MassDEP

Massachusetts 2024 Air Quality Report

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Department of Environmental Protection Bureau of Air and Waste Division of Air and Climate Programs Air Assessment Branch Wall Experiment Station 37 Shattuck Street Lawrence, Massachusetts 01843

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This 2024 Air Quality Report was prepared by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), Air Assessment Branch (AAB), which collects representative samples of ambient air for several pollutants at monitoring stations located across the Commonwealth. All samples are collected in a precise and scientifically sound manner to properly characterize the quality of the air in the Commonwealth.

The photo on the cover is a view of the monitoring station at Haverhill High School, 137 Monument Street, Haverhill, MA.

This report is available on MassDEP's web site at

www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/air/quality/air-monitoring-reports-and-studies.html

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Appendix A – 2024 Monitoring Stations

List of Abbreviations

	Air Assessment Branch
	Air Quality System
	Air Quality Index
BC	
	Barometric Pressure
CAA	
	Code of Federal Regulations
со	Carbon Monoxide
CO ₂	Carbon Dioxide
FEM	Federal Equivalent Method
FRM	Federal Reference Method
ЕРА	United States Environmental Protection Agency
IMPROVE	Interagency Monitoring of Protected Visual Environments
MassDEP	Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NATTS	National Air Toxics Trends Station
NCore	National Core Monitoring Network
NO	Nitric Oxide
NO _x	Nitrogen Oxides
NO _y	Total Reactive Oxidized Nitrogen
NO ₂	Nitrogen Dioxide
NO3	Nitrate
O ₃	Ozone
-	
PAH	Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbon
PAH	Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbon Photochemical Assessment Monitoring Stations
PAH PAMS Pb	Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbon Photochemical Assessment Monitoring Stations Lead
PAH PAMS Pb ppb	Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbon Photochemical Assessment Monitoring Stations Lead parts per billion by volume
PAH PAMS Pb ppb ppm	Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbon Photochemical Assessment Monitoring Stations Lead parts per billion by volume parts per million by volume
PAH PAMS Pb ppb ppm PM _{2.5}	Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbon Photochemical Assessment Monitoring Stations Lead parts per billion by volume parts per million by volume Particulate matter ≤ 2.5 microns aerodynamic diameter
PAH PAMS Pb ppb ppm PM _{2.5}	Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbon Photochemical Assessment Monitoring Stations Lead parts per billion by volume parts per million by volume Particulate matter ≤ 2.5 microns aerodynamic diameter Particulate matter ≤ 10 microns aerodynamic diameter
PAH PAMS Pb ppb ppm PM _{2.5} PM ₁₀ PRECIP	Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbon Photochemical Assessment Monitoring Stations Lead parts per billion by volume parts per million by volume Particulate matter ≤ 2.5 microns aerodynamic diameter Particulate matter ≤ 10 microns aerodynamic diameter
PAH PAMS Pb ppb ppm PM _{2.5} PM ₁₀ PRECIP QA/QC	Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbon Photochemical Assessment Monitoring Stations Lead parts per billion by volume parts per million by volume Particulate matter ≤ 2.5 microns aerodynamic diameter Particulate matter ≤ 10 microns aerodynamic diameter Precipitation
PAH PAMS Pb ppb ppm PM _{2.5} PM ₁₀ PRECIP QA/QC REL	Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbon Photochemical Assessment Monitoring Stations Lead parts per billion by volume parts per million by volume Particulate matter ≤ 2.5 microns aerodynamic diameter Particulate matter ≤ 10 microns aerodynamic diameter Precipitation Quality Assurance and Quality Control
PAH PAMS Pb ppb ppm PM _{2.5} PM ₁₀ PRECIP QA/QC REL SIP	Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbon Photochemical Assessment Monitoring Stations Lead parts per billion by volume parts per million by volume Particulate matter ≤ 2.5 microns aerodynamic diameter Particulate matter ≤ 10 microns aerodynamic diameter Precipitation Quality Assurance and Quality Control Relative Humidity
PAH PAMS Pb ppb ppm PM _{2.5} PM ₁₀ PRECIP QA/QC REL SIP	Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbon Photochemical Assessment Monitoring Stations Lead parts per billion by volume parts per million by volume Particulate matter ≤ 2.5 microns aerodynamic diameter Particulate matter ≤ 10 microns aerodynamic diameter Precipitation Quality Assurance and Quality Control Relative Humidity State Implementation Plan Sulfur Dioxide
PAH PAMS Pb ppb ppm PM _{2.5} PM ₁₀ PRECIP QA/QC REL SIP SO ₂ SO ₄	Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbon Photochemical Assessment Monitoring Stations Lead parts per billion by volume parts per million by volume Particulate matter ≤ 2.5 microns aerodynamic diameter Particulate matter ≤ 10 microns aerodynamic diameter Precipitation Quality Assurance and Quality Control Relative Humidity State Implementation Plan Sulfur Dioxide
PAH PAMS Pb ppb ppm PM _{2.5} PM ₁₀ PRECIP QA/QC REL SIP SO ₂ SO ₄	Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbon Photochemical Assessment Monitoring Stations Lead parts per billion by volume parts per million by volume Particulate matter ≤ 2.5 microns aerodynamic diameter Particulate matter ≤ 10 microns aerodynamic diameter Precipitation Quality Assurance and Quality Control Relative Humidity State Implementation Plan Sulfur Dioxide Sulfate Solar Radiation
PAH PAMS Pb ppb PM _{2.5} PM ₁₀ PRECIP QA/QC REL SIP SO ₂ SO ₄ SUN TEMP	Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbon Photochemical Assessment Monitoring Stations Lead parts per billion by volume parts per million by volume Particulate matter ≤ 2.5 microns aerodynamic diameter Particulate matter ≤ 10 microns aerodynamic diameter Precipitation Quality Assurance and Quality Control Relative Humidity State Implementation Plan Sulfur Dioxide Sulfate Solar Radiation
PAH PAMS Pb ppb PM _{2.5} PM ₁₀ PRECIP QA/QC REL SIP SO ₂ SO ₄ SUN TEMP TOTAL UV	Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbon Photochemical Assessment Monitoring Stations Lead parts per billion by volume parts per million by volume Particulate matter ≤ 2.5 microns aerodynamic diameter Particulate matter ≤ 10 microns aerodynamic diameter Precipitation Quality Assurance and Quality Control Relative Humidity State Implementation Plan Sulfur Dioxide Sulfate Solar Radiation Temperature
PAH PAMS Pb ppb PM _{2.5} PM ₁₀ PRECIP QA/QC REL SIP SO ₂ SO ₄ SUN TEMP TOTAL UV TSA	Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbon Photochemical Assessment Monitoring Stations Lead parts per billion by volume parts per million by volume Particulate matter ≤ 2.5 microns aerodynamic diameter Particulate matter ≤ 10 microns aerodynamic diameter Precipitation Quality Assurance and Quality Control Relative Humidity State Implementation Plan Sulfur Dioxide Solar Radiation Temperature Ultraviolet radiation
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PAH PAMS Pb ppb ppm PM _{2.5} PM ₁₀ PRECIP QA/QC REL SO ₂ SO ₂ SO ₄ SUN TEMP TOTAL UV TSA μg/m ³ VOCs	Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbon Photochemical Assessment Monitoring Stations Lead parts per billion by volume parts per million by volume Particulate matter ≤ 2.5 microns aerodynamic diameter Particulate matter ≤ 10 microns aerodynamic diameter Precipitation Quality Assurance and Quality Control Relative Humidity State Implementation Plan Sulfur Dioxide Sulfate Solar Radiation Temperature Ultraviolet radiation Technical Systems Audit micrograms per cubic meter
PAH PAMS Pb ppb ppm PM2.5 PM10 PRECIP QA/QC REL SIP SO2 SO4 TEMP TOTAL UV TSA μg/m ³ VOCs WS/WD	Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbon Photochemical Assessment Monitoring Stations Lead parts per billion by volume parts per million by volume Particulate matter ≤ 2.5 microns aerodynamic diameter Particulate matter ≤ 10 microns aerodynamic diameter Precipitation Quality Assurance and Quality Control Relative Humidity State Implementation Plan Sulfur Dioxide Sulfate Solar Radiation Temperature Ultraviolet radiation Technical Systems Audit micrograms per cubic meter Volatile Organic Compounds

