



*Mass***HEIS**

Massachusetts Health and Environment Information System

Looking for cancer rates for your town?

Want to know if a hazardous waste facility is near your child's school?

Concerned about asthma rates and air quality in your town?

Turn to MassHEIS for a free, user-friendly web tool to explore your questions about the health and environment of your community.

Get To Know MassHEIS



“I had been looking for breast cancer rates for my town for weeks when I was directed to MassHEIS and found what I wanted right away!” — Betty Anne Bevis, social worker

MassHEIS is a free online tool created by Silent Spring Institute which simplifies complicated health and environment information and allows users to map data for all municipalities in Massachusetts.

Why use MassHEIS?

- + Make and print your own maps to show neighbors and bring to meetings
- + Investigate 200 health and environment data sets
- + Identify disparities in health and environmental quality across the state
- + Examine trends over time and explore relationships among the factors
- + Form hypotheses that highlight areas for future study
- + Access the unique datasets of the Cape Cod Breast Cancer and Environment Study
- + Browse links to informative sites

What information is available?

Breast cancer • Roads • Air pollution • Superfund sites • Toxic Release Inventory sites • Air monitors • Asthma rates • Land use • Pesticide spraying areas • Massachusetts Military Reservation • Prostate cancer • Poverty • Age distribution • Race • Ponds and streams • Cancers often associated with chemical exposures • Income levels • And many more

Data sources:

- + MA Department of Public Health
- + US Geological Survey
- + Silent Spring Institute
- + Environmental Protection Agency
- + National Library of Medicine
- + Town, county, and utility records
- + MassGIS, Executive Office of Environmental Affairs

To use MassHEIS, visit <http://www.silent.spring.org/massheis>

Ways To Use MassHEIS

CHILDHOOD CANCER

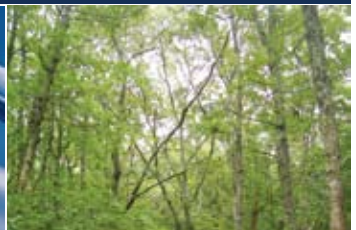


Childhood cancer, while rare, has been slowly increasing over the last 30 years. Researchers estimate that between 5-90% of childhood cancers may be due to environmental factors (non-genetic), depending on the type of cancer.



A pediatrician notices what seems like high numbers of her patients being diagnosed with cancer and wonders if there's an increase of cancer among children in the town. She checks MassHEIS and learns that her town's rates are higher than the state average and that this is an increase over past years.

DRINKING WATER AND LAND USE



With increasing pressure to develop new residential areas, care is needed to preserve land that helps protect water quality for current and future use.



Hearing that his town is considering a permit to clear some forested land for a small business and industrial park, a concerned citizen checks MassHEIS and learns that the proposal will fall in an area that recharges a local drinking water well. Considering that this could harm local drinking water quality, the man attends hearings to make sure proper water pollution control measures are incorporated.

ASTHMA AND AIR POLLUTION



Poor air quality is a well known trigger for asthma attacks.



A mother, concerned about the number of her son's friends who have asthma, consults MassHEIS which reveals that her city has elevated rates of asthma hospitalizations. Then she explores which nearby business and industries are emitting air pollution that the state is tracking and what is known about local air quality.

Deepen Your Understanding

Fit what you've learned into a larger context with information specific to...



YOUR community...

YOUR selected health topic...



...from customized links to the EPA, US Centers for Disease Control, Massachusetts Cancer Registry, PubMed, and others.

And Take Action!

Want to do something about what you've learned?
The Take Action tab will help you find...

community groups working to clean up the environment and improve health and...



...resources to aid your efforts, like a guide to developing a local wellhead protection plan.

Silent Spring Institute wants to work with you and your community-
contact us for free demonstrations or trainings.



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Silent Spring Institute is a non-profit scientific research organization dedicated to identifying the links between the environment and women's health, especially breast cancer.

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