Massachusetts 2025 Air Quality Report

August 2026

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Bureau of Air and Waste
Division of Air and Climate Programs
Air Assessment Branch
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Executive Summary

The 2025 Air Quality Report summarizes air quality monitoring data collected in 2025 from the Massachusetts air monitoring network. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) operates a network of 26 ambient air quality monitoring stations in 21 communities located across the state. The Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) operates an ozone monitoring station on Martha's Vineyard. Together, these 27 monitoring stations are part of a comprehensive program to collect and provide information about air quality to the public and to determine compliance with National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).

The 2025 Report shows air quality in Massachusetts continues to meet the NAAQS for all criteria pollutants (ozone, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, particulate matter, lead). While air quality meets the NAAQS, there were six days when ozone concentrations increased to levels that are unhealthy for sensitive children and adults, such as those with asthma, lung or heart disease, and older adults. There also were four days when fine particulate matter reached levels unhealthy for sensitive populations due to smoke from wildfires in Canada. MassDEP forecasts pollution levels daily to inform the public when ozone and fine particle matter may reach unhealthy levels and provides advice on what people can do to limit exposure and adverse effects.

In addition to air monitoring data for criteria pollutants, the 2025 Report includes monitoring data for air toxics, volatile organic compounds, and for the first time ultrafine particles (UFP) and black carbon. In 2024 and 2025 MassDEP added four (UFP) monitors to existing monitoring stations near high traffic roadways in or near environmental justice (EJ) populations and expanded the number of black carbon monitors in the monitoring network to better characterize traffic emissions that affect EJ populations.

The 2025 Report also includes initial data from MassDEP's newest monitoring station located in Saugus that began operating in November 2025 and monitor fine particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$), course particulate matter (PM_{10}), and black carbon.

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List of Abbreviations

AAB....................Air Assessment Branch
AQS...................Air Quality System
AQI....................Air Quality Index
BC.....................Black Carbon
BP......................Barometric Pressure
CAA...................Clean Air Act
CFR...................Code of Federal Regulations
CO.....................Carbon Monoxide
CO_2....................Carbon Dioxide
FEM...................Federal Equivalent Method
FRM...................Federal Reference Method
EPA....................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
NO_3....................Nitrate
O_3......................Ozone
PAH...................Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbon
PAMS.................Photochemical Assessment Monitoring Stations
Pb......................Lead
ppb....................parts per billion by volume
ppm...................parts per million by volume
$PM_{2.5}$..................Particulate matter ≤ 2.5 microns aerodynamic diameter
PM_{10}...................Particulate matter ≤ 10 microns aerodynamic diameter
PRECIP..............Precipitation
QA/QC...............Quality Assurance and Quality Control
REL....................Relative Humidity
SIP.....................State Implementation Plan
SO_2....................Sulfur Dioxide
SO_4....................Sulfate
SUN...................Solar Radiation
TEMP.................Temperature
TOTAL UV...........Ultraviolet radiation
TSA....................Technical Systems Audit
UFP........................Ultrafine Particles
$\mu g/m^3$.................micrograms per cubic meter
VOCs.................Volatile Organic Compounds
WS/WD..............Wind Speed/Wind Direction
WSv/WDv.............Wind Speed Vector/Wind Direction Vector

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 2025, MassDEP operated 26 monitoring stations located in 21 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 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 MassDEP's continuous air monitoring network. Historical AQS data for all U.S. monitoring stations is available at the EPA AQS database.

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

EPA has established NAAQS for the following criteria pollutants:

- carbon monoxide (CO)
- lead (Pb)

- nitrogen dioxide (NO_2)
- ozone (O_3)
- particulate matter ≤10 microns (PM_{10})
- particulate matter ≤ 2.5 microns ($PM_{2.5}$)
- sulfur dioxide (SO_2)

Non-criteria pollutants

EPA has not established NAAQS for these pollutants, but they can contribute to the formation of ozone and particulate matter and/or be toxic. Non-criteria pollutants monitored by MassDEP 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 (BC) 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
- ultrafine particles (UFP) – particulates less than 0.1 microns in diameter

Meteorological parameters

MassDEP measures the following meteorological parameters:

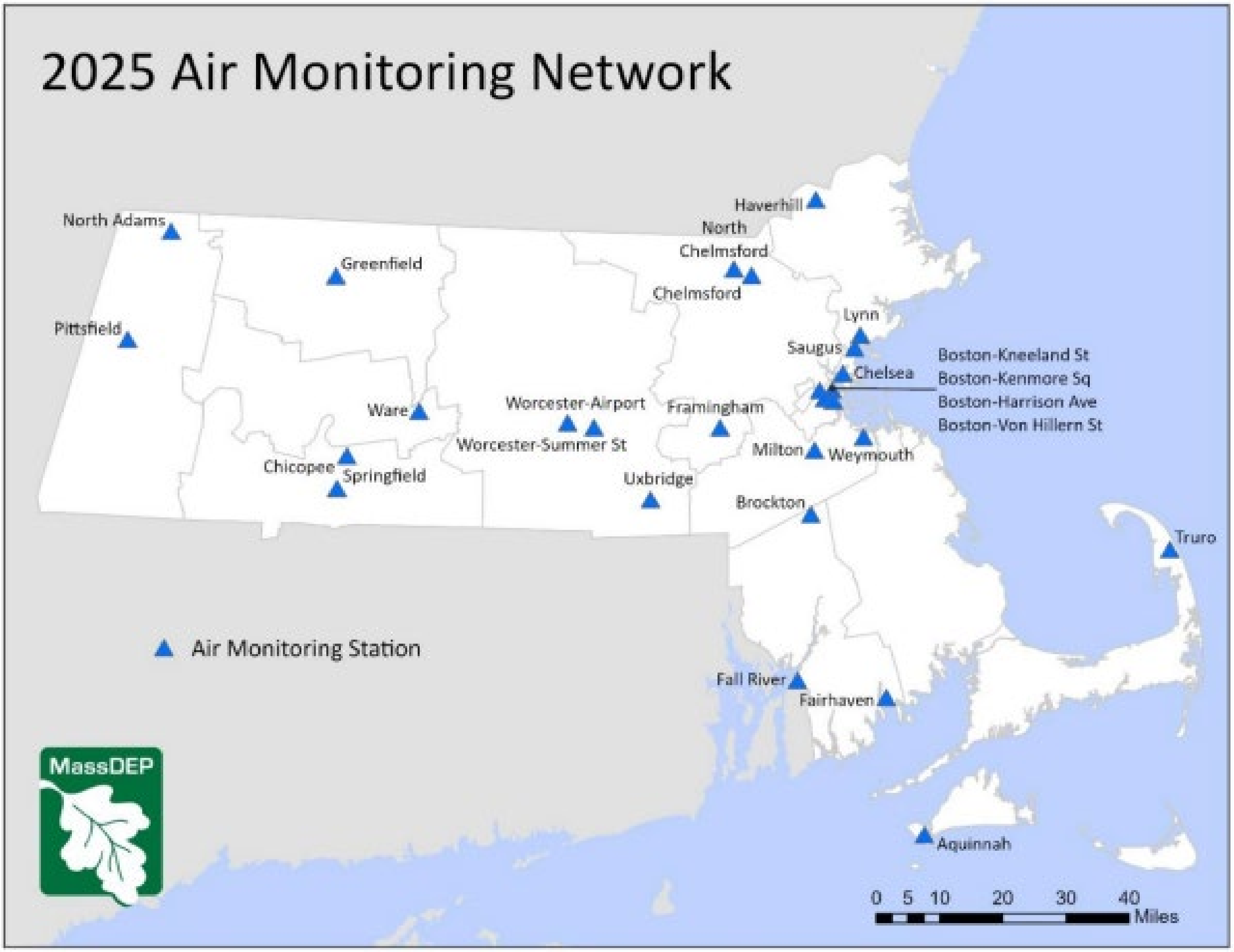
- wind speed/wind direction (WS/WD) and vector (WSv/WDv)
- relative humidity (REL)
- temperature (TEMP)
- barometric pressure (BP)
- solar radiation (SUN)
- precipitation (PRECIP)
- ultraviolet radiation (TOTAL UV)

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 two 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 below shows Massachusetts cities and towns where air monitors were located during 2025.

Map of 2025 Air Monitoring Network



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.

Table of NAAQS Pollutants and Standards

Pollutant	Primary/ Secondary	Averaging Time	Level	Form
Carbon Monoxide	Primary	8 hours	9 ppm	Not to be exceeded more than once per year
Carbon Monoxide	Primary	1 hour	35 ppm	Not to be exceeded more than once per year
Lead	primary and secondary	Rolling 3 month average	0.15 μg/m^3	Not to be exceeded
Nitrogen Dioxide	primary	1 hour	100 ppb	98th percentile of 1 hour daily maximum concentrations, averaged over 3 years
Nitrogen Dioxide	primary and secondary	1 year	53 ppb	Annual mean
Ozone	primary and secondary	8 hours	0.070 ppm	Annual fourth-highest daily maximum 8 hour concentration, averaged over 3 years
$PM_{2.5}$	primary	1 year	9 μg/m^3	Annual mean, averaged over 3 years
$PM_{2.5}$	secondary	1 year	15 μg/m^3	Annual mean, averaged over 3 years
$PM_{2.5}$	primary and secondary	24 hours	35 μg/m^3	98th percentile, averaged over 3 years
PM_{10}	primary and secondary	24 hours	150 μg/m^3	Not to be exceeded more than once per year on average over 3 years
Sulfur Dioxide	primary	1 hour	75 ppb	99th percentile of 1 hour daily maximum concentrations, averaged over 3 years
Sulfur Dioxide	secondary	1 year	10 ppb	Annual mean, averaged over 3 years
Sulfur Dioxide	secondary	3 hours	0.5 ppm	Not to be exceeded more than once per year

Legend:

μg/m^3 = micrograms per cubic meter

ppm = parts per million

ppb = parts per billion

1.3 - Pollutant Health Effects and Sources

Ozone (O_3)

- Tropospheric O_3 (ground-level) and Stratospheric O_3 (upper atmosphere) are the same chemical compound, just found at different places in the atmosphere. Stratospheric O_3, 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 O_3 on the other hand is a health and environmental problem. This report pertains exclusively to ground-level O_3.
- O_3 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 O_3 and increased risk of premature death.
- O_3 is toxic to vegetation, inhibiting growth and causing leaf damage.
- O_3 deteriorates materials such as rubber and fabrics.
- Ground-level O_3 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 O_3 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 (SO_2)

- SO_2 combines with water vapor to form acidic aerosols harmful to the respiratory tract, aggravating symptoms associated with lung diseases such as asthma and bronchitis.

- SO_2 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.
- SO_2 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 (NO_2)

- NO_2 lowers resistance to respiratory infections and aggravates symptoms associated with asthma and bronchitis.
- NO_2 contributes to acid deposition. Impacts of acid deposition include acidification of lakes and streams, damage to vegetation, damage to materials, and diminution of visibility.
- NO_2 and nitric oxide (NO) contribute to the formation of ozone.
- NO_2 is formed from the oxidation of NO. Major sources of NO are fuel combustion, space heating, power plants and motor vehicles.

Particulate Matter (PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$)

- Particulate matter is a mixture of solid particles and liquid droplets found in the air 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.
- Monitors collect data for both $PM_{2.5}$ and PM_{10} size particles. The numbers refer to the particle size (equal to or less than 2.5 or 10 microns). 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

The following table details the Massachusetts ambient air monitoring network in 2025.

2025 Massachusetts Ambient Air Monitoring Network

Network Size	▪ 27 Monitoring Stations (26 operated by MassDEP and 1 by the Wampanoag Tribe) ▪ 22 cities and towns with monitoring stations
Number of Continuous Monitors	Continuous monitors measure air quality 24 hours per day. The data are reported as hourly averages. ▪ Criteria pollutant monitors measure pollutants for which NAAQS have been set. ❑ 3 – Trace-level CO monitors ❑ 12 – NO_2, 11- NO and NOx monitors ❑ 17 – O_3 monitors (16 operated by MassDEP and 1 Tribal) ❑ 6 – Trace-level SO_2 monitors ❑ 21 – Continuous $PM_{2.5}$ (+1 collocated) ❑ 5 – Continuous PM_{10} ▪ 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. ❑ 9 – Black Carbon ❑ 4 – Ultrafine particulates
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 – PM_{10} 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 – PM_{10} 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 $\mu g/m^3$ to 0.15 $\mu g/m^3$ 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 NO_2 in Massachusetts meet the NO_2 standards. In January 2010, EPA established a new 1-hour NO_2 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 NO_2 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 NO_2 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 SO_2 in Massachusetts meet SO_2 standards. In June 2010 EPA established a new 1-hour SO_2 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 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. 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 $\mu g/m^3$ to 9 $\mu g/m^3$. All other PM standards were retained without change, including the primary/secondary 24-hour $PM_{2.5}$ standard (35 $\mu g/m^3$), secondary annual mean $PM_{2.5}$ standard (15 $\mu g/m^3$), and primary/secondary PM_{10} standard (150 $\mu g/m^3$ over 24 hours). Monitored levels of $PM_{2.5}$ in Massachusetts are below the revised annual 9 $\mu g/m^3$ $PM_{2.5}$ 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 is under federal Court order to issue designations for the 2024 $PM_{2.5}$ standard by February 6, 2027.

Ozone

Monitored levels of ozone in Massachusetts meet the ozone standards. In 1979 EPA established a one-hour 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 March through September and for fine particles year-round. MassDEP air quality forecasters use expected weather conditions, current air quality data, and other factors such as emission trends to predict if conditions might result in elevated pollution levels. These forecasts are available on MassDEP's MassAir website, EPA's AirNow.gov website, EPA's EnviroFlash air quality notification service, and the EPA Region 1 Air Quality Index website. The table below describes the ratings used in the daily air quality forecasts.

