

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



EPA's BEACH Report:

Ohio 2006 Swimming Season

June 2007

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 Ohio for the 2006 swimming season.

Between Memorial Day and Labor Day each year, Ohio conducts a program for monitoring the bacteria content of the recreational waters along the Ohio/Lake Erie border that are designated for swimming, bathing, scuba diving and similar water contact activities. A partnership effort between Ohio's Department of Health (DOH), Department of Natural Resources, local health districts and private/public organizations along the lake provides the citizens of Ohio with specific and timely information regarding water quality conditions.

Water is collected from each beach an average of four times per week during the season. Samples are analyzed for *E. coli* content and the results are made available to the public.

Figure 1. Ohio coastal counties with 2006 monitored beach data.



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

County	Total Beaches	Monitored	Not Monitored
ASHTABULA	4	4	0
CUYAHOGA	15	15	0
ERIE	21	21	0
LAKE	2	2	0
LORAIN	2	2	0
LUCAS	2	2	0
OTTAWA	6	6	0
TOTALS	52	52	0

2006 Summary Results

How many beaches had notification actions?

Whenever the bacteria levels exceed the standard of 235 *E. coli* colonies per 100mL of water sampled, advisory signs are posted to alert bathers to the potential health hazards. Additionally, beach water at 67 of Ohio's inland state parks is regularly sampled and analyzed using the same standard for bacteria content. Of the 52 coastal beaches that were monitored in 2006, 42, or 81 percent, had at least one advisory during the 2006 season (Figure 2).

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

A total of 181 beach notification actions were reported in the 2006 swimming season. Actions were of relatively short duration, however. Figure 3 presents breakdowns of action durations.

What percentage of days were beaches under a notification action?

For Ohio's 2006 swimming season, EPA determined there were a total of 6,076 beach days associated with the 52 monitored beaches. Actions were reported on 731 of those days or about 12 percent of the time (Figure 4).

How do 2006 results compare to previous years?

Beginning in 2003, states are required to submit data to EPA under the BEACH Act for beaches which are in coastal and Great Lakes waters. Table 2 compares 2006 data with data reported in previous years.

For More Information

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

For information about beaches in Ohio:
www.odh.ohio.gov, (614) 466-1390, or
 1-(866) OHIO BCH

Figure 2: Monitored beaches with and without notification actions.

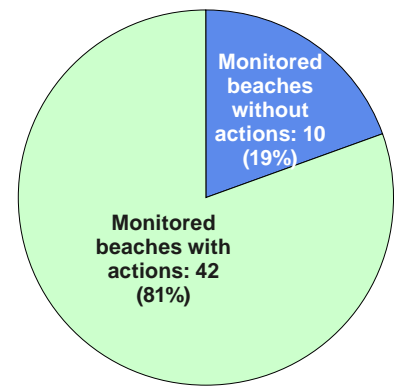


Figure 3: Beach notification actions by duration.

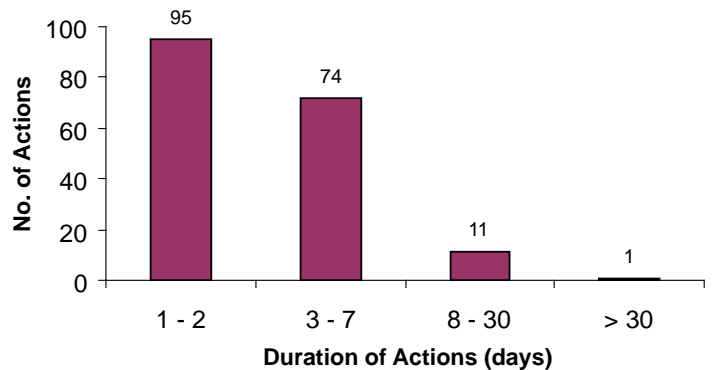


Figure 4: Beach days with and without notification actions.

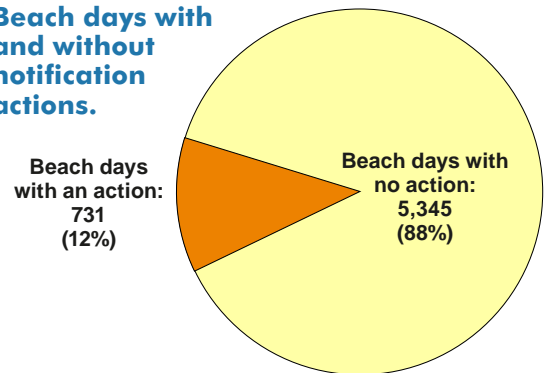


Table 2. Beach notification actions, 2004-2006.

	2004	2005	2006
Number of monitored beaches	61	47	52
Number of beaches affected by notification actions	16	14	42
Percentage of beaches affected by notification actions	26%	30%	81%