Section 1 – Ambient Air Monitoring Program

1.1 - Program Overview

Introduction

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) is responsible for monitoring outdoor air quality in Massachusetts, and for developing plans and regulatory programs to reduce emissions of pollutants that adversely affect public health, welfare, and the environment.

MassDEP's Air Assessment Branch (AAB) operates a network of air monitoring stations throughout the Commonwealth. During 2024, MassDEP operated 24 monitoring stations located in 19 cities and towns. MassDEP also receives and processes data from the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah), which operates an air monitoring station on Martha's Vineyard.

MassDEP submits ambient air quality data to the national Air Quality System (AQS) database that is administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Continuous monitoring data is sent to the AirNow website, <u>https://www.airnow.gov/</u>, which reports data from all U.S. monitoring stations. MassDEP's MassAir Online website provides air quality information and allows users to click on a map of the state to find current air quality data from the MassDEP continuous air monitoring network. MassAir Online is found at <u>www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/air/quality/</u>. EPA also makes historical AQS data for all U.S. monitoring stations available at <u>https://www.epa.gov/outdoor-air-quality-data</u>.

Why is Air Quality Data Collected?

Ambient air quality data is used for several purposes, including to:

- Provide information about air quality to the public;
- Provide short-term and long-term information regarding air pollution and public health;
- Verify compliance with National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS);
- Assess the effectiveness of current air pollution control regulations and programs;
- Support development of policies and regulations aimed at reducing air pollution;
- Support long-term trend analysis and special research; and
- Fulfill requirements to report ambient air quality data to EPA.

What is Monitored?

Criteria pollutants for which EPA has established NAAQS. The criteria pollutants monitored are:

- carbon monoxide (CO)
- lead (Pb)
- nitrogen dioxide (NO₂)
- ozone (O₃)
- particulate matter ≤10 microns (PM₁₀)
- particulate matter ≤ 2.5 microns (PM_{2.5})
- sulfur dioxide (SO₂)

Non-criteria pollutants do not have NAAQS but can contribute to the formation of ozone and particulate matter and/or be toxic. The non-criteria pollutants monitored include:

- nitric oxide (NO)
- total nitrogen oxides (NOx)
- total reactive oxidized nitrogen (NOy)
- volatile organic compounds (VOCs) ozone precursors and reaction product chemicals
- black carbon (i.e., soot)
- toxics health-relevant VOCs, semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs), carbonyls and metals
- speciated particulates elements (e.g., metals), sulfates, nitrates, and carbon (total and organic)

Meteorological parameters monitored include:

- wind speed/wind direction (WS/WD) and vector (WSv/WDv)
- relative humidity (REL)
- temperature (TEMP)
- barometric pressure (BP)
- solar radiation (SUN)
- precipitation (PRECIP)
- ultraviolet radiation (TOTAL UV)

Monitoring Station Locations

Monitoring stations are installed to provide data for various purposes and must meet EPA siting criteria. Some are located where maximum pollutant concentrations are expected, some are positioned in areas that will provide data that is representative of larger geographical areas, and others provide background levels. Local topography and pollutant source areas are factors that determine how well a particular monitor's location will represent a region. Networks of monitors are situated throughout the state. These networks are designed to reflect pollutant concentrations for all of Massachusetts. Section III of this report contains data summaries for each pollutant measured and maps showing the monitor locations for each network. Appendix A contains a list of monitoring stations.

The map on page 7 shows Massachusetts cities and towns where air monitors were located during 2024.

Massachusetts Air Monitor Locations



1.2 - National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)

Below are the current NAAQS for criteria pollutants set by EPA. Primary Standards are designed to protect public health, including the health of sensitive populations such as asthmatics, children, and the elderly. Secondary Standards are designed to protect public welfare, including protection against decreased visibility, damage to crops, vegetation, and buildings.

On February 7, 2024, EPA lowered the primary annual NAAQS for $PM_{2.5}$ from 12 micrograms per cubic meter ($\mu g/m^3$) to 9 $\mu g/m^3$. EPA retained the 24-hour and secondary standards without revision.

On Dec 27, 2024, EPA revised the secondary NAAQS for SO_2 from a three-hour average of 0.5 ppm, not to be exceeded once per year, to a 10 ppb annual mean averaged over three consecutive years. EPA additionally retained the NO₂ NAAQS secondary standard without revision.

	National Ambient Air Quality Standards									
Pollutant		Primary/ Secondary	Averaging Time	Level	Form					
Carbon		nrimany	8-hour	9 ppm	Not to be exceeded more than once					
Monoxide		primary	1-hour	35 ppm	per year					
Lead		primary and secondary	Rolling 3-month average	0.15 μg/m ³	Not to be exceeded					
Nitrogen D	viovida	primary	1-hour	100 ppb	98 th percentile of 1-hr daily maximum concentrations, averaged over 3 years					
Nitiogen L	noxide	primary and secondary	Annual	53 ppb	Annual Mean					
Ozone		primary and secondary	8-hour	0.070 ppm	Annual fourth-highest daily maximum 8-hr concentration, averaged over 3 years					
		primary	Annual	9 μg/m³	Annual mean, averaged over 3 years					
	PM _{2.5}	secondary	Annual	15 μg/m³	Annual mean, averaged over 3 years					
Particle Pollution	F IVI2.5	primary and secondary	24-hour	35 μg/m³	98 th percentile, averaged over 3 years					
PM10		primary and secondary	24-hour	150 μg/m³	Not to be exceeded more than once per year on average over 3 years					
Sulfur Diox	kide	primary	1-hour	75 ppb	99 th percentile of 1-hr daily maximum concentrations, averaged over 3 years					
		secondary	1-year	10 ppb	Annual mean, averaged over 3 years					

µg/m³ = micrograms per cubic meter

ppm = parts per million

ppb = parts per billion

1.3 - Pollutant Health Effects and Sources

Ozone (O₃)

- Tropospheric O₃ (ground-level) and Stratospheric O₃ (upper atmosphere) are the same chemical compound, just found at different places in the atmosphere. Stratospheric O₃, found at greater than 30,000 feet above the surface of the earth, is beneficial to all life because it filters out the sun's harmful UV radiation before it reaches the earth's surface. Ground-Level O₃ on the other hand is a health and environmental problem. This report pertains exclusively to ground-level O₃.
- O₃ is a respiratory irritant that can reduce lung function and resistance to infection. It can cause asthma attacks, nasal congestion, and throat irritation. It can inflame and damage cells that line the lungs and aggravate chronic lung diseases. In addition, several studies have found a strong link between increases in ground-level O₃ and increased risk of premature death.
- O₃ is toxic to vegetation, inhibiting growth and causing leaf damage.
- O₃ deteriorates materials such as rubber and fabrics.
- Ground-level O₃ is unique in that it is formed by the reactions that occur between certain precursor pollutants in the presence of intense, high-energy sunlight during the hot summer months. The complexity of the process and the amount of time needed to complete these reactions can result in the buildup of ground-level ozone concentrations far downwind from the original source of the precursors.
- Sources of ground-level O₃ precursors, i.e., nitrogen oxides and hydrocarbons, include motor vehicles, lawn and garden equipment, power plants and other industrial sources.

