



Introduction to EPA's **Toxics Release Inventory** for the Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units

October 20, 2015





Learning Objectives

- Identify data available at EPA.
- Describe the purpose of the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) Program.
- List potential uses of TRI data.
- Describe limitations of TRI data.
- Identify a tool to access TRI data.

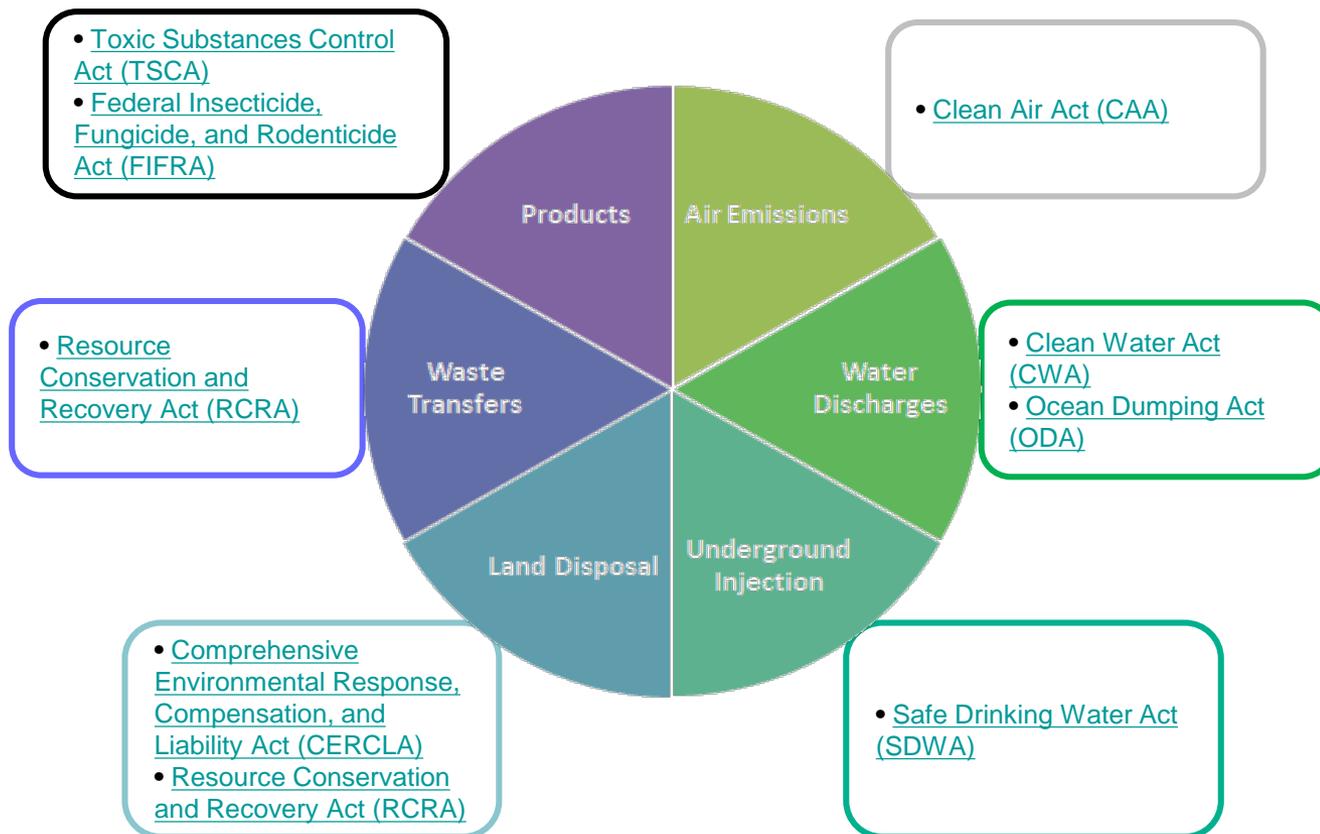


Outline

- What data do EPA collect?
- What is the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI)?
- Why is TRI important to communities?
- How can you access TRI data?
- Where can you find more information about TRI?



