

# Iowa Fine Particulate Monitoring Network Design Values

2011-2013



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Ambient Air Monitoring  
Group*

## **What is Fine Particulate Matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>)?**

The term “particulate matter” (PM) includes both solid particles and liquid droplets (excluding water droplets) that are found in outdoor air.

Particulate matter may be emitted directly into the air or can form from pollutants that react in the atmosphere. Small particles tend to pose the greatest health concern because they can be inhaled into and accumulate in the respiratory system.

Particles of less than 2.5 microns in diameter are referred to as fine particulate or PM<sub>2.5</sub>.

Sources of PM<sub>2.5</sub> emissions include all types of combustion (motor vehicles, power plants, wood burning, etc.) and some industrial processes. Secondary PM<sub>2.5</sub> is produced in the atmosphere away from sources through atmospheric chemistry.

## What are the Design Values for PM<sub>2.5</sub>?

Design values for PM<sub>2.5</sub> are numbers that are calculated from three years of data gathered at a particular monitoring site. If a design value is greater than the associated standard, the monitor is said to “fail the attainment test”. The annual standard for PM<sub>2.5</sub> is 12.0 µg/m<sup>3</sup> and the twenty-four hour standard is 35 µg/m<sup>3</sup>.

The design value for the 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard is the three year average of the annual 98<sup>th</sup> percentile values measured at a monitoring site. The design value for the annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard is the three year average of the annual averages measured at a monitoring site. Additional details about design value calculations are contained in 40 CFR Part 50 Appendix N.

## **Data Completeness and Validation**

If a monitor records 75% of the scheduled samples in each quarter of the year, the year's data is considered complete. EPA allows the use of data substitution in some cases where data is close to the 75% goal. Data used in this report includes all monitors with complete data for 2011-2013 as well as data from two sites where substitution was performed.

All values in this report should be considered preliminary. Data values will be certified in May, 2014 and EPA will calculate design values for determination of compliance with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) later this year.

All Iowa monitoring sites currently have 24-hour and annual design values less than the NAAQS.

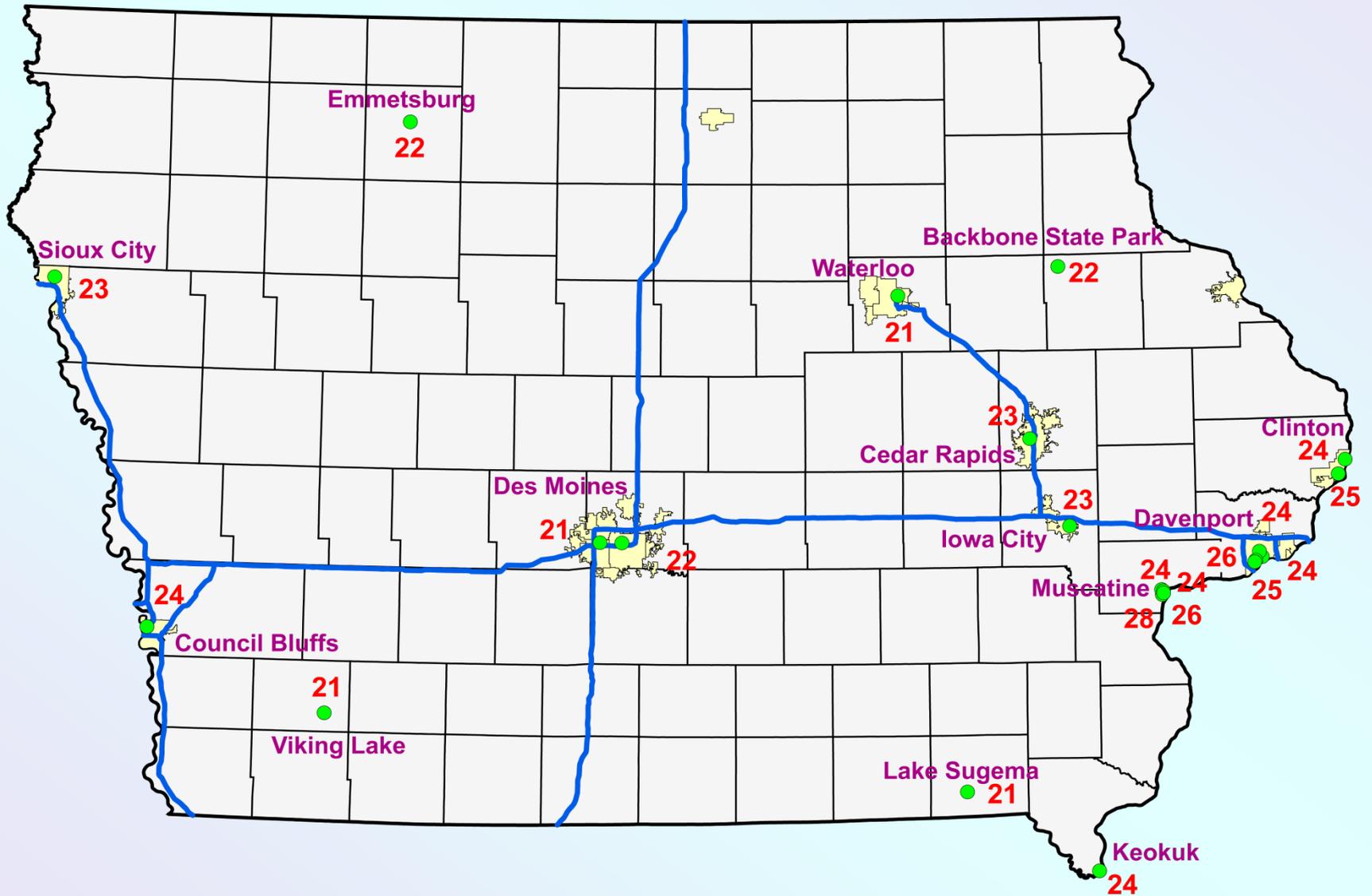
# What Types of PM<sub>2.5</sub> Monitoring Data May be Used to Calculate Design Values?

