

Norfolk County-8 Coalition

MDPH/LBOH Webinar 6/29/2021



Inter-agency Staff on the Webinar

- Jana Ferguson, Assistant Commissioner, DPH
- Sam Wong and Ron O'Connor, Office of Local and Regional Health, DPH
- Dr. Catherine Brown and Laurie Courtney, Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences, DPH
- Donna Quinn, Office of Preparedness and Emergency Management, DPH
- Sharon Lee, Bureau of Environmental Health
- Helene Bettencourt, Anne Gilligan, and Anne Marie Stronach, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
- Cheryl Sbarra, Massachusetts Association of Health Boards
- Jeff Farnsworth, Executive Office of Public Safety and Security
- Kristina Crandall, Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency

Announcements:

-Department of Labor Standards staff have stepped out of these webinars since workplace standards have been lifted.

-New Director for the Office of Local and Regional Health, Dr. Sam Wong.

-[Massachusetts Environmental Public Health Tracking Tool](#): Helps to identify [environmental justice communities](#) and provide additional demographic population. Data currently being updated by DPH so not all elements of the site are available right now.

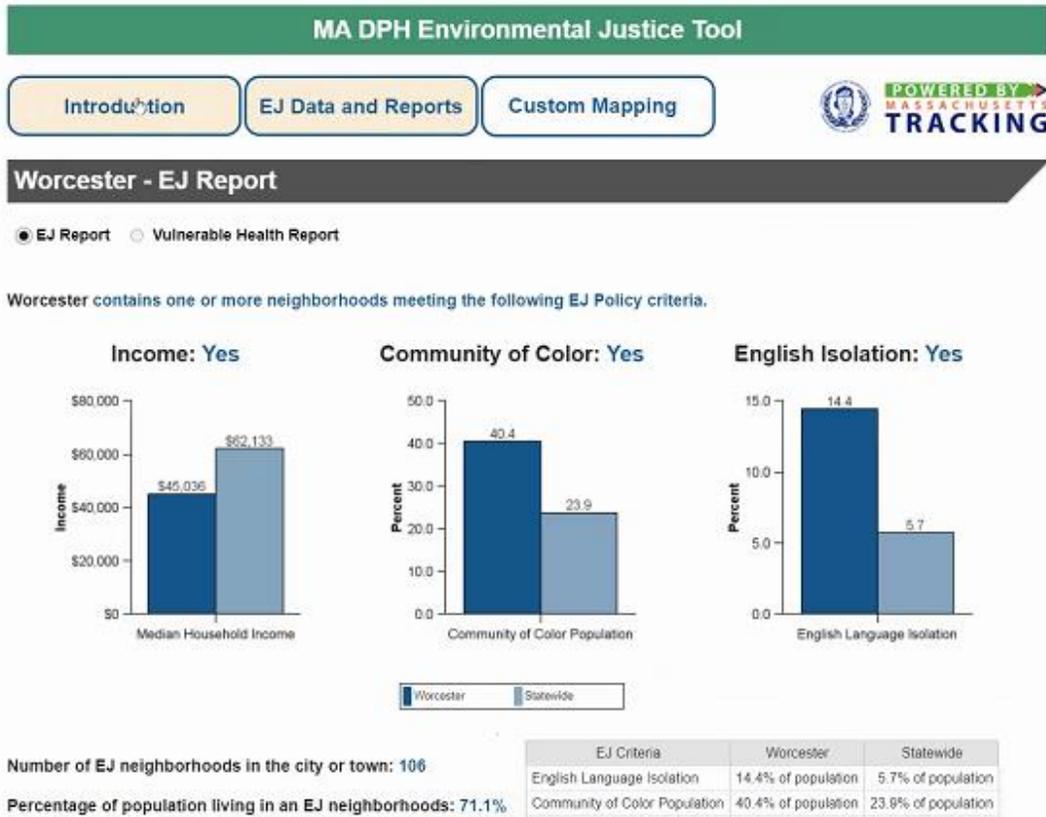
A screenshot of the Massachusetts Environmental Public Health Tracking website. The page features the state seal of Massachusetts in the top left corner. The main heading is "Massachusetts Environmental Public Health Tracking". To the right of the heading is a search bar with the text "ENHANCED BY Google" and a magnifying glass icon. Below the search bar is a green button labeled "TUTORIALS". A navigation menu is located below the search bar, with items: HOME, ABOUT (with a dropdown arrow), HEALTH (with a dropdown arrow), ENVIRONMENT (with a dropdown arrow), INSPECTIONS & LICENSES (with a dropdown arrow), and PLANNING & TOOLS (with a dropdown arrow). The central graphic is a large green leaf shape with a magnifying glass over a map of Massachusetts. The magnifying glass is labeled "Environmental Public Health Tracking". The leaf contains several smaller green leaves, each with a label: "National EPHT Program", "Community Profile", "Massachusetts EPHT Program", "Planning & Tools", "Climate Change", "Inspection Data", "Environmental Data", and "Health Data".

