah Keys, MPH, CHES
Public Health Educator
She / Her / Hers

Aminah Keys, a Public Health Educator with a Master of Public Health in Environmental Health and Epidemiology, joined the NC EPHT team. Her research on PFAS and water contamination fuels her passion for promoting healthy living and community education. She believes in the transformative power of outreach and education, actively contributing to positive change through advocacy and lifelong learning.



Saira Prasanth
Summer Intern
She / Her / Hers

Saira Prasanth is a summer intern in the Occupational and Environmental Epidemiology Branch at NC DHHS, where she supports heat-related illness surveillance and analysis. Concurrently, she is pursuing her Master of Public Health in Chronic Disease Epidemiology at the Yale School of Public Health, aligning her academic pursuits with her research interests in housing, health, and climate justice. During her leisure time, Saira finds joy in hiking and going for runs.



Reflect, Engage, and Connect

Closing the Chapter with Gratitude

As we embrace new beginnings, we bid a fond farewell to two incredible team members who have left a lasting impact on our program:

- CSTE Fellow, *Kelly Garcia*
- CDC Foundation GIS Analyst, *Francena Scott*

Their contributions and dedication will be cherished and remembered as we move forward.

Have Your Say on Advancing Environmental Justice

The NC Governor's Office invites everyone to provide their thoughts on advancing environmental justice in North Carolina. Share your valuable insights by filling out this survey, which will remain open until August 11, 2023.

Your feedback will help shape meaningful actions toward a more just and sustainable future. Access the survey here:

<https://forms.office.com/g/EfYxujy2E4>

or scan here:



Stay Connected, Stay Informed

As we continue our journey together, we invite you to stay connected and engaged. Explore our improved website, and reach out to us with any suggestions, questions, or collaboration opportunities.

Together, we can empower communities, inform decisions, and build a healthier, more sustainable future.

Best regards,

The NC EPHT Team

Empowering Communities, Informing Decisions

Website: <https://epi.dph.ncdhhs.gov/oeo/programs/EnvPubHealthTracking.html> | Email: nceph_t_support@dhhs.nc.gov

This project was supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$710,000 per year with 100 percent funded by CDC/HHS. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by CDC/HHS, or the U.S. Government.