Air Quality Index (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 Quality Index (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

2025 Ozone Data Summary

MassDEP operated 16 ozone monitors during 2025. Additionally, 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 2025, there were six days when the 8-hour ozone standard of 0.070 ppm was exceeded in Massachusetts. Based on the most recent three years of data (2023–2025), 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 reaction 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.

Ozone Exceedances vs Ozone 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. While three years of data is a requirement to calculate NAAQS design values, Figure 2 displays all monitoring sites for reference. An Asterix (*) indicates sites with less than three years of data.

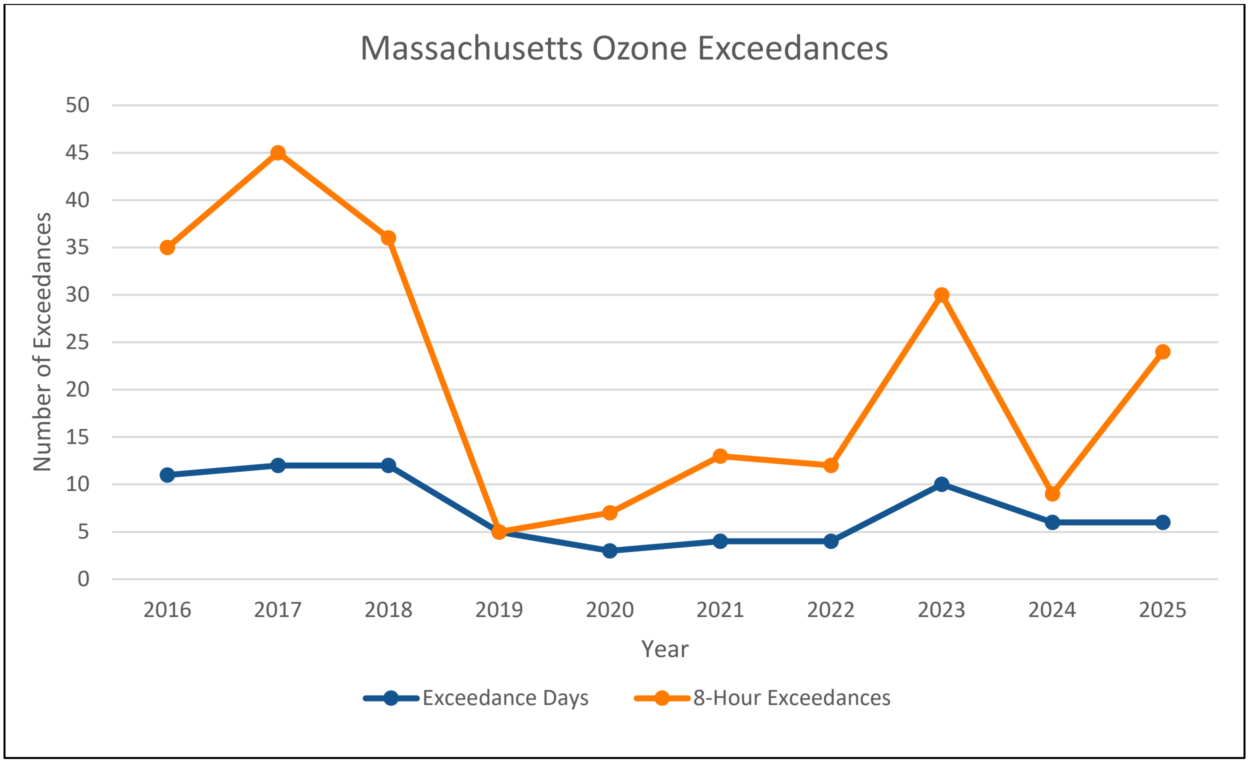


Figure 1: Massachusetts 8-hour Ozone Exceedance Days and Total Exceedances 2016-2025

Exceedances Based on 0.070 ppm 8-hour Standard

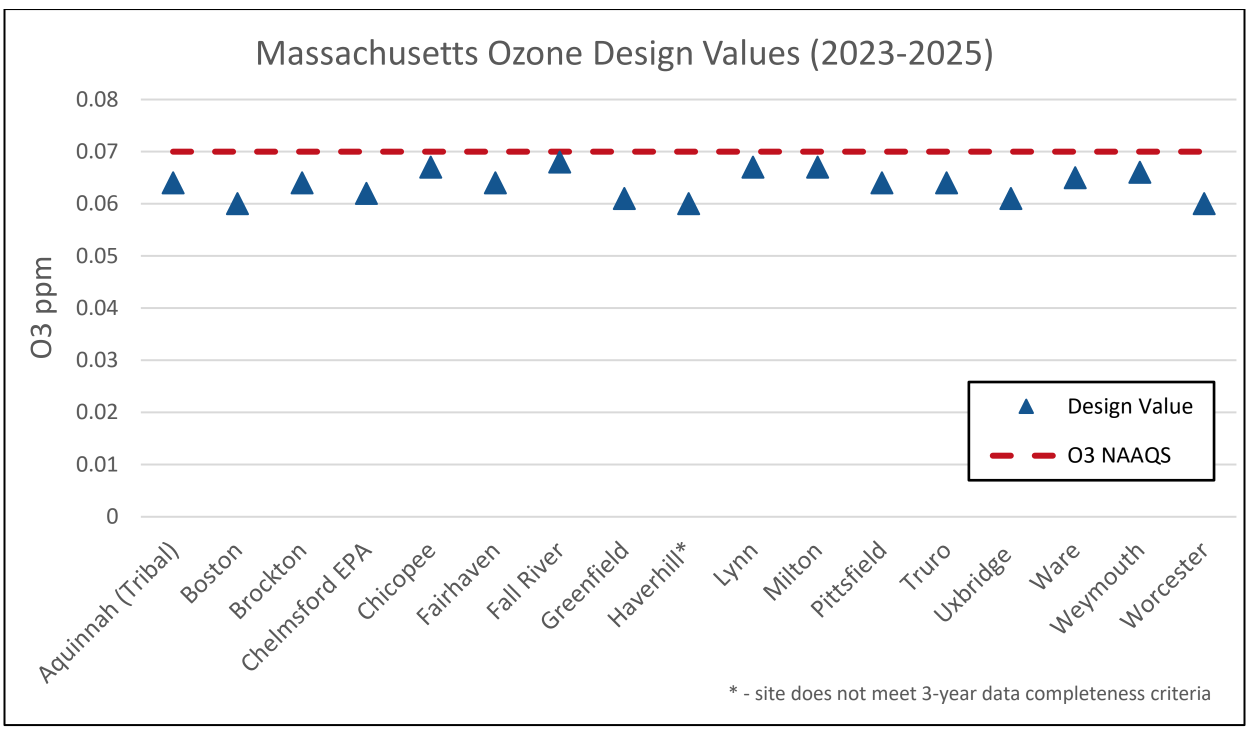


Figure 2: Massachusetts Ozone Design Values (2023-2025)

Three Year Average of the 4th Max O3 8-hr Value

A summary of the 2025 ozone data is shown below (in parts per million).

2025 Ozone Summary

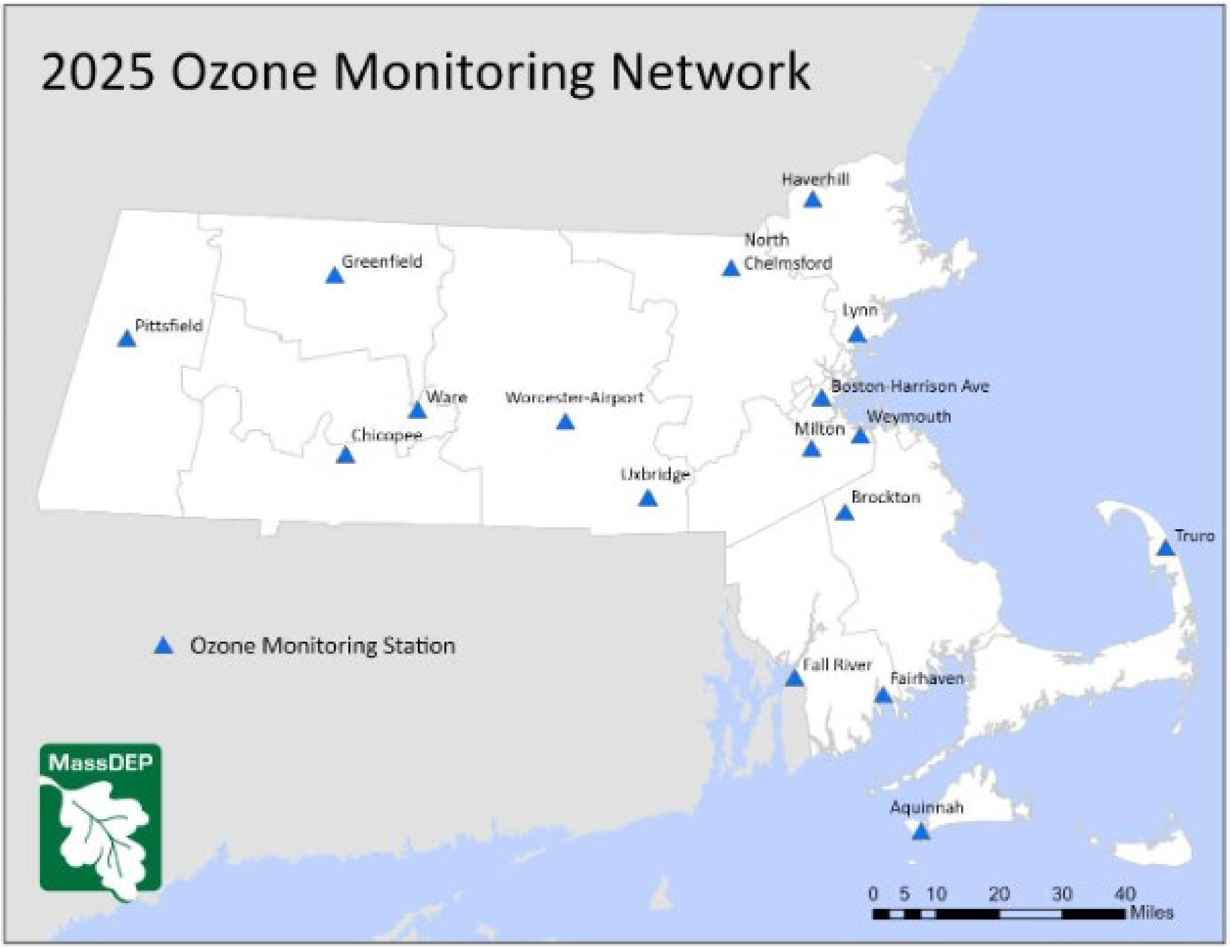
2025 City	County	Address	1st Max 8-hr	2nd Max 8-hr	3rd Max 8-hr	4th Max 8-hr	8-hr Max > 0.070 STD
Aquinnah (Tribal)	Dukes	Herring Creek Dr	0.086	0.076	0.061	0.060	2
Boston	Suffolk	Harrison Avenue	0.067	0.066	0.063	0.059	0
Brockton	Plymouth	Clinton Street	0.073	0.069	0.063	0.063	1
Chelmsford EPA	Middlesex	Technology Drive	0.072	0.067	0.062	0.061	1
Chicopee	Hampden	Anderson Road	0.075	0.073	0.072	0.068	3
Fairhaven	Bristol	School Street	0.072	0.064	0.062	0.062	1
Fall River	Bristol	Globe Street	0.076	0.073	0.070	0.068	2
Greenfield	Franklin	Barr Avenue	0.071	0.063	0.061	0.061	1
Haverhill HS	Essex	Monument Street	0.080	0.069	0.068	0.067	1
Lynn	Essex	Parkland Avenue	0.081	0.080	0.073	0.069	3
Milton	Norfolk	Canton Avenue	0.072	0.072	0.068	0.065	2
Pittsfield	Berkshire	Silver Lake Blvd	0.075	0.069	0.063	0.063	1
Truro	Barnstable	Collins Road	0.079	0.074	0.072	0.067	3
Uxbridge	Worcester	E. Hartford Avenue	0.070	0.064	0.062	0.062	0
Ware	Hampshire	Skyline Drive	0.071	0.071	0.069	0.068	2
Weymouth	Norfolk	Monatiquot Street	0.078	0.070	0.067	0.067	1
Worcester	Worcester	Airport Drive	0.069	0.066	0.065	0.064	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

Map of 2025 Massachusetts Ozone Monitor Locations



8-hour Ozone Exceedance Trends

Figures 3-5 show the trend for each ozone monitor for the past ten years based on the 0.070 ppm 8-hour standard.

