

2024 PM2.5 Year in Review (Updates on Designations and Exceptional Events Too)

Bureau of Air Quality
5/08/2025

JOSH SHAPIRO, GOVERNOR | JESSICA SHIRLEY, ACTING SECRETARY



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Department of
Environmental Protection



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Agenda

- DEP's PM2.5 Designation Process
- DEP's PM2.5 Exceptional Event Process
- 2024 PM2.5 Year in Review
 - A review of the meteorology
 - PM2.5 Concentration Data
- Next Steps



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DEP's PM_{2.5} Designation Process

DEP's PM2.5 Designation Process

- On February 7, 2024, EPA signed the final rule for a new PM2.5 NAAQS, revising the primary annual standard to $9.0 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ and retaining the primary 24-hour standard to $35 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.
- EPA finalized 2023 PM2.5 design values in August 2024. DEP used these 2023 PM2.5 design values for its designation purposes.
- In its plan, DEP used five factors (air quality data, emissions data, meteorology data, geography/topography data and jurisdictional boundary data) to define its proposed PM2.5 nonattainment areas.
- The result: DEP proposed four areas in the Commonwealth for nonattainment area designation.
- DEP went out for public comment on its recommended PM2.5 designation from December 21, 2024 until January 28, 2025.

DEP's PM2.5 Designation Process

Facts about the public comment period:

- DEP extended the public comment period due to a request that was submitted.
- In total, DEP received 24 public comments.
- Public comments were submitted from Pennsylvania citizens in addition to different environmental organizations, including from Allegheny County Clean Air Now, Breathe Project, Carnegie Mellon University's CREATE Lab, Clean Air Council, Environmental Health Project, Environmental Integrity Project, Group Against Smog and Pollution, PennEnvironment Research and Policy Center, PennFuture, and Protect PT.
- Final comment and response document will be published to DEP website once approved for publication.



Map of Pennsylvania showing county-level COVID-19 case rates per 100,000 people. The map uses a color scale from blue (low rates) to red (high rates). County names are labeled, and specific case rate values are provided for many counties. The map shows a clear trend of increasing case rates from the northwest to the southeast.

County	Case Rate (per 100,000)
ERIE	7.1*
CRAWFORD	7.0*
MERCER	7.0*
VENANGO	7.0*
WARREN	7.0*
MCKEAN	7.0*
POTTER	7.0*
TIOGA	5.6*
BRADFORD	6.4*
SUSQUEHANNA	5.9*
WAYNE	5.7*
CLINTON	6.6*
LYCOMING	6.6*
SULLIVAN	6.4*
WYOMING	5.7*
LACKAWANNA	7.5
PIKE	7.5
CLARION	8.3
JEFFERSON	8.3
CLEARFIELD	8.3
CENTRE	7.6
UNION	7.6
MONTOUR	7.6
COLUMBIA	7.6
LUZERNE	7.6
MONROE	7.6
CARBON	7.6
NORTHAMPTON	7.6
SCHUYLKILL	7.6
LEHIGH	8.4*
BUCKS	8.3
ALLEGHENY	8.1
ARMSTRONG	8.1
INDIANA	7.3
CAMBRIA	7.3
BLAIR	7.9
HUNTINGDON	7.9
MIFFLIN	7.9
JUNIATA	7.9
PERRY	7.9
CUMBERLAND	7.9
ADAMS	8.7
FRANKLIN	8.7
FULTON	8.7
BEDFORD	8.7
SOMERSET	8.8
WESTMORELAND	8.8
DAUPHIN	9.8
LEBANON	8.4
BERKS	8.4
MONTGOMERY	8.4
PHILADELPHIA	8.1
CHESTER	8.1
DELAWARE	8.5
LANCASTER	8.8
YORK	9.3
DAUPHIN	9.8
LEBANON	8.4
BERKS	8.4
MONTGOMERY	8.4
PHILADELPHIA	8.1
CHESTER	8.1
DELAWARE	8.5
LANCASTER	8.8
YORK	9.3
DAUPHIN	9.8
LEBANON	8.4
BERKS	8.4
MONTGOMERY	8.4
PHILADELPHIA	8.1
CHESTER	8.1
DELAWARE	8.5
LANCASTER	8.8
YORK	9.3
DAUPHIN	9.8
LEBANON	8.4
BERKS	8.4
MONTGOMERY	8.4
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CHESTER	8.1
DELAWARE	8.5
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DAUPHIN	9.8
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BERKS	8.4
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PHILADELPHIA	8.1
CHESTER	8.1
DELAWARE	8.5
LANCASTER	8.8
YORK	9.3
DAUPHIN	9.8
LEBANON	8.4
BERKS	

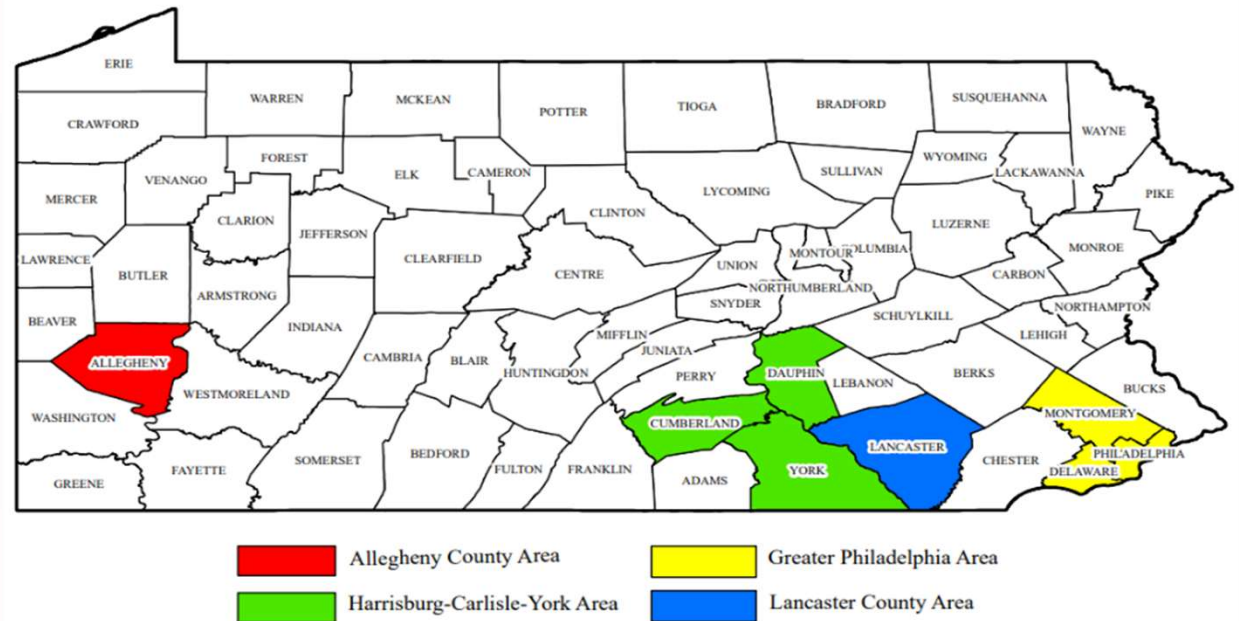
Appearing in Blue – 2023 annual PM2.5 design value at or below 9.0 µg/m³ (2024 PM2.5 Standard)

Asterisk (*) appearing behind the design value means the data is incomplete during 3-year period.