Carbon Monoxide (CO)

- CO binds with hemoglobin in the blood, reducing the amount of oxygen carried to organs and tissues.
- Symptoms of high CO exposure include shortness of breath, chest pain, headaches, confusion, loss of coordination, and dizziness. The health threat is most severe for those with cardiovascular disease.
- Motor vehicle emissions are the largest source of CO, which is produced from incomplete combustion of carbon in fuels.
- Industrial processes and non-transportation fuel combustion (e.g., boilers, lawn and garden equipment) also are sources of CO.

Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂)

- SO₂ combines with water vapor to form acidic aerosols harmful to the respiratory tract, aggravating symptoms associated with lung diseases such as asthma and bronchitis.
- SO₂ is a primary contributor to acid deposition. Impacts of acid deposition include acidification of lakes and streams, damage to vegetation, damage to materials, and diminution of visibility.
- SO₂ is a product of fuel combustion (e.g., the burning of coal and oil that contains sulfur). Sources include power plants and business and residential sources burning heating oil.

Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂)

- NO₂ lowers resistance to respiratory infections and aggravates symptoms associated with asthma and bronchitis.
- NO₂ contributes to acid deposition. Impacts of acid deposition include acidification of lakes and streams, damage to vegetation, damage to materials, and diminution of visibility.
- NO₂ and nitric oxide (NO) contribute to the formation of ozone.
- NO₂ is formed from the oxidation of NO. Major sources of NO are fuel combustion, space heating, power plants and motor vehicles.

Particulate Matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5})

- Particulate matter is tiny airborne particles or aerosols, which include dust, dirt, soot, smoke, and liquid droplets. Fine particulate matter (mostly below 2.5 microns in size) are not only the result of direct emissions but can be formed in the atmosphere by chemical reactions involving gaseous pollutants.
- The numbers 2.5 and 10 refer to the particle size (equal to or less than that size), measured in microns, which are collected by the monitors. Several thousand PM_{2.5} particles could fit on the period at the end of this sentence.
- The small size of these particles allows easy entry into the human respiratory system. Long-term
 exposure causes particles to accumulate in the lungs and affects breathing and produces respiratory
 symptoms. The small particles can migrate through the lungs and into the circulatory system and
 potentially produce cardio-vascular symptoms, as well as impacts from toxic components contained
 in the particulate matter.
- Particulate matter causes soiling and corrosion of materials.
- Particulate matter contributes to atmospheric haze that degrades visibility.
- Sources of particulates include wildfire smoke, home heating wood smoke, industrial process emissions, motor vehicles, incinerators, power plants, and other fuel combustion sources.

Lead (Pb)

- Lead is an elemental metal that is found in nature.
- Exposure to lead can occur by inhalation or ingestion with food, water, soil or dust particles.
- Children, infants, and fetuses are the most susceptible to the effects of lead exposure.
- Lead causes intellectual disability, brain damage, and liver disease. It may be a factor in high blood pressure and damages the nervous system.
- Lead enters the atmosphere from the incineration of lead containing materials and from the manufacture and processing of lead containing products or materials like storage batteries, smelting and removal of lead-containing paint.

1.4 - Monitoring Network Description

Network Size	25 Monitoring Stations (24 operated by MassDEP and 1 by the Wampanoag Tribe)
	 20 cities and towns with monitoring stations
Number of	Continuous monitors measure air quality 24 hours per day. The data are reported as
Continuous	hourly averages.
Monitors	 Criteria pollutant monitors measure pollutants for which NAAQS have been set. 3 – Trace-level CO monitors 12 – NO₂, 11- NO and NOx monitors 18 – O₃ monitors (1 Tribal) 6 – Trace-level SO₂ monitors 19 – Continuous PM_{2.5} (1 collocated) 3 – Continuous PM₁₀
	 Meteorological monitors track weather conditions. 15 – Barometric pressure 15 – Relative humidity 15 – Solar radiation 15 – Temperature 14 – Wind speed/wind direction 1 – Wind speed vector/wind direction vector 1 – Precipitation 1 – Ultraviolet radiation
	 Other Monitors 3 – Total Reactive Oxidized Nitrogen (NO/NOy) 1 – Photochemical assessment monitoring station (PAMS). PAMS monitors measure VOCs using an automated gas chromatograph (auto-GC) on an hourly basis during the summer. 7 – Black Carbon
Number of Intermittent Monitors	Intermittent monitors collect discrete samples for a specific time period. The samples are collected every day, every third day, or every sixth day. The data are averaged in 3-hour or 24-hour intervals.
	 Criteria pollutant monitors measure pollutants that have NAAQS. 2 - PM₁₀ monitors (1 collocated) 5 - PM_{2.5} Federal Reference Method monitors
	 Non-criteria pollutant monitors measure pollutants that do not have NAAQS. 4 – VOCs and carbonyls 2 – Speciation. These monitors measure PM_{2.5}, nitrates, and organics 1 – PM₁₀ for metals analysis

1.5 - Attainment Status Summary

The federal Clean Air Act (CAA) contains timeframes and milestones for states to meet and maintain NAAQS for criteria pollutants, which include carbon monoxide, lead, nitrogen dioxide, ozone, particulate matter, and sulfur dioxide. EPA sets NAAQS at levels to protect public health and the environment. The EPA must review each NAAQS every five years and may update the standards based on new scientific information or establish new monitoring requirements. Each state is required to monitor ambient air to determine whether it meets each standard.

If the air quality in a geographic area meets or is cleaner than the national standard, it is called an attainment area and is designated as "Attainment/Unclassifiable". Areas that do not meet the national standard are called "Nonattainment" areas. In some cases, EPA is not able to determine an area's status after evaluating the available information and those areas are designated "Unclassifiable." Air quality in Massachusetts meets all the criteria pollutant NAAQS.

If monitoring shows that the air quality does not meet a standard, the state must develop and implement pollution control strategies to attain that standard. Once air quality meets a standard, a state must develop a plan to maintain that standard while accounting for future economic and emissions growth. Taken together, these plans and control strategies constitute the State Implementation Plan (SIP).

Carbon Monoxide

Monitored levels of CO in Massachusetts meet the CO standards. Prior to the mid-1980s, Massachusetts was in nonattainment of the CO standards. However, with the adoption of numerous control programs, CO emissions significantly decreased and monitored levels of CO met the standards beginning in 1987. Massachusetts is designated as Attainment/Unclassifiable for the CO standards. In August 2011, EPA reviewed and retained the existing primary CO standards of 9 ppm measured over 8 hours, and 35 ppm measured over 1 hour. Since EPA did not change the standards, no new designation process was triggered.

