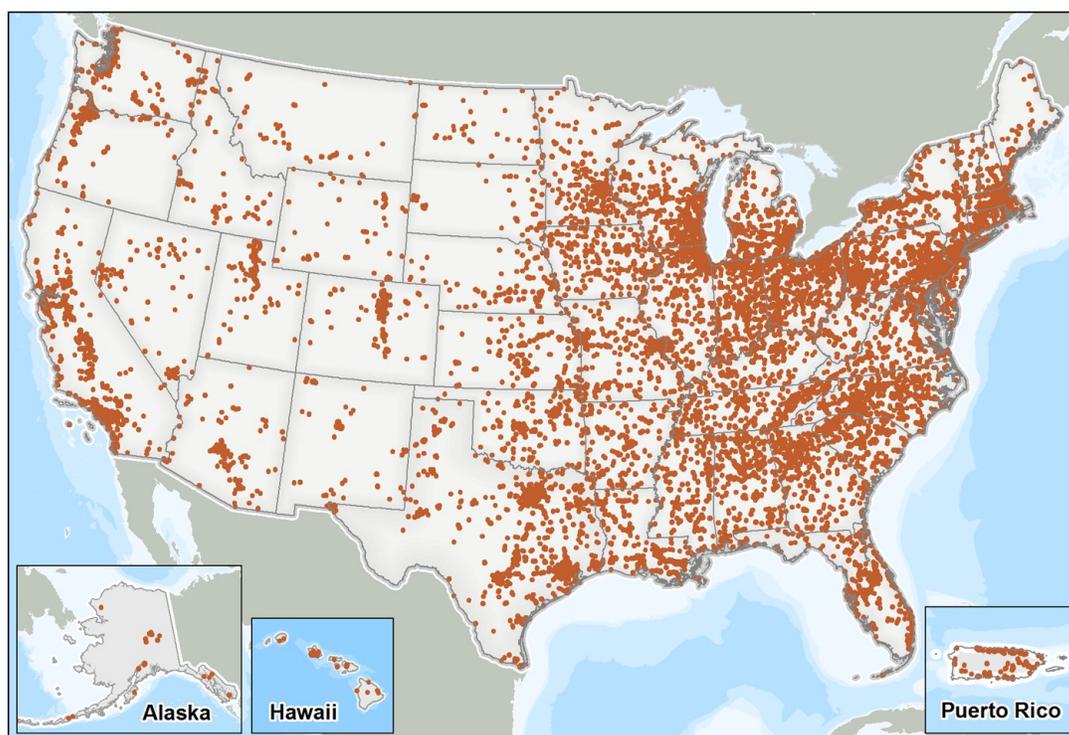


Introduction: What is the TRI National Analysis?

Tens of thousands of chemicals are used by industries and businesses in the United States to make the products on which our society depends, such as pharmaceuticals, clothing, and automobiles. Many of the chemicals needed to create these products are toxic, and some releases of toxic chemicals into the environment are inevitable.

It is your right to know what chemicals are being used in your community, how they are being disposed of, and whether their releases to the environment are increasing or decreasing over time. The Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) is an EPA program that tracks the management of certain toxic chemicals that may pose a threat to human health and the environment. This information is submitted by thousands of U.S. facilities (see Figure 1) on over 650 chemicals and chemical categories under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act and the Pollution Prevention Act .

Figure 1. Geographic Distribution of TRI-Reporting Facilities

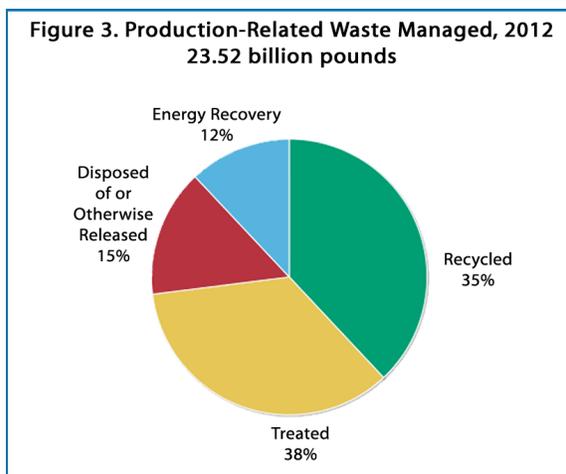
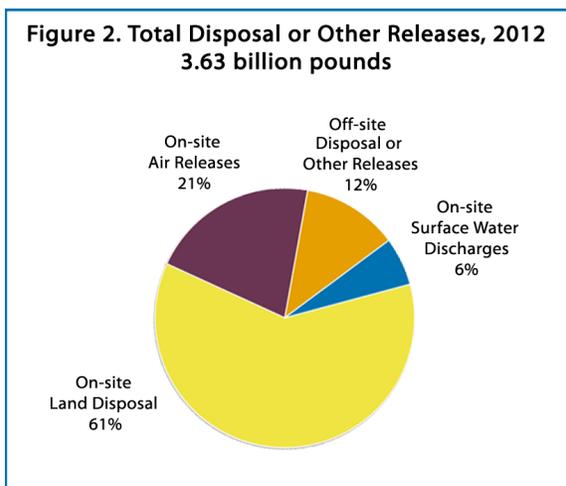