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DEP's PM_{2.5} Designation Process – Final Proposal





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DEP's PM_{2.5} Exceptional Event Process



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DEP's PM2.5 Exceptional Event Process

- Coinciding with the 2024 PM2.5 NAAQS designation process, DEP embarked on a PM2.5 exceptional event analysis.
- The events focused on two different time periods in June 2023: June 6 – June 8 and June 28 – July 1. Both events were centered on wildfires in eastern Canada (Quebec province).
- DEP focused the analysis on three sites: Avalon (ACHD), York (DEP), Ritner (PAMS).
- Result: the analysis demonstrated that if the PM2.5 data from the two events were excluded for determination of the compliance with the 2025 PM2.5 NAAQS, the three sites would no longer be exceeding the 2025 PM2.5 NAAQS based on the 2023 PM2.5 design value period, thereby meeting the “regulatory significance” requirement of completing an exceptional event analysis.
- The exceptional event analysis went out for public comment from February 15, 2025 to March 17, 2025. DEP received no public comments.



Map of Pennsylvania showing county-level COVID-19 case rates per 100,000 people. The map uses a color scale from blue (low rates) to red (high rates). County names are labeled. Data points are shown as colored dots with numerical values. Some values are circled in red, indicating higher rates. The map shows a clear trend of increasing case rates from the northwest to the southeast.

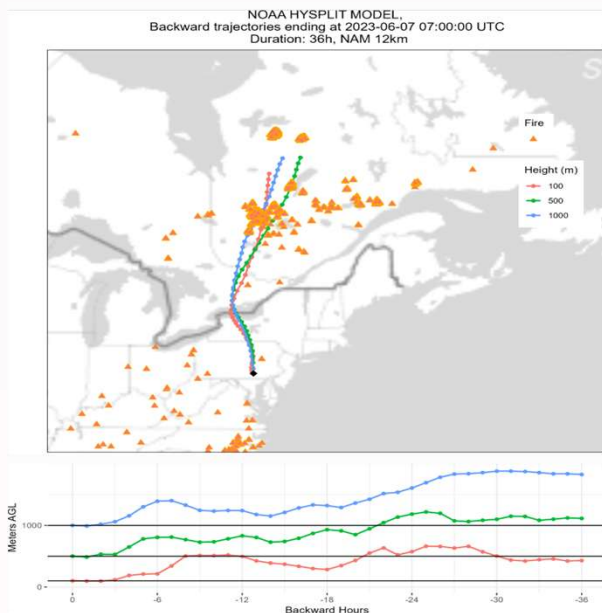
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MERCER	8.9
VENANGO	8.3
FOREST	8.1
CLARION	8.7
JEFFERSON	7.3
ELK	7.9
CAMERON	7.6
POTTER	6.6*
TIOGA	5.6*
BRADFORD	6.4*
SUSQUEHANNA	5.9*
WAYNE	5.7*
LACKAWANNA	7.5
PIKE	8.4*
CLINTON	7.6
LYCOMING	6.6*
SULLIVAN	5.6*
WYOMING	5.7*
LUZERNE	8.4*
MONROE	8.3
CARBON	8.4*
NORTHAMPTON	8.3
LEHIGH	8.3
BUCKS	8.4*
MONTGOMERY	8.1
PHILADELPHIA	8.5
CHESTER	8.1
DELAWARE	8.5*
YORK	9.3*
LANCASTER	8.8
BERKS	8.4
DAUPHIN	9.8
LEBANON	8.4
PERRY	7.9
CUMBERLAND	8.7
ADAMS	8.7
FRANKLIN	8.7
FULTON	8.7
BEDFORD	8.7
SOMERSET	8.8
CAMBRIA	7.3
BLAIR	7.9
HUNTINGDON	7.9
MIFFLIN	7.9
JUNIATA	7.9
SNYDER	7.9
NORTHUMBERLAND	7.9
SCHUYLKILL	7.9
WYOMING	7.9
CLARION	7.9
JEFFERSON	7.9
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CAMERON	7.9
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HUNTINGDON	7.9
MIFFLIN	7.9
JUNIATA	7.9

Appearing in Blue – 2023 annual PM_{2.5} design value at or below 9.0 µg/m³ (2024 PM_{2.5} Standard)

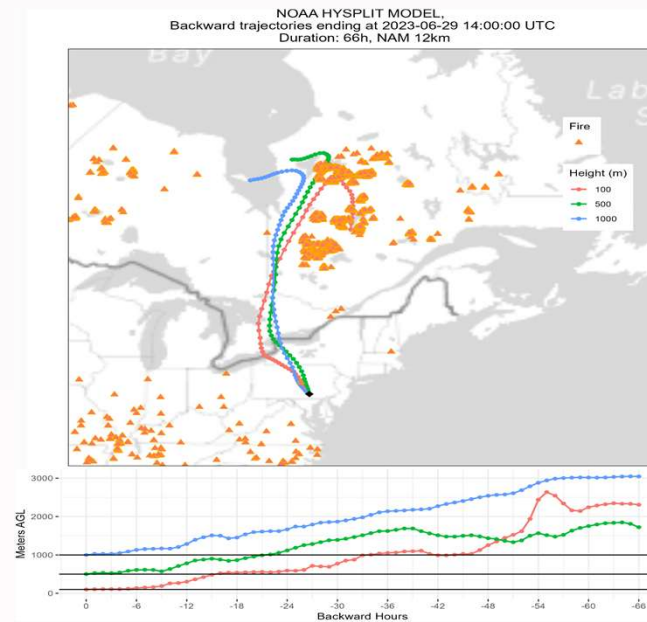
Asterisk (*) appearing behind the design value means the data is incomplete during 3-year period.

