

## **Toxic Releases**

### **About**

Toxic chemicals that may pose a threat to human health and the environment are released in various amounts by facilities in many different industry sections. These facilities must report annually how much of certain chemicals is released to the environment and/or managed through recycling, energy recovery and treatment. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) Program tracks the management of certain toxic chemicals from typically larger facilities involved in manufacturing, metal mining, electric power generation, chemical manufacturing, and hazardous waste treatment. TRI tracks chemical releases made to air, water, land, and underground injection wells.

### **About the Measures**

The LDH Health Data Portal contains information on the following measures:

- Fixed Facilities and Transport
- Number of acute releases from fixed facilities and transport
- Number of acute releases from fixed facilities
- Number of acute releases from transport

Acute toxic release are an uncontrolled or illegal acute release of any toxic substance in any amount for substances listed on the National Toxic Substances Incidents Program (NTSIP) Mandatory Chemical Reporting List, or, if not on the list, in an amount greater than or equal to 10 pounds or 1 gallon. The number of acute releases of a toxic substance was estimated by LDH. Acute releases from transport occur during surface, air, pipeline, or water transport of hazardous substances or before being totally unloaded from a vehicle or vessel. All other releases are considered to be fixed-facility events.

### **About the Data**

The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH), Section of Environmental Epidemiology and Toxicology, Toxic Substances Incidents Program collects detailed information about each toxic substance incident, including substances released, victims, injuries including adverse health effects and symptoms, and evacuations. Various data sources were used to obtain information about these events. These sources included the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Office of State Police, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ), the U.S. Coast Guard National Response Center, and the U.S. Department of Transportation Hazardous Materials Information System (HMIS).

### **Disclaimer**

Data are intended to spur further research and should be used only as a starting point to understanding how the environment and other contributing factors may be connected to disease. Datasets presented on this site are intended to answer some basic questions, but should ultimately lead to further inquiry and more detailed study.

Data limitations should be noted if conducting exploratory ecological studies with these data. Limitations may include data gaps, reporting discrepancies (for example, a disruption of reporting or

instrument recording following hurricanes) and insufficient data on all potentially confounding factors. There are numerous additional factors which may contribute to disease onset. These include genetics, access to health care, existing health conditions, medicines, other chemical substances we come into contact with or ingest, nutrition, route and duration of exposure, level of activity, level of stress, and many others.

Responsible use of this data therefore requires exercising caution when drawing conclusions based solely on views of the limited available data. Any perceived relationship, trend, or pattern apparent in the data should not be interpreted to imply causation; may in fact be unrelated; and should be regarded as preliminary, and potentially erroneous, until more in-depth study and if applicable, statistical evaluation, can be applied. The LDH Bureau of Health Informatics and Environmental Public Health Tracking Program cannot guarantee the completeness of the information contained in these datasets and expressly disclaim liability for errors and omissions in their content.

## Data Sources

- [U.S. EPA Toxics Release Inventory Program](#)

## Additional Information

- [LDEQ Toxics Release Inventory](#)
- [Louisiana State Police Emergency Services Unit](#)
- [U.S. Coast Guard - National Response Center](#)
- [Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration](#)
- [LDH Emergency Response Assistance Program](#)

## Questions

- Email: [healthdata@la.gov](mailto:healthdata@la.gov)