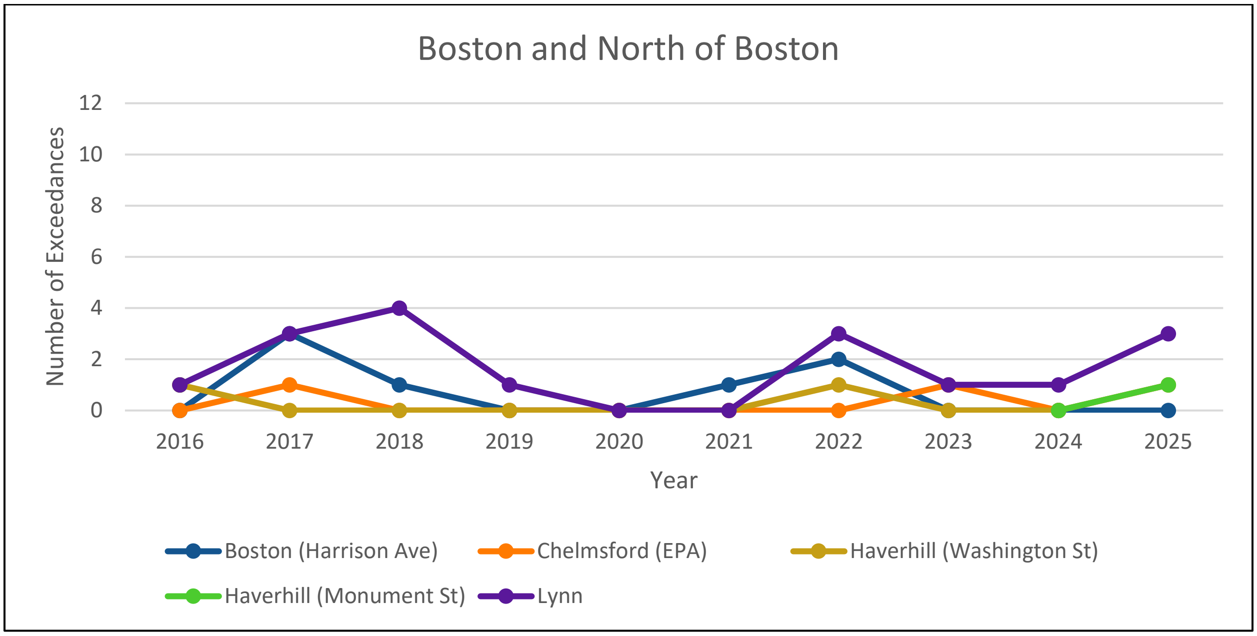


Figure 3: Boston Area and North of Boston 8-hour Ozone Exceedance Trends 2016 -2025
Exceedances Based on 0.070 ppm 8-hour Standard

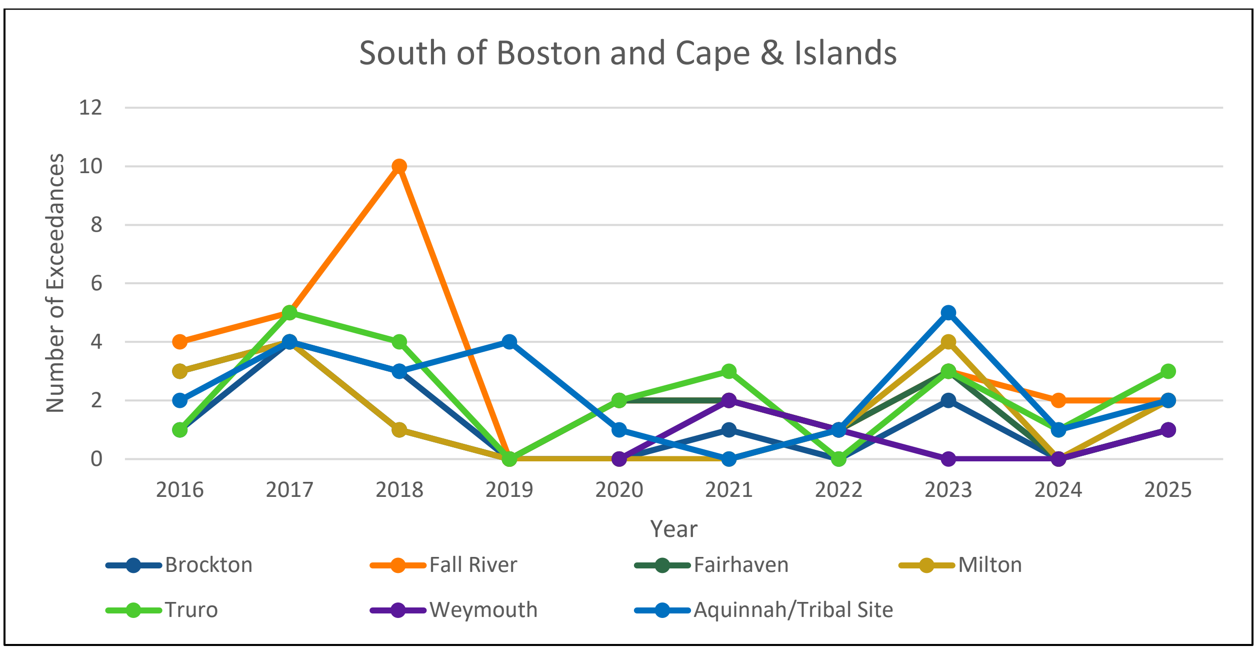


Figure 4: South of Boston and Cape & Islands 8-hour Ozone Exceedance Trends 2016 – 2025
Exceedances Based on 0.070 ppm 8-hour Standard

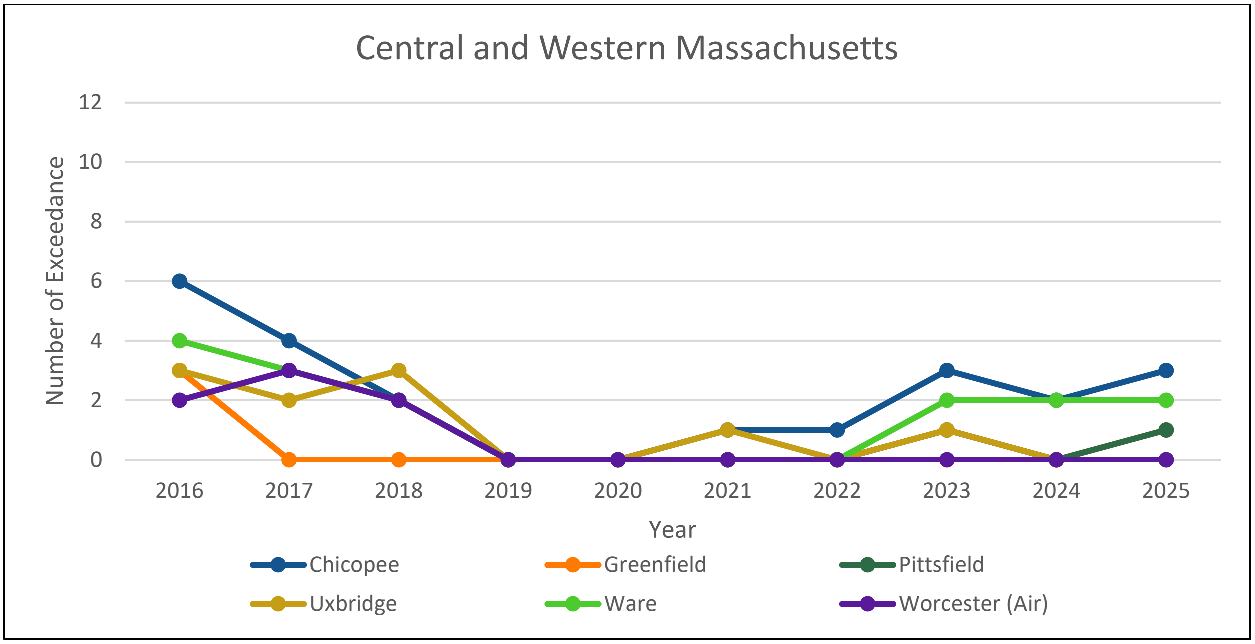


Figure 5: Central and Western Massachusetts 8-hour Ozone Exceedance Trends 2016 – 2025
Exceedances Based on 0.070 ppm 8-hour Standard

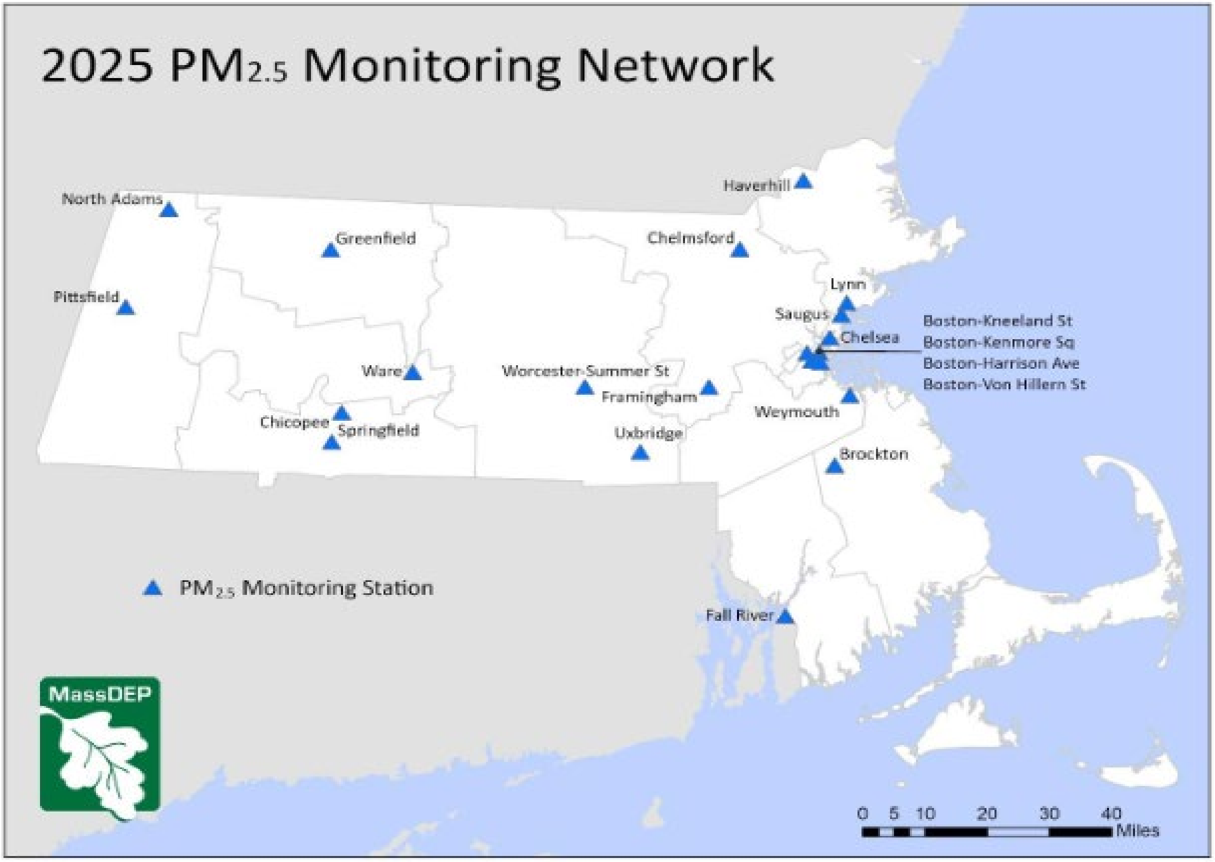
2.2 - Particulate Matter 2.5 Microns ($PM_{2.5}$) Summary

During 2025, MassDEP operated five non-continuous filter based Federal Reference Method (FRM) $PM_{2.5}$ monitors and 22 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 2025, there were four days when the 24-hour $PM_{2.5}$ standard (35 µg/m^3) was exceeded. Exceedances were attributed to Canadian wildfires. Based on the most recent three years of data (2023–2025), no monitoring locations violated the 35 µg/m^3 daily standard.

Figure 6 shows the number of 24-hour $PM_{2.5}$ exceedance days and the total number of exceedances for the past ten years. Figure 7 shows the most recent 3-year design values (three-year average of 2023 - 2025 98th percentile 24-hour values). While three years of data is a requirement to calculate NAAQS design values, Figure 7 displays all monitoring sites for reference. An Asterix (*) indicates sites with less than three years of data. No $PM_{2.5}$ monitors exceeded the 2024 standard of 9 µg/m^3.

Map of 2025 Massachusetts $PM_{2.5}$ Monitor Locations



$PM_{2.5}$ Exceedance Trends

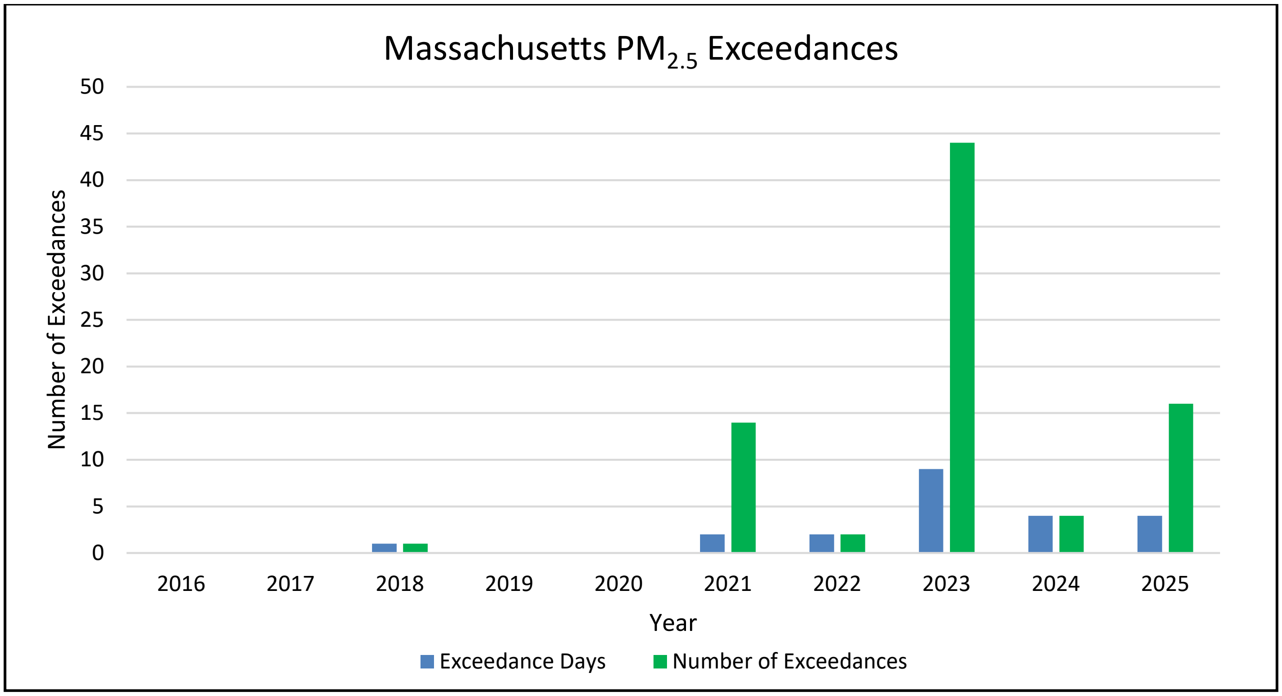


Figure 6: Massachusetts 24-hour $PM_{2.5}$ Exceedance Days and Total Exceedances 2016-2025