Lead

Monitored levels of lead in Massachusetts meet the lead standards. In October 2009, EPA lowered the lead standards (primary and secondary) from 1.5 μ g/m³ to 0.15 μ g/m³ averaged over a rolling 3-month period. In November 2011, EPA designated all of Massachusetts as Attainment/Unclassifiable for the 2009 standard. In September 2016 EPA reviewed and retained the existing lead standards. Since EPA did not change the standards, no new designation process was triggered.

Nitrogen Dioxide

Monitored levels of NO₂ in Massachusetts meet the NO₂ standards. In January 2010, EPA established a new 1-hour NO₂ standard of 100 ppb and additional near-road monitoring requirements. In January 2012, EPA designated all of Massachusetts as Attainment/Unclassifiable for the 2010 standard. In April 2018, EPA reviewed and retained the existing primary NO₂ standard of 100 ppb measured over 1 hour and an annual primary and secondary standard of 53 ppb averaged over 1 year. On December 27, 2024, the

existing secondary NO₂ standard was reviewed and retained without revision. Since EPA did not change the standards, no new designation process was triggered.

Sulfur Dioxide

Monitored levels of SO₂ in Massachusetts meet SO₂ standards. In June 2010 EPA established a new 1-hour SO₂ standard of 75 ppb. In December 2018, EPA designated all of Massachusetts as Attainment/Unclassifiable for the 2010 standard. In December 2024, EPA revised the secondary NAAQS for SO₂ from a three-hour average of 0.5 ppm, not to be exceeded once per year, to a 10 ppb annual mean averaged over three consecutive years. All monitors in Massachusetts are well below the revised standard.

Particulate Matter

There are standards for two types of particulate matter: PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$. Monitored levels of PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$ in Massachusetts meet the respective standards. In February 2024, EPA lowered the primary annual $PM_{2.5}$ standard from 12 µg/m³ to 9 µg/m³. All other PM standards were retained without change, including the primary/secondary 24-hour $PM_{2.5}$ standard (35 µg/m³), secondary annual mean $PM_{2.5}$ standard (15 µg/m³), and primary/secondary PM₁₀ standard (150 µg/m³ over 24 hours). Monitored levels of $PM_{2.5}$ in Massachusetts meet the revised annual 9 µg/m³ $PM_{2.5}$ standard. In January 2025, Massachusetts submitted a letter to EPA recommending that all of Massachusetts be designated as attainment of the revised annual $PM_{2.5}$ standard. EPA will finalize designations for the revised $PM_{2.5}$ standard by February 6, 2026.

Ozone

Monitored levels of ozone in Massachusetts meet the ozone standards. In 1979 EPA established a onehour ozone standard of 0.12 ppm to protect human health. The standard was exceeded if a site reported more than one day with an ozone hourly value greater than 0.12 ppm during ozone monitoring season. Massachusetts was designated as Nonattainment with this standard.

In 1997, EPA established new 8-hour ozone standards (0.08 ppm) that were designed to be more representative of exposure over time, rather than just the maximum concentration (the 1-hour standard was revoked in 2005). Massachusetts was designated as Nonattainment for these standards at that time; however, through a combination of state and regional controls, Massachusetts' air quality met the 1997 standards by the 2009 attainment deadline.

In 2008, EPA lowered the 8-hour ozone standards to 0.075 ppm. In April 2012, EPA designated Dukes County as Nonattainment for the 2008 ozone standards and designated the remainder of Massachusetts as Attainment/Unclassifiable. Dukes County met the 2008 ozone standard by the 2015 attainment deadline.

In 2015, EPA lowered the 8-hour ozone standards to 0.070 ppm. In December 2017, EPA designated all of Massachusetts as Attainment/Unclassifiable for the 2015 standard. In December 2020, EPA reviewed and retained the existing ozone standards. Since EPA did not change the standards, no new designation process was triggered.

1.6 - Daily Ozone and PM Forecasts

MassDEP provides the public with daily air quality forecasts for ozone from April through September and for fine particles year-round using weather maps and meteorological factors to predict if conditions might result in elevated pollution levels. The daily air quality forecasts are available from www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/air/quality/. EPA web sites that contain regional and national pollution forecasts using data that is provided by participating states are located at www.epa.gov/region01/airquality/forecast.html and http://airnow.gov/. The table below describes the ratings used in the daily air quality forecasts.

	Air Quality In	dex (AQI): Ozone
Index Values	Levels of Health Concern	Cautionary Statements
0-50	Good	None
51-100	Moderate	Unusually sensitive people should consider reducing prolonged or heavy exertion outdoors.
101-150	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	Active children and adults, and people with lung disease, such as asthma, should reduce prolonged or heavy exertion outdoors.
151-200	Unhealthy	Active children and adults, and people with lung disease, such as asthma, should avoid prolonged or heavy exertion outdoors. Everyone else, especially children, should reduce prolonged or heavy exertion outdoors.
201-300	Very Unhealthy	Active children and adults, and people with lung disease, such as asthma, should avoid all outdoor exertion. Everyone else, especially children, should avoid prolonged or heavy exertion outdoors.

Air Qı	-	AQI): Particle Pollution
Index Values	Levels of Health Concern	Cautionary Statements
0-50	Good	None
51-100	Moderate	Unusually sensitive people should consider reducing prolonged or heavy exertion.
101-150	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	People with heart or lung disease, older adults, and children should reduce prolonged or heavy exertion.
151-200	Unhealthy	People with heart or lung disease, older adults, and children should avoid prolonged or heavy exertion. Everyone else should reduce prolonged or heavy exertion.
201-300	Very Unhealthy	People with heart or lung disease, older adults, and children should avoid all physical activity outdoors. Everyone else should avoid prolonged or heavy exertion.

Section 2 – Massachusetts Air Quality Data Summaries

2.1 - Ozone Summary

2024 Ozone Data Summary

MassDEP operated 17 ozone monitors during 2024. The Wampanoag Tribe operated one ozone monitor in Aquinnah on Martha's Vineyard. The ozone monitoring season in Massachusetts begins on March 1st and ends on September 30th. MassDEP's NCORE site on Harrison Ave in Boston is designated to report ozone year-round. In 2024, there were six days when the 8-hour ozone standard of 0.070 ppm was exceeded in Massachusetts. One of those days occurred at Lynn, outside of the ozone monitoring season, during a nearby brush fire event. Based on the most recent three years of data (2022–2024), no monitoring locations violated the 0.070 ppm ozone standard.

While ozone concentrations have trended downward over the past several decades due to air pollution control programs, ozone concentrations vary each year due to varying weather patterns. In general, the chemical reactions that produce elevated ozone concentrations occur when high energy sunlight (present on hot summer days) facilitates the react of ozone "precursor" pollutants – VOCs and NOx, which results in ozone formation. Typically, Massachusetts ozone exceedances occur when a high-pressure area well south of New England creates a broad southwesterly airflow which contains precursors from the upwind coastal urban corridor to New England. This is where reactions in the atmosphere result in elevated levels of ozone. This typical pattern also moves slowly, promoting heat wave conditions that can last several days, allowing pollutants to build up.

