

EPA's BEACH Report:

Michigan 2011 Swimming Season

August 2012

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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 2011 swimming season.

2011 Swimming Season Monitoring and Notification Actions

Michigan reports 568 coastal beaches located in 41 counties (Figure 1). Michigan monitored 237 of those beaches during the 2011 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.

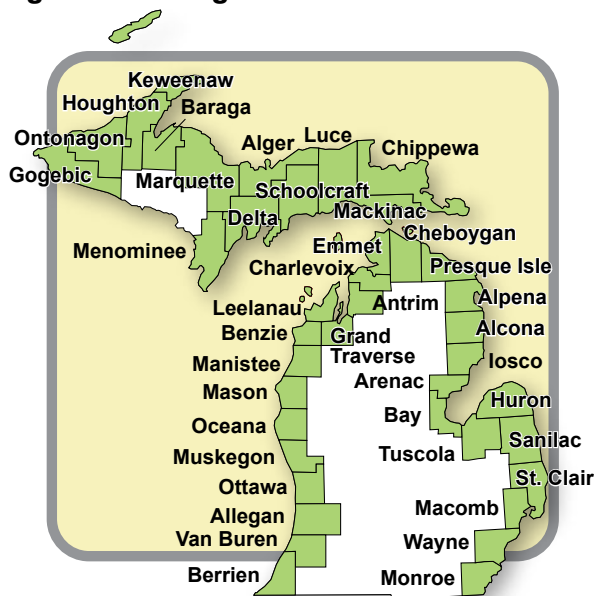


Table 1. Number of monitored and unmonitored coastal beaches by county for 2011.

County	Total Beaches	Monitored	Not Monitored
ALCONA	7	6	1
ALGER	12	2	10
ALLEGAN	5	5	0
ALPENA	14	5	9
ANTRIM	16	6	10
ARENAC	15	8	7
BARAGA	12	1	11
BAY	6	5	1
BENZIE	8	2	6
BERRIEN	21	14	7
CHARLEVOIX	20	11	9
CHEBOYGAN	13	4	9
CHIPPEWA	26	10	16
DELTA	28	2	26
EMMET	21	11	10
GOGEBIC	7	0	7
GRAND TRAVERSE	32	5	27
HOUGHTON	15	7	8
HURON	24	13	11
IOSCO	13	11	2
KEWEENAW	14	1	13
LEELANAU	39	9	30
LUCE	16	0	16
MACKINAC	34	6	28
MACOMB	4	4	0
MANISTEE	10	9	1
MARQUETTE	7	5	1
MASON	10	7	3
MENOMINEE	8	2	6
MONROE	3	3	0
MUSKEGON	13	12	1
OCEANA	8	5	3
ONTONAGON	10	2	8
OTTAWA	11	9	2
PRESQUE ISLE	22	3	19
SANILAC	12	5	7
SCHOOLCRAFT	9	5	4
ST. CLAIR	15	15	0
TUSCOLA	1	0	1
VAN BUREN	4	4	0
WAYNE	3	2	1
TOTALS	568	237	331

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

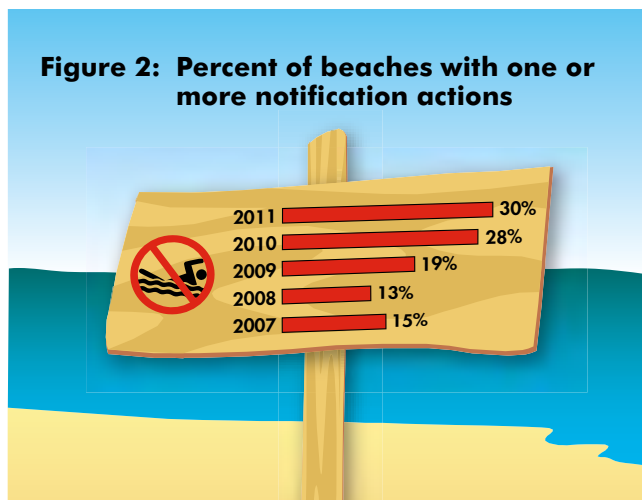
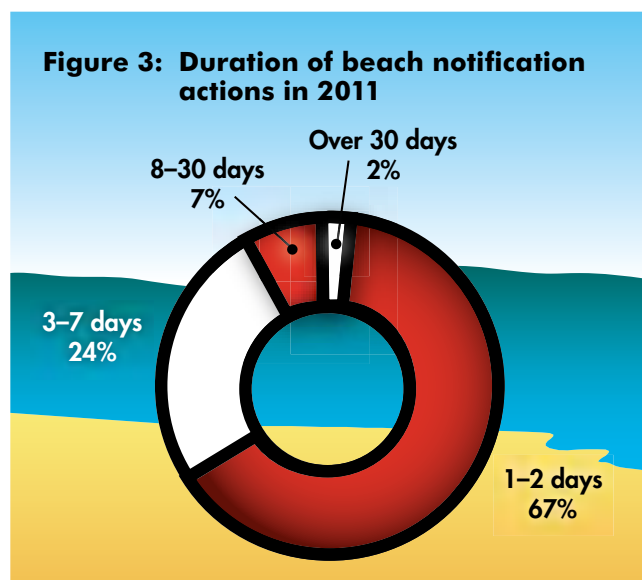


Figure 3: Duration of beach notification actions in 2011



How many beaches had notification actions?

In 2011 of the 237 coastal beaches that Michigan monitored, 71 (30 percent) had at least one notification action (Figure 2). This is higher than in previous years, however, Michigan monitored 30 more beaches in 2011 than 2010.

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

Michigan issued 128 notification actions during the 2011 swimming season. Typically Michigan lifts an action when follow-up monitoring indicates that water quality complies with applicable standards. For the majority of actions (67 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 2011 EPA calculated that 23,642 beach days were associated with the swimming seasons of the 237 monitored Michigan beaches. Michigan reported notification actions on 745 days, meaning that beaches were open and safe for swimming about 97 percent of the time. This continues the trend of consistently high percentages of open beach days at state beaches (Figure 4).

For More Information

For information about the Michigan 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/>.