United States Environmental Protection Agency

EPA's BEACH Report: Ohio 2012 Swimming Season

September 2013

EPA 820-F-13-051

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 Ohio for the 2012 swimming season.

2012 Swimming Season Monitoring and Notification Actions

Ohio monitored 61 coastal beaches in seven counties during the 2012 swimming season (Figure 1 and Table 1). When monitoring results at swimming beaches show that levels of specific indicator bacteria in the water exceed applicable water quality standards, Ohio officials issue a beach advisory, warning people of possible risks of swimming.

How many beaches had notification actions?

In 2012, of the 61 coastal beaches that Ohio monitored, 57 (93 percent) had at least one notification action (Figure 2). This is approximately the same percentage as in previous years.

Figure 1. Ohio coastal counties

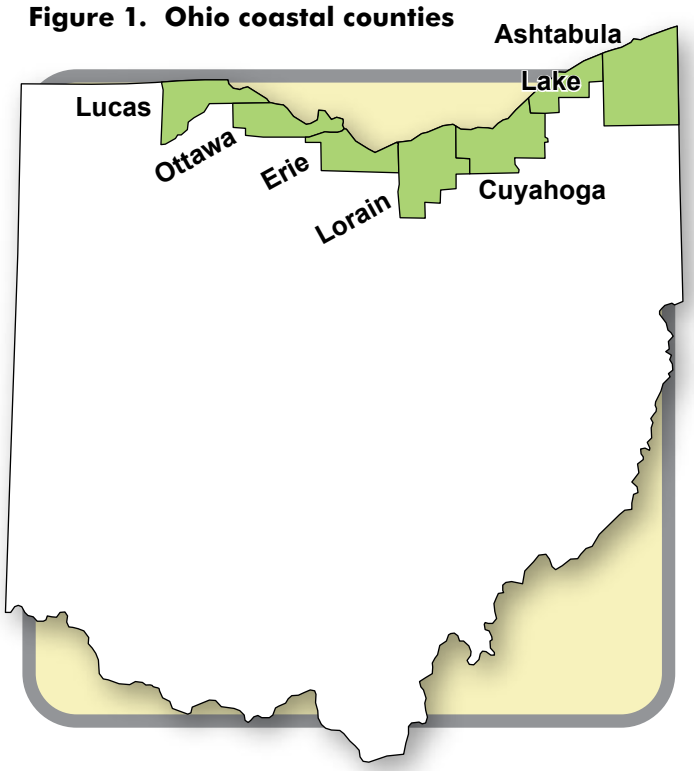
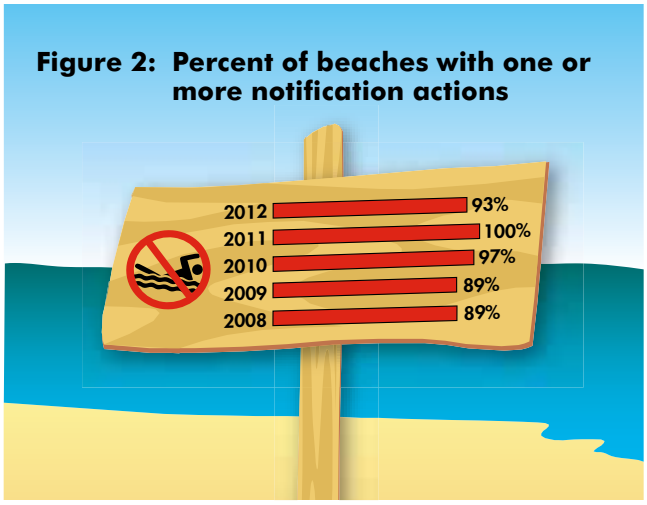
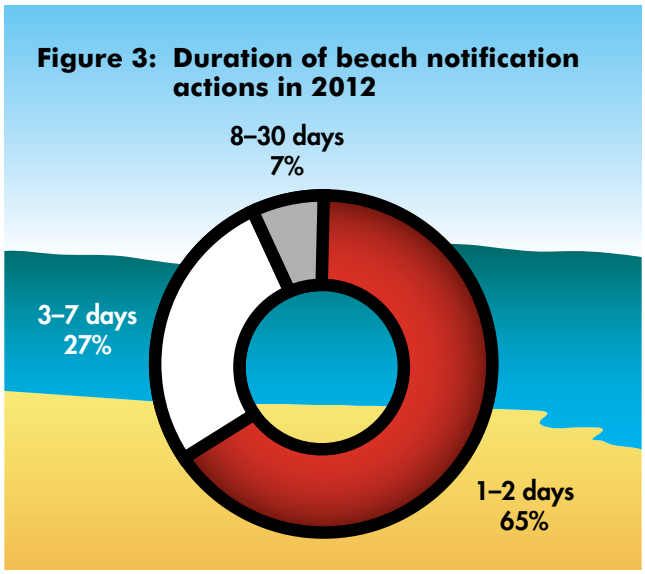


