

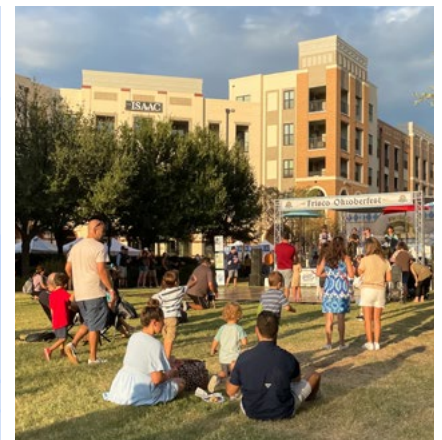
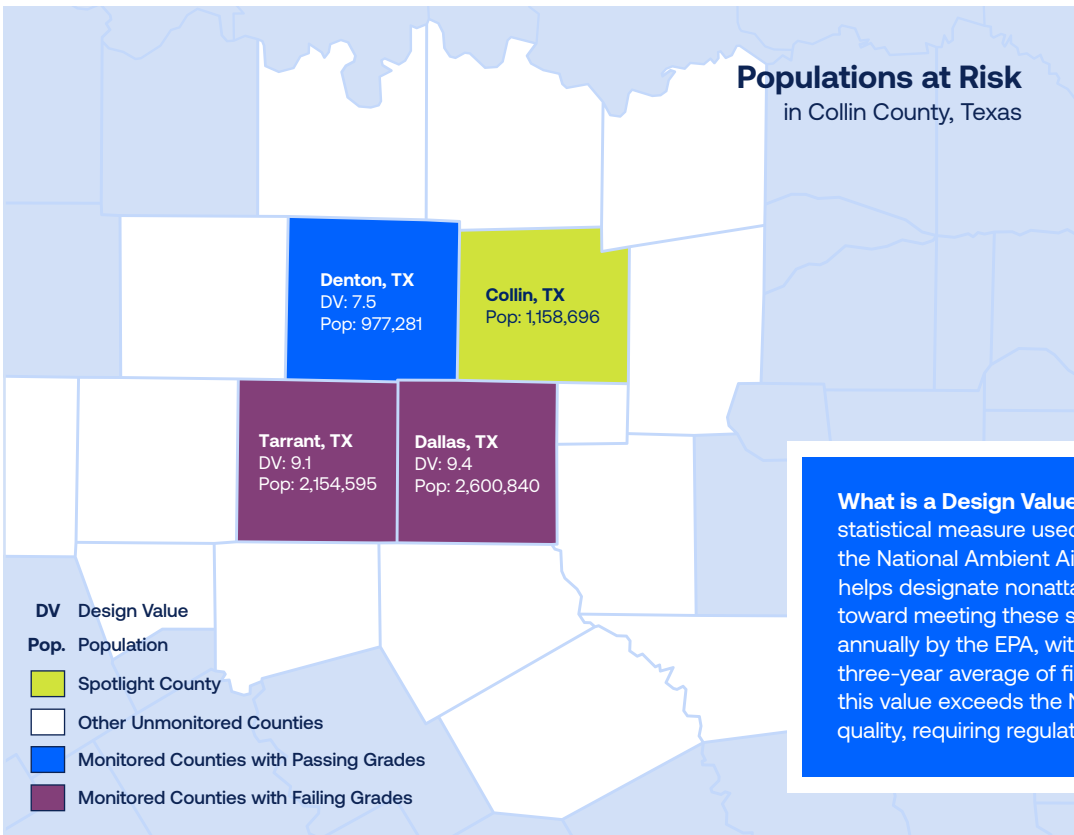
Something in the Air

Collin County, Texas



The American Lung Association’s **“State of the Air” 2024** found that **39% of people in the U.S.—131.2 million people—live in places with unhealthy levels of ozone or particle pollution.** The report relies on data collected at official air quality monitoring sites, which are limited in scope, leaving many counties without a grade for deadly particle pollution.

This new, supplemental report taps into the power of satellite-derived data to spotlight potentially unhealthy levels of air pollution in hundreds of counties without official monitors, including Collin County, Texas as one example.



What is a Design Value? A design value (DV) is a statistical measure used to assess air quality relative to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). It helps designate nonattainment areas and track progress toward meeting these standards. DVs are calculated annually by the EPA, with the PM_{2.5} DV representing a three-year average of fine particulate matter levels. If this value exceeds the NAAQS, it indicates unhealthy air quality, requiring regulatory action to protect public health.

Part of the expansive Dallas–Fort Worth metroplex, Collin Co. is home to more than one million residents. The air quality in the county is significantly impacted by its geographic proximity to major urban hubs, including Arlington, Fort Worth, Denton and Plano, in addition to Dallas. The growing region is heavily car-dependent and crisscrossed by highways, including critical east-west and north-south interstates.

The Dallas metro area ranks 48th worst for annual particle pollution out of 204 metropolitan areas in the U.S. in “State of the Air” 2024. Only three of its 19 counties had monitoring data for PM_{2.5}, with Dallas County (DV of 9.4 µg/m³) and Tarrant County (DV of 9.1 µg/m³) receiving failing grades. Collin County is included in the 2024 Dallas–Fort Worth Air Quality Improvement Plan to reduce pollutant emissions and improve public health.



Collin County is home to hundreds of thousands of residents who are at increased risk of health harm from exposure to unhealthy levels of particle pollution, including more than 418,000 vulnerable children and seniors. Nearly half of the population are people of color, who often face disproportionate risk of environmental exposures that threaten health. These demographics highlight the need for accurate air quality information and targeted interventions to protect public health.

Despite its large population and proximity to areas with known high pollution levels, Collin County lacks local air quality monitoring, leaving residents underinformed about potential health risks from elevated PM_{2.5}, and without the information they need to advocate for cleaner air.

To learn more about the American Lung Association’s work using emerging technology to understand local air quality, visit, [Lung.org/something-in-the-air](https://www.lung.org/something-in-the-air).