What data do EPA collect?





Common questions about toxic chemical releases



*Are industries in my town **increasing** or **reducing** the amounts of chemicals they release to the environment?*



*What are the **top chemicals released** in my town?
How much is being released and **by whom**?*



*Does the factory near my daughter's school release **cancer-causing chemicals**?*

EPA's Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) can help you find the answers!



TRI is EPA's premier "Right-to-Know" program

Right-to-Know (RTK):

- We all have the right to know about the chemicals to which we may be exposed to in our daily lives.
- This principle is authorized under Section 313 of the **Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986 (EPCRA)**.
- This law requires EPA to collect, maintain, and provide public access to the TRI data.





What is TRI?

- TRI is an EPA information resource that can help you learn about toxic chemical releases from certain facilities **in your neighborhood.**
- TRI can tell you about:



Releases



Waste transfers



Recycling



Pollution prevention



- TRI includes data about approximately **20,000 facilities** across the country and covers **more than 675 toxic chemicals.**



Which facilities must report to TRI?

1. Facility must be in a TRI-covered industry sector or category, including:



Manufacturing



**Coal/Oil
Electricity
Generation**



**Certain Mining
Facilities**



**Hazardous
Waste
Management**



Federal Facilities

2. Facility must have the equivalent of at least **10 full-time employees**.

3. Facility must manufacture, process or use more than a **certain amount of a TRI-listed toxic chemical per year**.



What information do facilities report to TRI?

- On-site releases of TRI chemicals to:
 - Air
 - Water
 - Land
- Transfer of chemical waste to off-site locations
- Waste management:
 - Recycling
 - Treatment
 - Energy Recovery
- Pollution prevention activities





What are the limitations of TRI data?

- **Annual data** – collected from TRI reporting facilities once/year.
- Covers some, but **not all toxic chemicals and not all industry sectors.**
- **Small facilities are not included** (under 10 employees).
- **Does not cover all sources of pollution**, e.g. cars and trucks.
- **Does not describe how long or how often chemicals were released.**

For more information, see *“Factors to Consider When Using TRI Data”* at: www2.epa.gov/toxics-release-inventory-tri-program/factors-consider-when-using-toxics-release-inventory-data



Why is TRI important to communities?

TRI can help communities:

- Identify **how many TRI facilities** operate in the community **and where they are located**.
- Identify **which chemicals are being released** by TRI facilities.
- **Track increases or reductions** of toxic chemical releases from facilities located in the community over time.
- **Compare the toxic chemical releases and pollution prevention efforts of facilities** in one location with similar facilities across the country.
- **Prioritize efforts to reduce pollution** from facilities located in the area.



Is it safe to live near facilities that release toxic chemicals?

The answer depends on many factors:

- How much has been released?
- How toxic are the chemicals?
- Where did the chemicals go?
- How much of the chemicals did people breathe, eat or drink?
- How often and how long were people exposed?
- Were the people exposed in a high risk group?



Note: many of the releases from TRI facilities are regulated under various EPA programs and requirements designed to limit harm to people's health and the environment.



TRI information is only one piece of the puzzle

While TRI provides important information about toxic chemical releases in your community, seeing the whole picture requires additional information about other types of environmental releases, as well as air monitoring, compliance with environmental regulations and more. Other information to consider can include:

- Motor vehicle emissions
- Gasoline stations
- Dry cleaners
- Car painting shops
- Drum burnings/forest fires
- Underground storage tanks
- Abandoned hazardous waste sites
- Drinking water quality
- Lead paint in homes
- And more...





For more information about TRI:

- Contact **Us:** Koehrn.Kara@epa.gov & Hospital.Jocelyn@epa.gov
- Contact your **EPA Regional TRI Coordinator:** www2.epa.gov/toxics-release-inventory-tri-program/tri-regional-coordinators.
- Visit the **TRI Program's website:** www.epa.gov/tri