Difference Between Ozone Exceedances and Violations

An ozone exceedance occurs when monitored ozone concentrations exceed the ozone NAAQS over eight hours. Ozone monitoring data is collected as an hourly average of continuous data which is then averaged every eight hours continuously to identify the highest 8-hour average value for the day. An exceedance of the ozone 8-hour standard is an 8-hour averaged value that is greater than 0.070 ppm. Monitoring an ozone exceedance does not mean that a violation of the ozone standard has occurred, because a violation of an ozone standard (as opposed to an exceedance) is based on three-year averages of data at each site.

An ozone violation of the 8-hour standard is determined using the annual 4th-highest daily maximum eight-hour ozone value at each monitoring location. A violation requires that a three-year average of the annual 4th-highest daily maximum eight-hour value be greater than 0.070 ppm. In other words, the eight-hour values for each day during a year for a specific site are ranked from highest to lowest. Then, the 4th-highest value for three consecutive years is averaged. If the three-year average is greater than 0.070 ppm, a violation of the 8-hour standard has occurred at that monitoring site.

Ozone Exceedance Days and Total Exceedance Trends

Figure 1 shows the number of 8-hour exceedance days and the total number of exceedances for the past ten years. Figure 2 shows the most recent ozone design values (i.e., the 4th highest 8-hour ozone value averaged over three years) compared to the 2015 ozone NAAQS. Figure 2 displays only monitoring sites with at least three years of data, which is a requirement to calculate design values.



A summary of the data collected during the 2024 ozone season (March 1 – September 30) is shown below (in parts per million).

O ₃ 2024			1ST	2ND	3RD	4TH	8-HR
			ΜΑΧ	MAX	MAX	ΜΑΧ	MAX>0.070
СІТҮ	COUNTY	ADDRESS	8-HR	8-HR	8-HR	8-HR	STD
Aquinnah (Tribal)	Dukes	Herring Creek Drive	0.073	0.063	0.062	0.061	1
Boston	Suffolk	Harrison Avenue	0.061	0.059	0.059	0.058	0
Brockton	Plymouth	Clinton Street	0.069	0.066	0.066	0.064	0
Chelmsford EPA	Middlesex	Technology Drive	0.068	0.063	0.062	0.061	0
Chelmsford NR	Middlesex	Manning Road	0.056	0.056	0.056	0.051	0
Chicopee	Hampden	Anderson Road	0.076	0.073	0.069	0.068	2
Fairhaven	Bristol	School Street	0.070	0.068	0.063	0.063	0
Fall River	Bristol	Globe Street	0.073	0.071	0.070	0.066	2
Greenfield	Franklin	Barr Avenue	0.068	0.068	0.063	0.061	0
Haverhill HS	Essex	Monument Street	0.064	0.056	0.054	0.053	0
Lynn	Essex	Parkland Avenue	0.076	0.068	0.066	0.066	1
Milton	Norfolk	Canton Avenue	0.066	0.066	0.065	0.065	0
Pittsfield	Berkshire	Silver Lake Blvd	0.069	0.067	0.066	0.066	0
Truro	Barnstable	Collins Road	0.071	0.062	0.062	0.060	1
Uxbridge	Worcester	E. Hartford Avenue	0.066	0.062	0.062	0.061	0
Ware	Hampshire	Skyline Drive	0.074	0.073	0.070	0.063	2
Weymouth	Norfolk	Monatiquot Street	0.067	0.066	0.066	0.066	0
Worcester	Worcester	Airport Drive	0.067	0.067	0.065	0.063	0

Standard: 8-hour = 0.070 ppm

1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th MAX 8-HR = Maximum 8-hour Value for the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Highest Day

8-HR MAX > 0.070 STD = Number of Measured Daily 8-hour Maximum Values Greater Than the 0.070 ppm 8-hour Standard

Massachusetts Ozone Monitor Locations



8-hour Ozone Exceedance Trends

Figure 3 shows the trend for each ozone monitor for the past ten years based on the 0.070 ppm 8-hour standard.





2.2 - Particulate Matter 2.5 Microns (PM_{2.5}) Summary

During 2024, MassDEP operated five non-continuous filter based Federal Reference Method (FRM) PM_{2.5} monitors and 19 continuous Federal Equivalent Method (FEM) Teledyne T640 and T640x PM_{2.5} monitors. FRM monitors require the manual set-up and collection of filters that measure 24-hour samples every three or six days. The filters are weighed prior to placement in the field and then weighed again after the sample is collected to determine the amount of PM_{2.5} collected on the filter. Continuous FEM monitors measure PM_{2.5} using scattered light spectrometry and report data value each hour. MassDEP operates FRM and FEM monitors side-by-side at some locations for comparison.

In 2024, there were four days when the 24-hour $PM_{2.5}$ standard (35 µg/m³) was exceeded. All four exceedances were attributed to smoke from a brush fire near the monitor in Lynn. Based on the most recent three years of data (2022–2024), no monitoring locations violated the 35 µg/m³ daily standard.

Figure 4 shows the number of 24-hour $PM_{2.5}$ exceedance days and the total number of exceedances for the past ten years. Figure 5 shows the most recent 3-year design values (three-year average of 2022 - 2024 98th percentile 24-hour values). No $PM_{2.5}$ monitors exceeded the 2024 standard of 9 µg/m³.

Massachusetts PM_{2.5} Monitor Locations





2024 PM_{2.5} FEM Data Summary

A summary of the 2024 $PM_{2.5}$ FEM data is shown below (in $\mu g/m^3$).

FEM 2024			1 st	2 ND	3 RD	4 TH	98 ^{тн}	
			MAX	MAX	MAX	MAX	PECENTILE	ARITH
СІТҮ	COUNTY	ADDRESS	24-HR	24-HR	24-HR	24-HR	24-HR	MEAN
Boston	Suffolk	Kenmore Sq	22.1	21.6	21.5	20.6	16.0	5.89
Boston	Suffolk	Harrison Ave	22.4	22.3	20.9	19.9	15.4	5.67
Boston	Suffolk	Von Hillern St	23.4	23.1	21.6	20.9	17.0	6.10
Boston	Suffolk	Von Hillern St *	23.1	22.8	21.5	21.0	16.5	5.97
Boston	Suffolk	Kneeland St	22.6	22.2	20.9	20.9	16.1	6.27
Brockton	Plymouth	Clinton St	22.7	21.8	21.3	20.2	16.6	5.57
Chelsea	Suffolk	Willow St	22.2	21.7	21.3	21.2	18.4	6.05
Chelmsford	Middlesex	Manning Rd	22.5	21.3	19.8	19.7	15.5	5.33
Chicopee	Hampden	Anderson Rd	20.1	19.6	19.6	16.3	14.5	4.94
Fall River	Bristol	Globe St	21.1	20.8	18.7	17.5	13.0	5.09
Greenfield	Franklin	Barr Ave	32.1	21.6	21.4	19.6	15.8	5.70
Haverhill	Essex	Monument St	20.4	19.7	19.5	18.8	19.5	5.90
Lynn	Essex	Parkland Ave	833.8	321.9	71.6	63.5	19.5	8.93
North Adams	Berkshire	Holden St	21.3	21.2	20.5	18.7	16.6	5.79
Pittsfield	Berkshire	Silver Lake Blvd	20.3	20.2	19.8	19.4	14.6	5.27
Springfield	Hampden	Liberty St	21.9	21.5	21.3	18.8	16.8	5.91
Ware	Hampshire	Skyline Dr	21.9	21.4	20.9	16.0	12.5	4.26
Weymouth	Norfolk	Monatiquot St	20.6	20.4	19.6	18.4	14.3	5.09
Worcester	Worcester	Summer St	22.2	21.4	21.2	18.0	15.3	5.39

