



B.T.E.X. Monitoring

Study Summary

June 2023 - June 2024



From June 2023 - June 2024, we measured average BTEX concentrations:

- Benzene: **1.31 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$** “ $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ is said: “micro-grams per cubic meter”
- Toluene: **2.30 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$**
- Ethylbenzene: **0.71 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$**
- Xylenes: **5.68 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$**

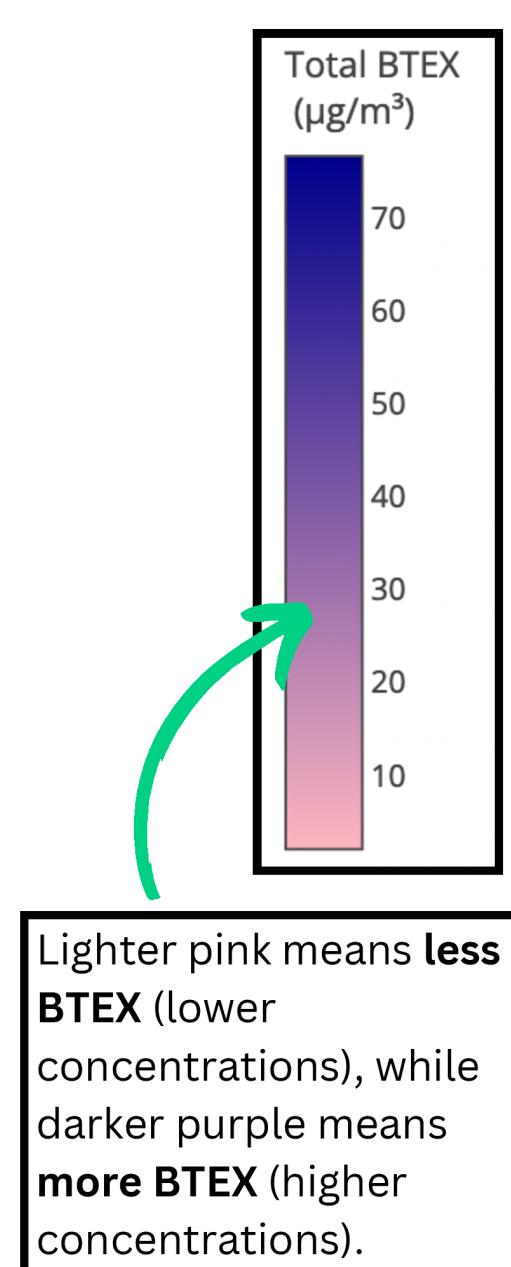
These concentrations are generally considered **low**. But, some weeks had higher concentrations than other weeks (see next page).

What is BTEX?

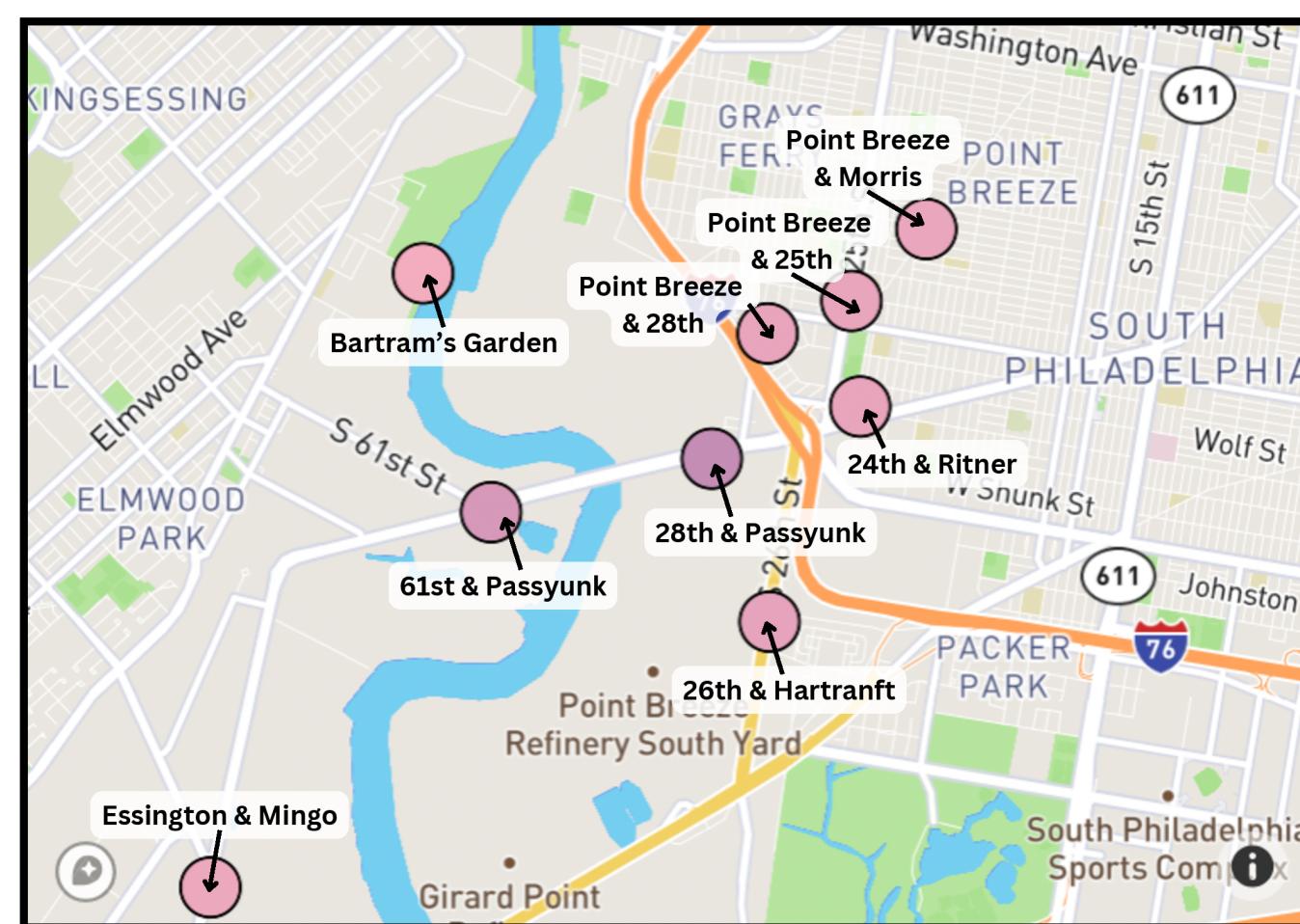
- BTEX is short for:
 - Benzene
 - Toluene
 - Ethylbenzene
 - Xylenes
- BTEX chemicals are all invisible gases called volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that come from car exhaust, gas stations, forest fires, and any coal or gas products.
- We are concerned about BTEX in Philadelphia because of emissions from the former refinery site and pollution from car traffic.
- BTEX chemicals have different health effects. While we know that benzene causes cancer, the health effects of the other three BTEX compounds are less well understood.

How is BTEX Measured?

- “Concentration” means the amount of something in the air. We measured concentration with micrograms (shown with the symbol μg) per cubic meter (m^3) of space.
- Outdoor BTEX concentrations are not regulated in the United States or Europe. Europe’s annual average standard for outdoor benzene (one of the chemicals in BTEX) is $5 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.



Average BTEX Concentration
June 14, 2023 - June 26, 2024





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BTEX concentrations at each site over time



BTEX aren't the only chemicals we measured in the air. To see the results for other pollutants and for more information about the study, visit our website at:

THRIVEairphilly.com



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