

# MA EPHT Tutorials

## Finding a Dataset

<https://matracking.ehs.state.ma.us/>

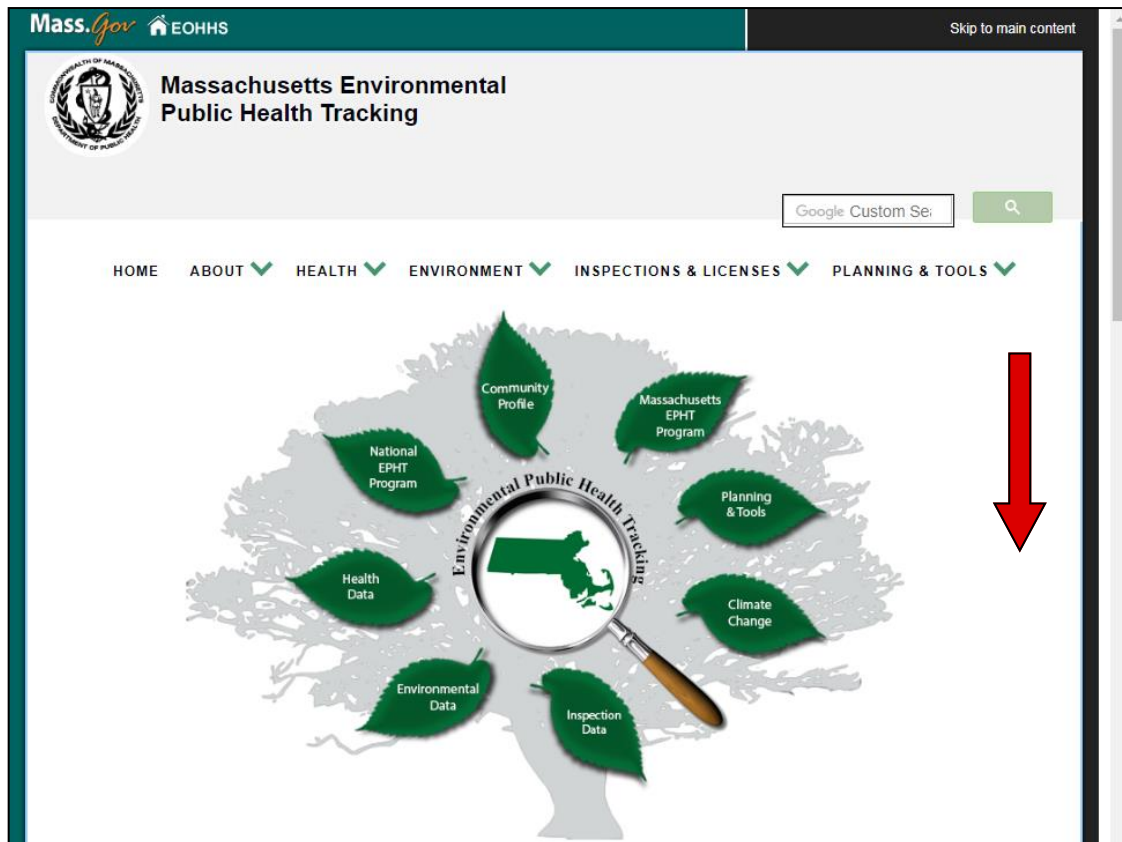


Massachusetts  
Department of  
Public Health

### Overview:

- Most topic pages of the website have data that you can explore using our query system.
  - **i** Note: What is a query? A query is a user-friendly data analysis you can carry out on our website. Our query system allows you to apply custom settings for targeted populations of interest.

### 1. Scroll to the bottom of the homepage.



2.

Select a topic page under “Maps & Tables” or use the tabs at the top.

**Maps & Tables**

A key feature of this website is that you can make tables, charts, and maps of environmental and health data for the community that you live in. This website also provides important background information including limitations associated with the data. It is important to stress that the data cannot be used to determine the cause of disease. They can be used to identify areas where public health actions can be taken. Access Maps & Tables and Community Profiles using the links at the top of each page.

The MA EPHT Portal includes the latest available data for:

Health	Environment	Inspections
<a href="#">ALS</a>	<a href="#">Air Quality</a>	<a href="#">Food Protection</a>
<a href="#">Asthma</a>	<a href="#">Climate Change</a>	<a href="#">Lead Inspections</a>
<a href="#">Birth Defects</a>	<a href="#">Drinking Water Quality</a>	
<a href="#">Cancer</a>	<a href="#">Radon</a>	
<a href="#">Carbon Monoxide Poisoning</a>	<a href="#">Recreational Water</a>	
<a href="#">Childhood Lead Poisoning</a>	<a href="#">Vulnerable Populations</a>	
<a href="#">Heart Attack</a>		
<a href="#">Heat Stress</a>		
<a href="#">Pediatric Diabetes</a>		
<a href="#">Reproductive Outcomes</a>		

3.

