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## Inventory of National Rural Health Research Related Databases

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Database name: **NAtChem/Particulate Matter Database**

Thematic Coverage: This system is used to investigate spatial and temporal trends of particulate matter and to carry out data analyses related to climate change, visibility, human health and acid deposition.

Maintained by: Meteorological Service of Canada

Availability: The system provides highly-resolved spatial distribution maps of particulate matter by merging data from all possible sources. The data, maps and special data analyses will be provided by request. The data request form can be found at:  
[http://www.msc-smc.ec.gc.ca/natchem/particles/contact\\_e.html](http://www.msc-smc.ec.gc.ca/natchem/particles/contact_e.html)

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Start Date: 1987

Release Date: Depends on the different networks used

Frequency of collection: Annual

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Data Collection: This system contains data from 22 North American particulate matter networks. Contributing networks data are converted into a standard NAtChem/PM Database format.

Sample size: 22 North American particulate matter networks

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Geographic coverage: North America

Lowest geographic level collected: Latitude/Longitude of sample site

Lowest geographic level of release: Regional Maps

Existing rural variable: No

Rural definitions that can be constructed from this database include (building block):

- ✓ Although the rural definitions in Appendix A can be theoretically constructed from the postal code of the facility, a classification using an environmental perspective for the purpose of environmental analysis would be more suitable. For example, information on activities which affect water quality could be presented by drainage area. Geocoding could be used to develop a linkage between the postal codes of the establishments of the drainage area and ecozone geographies.
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### Data Elements:

The current focus of the database is on chemical composition data. Eventually it will expand to include physical data such as number, size and optical properties.

### Notes:

For more information, see website at: [http://www.msc-smc.ec.gc.ca/natchem/particles/index\\_e.html](http://www.msc-smc.ec.gc.ca/natchem/particles/index_e.html)  
Contact information for this database and the different networks contributing to this database can be found at: [http://www.msc-smc.ec.gc.ca/natchem/particles/contact\\_e.html](http://www.msc-smc.ec.gc.ca/natchem/particles/contact_e.html)