DEP's PM_{2.5} Exceptional Event Process – Back Trajectories

June 7, 2023



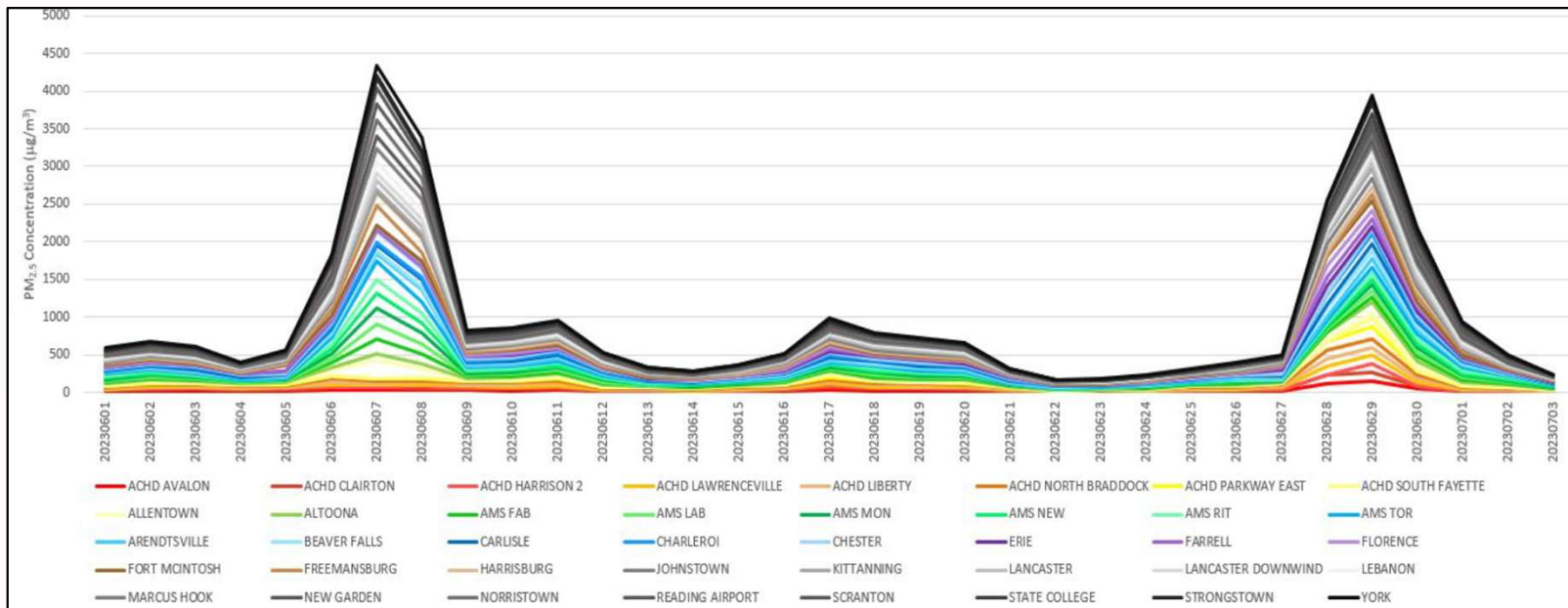
June 29, 2023





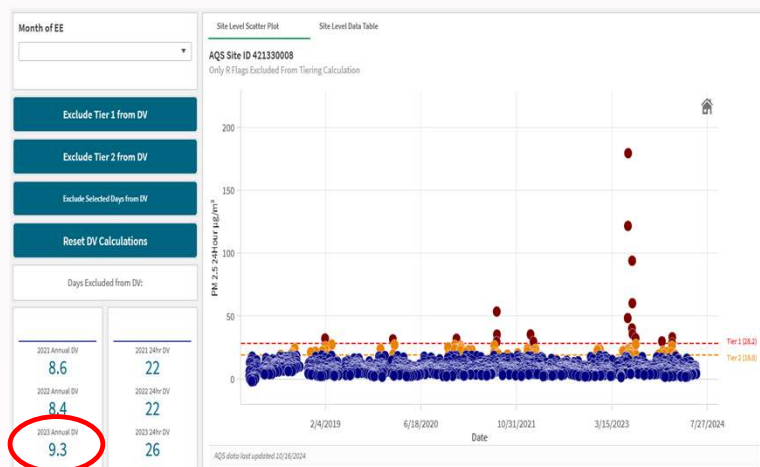
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DEP's PM_{2.5} Exceptional Event Process – PM_{2.5} Concentrations

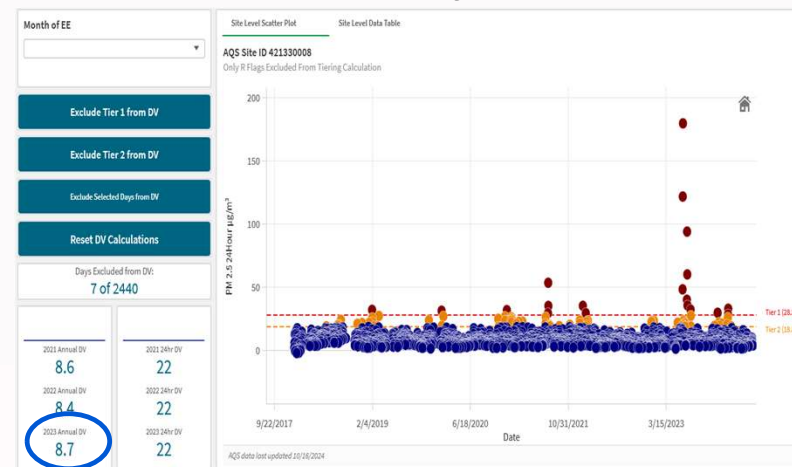


DEP's PM2.5 Exceptional Event Process – PM2.5 Concentrations

York – No Days Excluded



York – Seven Days Excluded



Graphics from EPA Website: <https://www.epa.gov/air-quality-analysis/pm25-tiering-tool-exceptional-events-analysis>



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2024 PM_{2.5} Year in Review

Meteorology – Winter 2024

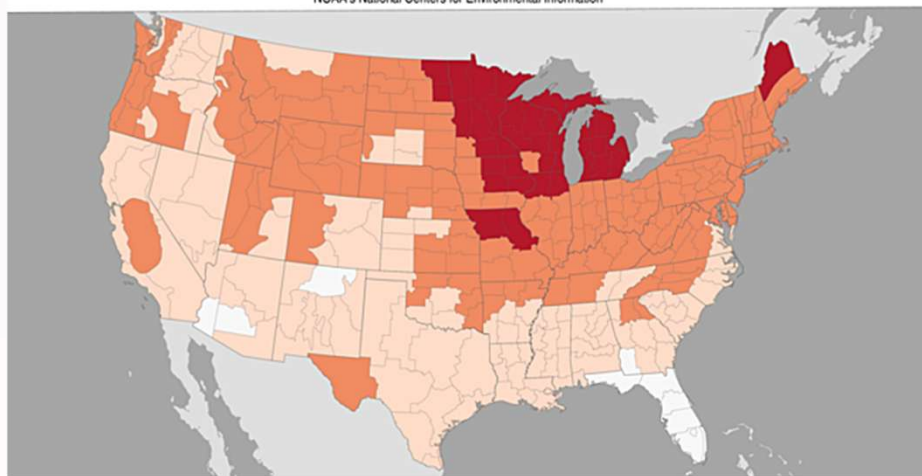
Temperature

Divisional Maximum Temperature Ranks

December 2023–February 2024

Ranking Period: 1895–2024

NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information



Record Coldest
 Much Below Average
 Below Average
 Near Average
 Above Average
 Much Above Average
 Record Warmest