Primary NAAQS: Annual Mean = 9.0 µg/m³

Primary and Secondary NAAQS: 24-hour (98th percentile) = 35 μ g/m³ Secondary NAAQS: Annual Mean = 15.0 μ g/m³

* = Collocated monitor

1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th 24-HR MAX = First, Second, Third, and Fourth highest 24-hour values for the year

98th PERCENTILE 24-HR = 98th Percentile value for the year

ARITH MEAN = Annual mean

PM_{2.5} FEM Trends

Figure 6 shows trends of the annual arithmetic mean for each $PM_{2.5}$ FEM monitor over the past 10 years relative to the 2024 standard of 9 μ g/m³.





2024 PM_{2.5} FRM Data Summary

A summary of the 2024 $PM_{2.5}$ FRM data is shown below (in $\mu g/m^3$). All annual mean values are below the 2024 standard of 9 $\mu g/m^3$.

PM _{2.5} FRM 2024			1 st	2 ND	3 RD	4 ^{тн}	98 TH	
			MAX	MAX	MAX	MAX	PECENTILE	ARITH
СІТҮ	COUNTY	ADDRESS	24-HR	24-HR	24-HR	24-HR	24-HR	MEAN
Boston	Suffolk	Kenmore Square	16.9	12.0	11.6	11.2	12.0	5.69
Boston	Suffolk	Harrison Avenue	18.8	12.7	12.4	12.2	12.4	5.69
Boston	Suffolk	Von Hillern Street	18.5	16.6	9.6	9.3	18.5	6.67
Greenfield	Franklin	Barr Avenue	16.9	16.3	15.8	12.6	16.9	7.42
Springfield	Hampden	Liberty Street	20.1	15.5	14.4	12.6	20.1	6.71

Primary NAAQS (2024): Annual Mean = $9.0 \mu g/m^3$

Primary and Secondary NAAQS: 24-hour (98th percentile) = $35 \mu g/m^3$

Secondary NAAQS: Annual Mean = $15.0 \,\mu g/m^3$

1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th 24-HR MAX = First, Second, Third, and Fourth highest 24-hour values for the year

98th PERCENTILE 24-HR = 98th Percentile value for the year

ARITH MEAN = Annual mean

PM_{2.5} FRM Trends

Figure 7 shows trends of the annual arithmetic mean for each $PM_{2.5}$ FRM monitor over the past 10 years relative to the 2024 standard of 9 μ g/m³.



2.3 - Particulate Matter 10 Microns (PM₁₀) Summary

2024 PM₁₀ Data Summary

A summary of the 2024 PM_{10} data is shown below (in $\mu g/m^3$). MassDEP monitored PM_{10} at three locations in 2024. All three locations have FEM continuous monitors. The Boston site continues to run collocated filter based FRM PM_{10} for metals analysis and quality assurance.

The first table below presents FRM data and the second table FEM data. All values are well below the PM_{10} standard.

PM10 2024 FRM	-	-	1ST	2ND	3RD	4TH	DAYS	
			MAX	MAX	MAX	MAX	MAX	ARITH
СІТҮ	COUNTY	ADDRESS	24-HR	24-HR	24-HR	24-HR	>STD	MEAN
Boston	Suffolk	Harrison Avenue	62	26	23	20	0	11.5
Boston	Suffolk	Harrison Avenue*	27	25	22	19	0	11.4

Primary and Secondary NAAQS: 24-hour = $150 \mu g/m^3$

* = Collocated monitors

1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th 24-HR MAX = First, Second, Third and Fourth highest 24-hour values for the year ARITH MEAN = Annual mean

PM10 2024 FEM			1ST	2ND	3RD	4TH	DAYS	
			MAX	MAX	MAX	MAX	MAX	ARITH
CITY	COUNTY	ADDRESS	24-HR	24-HR	24-HR	24-HR	>STD	MEAN
Boston	Suffolk	Harrison Avenue	75	72	50	48	0	12.7
Ware	Hampshire	Skyline Drive	32	31	30	28	0	7.8
Worcester	Worcester	Summer Street	53	52	51	42	0	11.8

Primary and Secondary NAAQS: 24-hour = 150 µg/m³

1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th 24-HR MAX = First, Second, Third and Fourth highest 24-hour values for the year ARITH MEAN = Annual mean

Massachusetts PM₁₀ Monitor Locations



PM₁₀ Trends

Figure 8 shows the trends of 24-hour maximum concentration for each FRM and FEM PM_{10} monitor over the past ten years compared to the 24-hour standard of 150 μ g/m³.



2.4 - Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) Summary

2024 NO₂ Data Summary

A summary of the 2024 NO₂ data is shown below (in parts per billion). MassDEP operated twelve NO₂ monitors during 2024. All values are well below applicable NAAQS.

NO2 2024			1ST	2ND	98TH	
			MAX	MAX	PECENTILE	ARITH
CITY	COUNTY	ADDRESS	1-HR	1-HR	VALUE	MEAN
Boston	Suffolk	Kenmore Square	48.0	48.0	42.0	9.99
Boston	Suffolk	Harrison Avenue	47.0	46.0	38.0	8.62
Boston	Suffolk	Von Hillern Street	44.0	42.0	40.0	11.83
Chelmsford	Middlesex	Manning Road	40.0	39.0	35.0	9.97
Chicopee	Hampden	Anderson Road	32.0	31.0	26.0	4.05
Lynn	Essex	Parkland Avenue	42.1	37.2	30.8	4.52
Milton	Norfolk	Canton Avenue	35.0	28.0	25.0	2.94
Pittsfield	Berkshire	Silver Lake	31.0	31.0	26.0	4.63
Springfield	Hampden	Liberty Street	45.0	44.0	40.0	8.81
Ware	Hampshire	Skyline Drive	37.0	20.0	12.0	1.23
Weymouth	Norfolk	Monatiquot Street	39.0	36.0	30.0	4.80
Worcester	Worcester	Summer Street	53.0	45.0	41.0	7.99

Primary NAAQS: 1-hour = 100 ppb

Primary and Secondary NAAQS: Annual mean = 53 ppb

1st, 2nd MAX 1-HR = First and Second Highest 1-hour Value

ARITH MEAN = Annual Mean

Massachusetts Nitrogen Dioxide Monitor Locations



NO_2 Trends

Figure 9 shows the trend of the 1-hour 98th percentile annual average for each NO₂ monitor over the past 10 years relative to the 1-hour standard of 100 ppb.



2.5 - Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂) Summary

2024 SO₂ Data Summary

A summary of the 2024 SO₂ data is shown below (in parts per billion). MassDEP operated six SO₂ monitors during 2024. All values are well below applicable NAAQS.