Iowa currently operates two different types of PM<sub>2.5</sub> samplers. One type collects fine particles by drawing ambient air through a filter over a 24-hour period. The filters are then returned to an analytical laboratory where they are weighed. Provided EPA protocols for handling and weighing the filters are followed, these manual samplers produce data that may be used for design value calculations. Although manual samplers provide accurate concentrations, the data produced is not available in real time, and so EPA has encouraged States to use automated continuous samplers to inform the public of current air quality levels.

EPA has approved the use of certain types of continuous samplers for computing design values, but advises States to conduct ongoing evaluations of the comparability of the data from these samplers to filter samplers. Iowa's humid summers and wintertime nitrate episodes represent a challenging environment in which to demonstrate this comparability. Iowa continues to evaluate the performance of continuous samplers with designs that are similar to those approved by EPA, but, to date, has not been able to consistently demonstrate comparability of the data generated from continuous samplers to filter sampler data.

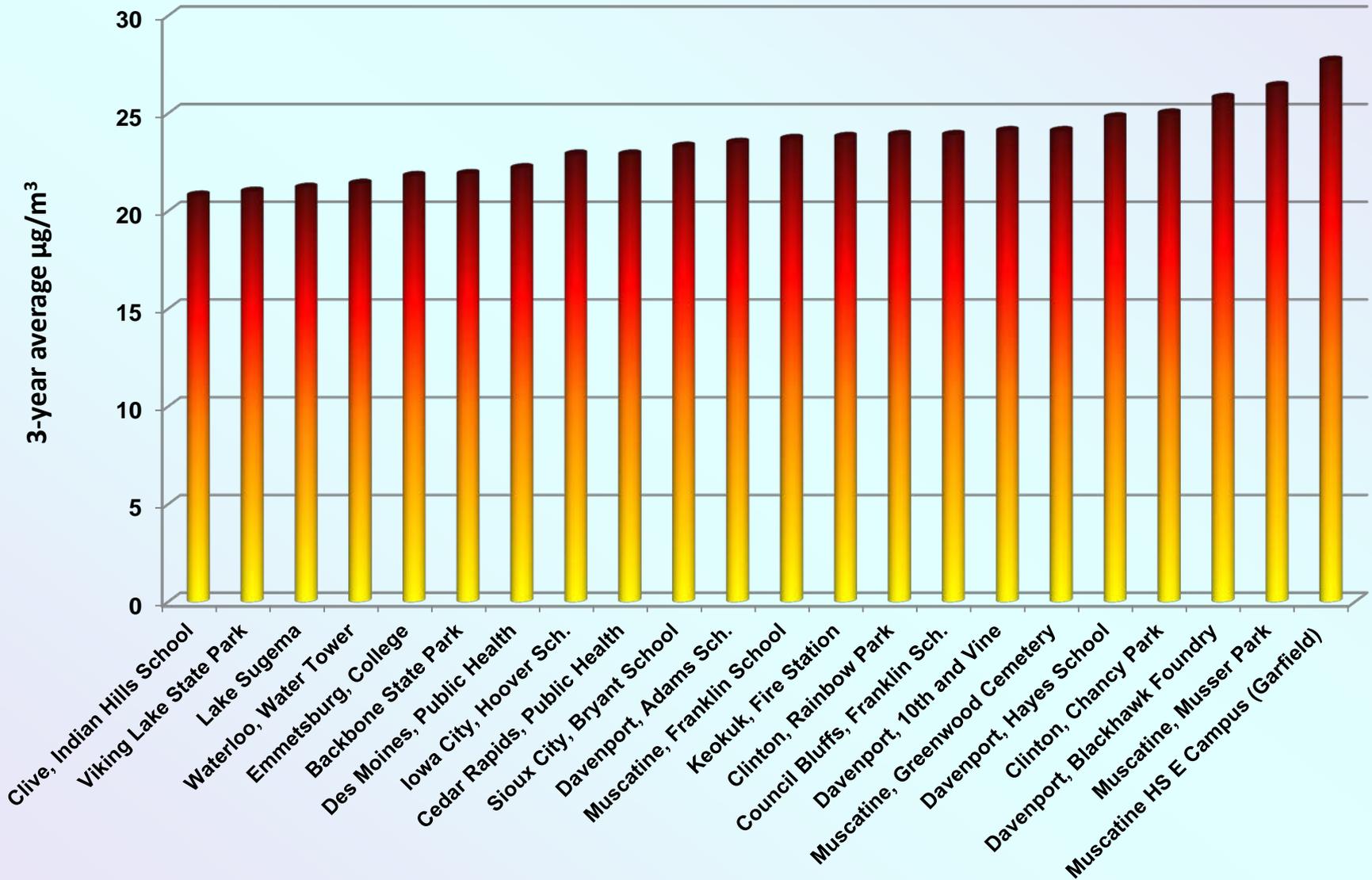
# Iowa PM<sub>2.5</sub> 24-hour Design Values 2011-2013