Created: Wed Mar 6 2024
 Source: nClimGrid – Monthly

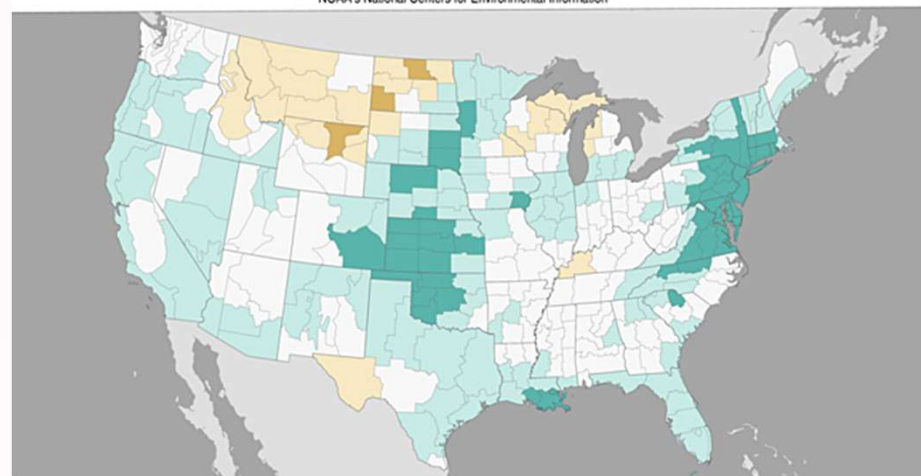
Precipitation

Divisional Precipitation Ranks

December 2023–February 2024

Ranking Period: 1895–2024

NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information



Record Driest
 Much Below Average
 Below Average
 Near Average
 Above Average
 Much Above Average
 Record Wettest



Created: Wed Mar 6 2024
 Source: nClimGrid – Monthly

Meteorology – Spring 2024

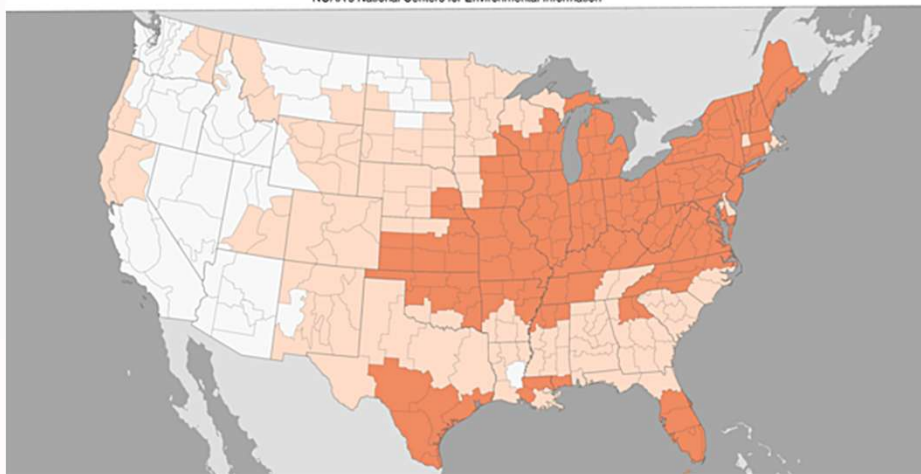
Temperature

Divisional Maximum Temperature Ranks

March–May 2024

Ranking Period: 1895–2024

NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information



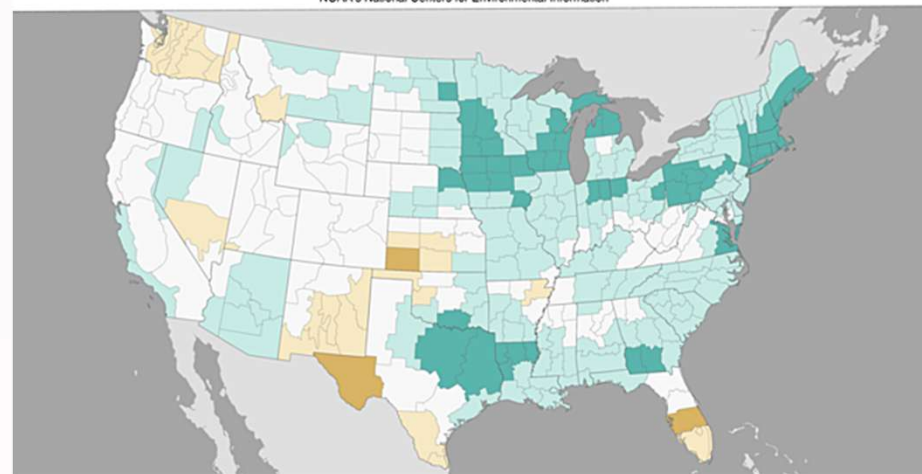
Precipitation

Divisional Precipitation Ranks

March–May 2024

Ranking Period: 1895–2024

NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information



Meteorology – Summer 2024

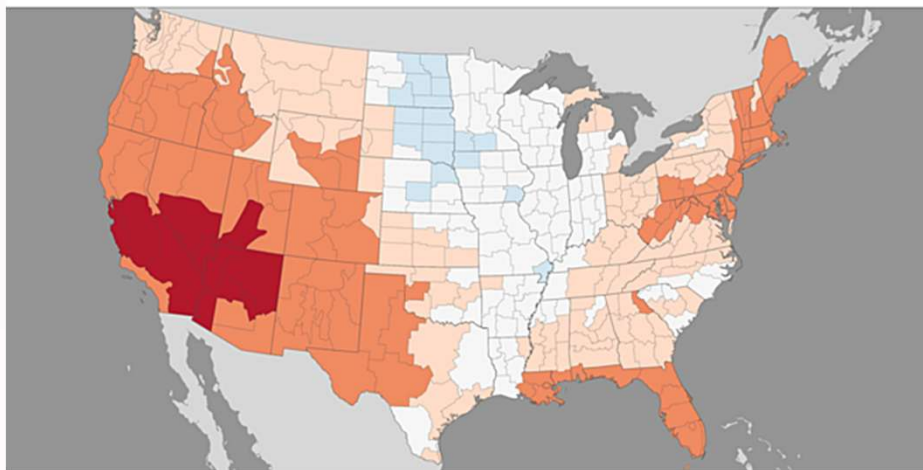
Temperature

Divisional Maximum Temperature Ranks

June-August 2024

Ranking Period: 1895-2024

NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information



Record Coldest
 Much Below Average
 Below Average
 Near Average
 Above Average
 Much Above Average
 Record Warmest