SO ₂ 2024			1 st	2 ND	99 ^{тн}		1 st	2 ND
			MAX	MAX	PCTL	ARITH	MAX	MAX
CITY	COUNTY	ADDRESS	1-HR	1-HR	1-HR	MEAN	24-HR	24-HR
Boston	Suffolk	Kenmore Square	2.5	2.0	1.9	0.43	1.2	1.0
Boston	Suffolk	Harrison Avenue	3.1	2.8	2.1	0.48	1.3	1.2
Fall River	Bristol	Globe Street	3.9	3.2	3.1	0.36	1.0	1.0
Springfield	Hampden	600 Liberty Street	2.5	1.5	1.5	0.14	0.8	0.7
Ware	Hampshire	Skyline Drive	2.0	1.4	1.1	0.33	0.9	0.8
Worcester	Worcester	Summer Street	3.7	3.3	2.6	0.42	1.5	1.4

Primary NAAQS: 1-hour = 75 ppb

Secondary NAAQS: 3-hour = 0.5 ppm (500 ppb)

1st, 2nd MAX 1-HR = First and Second highest 1-hour value

99th PCTL 1-HR = 99th Percentile of the 1-hour maximum value

ARITH MEAN = Annual mean

1st, 2nd MAX 24-HR = First and Second highest 24-hour value





SO₂ Trends

Figure 10 shows the trend of the 1-hour 99^{th} percentile for each SO_2 monitor for the past 10 years relative to the 1-hour standard of 75 ppb.



2.6 - Carbon Monoxide (CO) Summary

2024 CO Data Summary

A summary of the 2024 CO data is shown below (in parts per million). MassDEP operated three CO monitors during 2024. All values are well below applicable NAAQS.

CO 2024			1 st	2 ND	1 st	2 ND
			MAX	MAX	MAX	MAX
СІТҮ	COUNTY	ADDRESS	1-HR	1-HR	8-HR	8-HR
Boston	Suffolk	Harrison Avenue	1.584	1.438	1.3	1.0
Boston	Suffolk	Von Hillern Street	1.777	1.646	1.3	0.9
Worcester	Worcester	Summer Street	1.412	1.254	1.3	0.9

Primary NAAQS:

- 8-hour = 9 ppm

- 1-hour = 35 ppm

 $1^{st},\,2^{nd}$ MAX 1-HR = First and Second highest 1-hour value

1st, 2nd MAX 8-HR = First and Second highest 8-hour value



Carbon Monoxide Monitor Locations

CO Trends

Figure 11 shows the trend of the 2nd maximum 8-hour average for each CO monitor over the past 10 years compared to the 8-hour standard of 9 ppm.



2.7 - Speciation

MassDEP participates in EPA's PM_{2.5} Chemical Speciation network (CSN) sampling at Boston (Harrison Avenue) and Chicopee. The CSN is a complement to the PM_{2.5} monitoring network and its objectives include the assessment of trends, developing emission control strategies, aiding in the interpretation of health studies by linking health effects to PM_{2.5} constituents, and identifying air pollution sources that affect the area around the monitoring station.

Speciation involves analysis of particulate matter to determine its chemical composition and to identify air pollution sources that affect the area around the monitoring station. Filters are analyzed for elements (e.g., metals), ions (sulfates, nitrates. Etc.) and carbon (total and organic). Speciation samples are sent to UC Davis Air Quality Research Center for analysis and reporting.

2.8 - Interagency Monitoring of Protected Visual Environments (IMPROVE)

IMPROVE is a nationwide program designed to assess air quality at rural locations where air pollution may affect visibility over long distances (e.g., mountain ranges or scenic vistas). During 2024, the National Park Service operated an IMPROVE sampler at the Truro monitoring site, and the Wampanoag Tribe operated an IMPROVE sampler at its Martha's Vineyard monitoring site. These samplers acquire PM_{2.5} filter samples for speciation analysis to determine effects on visibility. The IMPROVE web site provides additional information and data at <u>https://vista.cira.colostate.edu/improve/</u>

2.9 - Quality Assurance and Quality Control (QA/QC)

To ensure that all air quality data is of acceptable and consistent quality, MassDEP has developed standard operating procedures (SOPs) based on federal requirements that include quality control and quality assurance protocols that systematically assess the entire sample collection and data handling system on an ongoing basis. Ambient air monitoring quality assurance requirements are contained in the Federal Regulations at 40 CFR Part 58, Appendix A – E. Each year MassDEP certifies compliance with the federal requirements. A few of the considerations that affect sample collection data quality are:

- Site Placement
- Intake Probe Material
- Intake Probe Height
- Shelter Conditions
- Spacing from roadways and trees
- Equipment Checks and Certifications

For data analysis, there are quantitative statistics and qualitative descriptors used to interpret the degree of acceptability and utility of data. Examples of these data quality indicators are:

- Representativeness
- Precision and Bias
- Detectability
- Completeness
- Comparability

MassDEP's Air Assessment Branch maintains a Quality Control Group that reviews daily and historical monitored data for validity, tracks precision results, finalizes hourly values, and submits air data and quality results to EPA's database in. Computer software tools, report queries, and "eyes on" data reviews all are used to validate data before it is submitted to EPA.

There also is a Quality Assurance Group that ensures samples are collected correctly and conducts performance audits throughout the air monitoring network to verify data validity. The EPA also conducts its own performance audits on MassDEP samplers and every three years conducts a thorough Technical Systems Audit (TSA). The latest TSA was conducted in 2022.

Section 3 – PAMS/Air Toxics Monitoring

3.1 - Photochemical Assessment Monitoring Station (PAMS) Monitoring

Ground-level ozone is a secondary pollutant and is not emitted directly to the atmosphere from a stack or tailpipe, but forms in the atmosphere from the photochemical reactions of other pollutants such as VOCs and NOx. The PAMS program was established to gather information on the ozone formation process to help agencies identify effective ozone pollution control strategies. In 2024, MassDEP operated one PAMS station in Lynn.

Instruments at the Lynn site measure pollutants and meteorological parameters that are specific to the photochemical processes by which ozone is created in the atmosphere at ground level. In addition to the relevant NAAQS pollutants (e.g., ozone, NO₂), the Lynn site monitors VOCs every six days throughout the year and on an hourly basis during the hottest part of the summer (June, July, and August). Meteorology is a critical component of ozone formation, and the Lynn PAMS site has a full complement of meteorological sensors including wind speed, wind direction, temperature, relative humidity, barometric pressure, solar radiation, ultraviolet radiation, precipitation, and atmospheric mixing heights.

3.2 - Air Toxics Monitoring

Toxic air pollutants are known or suspected to cause cancer or other serious health effects. Air toxics include certain VOCs and toxic metals (e.g., arsenic, cadmium). The Boston (Harrison Avenue) monitoring site is designated as a National Air Toxics Trends Station (NATTS) and monitors multiple toxic air pollutants, including VOCs, carbonyls, metals, black carbon and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). Data from this site is compared with data from a network of similar sites across the country to identify transport, trends, and site-specific characteristics of these pollutants. The table below summarizes the 2024 data.

