

USING NJDOH AND NJDEP DATA & RESOURCES TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF NJ RESIDENTS

August 2022

## NJ Environmental Public Health Tracking Creates Healthy Community Planning Website for NJ Municipalities

### What was the problem/situation?

For many years, NJ municipalities have indicated that they need easily understood health and environmental data specific to their municipality. Municipal-level data are required to help prioritize local health and environmental concerns, guide public health and environmental improvement actions at the municipal-level, and for the planning of future municipal activities and development.

### How was NJ Tracking involved?

NJ Environmental Public Health Tracking (NJ Tracking) worked for multiple years with partners across the Departments of Health (NJDOH) and Environmental Protection (NJDEP) to create a new joint NJDOH/NJDEP Healthy Community Planning – NJ [website](#). The site provides New Jersey communities with environmental health indicators in 565 individual municipal-level summaries, detailed reports, and map books; and provides potential actions to improve a community's health and environment.



In order to publicize the launch of the new website, NJ Tracking issued a joint NJDOH/NJDEP press release, posted on social media channels including Twitter, Facebook and Instagram, and sent out e-mails and announcements via multiple listservs. Creation of a GIS mapping tool for the website is underway.

### What actions were taken to resolve the problem?

During June 2022, NJ Tracking launched the joint NJDOH and NJDEP Healthy Community Planning New Jersey (HCP-NJ) website, [www.nj.gov/health/hcpnj](http://www.nj.gov/health/hcpnj). The website provides individual municipal-level health outcome and environmental health indicator data in summary reports showing how a municipality compares to its county and NJ overall. Individual reports provide context for the 30+ indicators; population demographics; and recommendations regarding possible actions to improve a community's health and environment.



The HCP-NJ target audience includes local and county health officers; local and county government officials; local public health and environmental staff; environmental commissioners; planners; non-profit community groups; environmental justice and health advocacy organizations; academics; and state agencies working with these groups. Each municipality is encouraged to use their customized HCP-NJ data, analyses and maps to inform community assessments and planning efforts. Municipal-level data can help prioritize local health and environmental concerns, guide public health actions, identify strategies for improvement, and shape policy decisions. HCP-NJ will help NJ municipalities make informed environmental health decisions regarding their community.