Exceedances Based on 35 μg/m³ 24-hour Standard

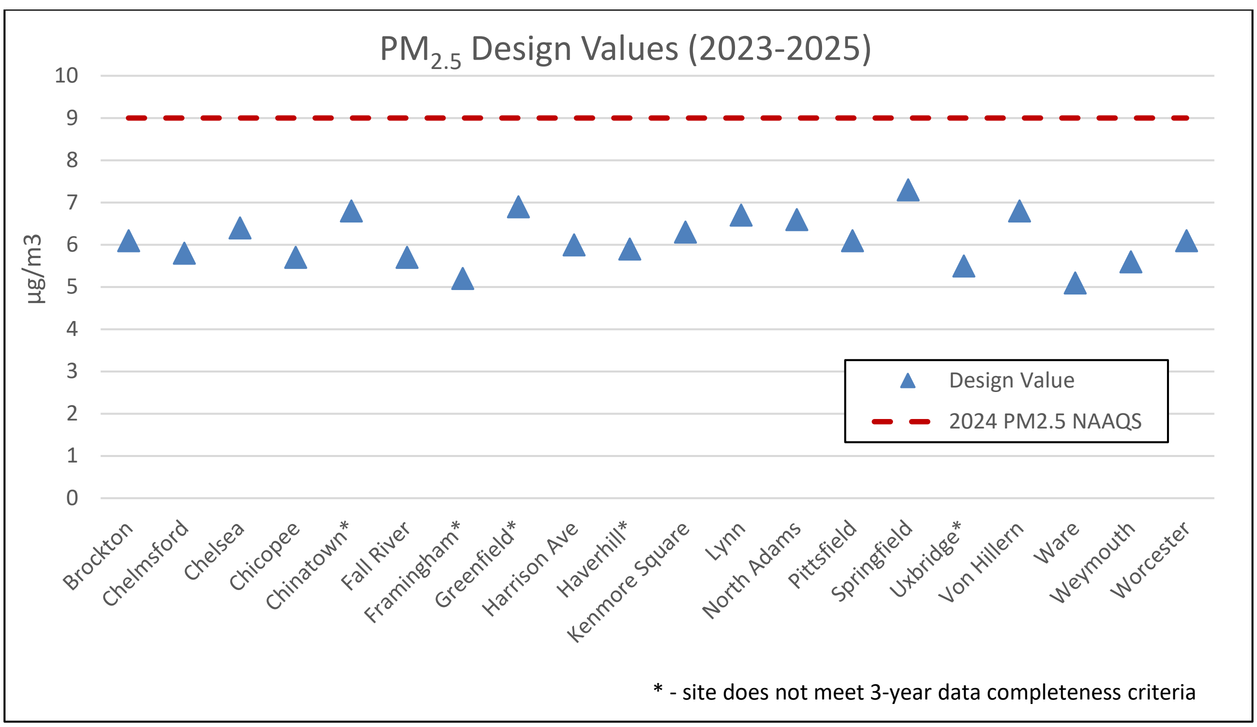


Figure 7: $PM_{2.5}$ Design Values (2023-2025)

Design values are three-year averages

2025 $PM_{2.5}$ FEM Data Summary

A summary of the 2025 $PM_{2.5}$ FEM data is shown below (in µg/m^3).

2025 City	County	Address	1st Max 24-hr	2nd Max 24-hr	3rd Max 24-hr	4th Max 24-hr	98th Percentile 24-hr	Arithmetic Mean
Boston	Suffolk	Kenmore Sq	34.3	28.9	28.0	26.5	22.5	6.40
Boston	Suffolk	Harrison Ave	27.9	23.8	23.5	23.0	16.9	5.65
Boston	Suffolk	Von Hillern St	37.5	35.9	29.2	28.6	23.3	7.10
Boston	Suffolk	Von Hillern St *	34.3	26.7	25.0	17.0	15.7	5.71
Boston	Suffolk	Kneeland St	34.5	30.4	28.3	26.9	22.9	6.71
Brockton	Plymouth	Clinton St	33.5	29.3	26.9	23.7	20.8	5.91
Chelsea	Suffolk	Willow St	34.3	30.6	26.6	26.3	23.3	6.17
Chelmsford	Middlesex	Manning Rd	34.2	27.9	27.4	24.7	22.3	5.77
Chicopee	Hampden	Anderson Rd	39.2	39.0	30.3	26.4	18.9	5.67
Fall River	Bristol	Globe St	33.1	22.1	20.5	20.4	15.4	5.40
Framingham	Middlesex	Western Ave	27.6	24.5	24.0	23.9	18.5	5.17
Greenfield	Franklin	Barr Ave	40.8	40.0	33.5	32.2	21.4	6.74
Haverhill	Essex	Monument St	30.1	28.6	27.4	22.8	20.5	5.00
Lynn	Essex	Parkland Ave	34.1	28.7	25.9	25.1	22.2	5.28
North Adams	Berkshire	Holden St	43.0	42.4	35.8	33.3	21.9	6.40
Pittsfield	Berkshire	Silver Lake Blvd	44.7	42.5	36.3	33.3	23.7	6.05
Saugus	Essex	Bristow St	16.2	12.4	10.8	10.4	16.2	4.93
Springfield	Hampden	Liberty St	45.0	44.1	35.2	30.4	19.6	6.98
Uxbridge	Worcester	E Hartford Dr	33.5	26.9	26.4	26.0	24.1	5.49
Ware	Hampshire	Skyline Dr	41.9	39.0	31.2	25.6	20.7	4.99
Weymouth	Norfolk	Monatiquot St	32.2	31.7	23.4	23.4	19.1	5.37
Worcester	Worcester	Summer St	32.9	30.7	29.4	27.4	18.1	5.76

Primary NAAQS: Annual Mean = 9.0 µg/m^3
Primary and Secondary NAAQS: 24-hour (98th percentile) = 35 µg/m^3
Secondary NAAQS: Annual Mean = 15.0 µg/m^3
* = 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
Arithmetic Mean = Annual mean

$PM_{2.5}$ FEM Trends

Figures 8 to 11 show 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 µg/m³.