Created: Fri Sep 6 2024
 Source: nClimGrid - Monthly

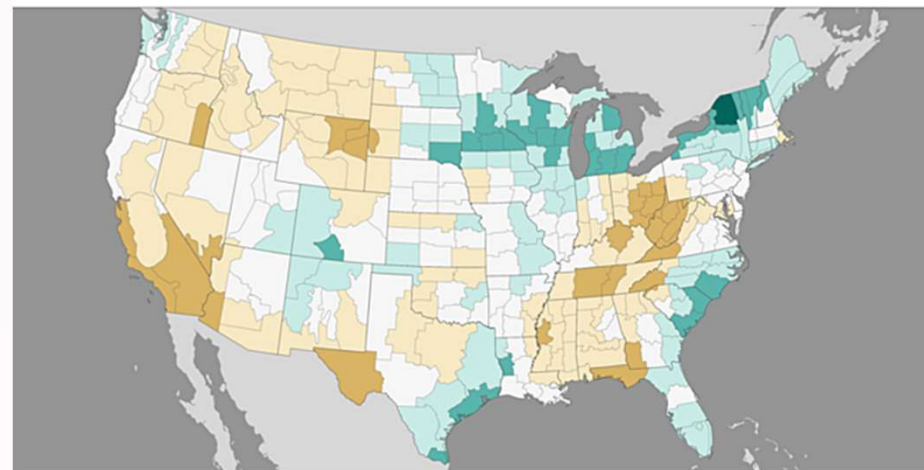
Precipitation

Divisional Precipitation Ranks

June-August 2024

Ranking Period: 1895-2024

NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information



Record Driest
 Much Below Average
 Below Average
 Near Average
 Above Average
 Much Above Average
 Record Wettest



Created: Fri Sep 6 2024
 Source: nClimGrid - Monthly

Meteorology – Fall 2024

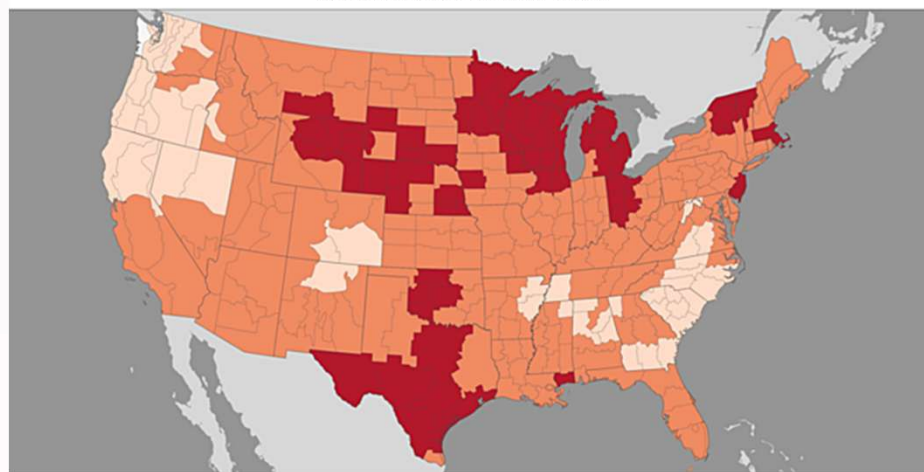
Temperature

Divisional Maximum Temperature Ranks

September-November 2024

Ranking Period: 1895-2024

NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information



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Source: nClimGrid - Monthly

Record Coldest
Much Below Average
Below Average
Near Average
Above Average
Much Above Average
Record Warmest



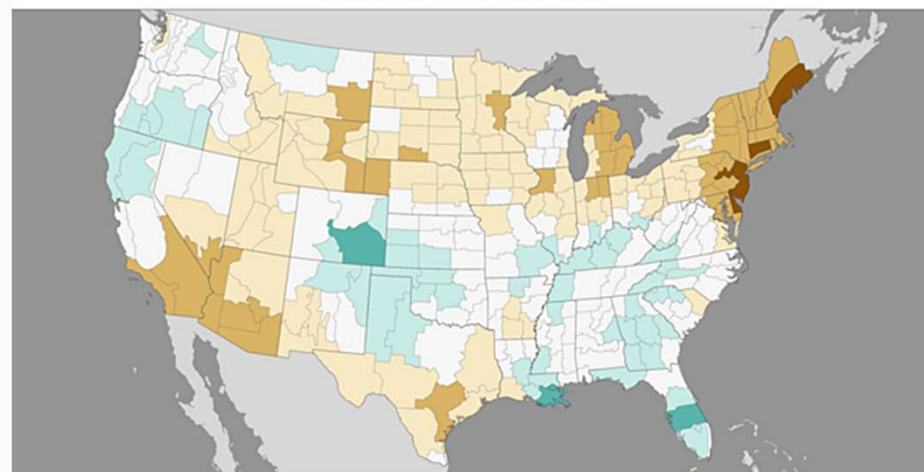
Precipitation

Divisional Precipitation Ranks

September-November 2024

Ranking Period: 1895-2024

NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information



Created: Thu Dec 5 2024
Source: nClimGrid - Monthly

Record Driest
Much Below Average
Below Average
Near Average
Above Average
Much Above Average
Record Wettest



2024 PM2.5 Monitoring Summary

- PM2.5 monitoring season – Year-round
- Overview of the 2024 design value (DV) for the 24-hour and annual PM2.5 national ambient air quality standard (NAAQS) continuous monitors:
 - 2024 24-hour DV calculation – 98th percentile value from 2022, 2023, and 2024 averaged over a 3-year period.
 - 2024 annual DV calculation – Annual average calculated from quarterly (January – March, and so on) averages. Annual average for 2022, 2023, and 2024 averaged over a 3-year period.

Number of 24-hour PM2.5 Exceedances

Number of PM2.5 exceedance days and total number of exceedances per year within Pennsylvania's PM2.5 monitoring network (~46 total monitors):

- 2022: 9 days | 12 total exceedances
- 2023: 20 days | 204 total exceedances
- 2024: 8 days | 10 total exceedances



Map of Pennsylvania showing county-level COVID-19 case counts as of May 11, 2020. The map displays 67 counties, each labeled with its name and a blue dot indicating the number of cases. Asterisks (*) denote counties with case counts that are estimates or preliminary data.