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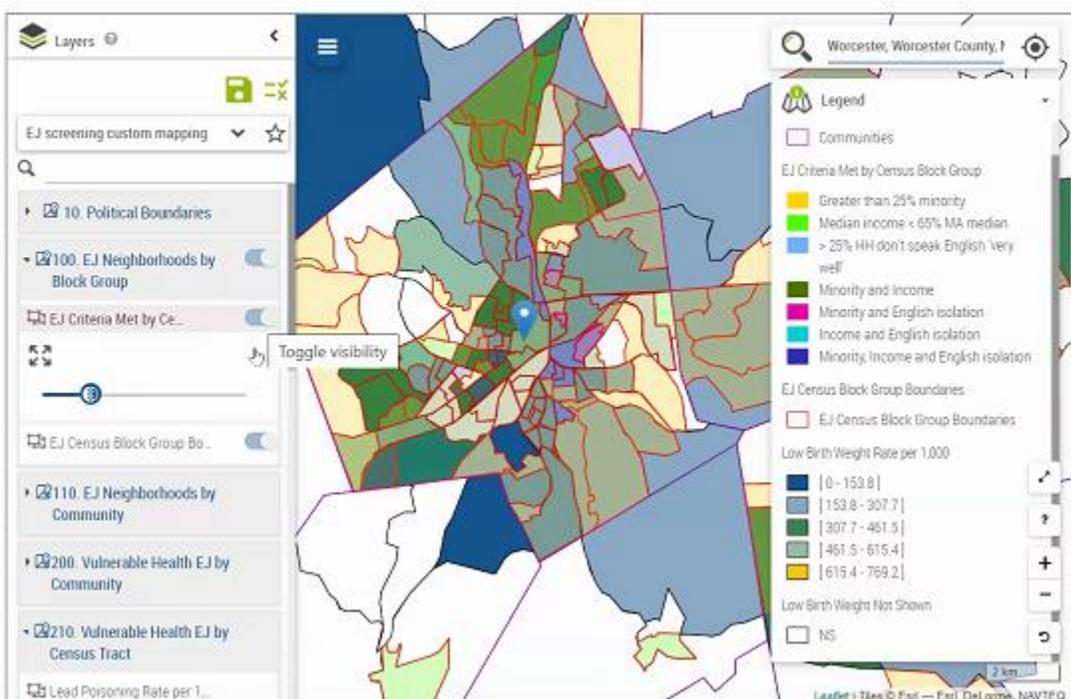
An example of one of the reports you can pull for your community:



Map How-to

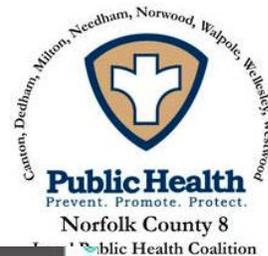


Custom Mapping



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EJ Data and Reports - Vulnerable Health EJ Criteria

