

EPA PM_{2.5} October 4-11, 2024

PM stands for **Particulate Matter** (also called particle pollution): the term for a mixture of solid particles and liquid droplets found in the air. Some particles, such as dust, dirt, soot, or smoke, are large or dark enough to be seen with the naked eye. Others are so small they can only be detected using an electron microscope.

PM_{2.5} are fine inhalable particles, with diameters that are generally 2.5 micrometers and smaller. How small is 2.5 micrometers? Think about a single hair from your head. The average human hair is about 70 micrometers in diameter – making it 30 times larger than the largest fine particle. Some are emitted directly from a source, such as construction sites, unpaved roads, fields, smokestacks or fires.

Particulate Matter contains microscopic solids or liquid droplets that are so small that they can be inhaled and cause serious health problems. Some particles less than 10 micrometers in diameter can get deep into your lungs and some may even get into your bloodstream. ([EPA, 2024](#))

Here is a short summary of PM_{2.5} in various locations in [St. Croix, VI](#).

	Average	Minimum	Maximum
Concordia West	11.21	0	48
Clifton Hill	15.61	0	95
Frederiksted Town	14.10	0	89
Mon Bijou	13.15	0	85
Profit Hills	11.49	0	124
Sandy Point	9.82	0	56
St. George	10.86	0	83
Williams Delight	11.74	0	59
Work & Rest	11.98	0	65

AQI	Level of Health Concerns	Color code	Health Impact/Risk Assessment
0 – 50	Good	Green	The quality of the air is deemed acceptable, and there is minimal to no risk from air pollution
51 – 100	Moderate	Yellow	The quality of the air is acceptable, although, many people who are usually sensitive to air pollution may be at minor risk for health problems
101 – 150	Unhealthy for sensitive group	Orange	Sensitive group members may have negative health effects. It is unlikely that the general population will be impacted.
151 – 200	Unhealthy	Red	Everyone may start to feel the consequences on their health; however, people who fall into sensitive groups may feel the effects more severely
201 – 300	Very unhealthy	Purple	Health warning: More serious health problems could affect everyone
301 – 500	Hazardous	Maroon	An emergency health alert is in effect. There is a greater chance that everyone will be impacted