

National Air Toxics Assessment (NATA)

(Used for Indicator E4)

Brief description of the data set	The National Air Toxics Assessment is EPA’s ongoing comprehensive evaluation of air toxics in the United States. NATA provides estimates of the risk of cancer and other serious health effects from inhaling air toxics in order to inform both national and more localized efforts to identify and prioritize air toxics, emission source types, and locations that are of greatest potential concern in terms of contributing to population risk.
Who provides the data set?	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards.
How are the data gathered?	Emissions inventory data for individual HAPs are collected from data reported by large individual facilities (point sources) and estimated for area and mobile sources using various emissions inventory models. The compiled inventory is called the National Emissions Inventory. Ambient concentrations are estimated using an air dispersion model. Population exposures are estimated based on a screening-level inhalation exposure model.
What documentation is available describing data collection procedures?	See http://www.epa.gov/nata2005 for detailed description of NATA organization and data collection practices.
What types of data relevant for children’s environmental health indicators are available from this database?	Relevant data include modeled ambient concentrations, exposure concentrations, cancer risks, and non-cancer hazard indices for each HAP in each county and each census tract.
What is the spatial representation of the database (national or other)?	National.
Are raw data (individual measurements or survey responses) available?	Modeled ambient and exposure concentrations for each HAP in each county and census tract are available.
How are database files obtained?	http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/nata2005/tables.html .
Are there any known data quality or data analysis concerns?	NATA results provide answers to questions about emissions, ambient air concentrations, exposures and risks across broad geographic areas (such as counties, states, and the nation) at a moment in time. These assessments are based on assumptions and methods that limit the range of questions that can be answered reliably. The results cannot be used to identify exposures and risks for specific individuals, or even to identify exposures and risks in small geographic regions. These estimates reflect chronic exposures resulting from the inhalation of the air toxics emitted and do not consider exposures that may occur indoors or as a results of exposures other than inhalation (i.e., dermal or ingestion). Methods used in NATA were peer reviewed by EPA’s Science Advisory Board; the SAB report is available at http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/sab/sabrept1201.pdf .
What documentation is available describing quality assurance procedures?	See http://www.epa.gov/nata2005 and http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/nata2005/05pdf/nata_tmd.pdf

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For what years are data available?	1996, 1999, 2002, 2005.
What is the frequency of data collection?	Approximately every three years.
What is the frequency of data release?	Approximately every three years.
Are the data comparable across time and space?	Data for different NATA assessments are not comparable across time due to improvements in the estimated national emissions inventory, increases in the numbers of modeled HAPs, and improvements in the health data information. Data may not be comparable over space due to quality differences in emissions inventory reporting.
Can the data be stratified by race/ethnicity, income, and location (region, state, county or other geographic unit)?	Data can be stratified by state, county, and census tract; when combined with census data, NATA estimates can be stratified by race/ethnicity and income.