

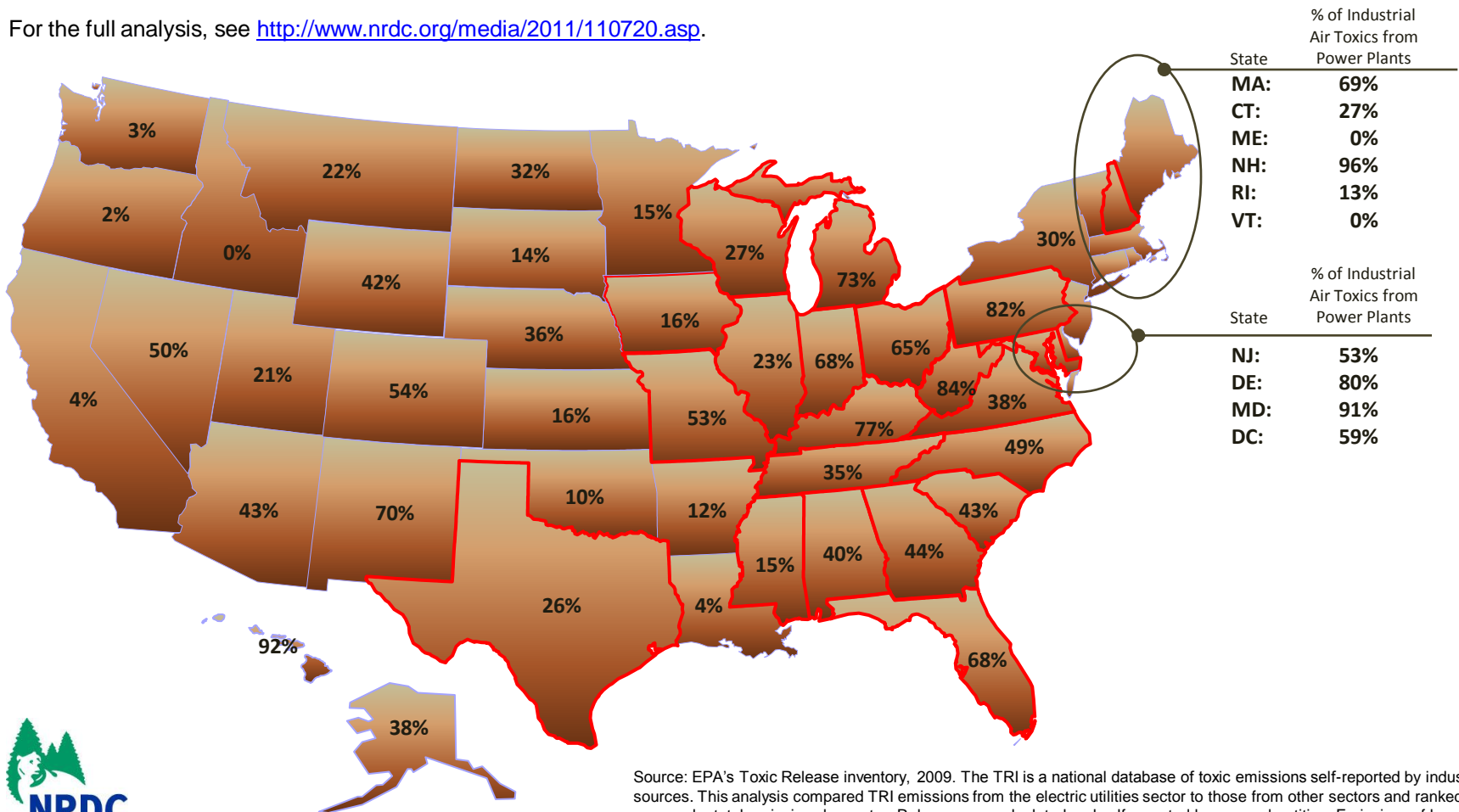
Toxic Power: How Power Plants Contaminate Your Air

The electric sector is the largest source of industrial emissions of toxic air pollution in the United States. In 2009, coal- and oil-fired power plants accounted for nearly 50 percent of all reported toxic pollution from industrial sources.

Exposure to toxic pollution from power plants, including hydrochloric acid, mercury, and other metals, is known or believed to contribute to or exacerbate a wide variety of health conditions, including one or more of the following: asthma and other respiratory ailments, developmental disorders, neurological damage, birth defects, cancer, and premature mortality.

The map below indicates the percentage of industrial air toxics coming from power plants in each state. States that are outlined in red are considered to be in the “Toxic 20” – the states that have the most toxic air pollution from power plants.

For the full analysis, see <http://www.nrdc.org/media/2011/110720.asp>.



Source: EPA's Toxic Release inventory, 2009. The TRI is a national database of toxic emissions self-reported by industrial sources. This analysis compared TRI emissions from the electric utilities sector to those from other sectors and ranked sources by total emissions by sector. Releases are calculated and self-reported by covered entities. Emissions of key power plant pollutants are reported to the TRI, including mercury, hydrochloric acid, and other hazardous metals.