Summary EJ Criteria Vulnerable Health EJ Criteria

Heart Attack

Childhood Blood Lead

Low Birth Weight

Childhood Asthma

State

City/Town

Click a city/town for detailed data

Meets Vulnerable Health EJ Criteria Rate

BLL Rate per 1,000

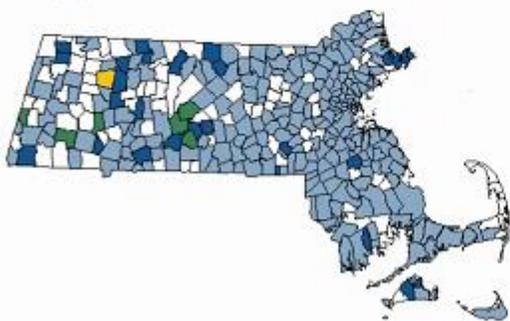
0 to 30.3

30.4 to 50.6

50.9 to 91.2

91.3 to 121.7

Not Shown (NS)



City or Town	Meets Vulnerable Health EJ Criteria	BLL Rate per 1,000	Stability
Acton	No	11	Stable
Acushnet	No	8	Unstable
Adams	Yes	40	Stable
Agawam	No	10	Stable
Alford	No	0	Unstable
Amesbury	No	20	Stable
Amherst	Yes	18	Stable
Andover	No	5	Stable
Aquinnah	No	0	Unstable
Arlington	No	7	Stable
Ashburnham	No	18	Unstable
Ashby	No	NS	Unstable
Ashfield	No	122	Stable
Ashland	No	9	Stable

NS = not shown due to small numbers

Stability refers to the reliability of the rate; when there are too few cases in a city or town, the rate is unstable and considered unreliable

Source: Massachusetts Childhood Blood Lead Prevention Program

Q: Please explain what “stable” and “unstable” mean? And what does “NS” mean?

A: Stable means that there is enough data to support the findings. Unstable means that there is not enough data to draw conclusions. NS means “not shown due to small numbers,” that there are not enough data (fewer than 10 cases) to publish and the numbers are so small that it compromises patient privacy.

Q: How frequently is the data updated?

A: If data is available, we try to update new data as soon as its released, but in general yearly.

Q: When will this tool be available to LBOH?

A: We are hoping that the tool can be launched in the next month or so.

Q: Is there an opportunity to learn more about how to use this resource?

A: Yes, please reach out to us via email and we are happy to do one-on-one demos. DPH-MA-EPHT@state.ma.us or sharon.lee@mass.gov

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Q: Where do you collect your data?

A: Data comes from either ACS (American Community Survey), CHIA (Center for Health Information and Analysis), and/or Registry of Vital Records and Statistics. Data sets are served up from [MassGIS](#). We have a working relationship through MAPC, but we don't work with them directly.

-ACIP updates: Met last week, and on Wednesday they spent the day discussing COVID-19 Vaccine, including myocarditis and pericarditis following the mRNA vaccines. At the end of the day, [HHS, CDC, and 15 other organizations released a statement](#) all in support of the COVID-19 vaccines saying the benefits outweigh the risks. [On the 25th, for Moderna and Pfizer, the EUA](#) were updated to include some wording about myocarditis/pericarditis and symptoms to watch out for and what a provider should do.

-MassNotify: Over a million users have registered for MassNotify. Outreach toolkit is now available. Materials will be sent out to everyone.

Index

1	ABOUT
2	QR CODE POSTERS
3	BUSINESS CARD
4	TRANSIT ADS
5	PRINT ADS
6	ONE PAGER
7	BILLBOARDS & OUTFRONT MOBILE
8	INSTAGRAM ADS
9	FACEBOOK ADS
10	TWITTER ADS
11	GOOGLE ADS
12	TV
13	RADIO BANNERS

Delta variant: Data indicate that it's even more transmissible than the alpha variant, and because of this the delta variant is increasingly becoming a larger proportion of cases. (25% of the US Cases, in MA it is about 6-10%). Vaccines are still effective against the delta variant, but the concern now is transmission in low-vaccinated areas.

Q: J&J vaccine vs. mRNA vaccine, is J&J not as good at protecting against the delta variant?

A: Data across the board are a bit better for Moderna/Pfizer than for J&J, but it is still a highly effective vaccine in preventing severe disease (hospitalization and death).

Questions answered out loud from the Q&A Chat:

All questions answered.