County	Case Count
ALLEGHENY	24
ARMSTRONG	23
BEAVER	23
BUTLER	19
CAMBERLAND	23
CANBRIA	21
CLARION	19*
CRAWFORD	21*
CUMBERLAND	23
DAUPHIN	27
ELK	22
FAYETTE	17*
FOREST	23
FRANKLIN	25
FULTON	26
GREENE	16*
HUNTINGDON	22
INDIANA	21
JUNIATA	23
LANCASTER	26
LEBANON	23
LEHIGH	26*
LUZERNE	24
MERCER	21*
MONTGOMERY	22
MONTGOMERY/DELAWARE	24*
MONTGOMERY/DELAWARE	24
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MONTGOMERY/DELAWARE	22
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MONTGOMERY/DELAWARE	22

Asterisk (*) appearing behind the design value means the data is incomplete during 3-year period.



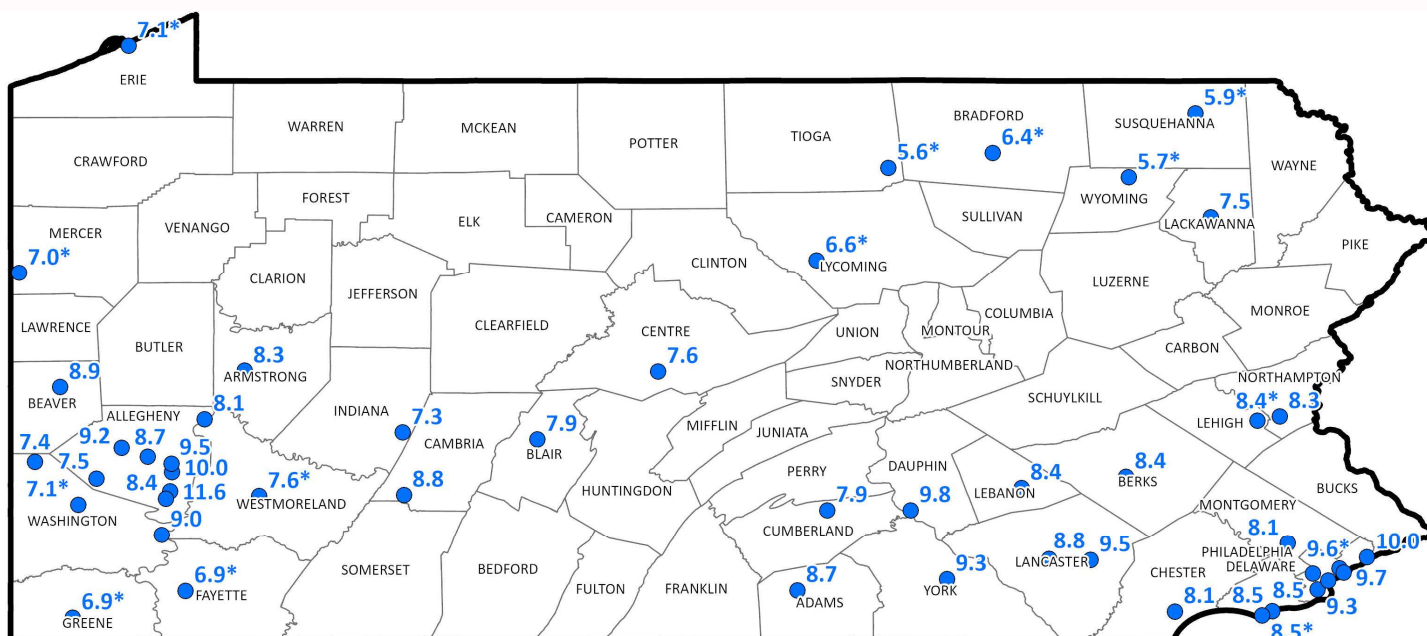
Map of Pennsylvania showing county-level COVID-19 case counts as of May 1, 2020. The map displays 67 counties with blue dots and numbers indicating the number of cases. Asterisks (*) denote counties with significant case counts. The map includes county names and a legend for the data series.

County	Case Count
Adams	25
Allegheny	21
Armstrong	21
Beaver	21
Butler	21
Cambria	19
Carbon	22*
Cecil	23
Clearfield	20
Clinton	17*
Columbia	22
Crawford	18*
Cumberland	21
Dauphin	26
Delaware	20
Franklin	25
Fulton	24
Harrisburg	25
Haverhill	22
Huntingdon	21
Juniata	21
Lancaster	25
Lebanon	22
Lehigh	22*
Luzerne	20
Maryland	23
Monroe	22*
Montgomery	20
Northampton	23
Northumberland	22
Perry	21
Pike	26
Potter	14*
Schuylkill	25
Snyder	21
Susquehanna	13*
Tioga	15*
Union	17*
Washington	14*
Wayne	13*
Westmoreland	17*
York	24

Asterisk (*) appearing behind the design value means the data is incomplete during 3-year period.



2023 Annual PM_{2.5} Design Values – 2012 NAAQS (12.0 µg/m³)



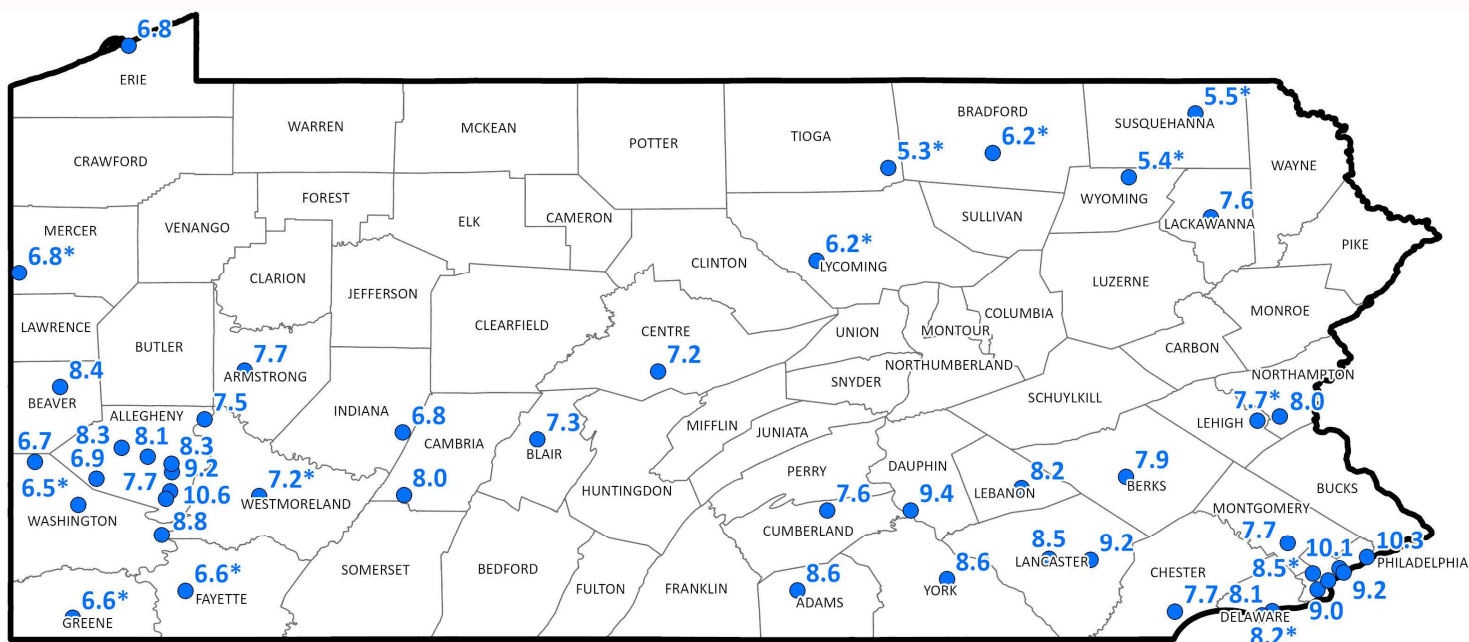
Appearing in Red – 2023 annual PM_{2.5} design value above 12.0 µg/m³ (2012 PM_{2.5} Standard)