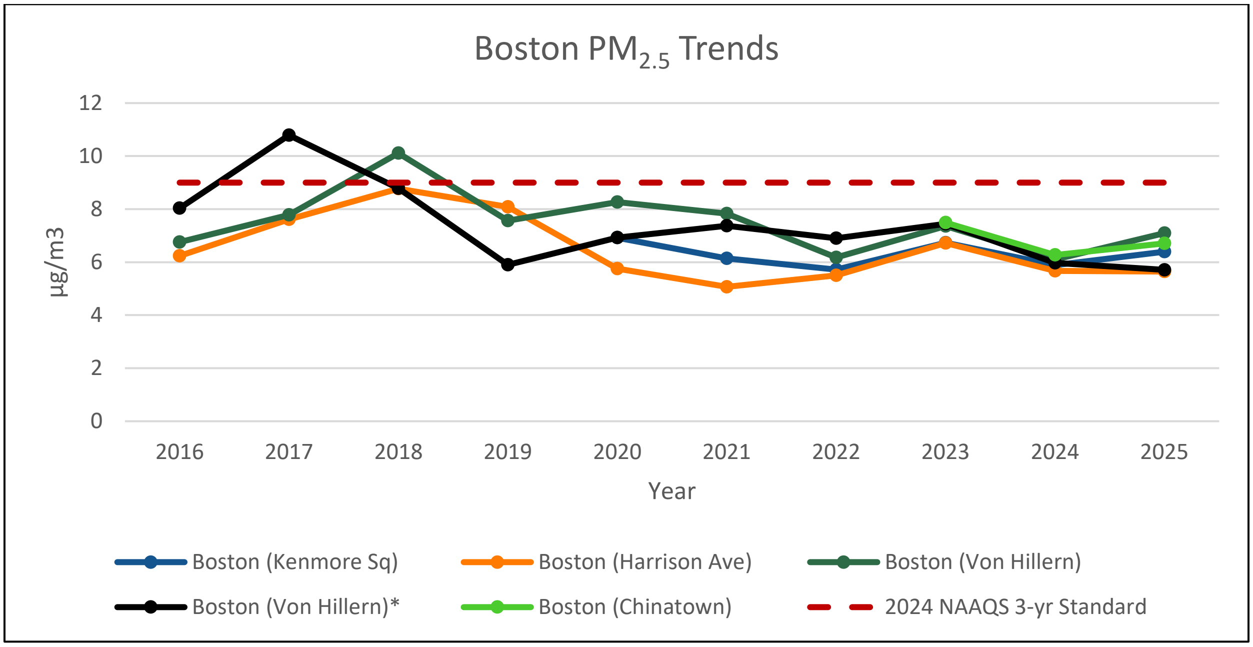


Figure 8: Boston $PM_{2.5}$ Trends 2016 – 2025

Annual Arithmetic Mean

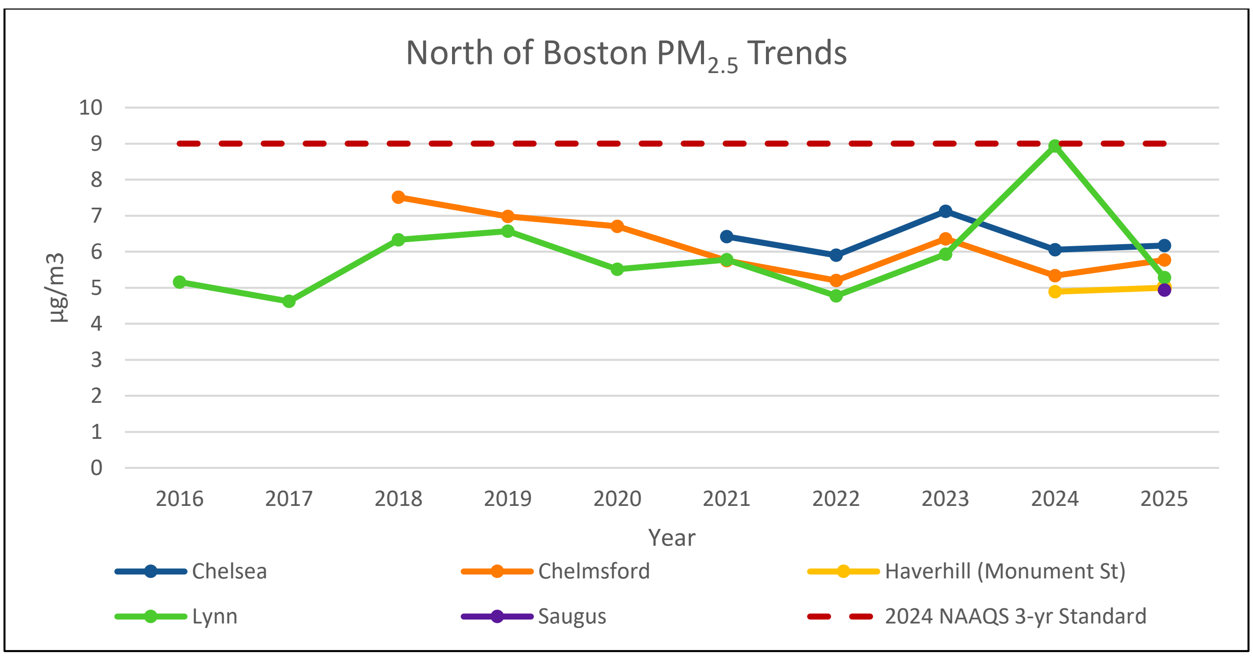


Figure 9: North of Boston $PM_{2.5}$ Trends 2016 – 2025

Annual Arithmetic Mean

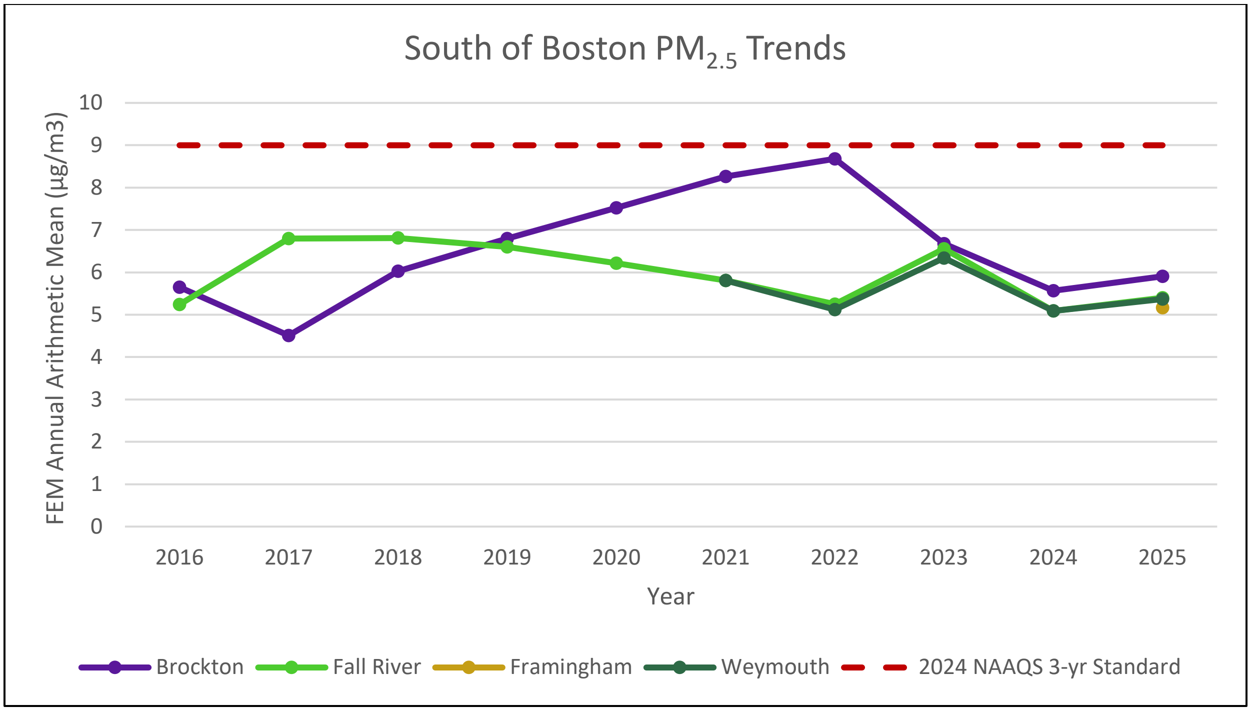


Figure 10: South of Boston $PM_{2.5}$ Trends 2016 – 2025

Annual Arithmetic Mean

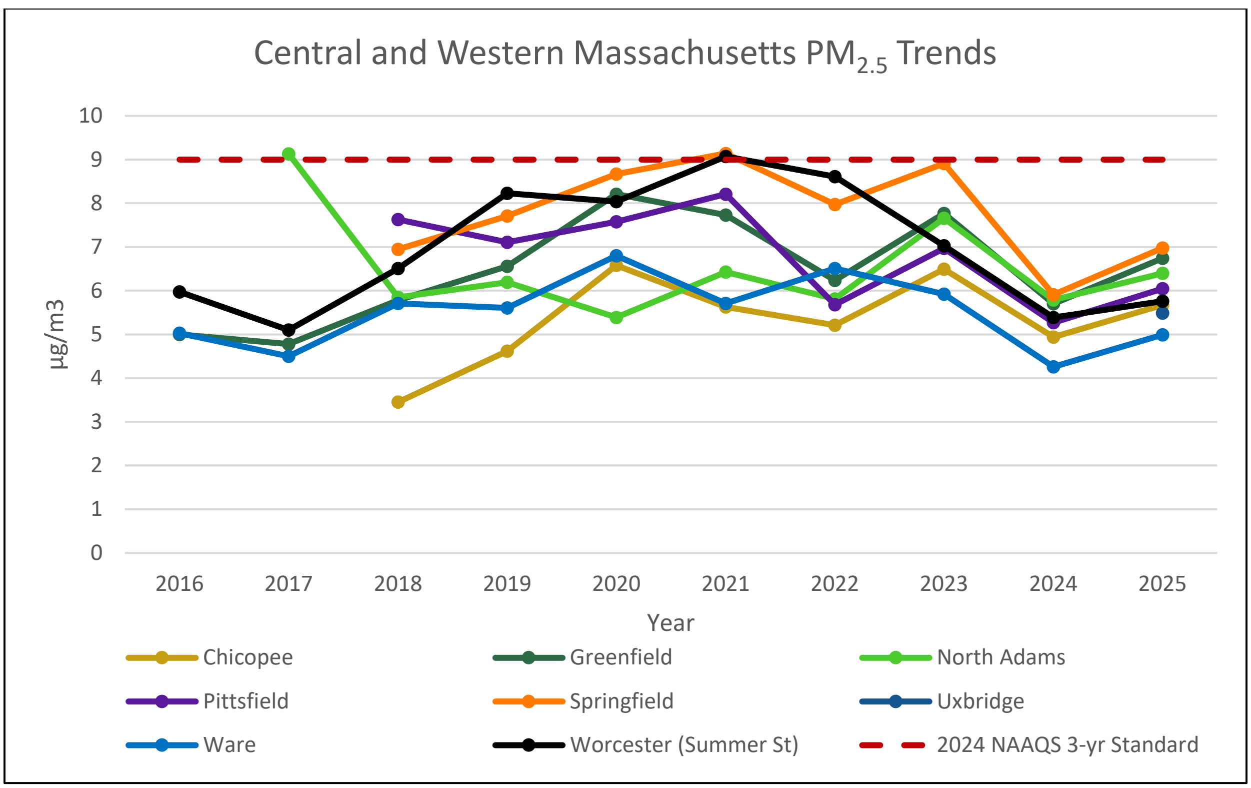


Figure 11: Central and Western Massachusetts $PM_{2.5}$ Trends 2016 – 2025

Annual Arithmetic Mean

2025 $PM_{2.5}$ FRM Data Summary

A summary of the 2025 $PM_{2.5}$ FRM data is shown below (in µg/m^3). All annual mean values are below the 2024 standard of 9 µg/m^3.

2025 City	County	Address	1st Max 24-hr	2nd Max 24-hr	3rd Max 24-hr	4th Max 24-hr	98th Percentile 24-HR	Arithmetic Mean
Boston	Suffolk	Kenmore Square	20.3	19.8	16.1	14.4	19.8	6.20
Boston	Suffolk	Harrison Avenue	20.7	20.4	20.3	18.6	20.3	5.74
Boston	Suffolk	Von Hillern Street	20.7	19.4	14.7	13.8	19.4	6.56
Greenfield	Franklin	Barr Avenue	33.7	17.4	16.5	14.9	33.7	7.17
Springfield	Hampden	Liberty Street	37.4	19.4	18.0	14.4	19.4	7.15

Primary NAAQS (2024): Annual Mean = 9.0 µg/m^3
Primary and Secondary NAAQS: 24-hour (98^{th} percentile) = 35 µg/m^3
Secondary NAAQS: Annual Mean = 15.0 µg/m^3
1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th 24-HR MAX = First, Second, Third, and Fourth highest 24-hour values for the year
98^{th} PERCENTILE 24-HR = 98^{th} Percentile value for the year
Arithmetic Mean = Annual mean

$PM_{2.5}$ FRM Trends

Figure 12 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 µg/m³.

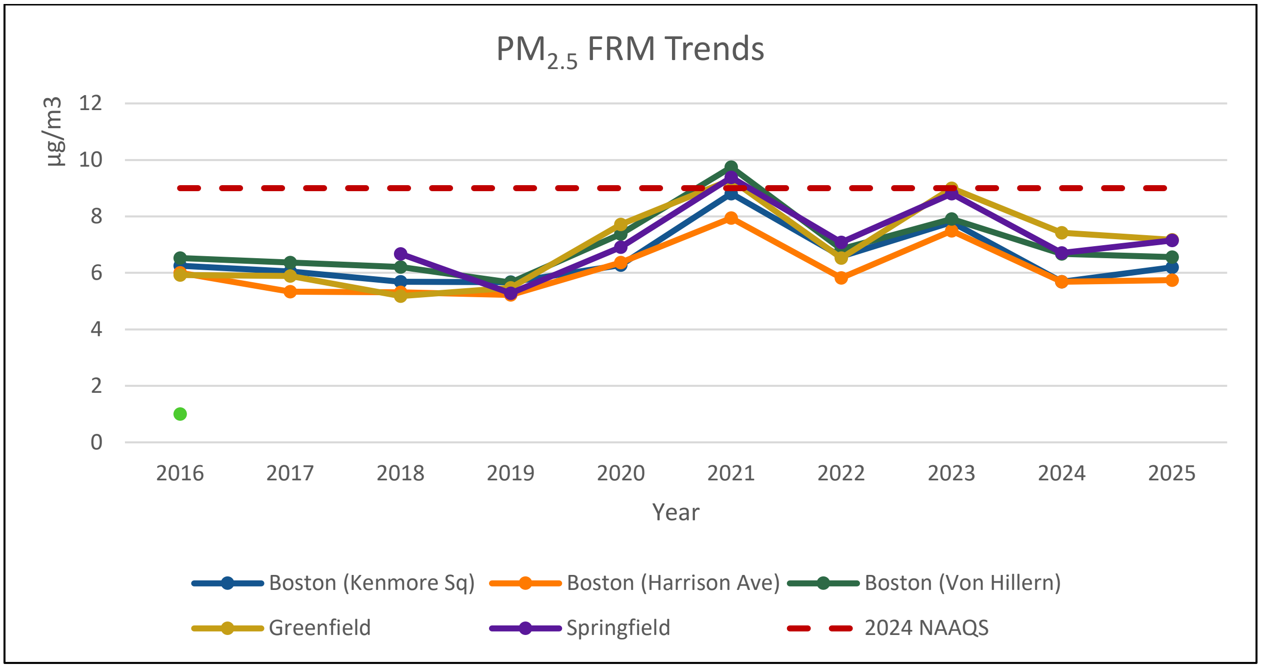


Figure 12: $PM_{2.5}$ FRM Trends 2016 – 2025

Annual Arithmetic Mean

2.3 - Particulate Matter 10 Microns (PM_{10}) Summary

2025 PM_{10} Data Summary

A summary of the 2025 PM_{10} data is shown below (in µg/m^3). MassDEP monitored PM_{10} at five locations in 2025. All five locations operate 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.

PM_{10} 2025 FRM Data Summary

2025 City	County	Address	1st Max 24-hr	2nd Max 24-hr	3rd Max 24-hr	4th Max 24-hr	Days Max>STD	Arithmetic Mean
Boston	Suffolk	Harrison Avenue	43	41	33	29	0	12.9
Boston	Suffolk	Harrison Avenue*	31	29	28	27	0	14.0

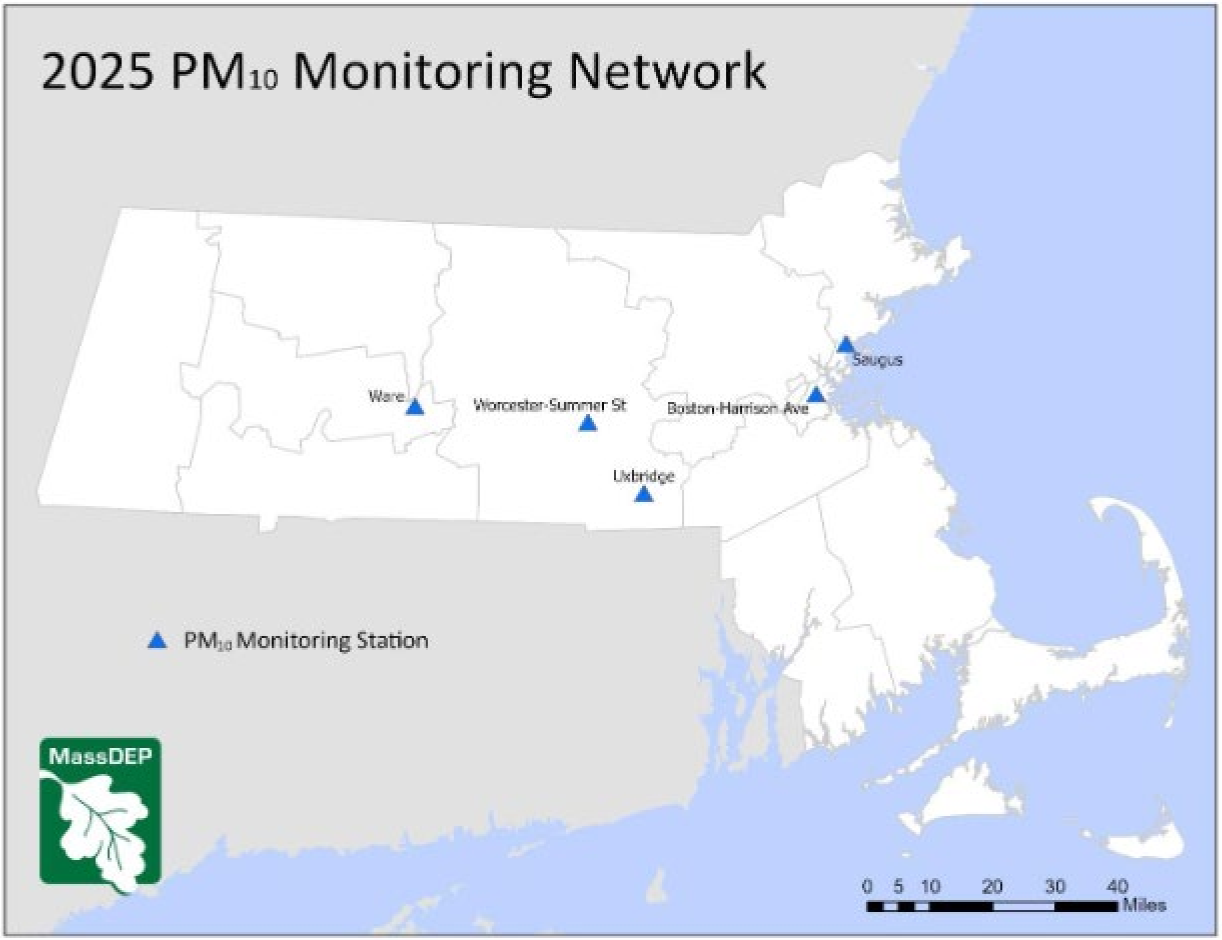
Primary and Secondary NAAQS: 24-hour = 150 µg/m3
* = Collocated monitors
1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th 24-HR MAX = First, Second, Third and Fourth highest 24-hour values for the year
Arithmetic Mean = Annual mean

PM_{10} 2025 FEM Data Summary

2025 City	County	Address	1st Max 24-hr	2nd Max 24-hr	3rd Max 24-hr	4th Max 24-hr	Days Max>STD	Arithmetic Mean
Boston	Suffolk	Harrison Avenue	93	63	56	45	0	13.1
Saugus	Essex	Bristow St	23	22	20	19	0	9.4
Uxbridge	Worcester	E Hartford Ave	46	36	36	36	0	9.8
Ware	Hampshire	Skyline Drive	56	52	42	38	0	8.8
Worcester	Worcester	Summer Street	100	68	47	46	0	13.2

Primary and Secondary NAAQS: 24-hour = 150 µg/m^3
1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th 24-HR MAX = First, Second, Third and Fourth highest 24-hour values for the year
Arithmetic Mean = Annual mean

2025 PM_{10} Monitoring Network



PM_{10} Trends

Figure 13 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 µg/m³.

