



EPA's BEACH Report: Pennsylvania 2008 Swimming Season

May 2009

Introduction

The BEACH Act of 2000 requires that coastal and Great Lakes states and territories report to EPA on beach monitoring and notification data for their coastal recreation waters.

The BEACH Act defines coastal recreation waters as the Great Lakes and coastal waters (including coastal estuaries) that states, territories, and authorized tribes officially recognize or designate for swimming, bathing, surfing, or similar activities in the water.

This fact sheet summarizes beach monitoring and notification data submitted to EPA by the State of Pennsylvania for the 2008 swimming season.

Figure 1. Pennsylvania coastal counties.

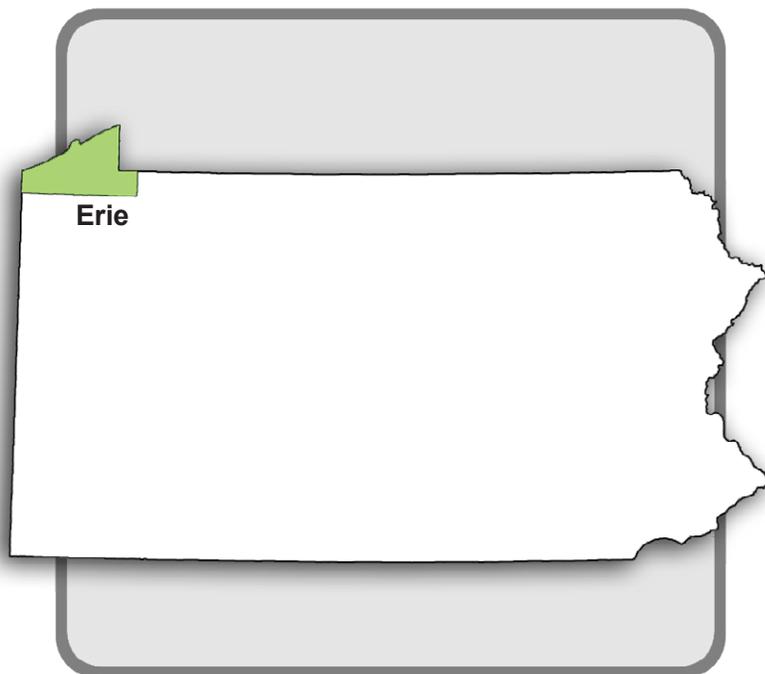


Table 1. Breakdown of monitored and unmonitored coastal beaches by county for 2008.

County	Total Beaches	Monitored	Not Monitored
ERIE	12	12	0
TOTALS	12	12	0

2008 Summary Results

How many notification actions were reported and how long were they?

When water quality standards are exceeded at a particular beach, Pennsylvania's approach is to issue a beach advisory that warns people to avoid contact with the water. A total of 11 monitored beaches had at least one advisory issued during the 2008 swimming season. About 97 percent of Pennsylvania's 38 notification actions lasted two days or less. Figure 2 presents a full breakdown of notification action durations.

What percentage of days were beaches under a notification action?

For Pennsylvania's 2008 swimming season, actions were reported about 4 percent of the time (Figure 3).

How do 2008 results compare to previous years?

Table 2 compares 2008 notification action data with monitored beach data from previous years.

What pollution sources possibly affect investigated monitored beaches?

Figure 4 displays the percentage of Pennsylvania's investigated monitored beaches possibly affected by various pollution sources. In 2008, no sources of pollution were found at 67 percent of the beaches.

For More Information

For general information about beaches:
www.epa.gov/beaches/

For information regarding sample results for all permitted bathing beaches contact the Erie County Department of Health at (814) 451-6700 or on the web at www.ecdh.org

Figure 2: Beach notification actions by duration.

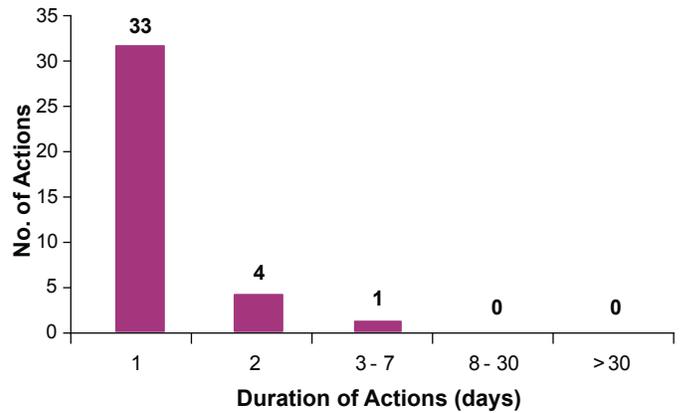


Figure 3: Beach days with and without notification actions.

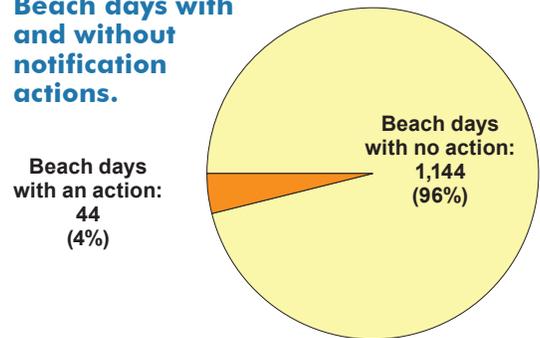


Table 2. Beach notification actions, 2006–2008.

	2006	2007	2008
Number of monitored beaches	12	13	12
Number of beaches affected by notification actions	9	8	11
Percentage of beaches affected by notification actions	75%	61%	92%
Percentage of beach days affected by notification actions	5%	2%	11%

Figure 4: Percent of investigated monitored beaches affected by possible pollution sources (12 beaches).

