

# EPA's BEACH Report:

## Michigan 2012 Swimming Season

September 2013

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### Introduction

The Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health (BEACH) Act of 2000 authorizes EPA to provide grants to coastal and Great Lakes states, territories, and eligible tribes to monitor their coastal beaches for bacteria that indicate the possible presence of disease-causing pathogens and to notify the public when there is a potential risk to public health. The BEACH Act requires that recipients of those grants report their coastal beach monitoring and notification data to EPA. This fact sheet highlights the data submitted to EPA by the State of Michigan for the 2012 swimming season.

### 2012 Swimming Season Monitoring and Notification Actions

Michigan reports 564 coastal beaches located in 40 counties (Figure 1). Michigan monitored 230 of those beaches during the 2012 swimming season (Table 1). When monitoring results at swimming beaches show that levels of specific indicator bacteria in the water exceed applicable water quality standards, Michigan officials issue a beach advisory, warning people of possible risks of swimming or close the beach to public swimming until further monitoring finds that water quality complies with applicable standards.

Figure 1. Michigan coastal counties

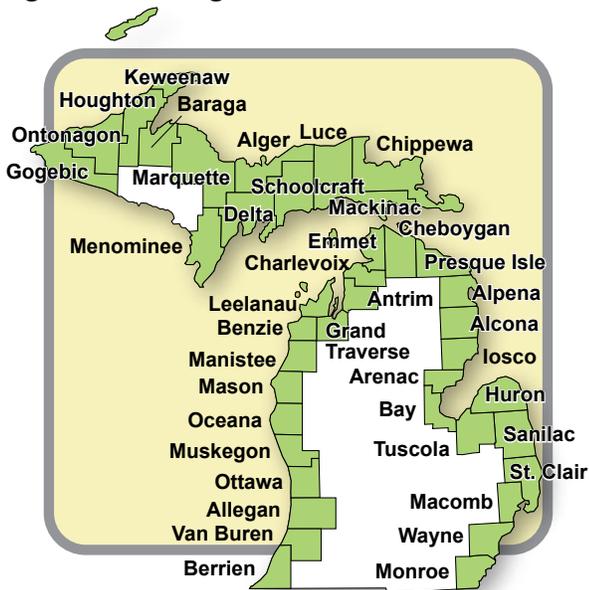
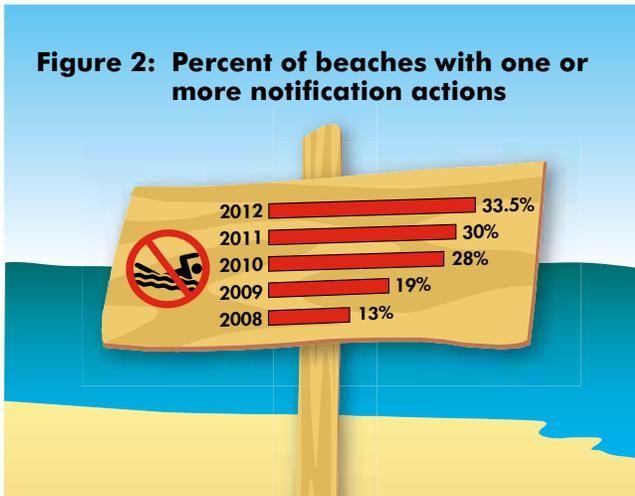


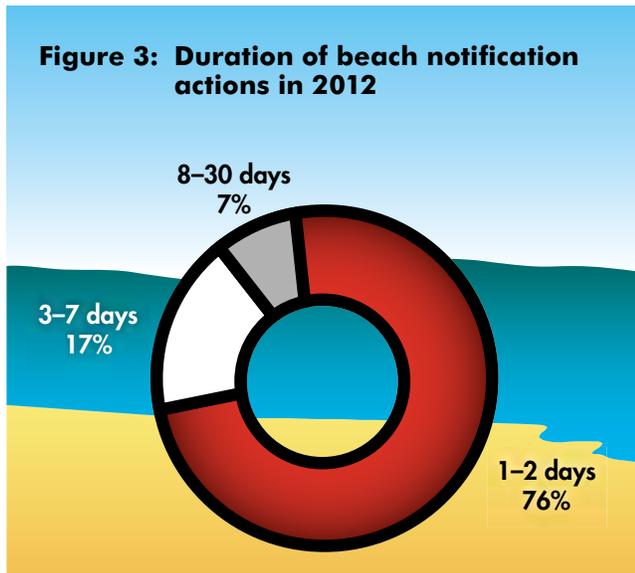
Table 1. Number of monitored and unmonitored coastal beaches by county for 2012

County	Total Beaches	Monitored	Not Monitored
ALCONA	7	5	2
ALGER	16	3	13
ALLEGAN	5	5	0
ALPENA	14	5	9
ANTRIM	16	6	10
ARENAC	17	5	12
BARAGA	12	1	11
BAY	6	5	1
BENZIE	7	1	6
BERRIEN	21	14	7
CHARLEVOIX	20	14	6
CHEBOYGAN	12	4	8
CHIPPEWA	26	10	16
DELTA	30	2	28
EMMET	20	11	9
GOGEBIC	7	0	7
GRAND TRAVERSE	31	5	26
HOUGHTON	15	7	8
HURON	24	13	11
IOSCO	13	11	2
KEWEENAW	14	1	13
LEELANAU	36	6	30
LUCE	16	0	16
MACKINAC	34	6	28
MACOMB	3	3	0
MANISTEE	10	9	1
MARQUETTE	7	5	2
MASON	11	7	4
MENOMINEE	8	3	5
MONROE	2	2	0
MUSKEGON	13	13	0
OCEANA	8	5	3
ONTONAGON	10	2	8
OTTAWA	11	9	2
PRESQUE ISLE	20	2	18
SANILAC	12	5	7
SCHOOLCRAFT	9	4	5
ST. CLAIR	15	15	0
VAN BUREN	4	4	0
WAYNE	2	2	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>564</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>334</b>

**Figure 2: Percent of beaches with one or more notification actions**



**Figure 3: Duration of beach notification actions in 2012**



**How many beaches had notification actions?**

In 2012, of the 230 coastal beaches that Michigan monitored, 77 (33 percent) had at least one notification action (Figure 2).

**How many notification actions were issued and how long did they last?**

Michigan issued 127 notification actions during the 2012 swimming season. Typically Michigan lifts an action when follow-up monitoring indicates that water quality complies with applicable standards. For the majority of actions (76 percent) water quality returned to normal and beaches were deemed safe for swimming within one or two days (Figure 3).

**What percentage of days were beaches under a notification action?**

EPA calculates the total available beach days and the number of beach days with notification actions

**Figure 4: Percent of beach days open and safe for swimming**



to better track trends over time. Total available beach days are determined by multiplying the length of the beach season by the number of beaches in the state. For 2012 EPA calculated that 25,071 beach days were associated with the swimming seasons of the 230 monitored Michigan beaches. Michigan reported notification actions on 324 days, meaning that beaches were open and safe for swimming about 99 percent of the time. This continues the trend of consistently high percentages of open beach days at beaches in Michigan (Figure 4).

**For More Information**

For information about the Michigan beach program contact:

Shannon Briggs  
 Michigan Department of Environmental Quality  
 Tel: 517-335-1214  
 e-mail: [briggss4@michigan.gov](mailto:briggss4@michigan.gov)

For general information about beaches visit: <http://water.epa.gov/type/oceb/beaches/>.

For information about a specific beach visit: <http://watersgeo.epa.gov/beacon2/>.