2024 Boston (Harrison Ave, Roxbury)							
Metals	Max Value (µg/m³)	Mean (µg/m³)					
Antimony	0.00219	0.001202					
Arsenic	0.00062	0.000286					
Beryllium	0.00002	0.000004					
Cadmium	0.00028	0.000046					
Chromium	0.00959	0.005927					
Cobalt	0.00017	0.000079					
Lead	0.0078	0.001690					
Manganese	0.00979	0.003733					
Nickel	0.00294	0.000699					
Selenium	0.00071	0.000193					

MassDEP monitors VOCs in Boston (Harrison Ave), Chelsea, Lynn, and Weymouth. The table below summarizes 24-hour concentrations of target VOCs measured at these locations in 2024.

2024	Bo	ston	Ch	elsea	Ŀ	ynn	Wey	mouth
Compound	Max	Mean	Max	Mean	Max	Mean	Max	Mean
formaldehyde	12.20	3.85	3.40	1.95	4.50	1.39	3.20	1.57
acetaldehyde	3.30	1.30	1.60	0.77	2.10	0.52	2.55	0.79
chloromethane	0.68	0.58	0.90	0.60	0.95	0.60	0.76	0.59
vinyl chloride	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1,3-butadiene	0.09	0.02	0.06	0.02	0.14	0.01	0.05	0.01
butane	2.85	0.75	16.75	3.00	1.20	0.49	11.43	1.74
ethylene oxide	0.25	0.05	0.30	0.08	0.55	0.11	0.35	0.09
bromomethane	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.01
chloroethane	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.01
acrolein	0.23	0.11	0.33	0.14	0.57	0.16	0.27	0.13
trichlorofluoromethane	0.33	0.22	0.30	0.23	0.32	0.22	0.27	0.22
acrylonitrile	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00
pentane	1.08	0.29	3.70	0.90	0.56	0.19	3.18	0.58
1,1-dichloroethene	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
dichloromethane*	14.50	1.94	0.47	0.14	0.18	0.11	0.16	0.11
trans-1,2-dichloroethene	0.02	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.00
1,1-dichloroethane	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00
methyl-t-butyl ether	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
methyl ethyl ketone	0.63	0.33	0.75	0.34	0.65	0.23	0.80	0.34
hexane	0.30	0.10	0.72	0.22	0.18	0.07	0.70	0.16
chloroform	0.06	0.02	0.04	0.02	0.08	0.02	0.04	0.02
1,2-dichloroethane	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.02
1,1,1-trichloroethane	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
benzene	0.45	0.17	0.45	0.21	0.55	0.16	0.42	0.15
carbon tetrachloride	0.11	0.08	0.11	0.09	0.11	0.08	0.10	0.08
cyclohexane	0.12	0.04	0.27	0.09	0.12	0.03	0.37	0.07
1,2-dichloropropane	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
trichloroethylene	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2,2,4-trimethylpentane	0.34	0.08	0.34	0.13	0.16	0.04	0.18	0.08
heptane	0.16	0.05	0.44	0.12	0.09	0.03	0.30	0.07
cis-1,3-dichloropropene	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
trans-1,3-dichloropropene	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1,1,2-trichloroethane	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
toluene	0.70	0.26	0.83	0.33	0.47	0.16	0.79	0.24
1,2-dibromoethane	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
octane	0.06	0.02	0.18	0.06	0.04	0.02	0.15	0.05
tetrachloroethylene	0.10	0.02	0.30	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.01
1,1,1,2-tetrachloroethane	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

chlorobenzene	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
ethylbenzene	0.09	0.03	0.15	0.06	0.06	0.02	0.10	0.04
m&p-xylenes	0.28	0.09	0.48	0.17	0.18	0.05	0.30	0.11
bromoform	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
styrene	0.03	0.01	0.08	0.01	0.08	0.03	0.05	0.01
1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethane	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
o-xylene	0.11	0.04	0.16	0.07	0.08	0.02	0.11	0.04
alpha-pinene	0.09	0.03	0.05	0.02	0.07	0.03	0.17	0.04
1,3,5-trimethylbenzene	0.02	0.01	0.03	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.03	0.01
1,2,4-trimethylbenzene	0.09	0.03	0.13	0.04	0.04	0.02	0.12	0.03
m-dichlorobenzene	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
p-dichlorobenzene	0.02	0.00	0.03	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
o-dichlorobenzene	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
n-butylbenzene	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
1,2,4-trichlorobenzene*	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
naphthalene*	0.06	0.01	0.03	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.01

* Flagged in AQS - Identification of the analyte is acceptable; however, the reported value is an estimate.

Appendix A 2024 Massachusetts Air Monitoring Stations

City/Town	Address	Parameters Monitored
Aquinnah*	Herring Creek Road	O3, IMPROVE
Boston	125 Kneeland Street	PM2.5
Boston	Kenmore Square	NO2, NO, NOx, SO2, PM2.5
Boston	1159 Harrison Avenue	O3, NO2, NO, NOx, NOy, SO2, CO, PM2.5, PM10, PM Coarse, PM2.5 Speciation, Black Carbon, Toxics, Carbonyls, WS/WD, WSv/WDv, TEMP, SUN, REL, BP
Boston	19 Von Hillern Street	NO2, NO, NOx, CO, PM2.5, Black Carbon, WS/WD, TEMP, SUN, REL, BP
Brockton	170 Clinton Street	O3, PM2.5
Chelmsford	11 Technology Drive	03
Chelmsford	5 Manning Road	NO2, NO, NOx, PM2.5, O3, Black Carbon
Chelsea	75 Willow Street	PM2.5, VOCS, Carbonyls
Chicopee	Anderson Road	O3, NO2, NO, NOx, PM2.5, PM2.5 speciation, WS/WD, TEMP, SUN, REL, BP
Fairhaven	30 School Street	O3, WS/WD, TEMP, SUN, REL, BP
Fall River	659 Globe Street	O3, SO2, PM2.5
Greenfield	16 Barr Avenue	O3, PM2.5, Black Carbon, WS/WD, TEMP, SUN, REL, BP
Haverhill HS	137 Monument Street	O3, PM2.5, WS/WD, TEMP, SUN, REL, BP
Lynn	390 Parkland Avenue	O3, NO2, NOy, PM2.5, VOCs, Carbonyls, WS/WD, TEMP, SUN, REL, BP, PRECIP, TOTAL UV
Milton	1904 Canton Avenue	O3, NO2, NO, NOx, TEMP, SUN, REL, BP
North Adams	86 Holden Street	PM2.5, Black Carbon
Pittsfield	25 Silver Lake Blvd	O3, NO2, NO, NOx, PM2.5, Black Carbon, WS/WD, TEMP, SUN, REL, BP
Springfield	600 Liberty Street	NO2, NO, NOx, SO2, PM2.5, Black Carbon
Truro	6 Collins Road	O3, WS/WD, TEMP, SUN, REL, BP, IMPROVE
Uxbridge	366 E. Hartford Avenue	O3, WS/WD, TEMP, SUN, REL, BP
Ware	36 Skyline Drive	O3, NO2, NO, NOx, NOy, SO2, PM2.5, PM10, WS/WD, TEMP, SUN, REL, BP
Weymouth	59 Monatiquot Street	O3, NO2, NO, NOx, PM2.5, WS/WD, TEMP, SUN, REL, BP, VOCS, Carbonyls
Worcester	375 Airport Drive	O3, WS/WD, TEMP, SUN, REL, BP
Worcester	Summer Street	NO2, NO, NOx, SO2, CO, PM2.5, PM10

*Tribal Site