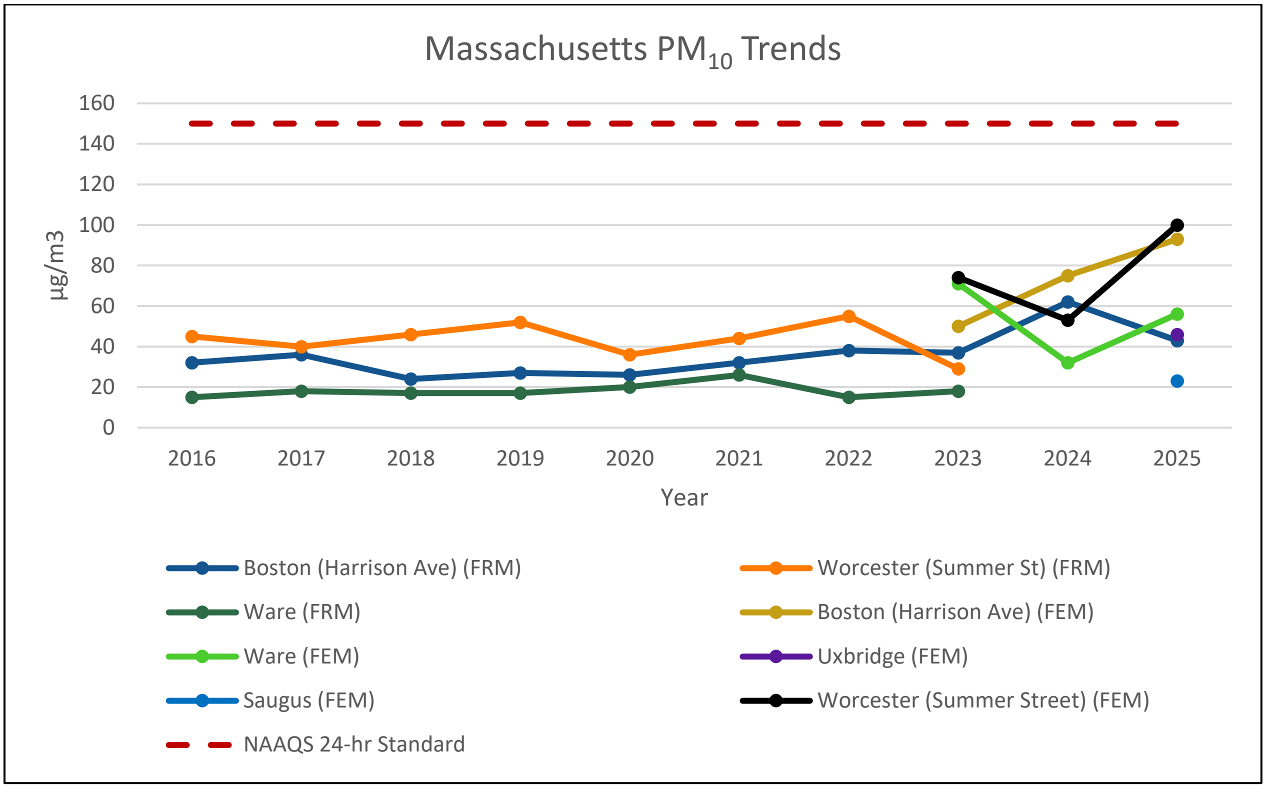


Figure 13: Massachusetts PM_{10} Trends 2016 – 2025

24-Hour Calendar Year Maximum

2.4 - Nitrogen Dioxide (NO_2) Summary

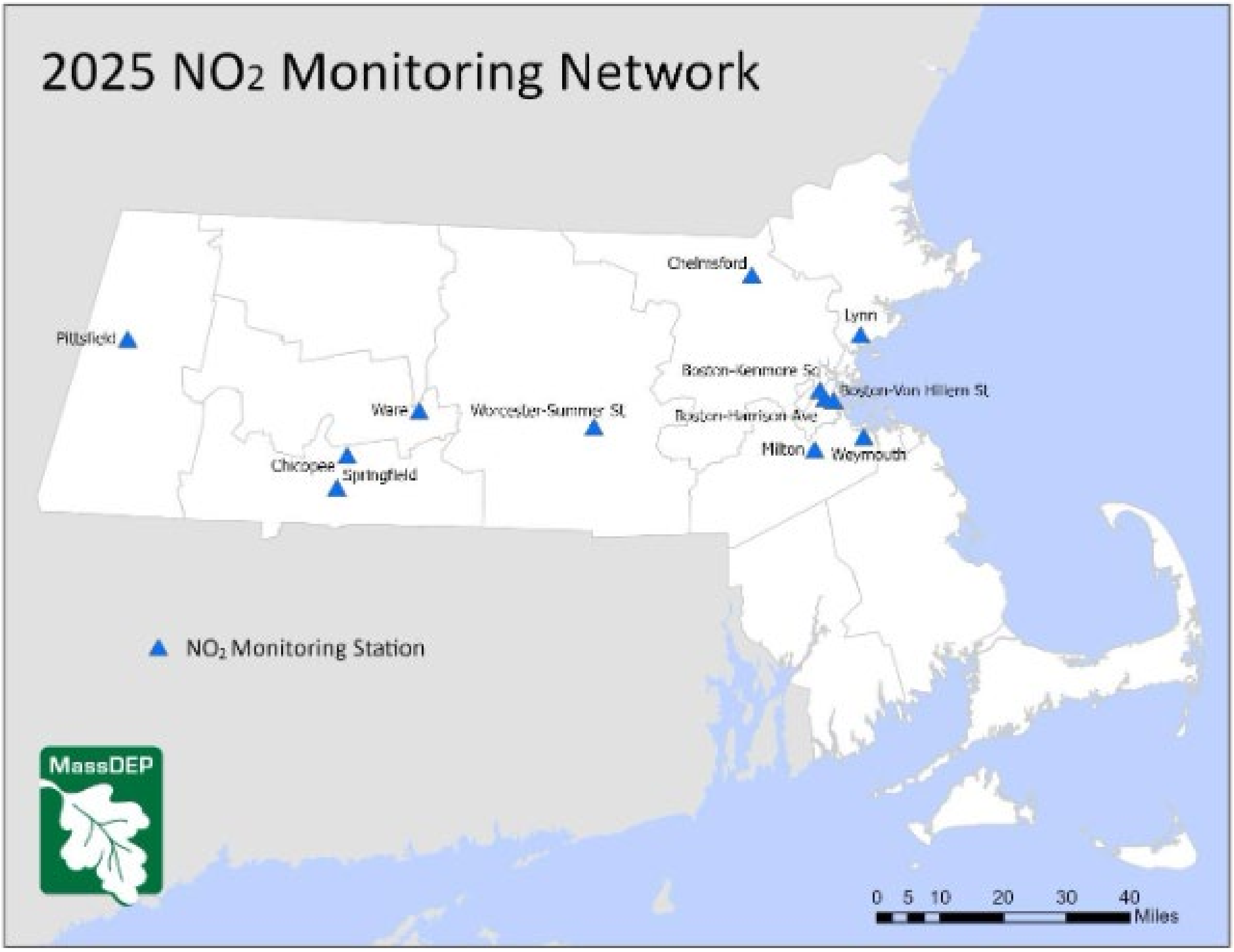
2025 NO_2 Data Summary

A summary of the 2025 NO_2 data is shown below (in parts per billion). MassDEP operated twelve NO_2 monitors during 2025. All values are well below applicable NAAQS.

2025 City	County	Address	1st Max 1-hr	2nd Max 1-hr	98th Percentile Value	Arithmetic Mean
Boston	Suffolk	Kenmore Square	53.0	52.0	40.0	9.87
Boston	Suffolk	Harrison Avenue	57.0	50.0	43.0	8.94
Boston	Suffolk	Von Hillern Street	49.0	44.0	41.0	11.35
Chelmsford	Middlesex	Manning Road	45.0	42.0	37.0	9.89
Chicopee	Hampden	Anderson Road	41.0	38.0	34.0	4.47
Lynn	Essex	Parkland Avenue	41.3	39.2	34.7	4.64
Milton	Norfolk	Canton Avenue	29.0	25.8	22.8	2.86
Pittsfield	Berkshire	Silver Lake	38.0	38.0	34.0	4.61
Springfield	Hampden	Liberty Street	46.0	45.0	42.0	8.41
Ware	Hampshire	Skyline Drive	31.0	31.0	19.0	1.55
Weymouth	Norfolk	Monatiquot Street	37.0	35.0	33.0	5.32
Worcester	Worcester	Summer Street	45.0	43.0	40.0	8.32

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
Arithmetic Mean = Annual mean

Map of 2025 Massachusetts Nitrogen Dioxide Monitor Locations



NO_2 Trends

Figures 14 and 15 show the trend of the 1-hour 98th percentile annual average for each NO_2 monitor over the past 10 years relative to the 1-hour standard of 100 ppb.