Appearing in Blue – 2023 annual PM2.5 design value at or below 12.0 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (2012 PM2.5 Standard)

Asterisk (*) appearing behind the design value means the data is incomplete during 3-year period.



2024 Annual PM_{2.5} Design Values – 2012 NAAQS (12.0 µg/m³)



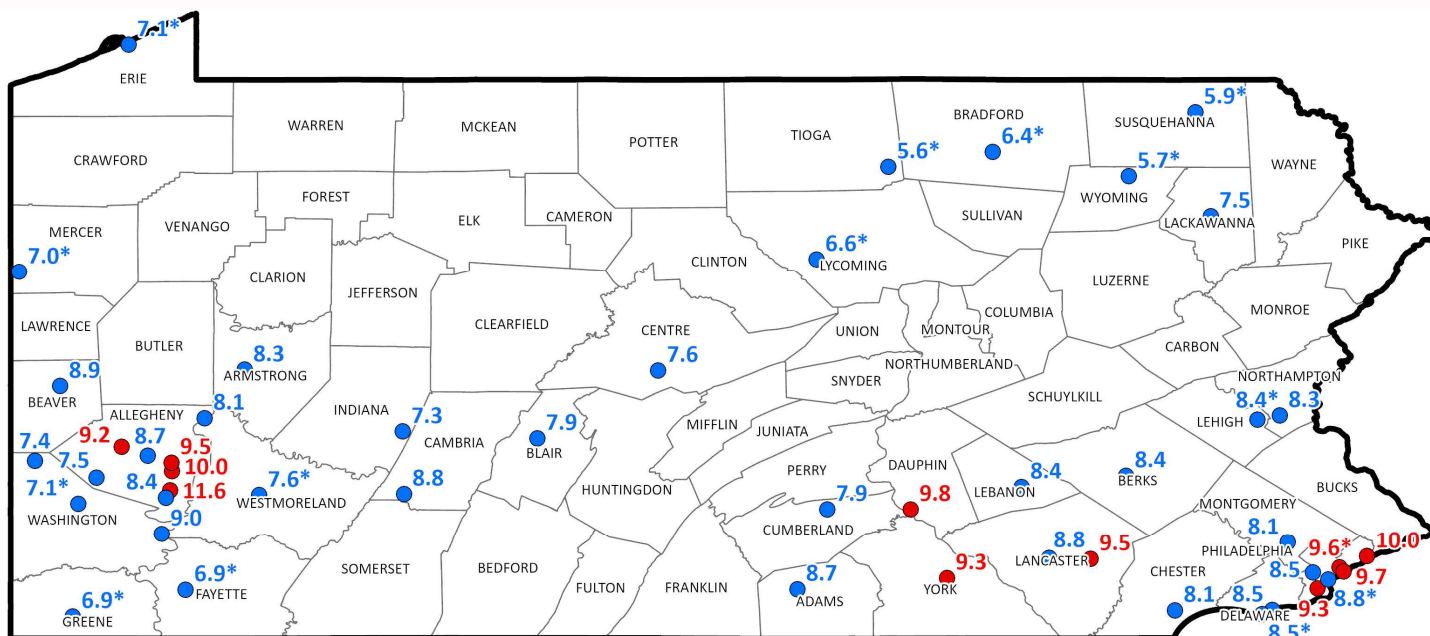
Appearing in Red – 2024 annual PM_{2.5} design value above 12.0 µg/m³ (2012 PM_{2.5} Standard)

Appearing in Blue – 2024 annual PM2.5 design value at or below 12.0 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (2012 PM2.5 Standard)

Asterisk (*) appearing behind the design value means the data is incomplete during 3-year period.