If MA EPHT has relevant data for the topic page, you can click on a green “Explore Maps & Tables” icon to access a query tool for that topic’s dataset.

**Cancer**

[Direct Incidence Rates](#) • [SIRs](#) • [Risk Factor Summaries](#) • [Related Links](#)

Cancer is not one disease, but a group of diseases. Research has shown that there are more than 100 different types of cancer, each with different causative (or risk) factors. A risk factor is anything that increases a person's chance of developing cancer and may include hereditary conditions, medical conditions or treatments, lifestyle factors, or environmental exposures. Cancer may be caused by several factors acting together over time. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that 30% of cancer could be prevented, mainly by not using tobacco, having a healthy diet, being physically active and preventing infections that may cause cancer. In general, most cancers have a long period of development (also known as a latency period) that can range from 10 to 50 years. While not much is known about the latency period for cancers that occur in children, it is assumed to be considerably shorter than in adults.

Cancer is common. According to the American Cancer Society, one in two men and one in three women will develop cancer during his or her lifetime. For this reason, cancers often appear to occur in “clusters,” and it is understandable that someone may perceive that there are an unusually high number of cancer diagnoses in their neighborhood or town. Upon close examination, many of these “clusters” are not unusual increases, as first thought, but are related to such factors as local population density, individuals who possess related behaviors or risk factors for cancer, or chance fluctuations in occurrence. Sometimes higher rates that occur over time are due to improved diagnostic techniques and changes in data collection or recording methods. Others, however, are unusual; that is, they represent a true excess of cancer in a workplace, a community, or among a subgroup of people. A suspected cluster is more likely to be genuine if it involves a large number of diagnoses of one type of cancer, a rare type of cancer, or diagnoses occurring among individuals in age groups not usually affected by that cancer type. These types of clusters may warrant further public health investigation.

Cancer incidence data provided on this website are obtained from the Massachusetts Cancer Registry (MCR) within the MDPH Office of Data Management and Outcomes Assessment. The MCR is a population-based cancer registry that collects information on new diagnoses of cancer in Massachusetts.

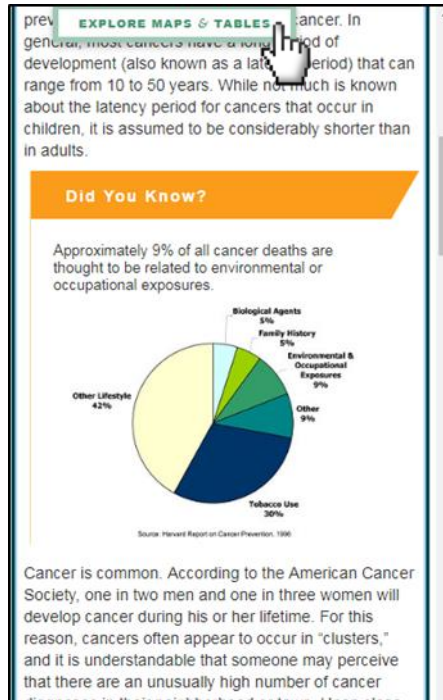
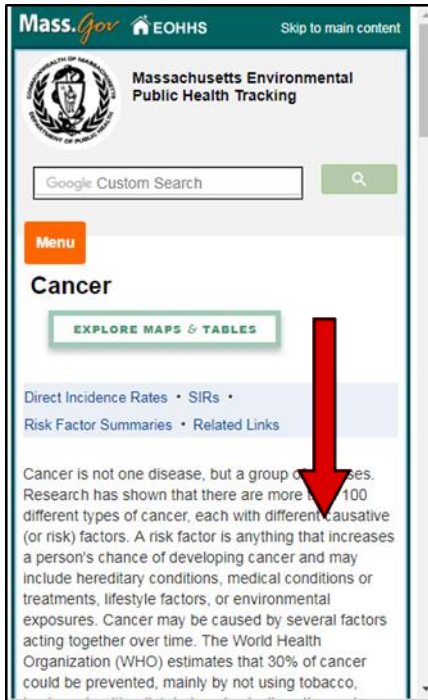
**Did You Know?**

Approximately 9% of all cancer deaths are thought to be related to environmental or occupational exposures.

Category	Percentage
Other Lifestyle	42%
Tobacco Use	30%
Environmental & Occupational Exposures	9%
Other	9%
Family History	5%
Biological Agents	5%

Source: Harvard Report on Cancer Prevention, 1996

- On a cellular device the icon will be at top center of the page. The icon will relocate when you scroll down.



- The query page will have a series of prompt boxes specific to each dataset. Below is an example for cancer. Further instructions are included in the **Running a Query** tutorial.