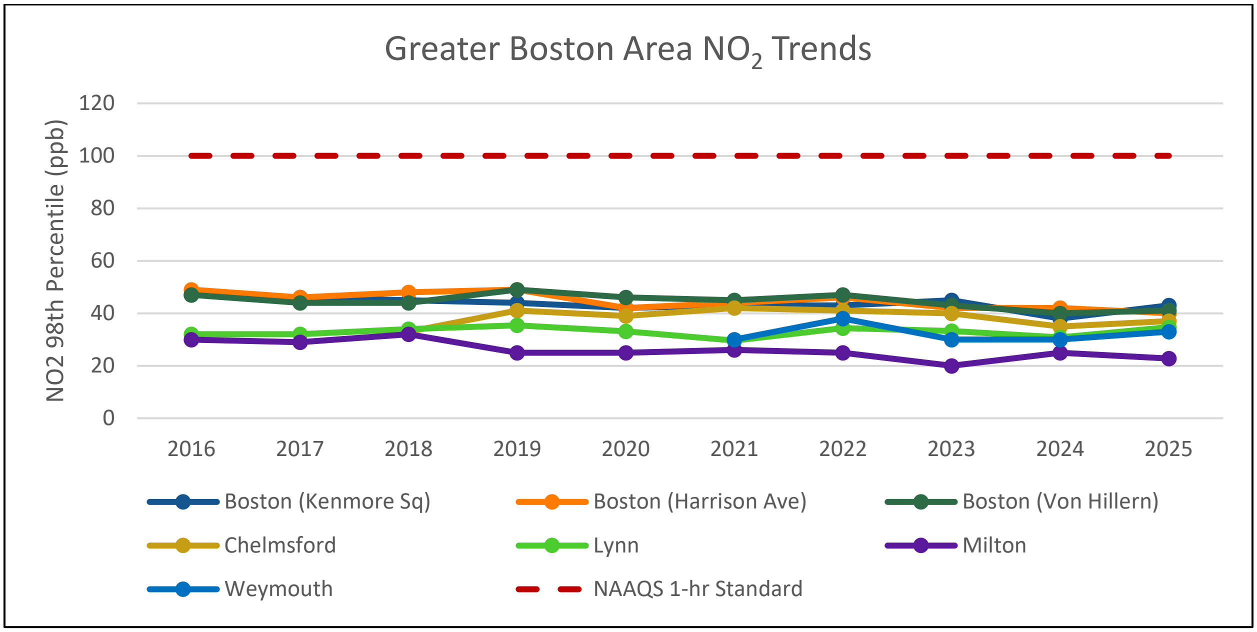


Figure 14: Greater Boston Area Nitrogen Dioxide Trends 2016 – 2025

1-hour 98th Percentile Annual Average

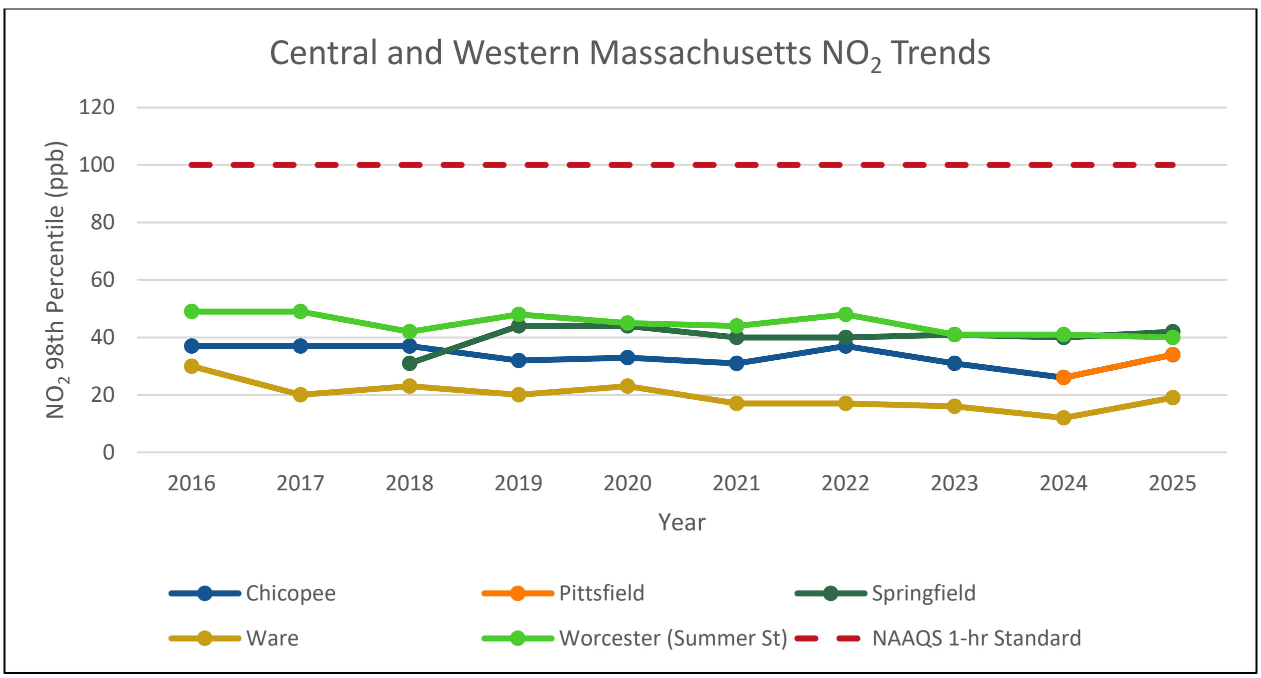


Figure 15: Central and Western Massachusetts Nitrogen Dioxide Trends 2016 – 2025

1-hour 98th Percentile Annual Average

2.5 - Sulfur Dioxide (SO_2) Summary

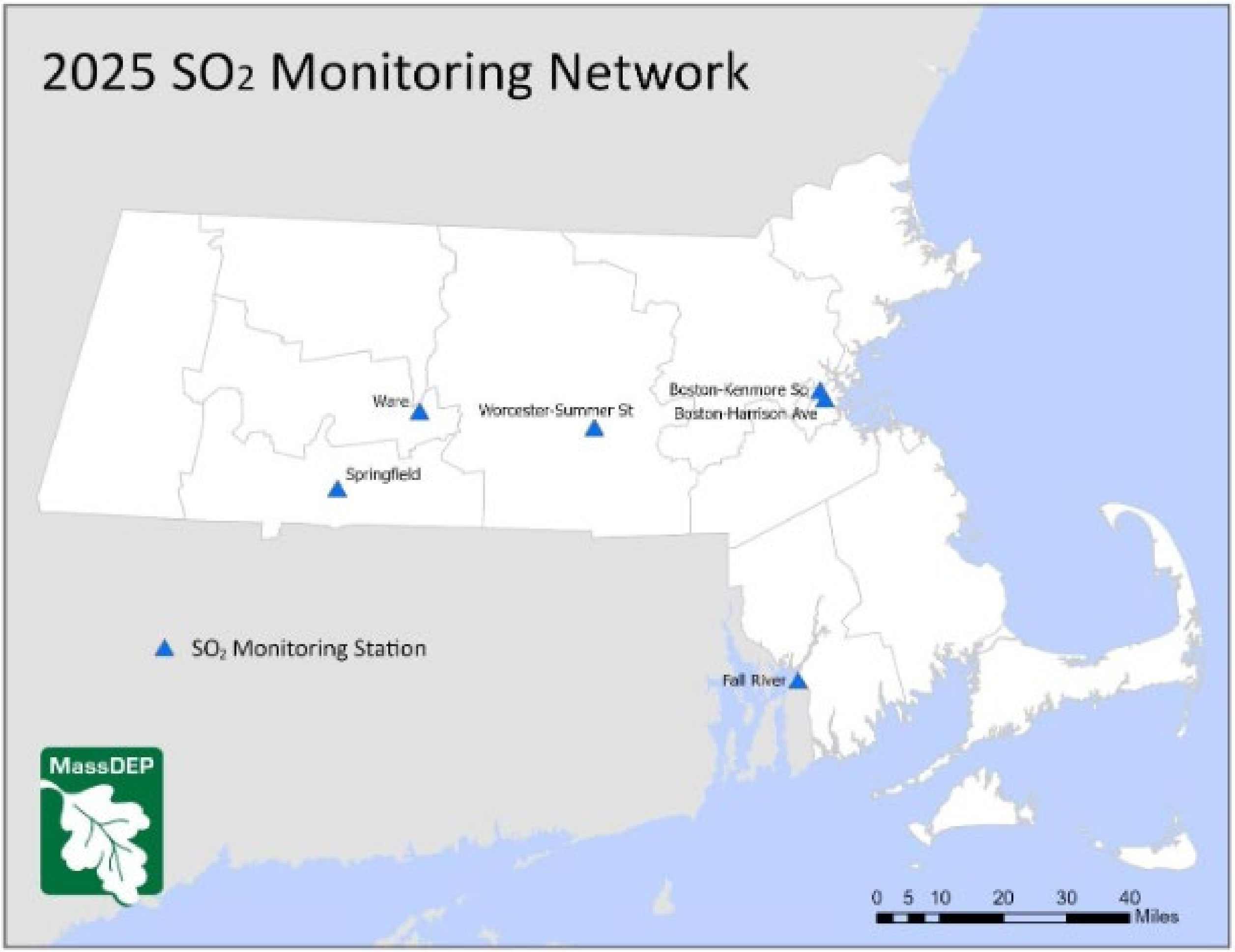
A summary of the 2025 SO_2 data is shown below (in parts per billion). MassDEP operated six SO_2 monitors during 2025. All values are well below applicable NAAQS.

2025 SO_2 Data Summary

2025 City	County	Address	1st Max 1-hr	2nd Max 1-hr	99th Percentile 1-hr	Arithmetic Mean	1st Max 24-hr	2nd Max 24-hr
Boston	Suffolk	Kenmore Square	2.2	2.2	1.7	0.38	1.0	0.9
Boston	Suffolk	Harrison Avenue	1.9	1.8	1.6	0.27	0.9	0.9
Fall River	Bristol	Globe Street	3.3	2.8	2.6	0.42	1.1	1.1
Springfield	Hampden	600 Liberty Street	2.8	1.6	1.5	0.16	1.1	0.9
Ware	Hampshire	Skyline Drive	1.4	1.3	1.1	0.15	0.7	0.7
Worcester	Worcester	Summer Street	2.5	2.2	2.1	0.21	1.4	1.2

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 PERCENTILE 1-HR = 99th Percentile of the 1-hour maximum value
Arithmetic Mean = Annual mean
1st, 2nd MAX 24-HR = First and Second highest 24-hour value

Map of 2025 Massachusetts Sulfur Dioxide Monitor Locations



SO_2 Trends

Figure 16 shows the trend of the 1-hour 99th percentile for each SO_2 monitor for the past 10 years relative to the 1-hour standard of 75 ppb.

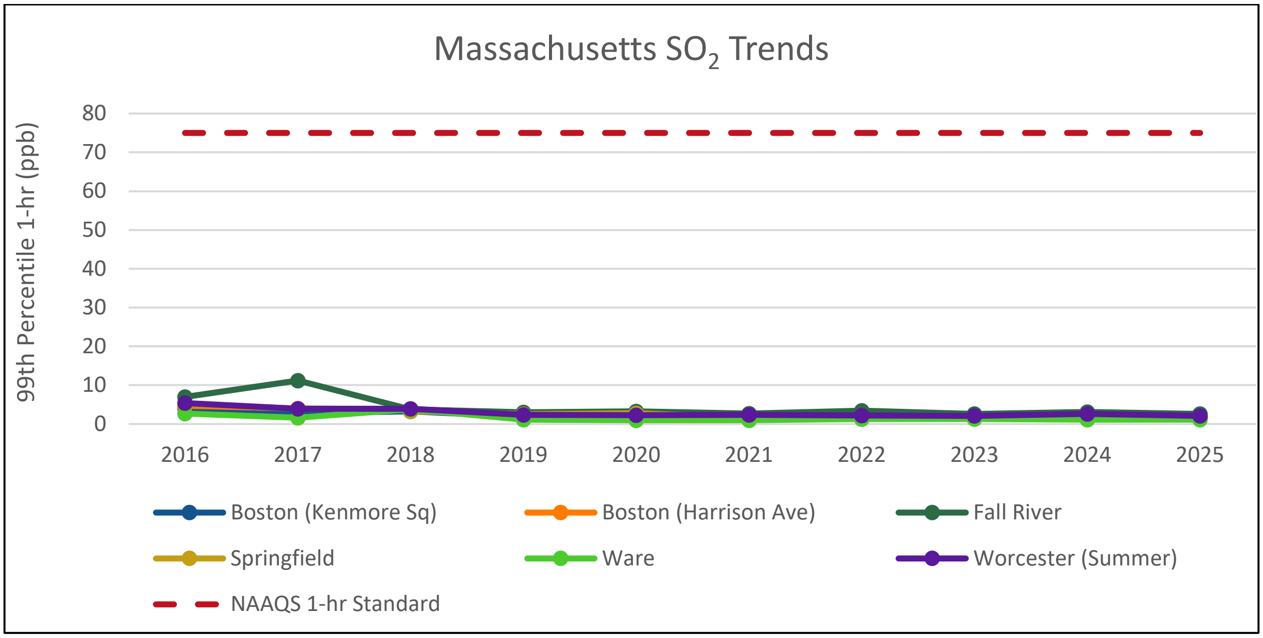


Figure 16: Sulfur Dioxide Trends 2016 – 2025

1-hour 99th Percentile Annual Average

2.6 - Carbon Monoxide (CO) Summary

2025 CO Data Summary

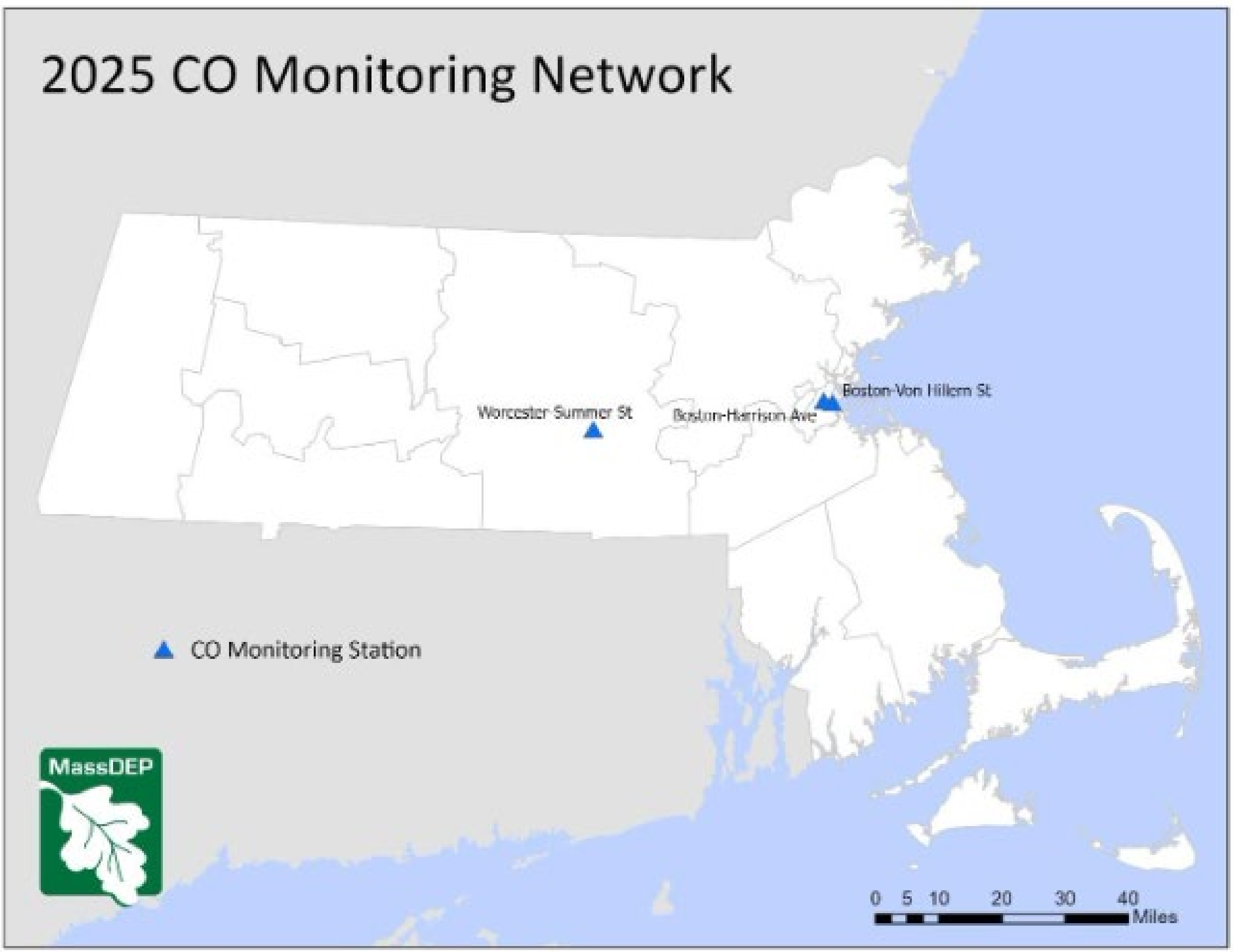
A summary of the 2025 CO data is shown below (in parts per million). MassDEP operated three CO monitors during 2025. All values are well below applicable NAAQS.

2025 City	County	Address	1st Max 1-hr	2nd Max 1-hr	1st Max 8-hr	2nd Max 8-hr
Boston	Suffolk	Harrison Avenue	1.377	1.317	0.9	0.6
Boston	Suffolk	Von Hillern Street	1.388	1.359	1.0	0.9
Worcester	Worcester	Summer Street	1.425	1.219	0.8	0.8

Primary NAAQS:
- 8-hour = 9 ppm
- 1-hour = 35 ppm

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

Map of 2025 Massachusetts Carbon Monoxide Monitor Locations



CO Trends

Figure 17 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.

