



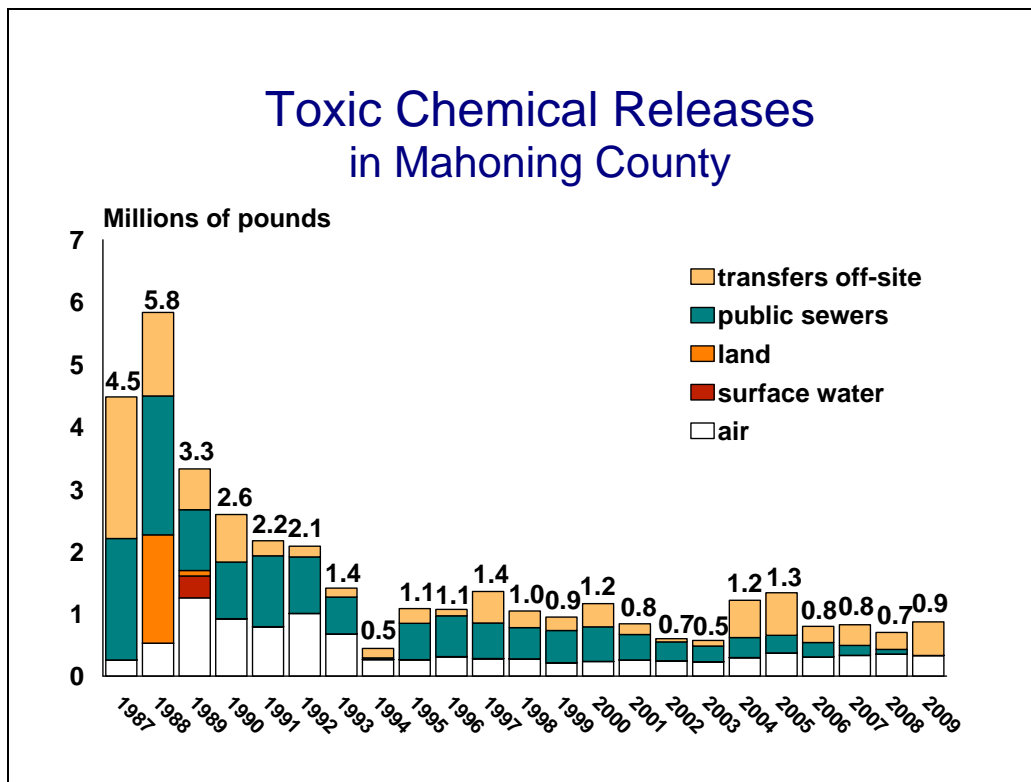
District Board of Health

Public Health Brief

Toxic Chemical Releases in Mahoning County

The federal Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act has required industries since 1986 to report the release into the environment or transfer off-site for treatment and disposal of 667 chemicals which may be toxic to humans, animals, plants, aquatic life, or the environment. This legislation was based on the premise that the community has a right to know what toxic chemicals are being released into its air, water and soil. In Ohio, reports from industry are compiled in an annual Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) published by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency.

The TRI does not represent all toxic chemical releases into the environment. Only certain manufacturing industries are required to report their chemical releases. Some industries may release up to 25,000 pounds of a toxic chemical into the environment without being required to report the release. Nevertheless, the TRI enables a community to track ongoing efforts by industry and government to promote the reduction of chemical releases by changing manufacturing processes.



Toxic chemical releases in Mahoning County have dropped by 80 percent since 1987 despite the addition of new chemicals to the TRI reporting list and reductions in the quantities of chemicals that trigger reporting. In 2009, Mahoning County ranked 34th among Ohio's 88 counties in total pounds of chemicals released or transferred. Chemical releases totaled 870,613 pounds in 2009, up from 699,570 pounds in 2008. Increases were primarily in off-site transfers.

Chemical releases and transfers were reported by 18 businesses in Mahoning County in 2009. Five facilities accounted for 93 percent of all chemical releases reported. One facility – V&M Star – accounted for 57 percent of all releases. The top five chemicals on the reporting list for Mahoning County in 2009 were zinc compounds, xylene, manganese compounds, glycol ethers, and hydrogen fluoride.

The complete Toxic Release Inventory for Mahoning County can be found on the Ohio EPA website at www.epa.ohio.gov/dapc/tri/tri.aspx.