Table 1. Number of monitored and unmonitored coastal beaches by county for 2012

County	Total Beaches	Monitored	Not Monitored
ASHTABULA	4	4	0
CUYAHOGA	19	19	0
ERIE	25	25	0
LAKE	2	2	0
LORAIN	2	2	0
LUCAS	2	2	0
OTTAWA	7	7	0
TOTALS	**61**	**61**	**0**



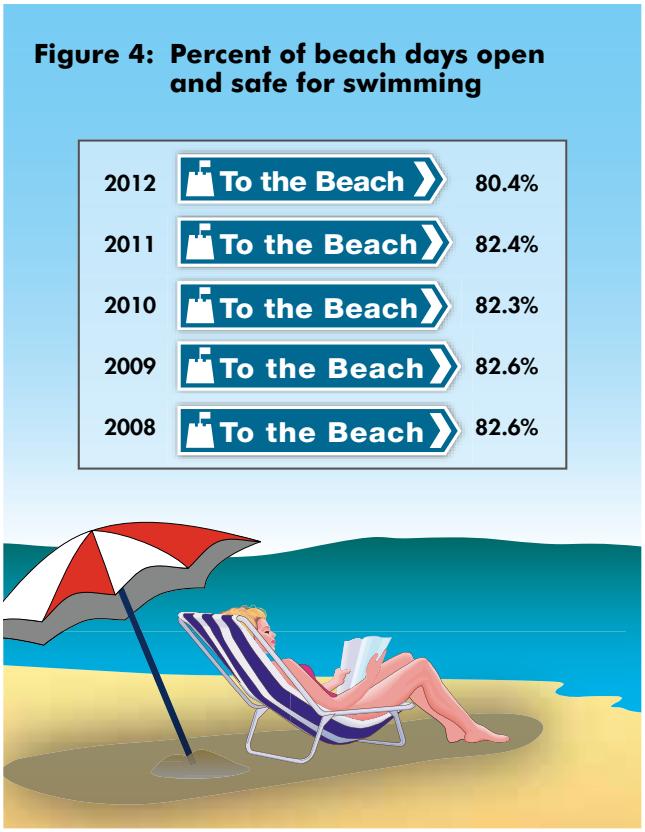


How many notification actions were issued and how long did they last?

Ohio issued 408 notification actions during the 2012 swimming season. Typically Ohio lifts an action when follow-up monitoring indicates that water quality complies with applicable standards. For the majority of actions (65 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 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 6,510 beach days were associated with the swimming seasons of the 61 monitored Ohio beaches. Ohio reported notification actions on 1,278 days, meaning that beaches were open and safe for swimming about 80 percent of the time. This is consistent with percentages of open beach days in previous years (Figure 4).

For More Information

For information about the Ohio beach program contact:
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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/.