Facilities that report to TRI are typically large and are from industry sectors involved in manufacturing, metal mining, electric power generation, and hazardous waste treatment. Federal facilities are also required to report to TRI by Executive Order 13148.

The TRI National Analysis is developed on an annual basis, and the 2012 TRI National Analysis is EPA's interpretation of TRI data reported for 2012. It provides the public with valuable information on how toxic chemicals were managed, where toxic chemicals were released, and how the 2012 TRI data compare to data from previous years.

Users of TRI data should be aware that TRI captures a significant portion of toxic chemicals in wastes that are managed by industrial facilities, but it does not cover all toxic chemicals or all sectors of the U.S. economy. Furthermore, the quantities of chemicals reported to TRI are self-reported by facilities using readily-available data. Each year, EPA conducts an extensive data quality analysis before publishing the National Analysis. During the data quality review, potential errors are identified and investigated to help provide the most accurate and useful information possible. This effort makes it possible for TRI data presented in the National Analysis to be used along with other information as a starting point in understanding how the environment and communities may be affected by toxic chemicals.

The National Analysis provides a snapshot of the data at one point in time. Any reports submitted to EPA after the July 1st reporting deadline may not be processed in time to be included in the National Analysis. The most recent data available are accessible in the [TRI Tools and Resources](#) listed at the end of this document.



Quick Facts for 2012

Number of TRI Facilities: 21,024

Total Disposal or Other Releases:
3.63 billion lb

- **On-site:** 3.19 billion lb
 - Air: 0.76 billion lb
 - Water: 0.21 billion lb
 - Land: 2.23 billion lb
- **Off-site:** 0.44 billion lb

Production-Related Waste Managed:
23.52 billion lb

- Recycled: 8.15 billion lb
- Energy Recovery: 2.88 billion lb
- Treated: 8.85 billion lb
- Disposed of or Otherwise Released: 3.64 billion lb

In 2012, 21,024 facilities reported to TRI. These facilities reported total on- and off-site disposal or other releases of 3.63 billion pounds of toxic chemicals. As shown in Figure 2, most were disposed of or released on-site to land (including landfills, other land disposal and underground injection).

TRI production-related waste managed is the quantity of toxic chemicals in waste that is recycled, burned for energy recovery, and treated as well as in waste that is disposed of or otherwise released. In other words, it encompasses all toxic chemicals in waste generated from facilities' processes and operations. In 2012, TRI facilities reported managing 23.52 billion pounds of toxic chemicals in production-related wastes. Of this total, 19.88 billion pounds were recycled, burned for energy recovery, or treated, and 3.64 billion pounds were disposed of or otherwise released to the environment, as shown in Figure 3.



Note that the two metrics related to disposal or other releases shown in Figures 2 and 3 are similar (3.63 billion pounds and 3.64 billion pounds, respectively), but are not the same. This is because the value reported under disposal or other releases only counts the quantity of toxic chemicals in waste once at final deposition. However, the value reported under production-related waste managed counts the toxic chemical waste as many times as it is managed during the year. For example, if a TRI facility transfers a waste off-site to another TRI facility that disposes of it to land, the waste would be counted twice (once for each facility that manages it) under production-related waste managed, but only once under disposal or other releases. Also, waste from catastrophic, remedial or one-time events (typically not related to production) is not included in production-related waste managed, while such waste is included in the total disposal or other releases amounts shown in Figure 2.

This National Analysis Overview presents information on a national scale. To help you find information specific to your community, EPA provides geographic profiles on its TRI National Analysis homepage that focus on urban communities, tribal lands, and large aquatic ecosystems. EPA's TRI Program also provides more detail about the TRI data and maintains a variety of tools and resources to help you conduct your own analysis of TRI data. Links to all of these resources can be found in the [TRI Tools and Resources](#) listed at the end of this document.