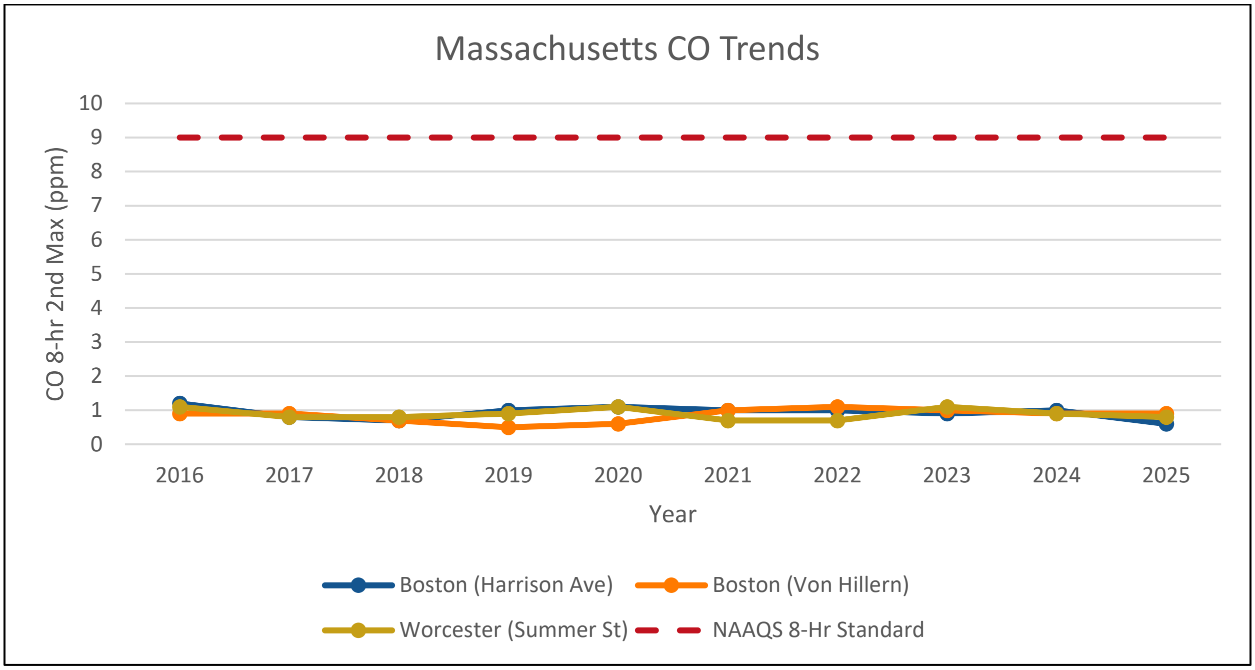


Figure 17: Massachusetts Carbon Monoxide Trends 2016 – 2025
2nd Maximum 8-hour Values

2.7 - Ultrafine Particles ($PM_{0.1}$ or UFP)

Ultrafine particles ($PM_{0.1}$ or UFP) are ≤ 0.1 microns in diameter and are created from combustion sources such as vehicles (especially diesel), industrial facilities, power plants, and wildfires. The small diameter allows these particles to penetrate the lungs and enter the bloodstream. MassDEP operated four UFP monitors during 2025. No regulatory standards have been developed for UFP.

2025 Ultrafine Particles Data Summary

2025 City	County	Address	1st Max 1-hr	2nd Max 1-hr	3rd Max 1-hr	4th Max 1-hr	Daily Max 24-hr	Arithmetic Mean
Boston	Suffolk	Von Hillern St	77,607	76,562	76,428	75,560	43,834	18,001
Boston	Suffolk	Kneeland St	96,906	90,258	90,206	89,901	52,138	15,418
Chelmsford	Middlesex	Manning Rd	133,647	126,114	125,579	121,474	76,244	18,303
Springfield	Hampden	Liberty St	86,330	83,506	81,182	77,344	34,365	11,827

1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th MAX 1-HR = First, Second, Third and Fourth highest 1-hour values for the year
Daily MAX 24-HR = First highest 24-hour value for the year
Arithmetic Mean = Annual mean
UFP units are count/cm^3

2.8 - Black Carbon (BC) Summary

Black carbon (BC), also known as soot, is a component of $PM_{2.5}$ and is produced by burning fossil fuels and other biomass, such as wood, and waste. A summary of the 2025 BC data is shown below (in µg/m3). MassDEP operated nine BC monitors during 2025. No regulatory standards have been developed for BC.

2025 Black Carbon Data Summary

2025 City	County	Address	1st Max 1-hr	2nd Max 1-hr	3rd Max 1-hr	4th Max 1-hr	Daily Max 24-hr	Arithmetic Mean
Boston	Suffolk	Harrison Ave	2.68	2.45	2.39	2.31	1.16	0.370
Boston	Suffolk	Von Hillern St	6.60	4.83	3.23	3.21	1.74	0.574
Chelmsford	Middlesex	Manning Rd	4.56	3.55	3.13	3.07	1.81	0.554
Framingham	Middlesex	Western Ave	2.47	1.80	1.64	1.43	0.77	0.197
Greenfield	Franklin	Barr Ave	5.96	3.82	2.91	2.76	1.39	0.351
North Adams	Berkshire	Holden St	4.35	4.21	4.19	3.54	1.37	0.317
Pittsfield	Berkshire	Silver Lake Blvd	6.52	6.17	3.80	3.46	1.64	0.335
Saugus	Essex	Bristow St	2.72	2.62	2.30	2.09	0.89	0.318
Springfield	Hampden	Liberty St	6.18	5.00	4.44	4.38	1.82	0.518

1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th MAX 1-HR = First, Second, Third and Fourth highest 1-hour values for the year
Daily MAX 24-HR = First highest 24-hour value for the year
Arithmetic Mean = Annual mean
BC units are µg/m3 at STP for all sites except Saugus and Framingham, which are µg/m3 at Local Conditions.

2.9 - Speciation

MassDEP participates in EPA's $PM_{2.5}$ Chemical Speciation network (CSN) sampling at Boston (Harrison Avenue) and Chicopee. The CSN program 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.

2.10 - 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 2025, 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.

2.11 - 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 which 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 historically monitored data for validity, tracks precision results, finalizes hourly values, attaches informational flags, and submits air data and quality results to EPA's Air Quality System (AQS) database. 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 performs its own performance audits on MassDEP samplers and every three years conducts a thorough Technical Systems Audit (TSA). The latest TSA was conducted in 2025.

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 2025, 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, NO_2), 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 of causing 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 24-hour concentrations of 2025 metals data.

Boston 2025 Metals Data Summary

2025 Metals	Max Value (µg/m^3)	Mean (µg/m^3)
Antimony	0.00315	0.001394
Arsenic	0.00096	0.000371
Beryllium	0.00004	0.000007
Cadmium	0.00024	0.000053
Chromium	0.01370	0.006615
Cobalt	0.00059	0.000125
Lead	0.01130	0.002330
Manganese	0.03580	0.005882
Nickel	0.00607	0.000908
Selenium	0.00064	0.000211

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 2025.

2025 VOC Data Summary

Compounds	Boston Max	Boston Mean	Chelsea Max	Chelsea Mean	Lynn Max	Lynn Mean	Weymouth Max	Weymouth Mean
formaldehyde	8.50	3.12	6.60	2.18	4.90	1.54	5.40	1.97
acetaldehyde	2.85	0.91	2.25	0.92	1.30	0.58	3.70	1.04
chloromethane	0.65	0.54	0.63	0.53	0.71	0.54	0.62	0.54
vinyl chloride	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1,3-butadiene	0.04	0.02	0.05	0.02	0.03	0.01	0.03	0.01
butane	1.65	0.66	19.88	3.06	4.78	0.57	14.18	1.45
ethylene oxide	0.15	0.06	0.40	0.08	1.00	0.21	1.15	0.16
bromomethane	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
chloroethane	0.01	0.01	0.04	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.03	0.01
acrolein	0.37	0.11	0.43	0.17	0.77	0.26	0.80	0.18
trichlorofluoromethane	0.25	0.21	0.24	0.20	0.25	0.20	0.23	0.20
acrylonitrile	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00
pentane	0.70	0.32	6.24	1.07	1.68	0.23	4.32	0.57
1,1-dichloroethene	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
dichloromethane*	6.32	0.69	0.15	0.11	0.14	0.10	0.15	0.10
trans-1,2-dichloroethene	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.02	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	1.13	0.26	3.28	0.40	1.43	0.46	1.15	0.39
hexane	2.23	0.14	1.00	0.28	0.15	0.07	0.65	0.15
chloroform	0.04	0.02	0.04	0.02	0.04	0.02	0.05	0.02
1,2-dichloroethane	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	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	0.33	0.17	0.41	0.21	0.30	0.14	0.32	0.15
carbon tetrachloride	0.09	0.08	0.09	0.08	0.10	0.08	0.10	0.08

cyclohexane	0.15	0.04	0.35	0.10	0.07	0.03	0.18	0.06
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	0.16	0.08	0.45	0.12	0.14	0.05	0.63	0.07
heptane	0.13	0.05	0.43	0.12	0.07	0.03	0.17	0.06
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	0.03	0.00
1,1,2-trichloroethane	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
toluene	10.61	0.49	0.96	0.33	0.59	0.25	0.69	0.21
1,2-dibromoethane	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
octane	0.04	0.02	0.33	0.06	0.03	0.01	0.15	0.04
tetrachloroethylene	0.05	0.01	0.05	0.01	0.05	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	0.19	0.04	0.18	0.06	0.06	0.02	0.11	0.03
m&p-xylenes	0.56	0.12	0.55	0.16	0.15	0.06	0.28	0.09
bromoform	0.02	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.00
styrene	0.05	0.01	0.03	0.01	0.05	0.02	0.03	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	0.14	0.05	0.19	0.06	0.06	0.02	0.10	0.04
alpha-pinene	0.10	0.03	0.08	0.02	0.24	0.03	0.13	0.03
1,3,5-trimethylbenzene	0.02	0.01	0.03	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.01
1,2,4-trimethylbenzene	0.06	0.03	0.13	0.05	0.04	0.02	0.08	0.02
m-dichlorobenzene	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
p-dichlorobenzene	0.03	0.01	0.03	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.02	0.00
o-dichlorobenzene	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
n-butylbenzene	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00
1,2,4-trichlorobenzene*	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
naphthalene*	0.03	0.01	0.05	0.02	0.11	0.01	0.06	0.01

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

Appendix A
2025 Massachusetts Air Monitoring Stations

City/Town	Address	Parameters Monitored
Aquinnah*	Herring Creek Road	O_3, IMPROVE
Boston	125 Kneeland Street	$PM_{2.5}$, $PM_{0.1}$
Boston	Kenmore Square	NO_2, NO, NOx, SO_2, $PM_{2.5}$
Boston	1159 Harrison Avenue	O_3, NO_2, NO, NOx, NOy, SO_2, CO, $PM_{2.5}$, PM_{10}, PM Coarse, $PM_{2.5}$ Speciation, Black Carbon, Toxics, Carbonyls, WS/WD, WSv/WDv, TEMP, SUN, REL, BP
Boston	19 Von Hillern Street	NO_2, NO, NOx, CO, $PM_{2.5}$, $PM_{0.1}$, Black Carbon, WS/WD, TEMP, SUN, REL, BP
Brockton	170 Clinton Street	O_3, $PM_{2.5}$
Chelmsford	11 Technology Drive	O_3
Chelmsford	5 Manning Road	NO_2, NO, NOx, $PM_{2.5}$, $PM_{0.1}$, Black Carbon
Chelsea	75 Willow Street	$PM_{2.5}$, VOCS, Carbonyls
Chicopee	Anderson Road	O_3, NO_2, NO, NOx, $PM_{2.5}$, $PM_{2.5}$ speciation, WS/WD, TEMP, SUN, REL, BP
Fairhaven	30 School Street	O_3, WS/WD, TEMP, SUN, REL, BP
Framingham	100 Western Avenue	$PM_{2.5}$, Black Carbon
Fall River	659 Globe Street	O_3, SO_2, $PM_{2.5}$
Greenfield	16 Barr Avenue	O_3, $PM_{2.5}$, Black Carbon, WS/WD, TEMP, SUN, REL, BP
Haverhill HS	137 Monument Street	O_3, $PM_{2.5}$, WS/WD, TEMP, SUN, REL, BP
Lynn	390 Parkland Avenue	O_3, NO_2, NO, NOy, $PM_{2.5}$, VOCs, Carbonyls, WS/WD, TEMP, SUN, REL, BP, PRECIP, TOTAL UV
Milton (Blue Hill)	1904 Canton Avenue	O_3, NO_2, NO, NOx, TEMP, SUN, REL, BP
North Adams	86 Holden Street	$PM_{2.5}$, Black Carbon
Pittsfield	25 Silver Lake Blvd	O_3, NO_2, NO, NOx, $PM_{2.5}$, Black Carbon, WS/WD, TEMP, SUN, REL, BP
Saugus	Bristow Street	$PM_{2.5}$, PM_{10}, PM Coarse, Black Carbon
Springfield	600 Liberty Street	NO_2, NO, NOx, SO_2, $PM_{2.5}$, $PM_{0.1}$, Black Carbon
Truro	6 Collins Road	O_3, WS/WD, TEMP, SUN, REL, BP, IMPROVE
Uxbridge	366 E. Hartford Avenue	O_3, $PM_{2.5}$, PM_{10}, PM Coarse, WS/WD, TEMP, SUN, REL, BP
Ware	36 Skyline Drive	O_3, NO_2, NO, NOx, NOy, SO_2, $PM_{2.5}$, PM_{10}, PM Coarse, WS/WD, TEMP, SUN, REL, BP
Weymouth	59 Monatiquot Street	O_3, NO_2, NO, NOx, $PM_{2.5}$, WS/WD, TEMP, SUN, REL, BP, VOCS, Carbonyls
Worcester	375 Airport Drive	O_3, WS/WD, TEMP, SUN, REL, BP
Worcester	Summer Street	NO_2, NO, NOx, SO_2, CO, $PM_{2.5}$, PM_{10}, PM Coarse

*Tribal Site