

Air Toxics Data Update – An Overview

“Increasing transparency and providing the public with access to data are fundamental to improving air quality in America. Our commitment is to provide communities, especially those disproportionately facing burdens of pollution and waste, with the most complete, frequent and useful information available about air pollution and its impacts.”

- Michael S. Regan, EPA Administrator

EPA is improving its approach to identify and address existing and emerging air toxics issues in the United States. Providing updated data and risk analyses annually are important components of this approach, so communities – especially those with environmental justice considerations – have more current and complete information about their air quality.

PAST & FUTURE

Since 1996, EPA has provided a national assessment of air toxics information every three to four years. The most recent National Air Toxics Assessment (NATA) was released in 2018, based on 2014 emissions data. EPA is creating a new approach that will provide integrated air toxics and criteria pollutant information on an annual basis. This will give the public more timely air pollution information, as well as a better way to understand trends in emissions, pollution levels and risks over time. EPA plans to use an agile and flexible approach to make data available through its air toxics website, EJSCREEN, and, ultimately, the Air Trends Report. As the agency transitions to this new approach over the next few years, it will engage co-regulators and stakeholders, incorporate updates in technology, and adjust tools at the local and national level as needed.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE?

	NATA	Air toxics data updates
Frequency of Release	Every 3 to 4 years	Annually
Spatial Resolution of Information	Census tract level	Census tract for all sources, and census block for point sources (in future years)
Release of Information	NATA rollout with press release	Initially available on EPA’s air toxics website and incorporated into EJSCREEN, and eventually included in the annual Air Trends Report

NEXT STEPS

In 2022, EPA will update a popular and accessible tool, EJSCREEN, with risk estimates using the most recent available air toxics emissions data from 2017. EPA will also provide key updated air toxics information needed by users on its website. Later in 2022, EPA will update EJSCREEN again using 2018 emissions and risk estimates. Starting in 2023, the agency will incorporate the latest risk results into the annual Air Trends Report, so the public can receive a more complete picture of current air quality for criteria pollutants and air toxics. Through a combination of stakeholder feedback and technology enhancements, EPA’s goal is to continuously improve user access to air quality data.

It will take a few years to build up to the final products, so we anticipate a stepwise transition with additional resources and tools in the future:

Emissions Year	EJSCREEN	Website with supplementary information	Annual Air Trends Report
2017	2022	2022	
2018	Mid- to Late-Summer 2022	Mid- to Late-Summer 2022	
2019	2023	Spring 2023	May 2023
2020	2024	Spring 2024	May 2024