2023 Annual PM2.5 Design Values – 2024 NAAQS (9.0 µg/m³)



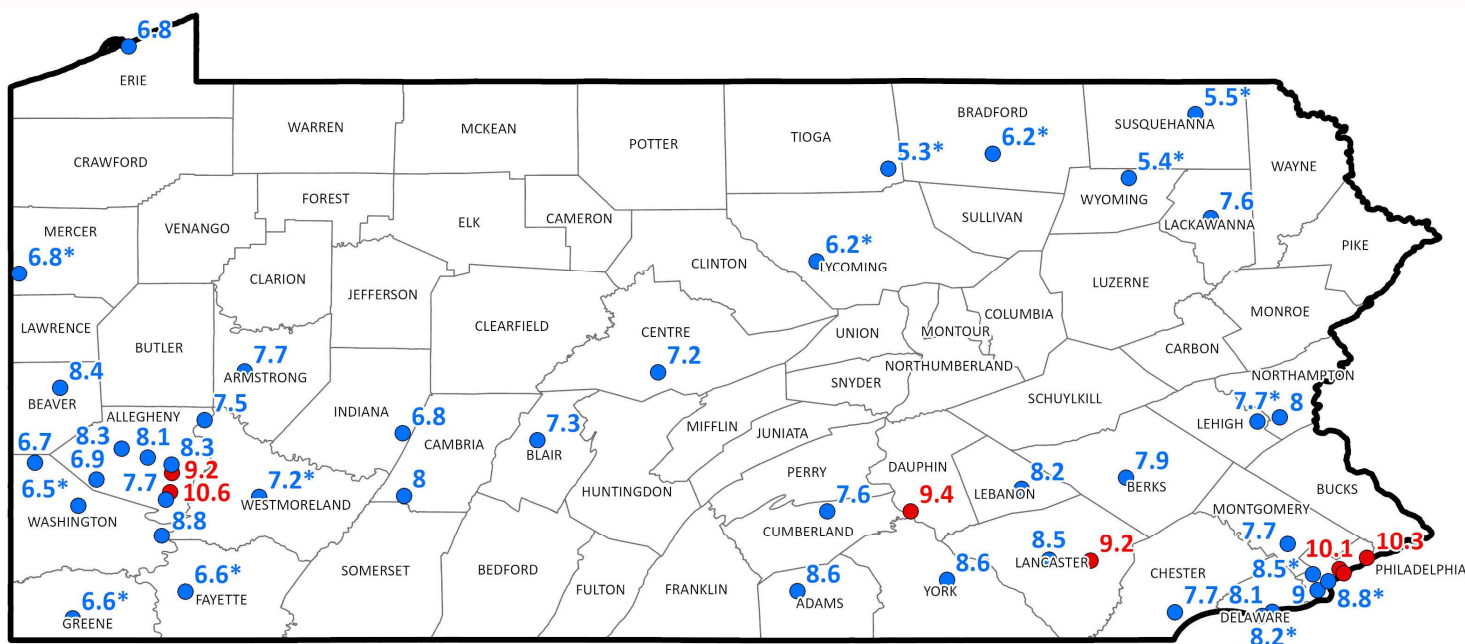
Appearing in Red – 2023 annual PM_{2.5} design value above 9.0 µg/m³ (2024 PM_{2.5} Standard)

Appearing in Blue – 2023 annual PM_{2.5} design value at or below 9.0 µg/m³ (2024 PM_{2.5} Standard)

Asterisk (*) appearing behind the design value means the data is incomplete during 3-year period.



2024 Annual PM2.5 Design Values – 2024 NAAQS (9.0 µg/m³)



Appearing in Red – 2024 annual PM_{2.5} design value above 9.0 µg/m³ (2024 PM_{2.5} Standard)

Appearing in Blue – 2024 annual PM_{2.5} design value at or below 9.0 µg/m³ (2024 PM_{2.5} Standard)

Asterisk (*) appearing behind the design value means the data is incomplete during 3-year period.



Pennsylvania
Department of
Environmental Protection

Next Steps

Next Steps

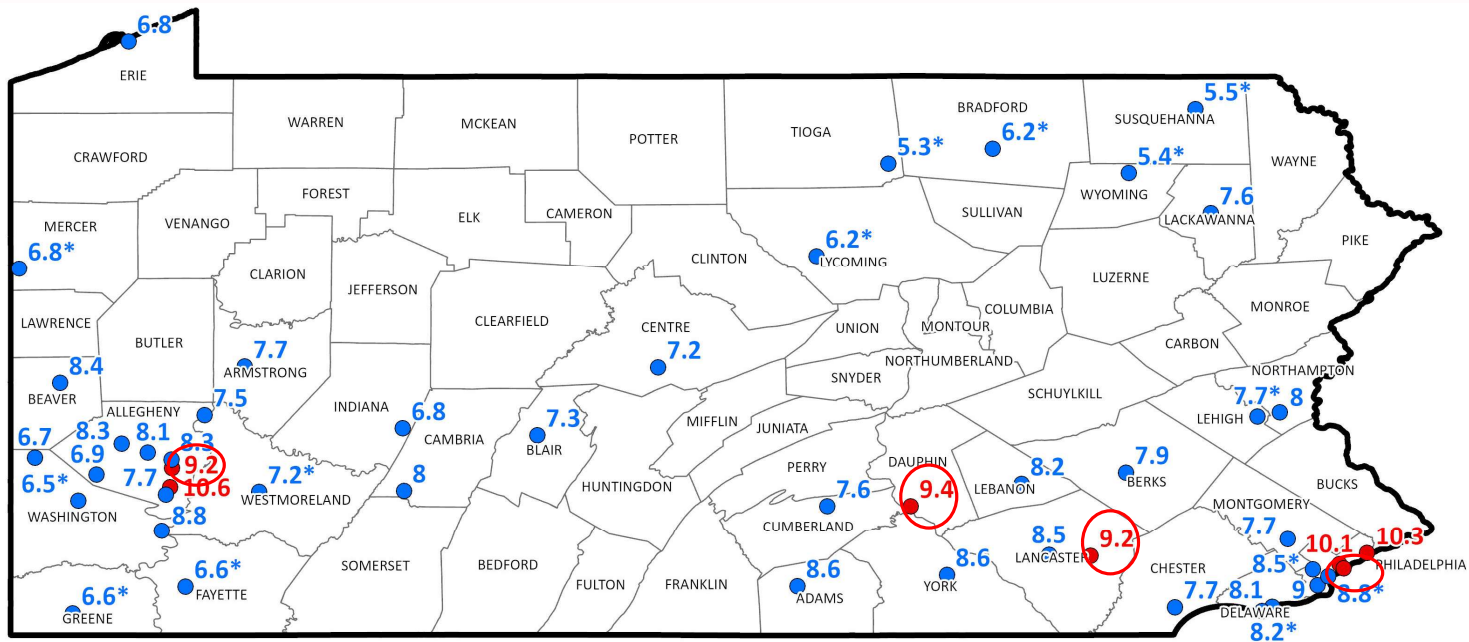


Image Source: <https://www.istockphoto.com>

- DEP early certified its 2024 PM_{2.5} data for consideration for the PM_{2.5} designation process.
- We await decisions at the federal level about our PM_{2.5} recommended designations and our PM_{2.5} exceptional event analysis.
- If current PM_{2.5} annual NAAQS stays at 9.0 µg/m³, we will reevaluate the need for additional exceptional event analyses (that may now be “regulatory significant”) with respect to the June 2023 wildfire event.



2024 Annual PM2.5 Design Values – 2024 NAAQS (9.0 µg/m³)



Appearing in Red – 2024 annual PM_{2.5} design value above 9.0 µg/m³ (2024 PM_{2.5} Standard)

Appearing in Blue – 2024 annual PM_{2.5} design value at or below 9.0 µg/m³ (2024 PM_{2.5} Standard)

Asterisk (*) appearing behind the design value means the data is incomplete during 3-year period.



Get In Touch

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The Department of Environmental Protection's mission is to protect Pennsylvania's air, land and water resources and to provide for the health and safety of its residents and visitors, consistent with the rights and duties established under the Environmental Rights Amendment (Article 1, Section 27 of the Pennsylvania Constitution).