(NAAQS Standard is 35 µg/m<sup>3</sup>)



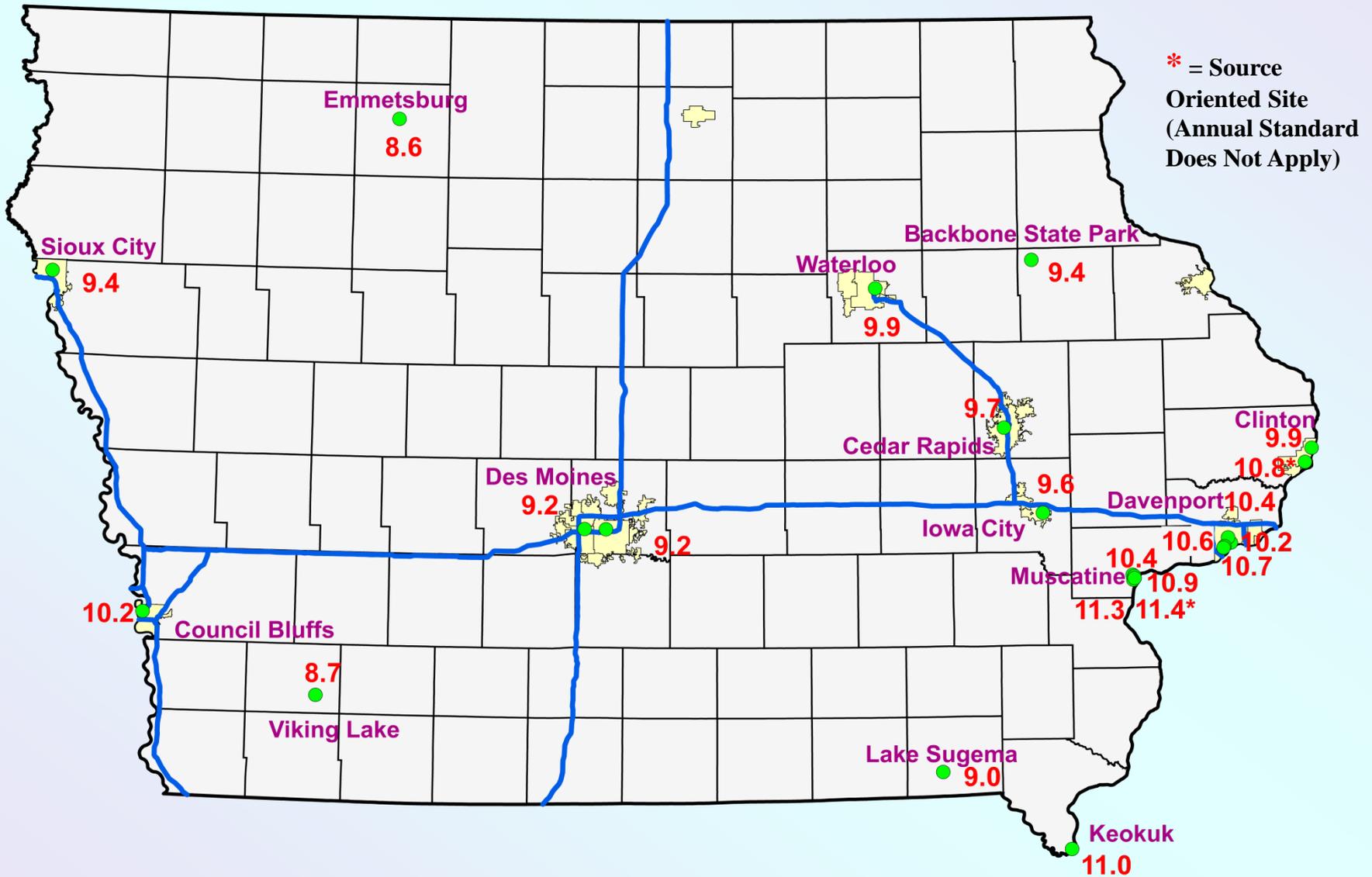
# 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> Design Values 2011-2013

(NAAQS Standard is 35 µg/m<sup>3</sup>)



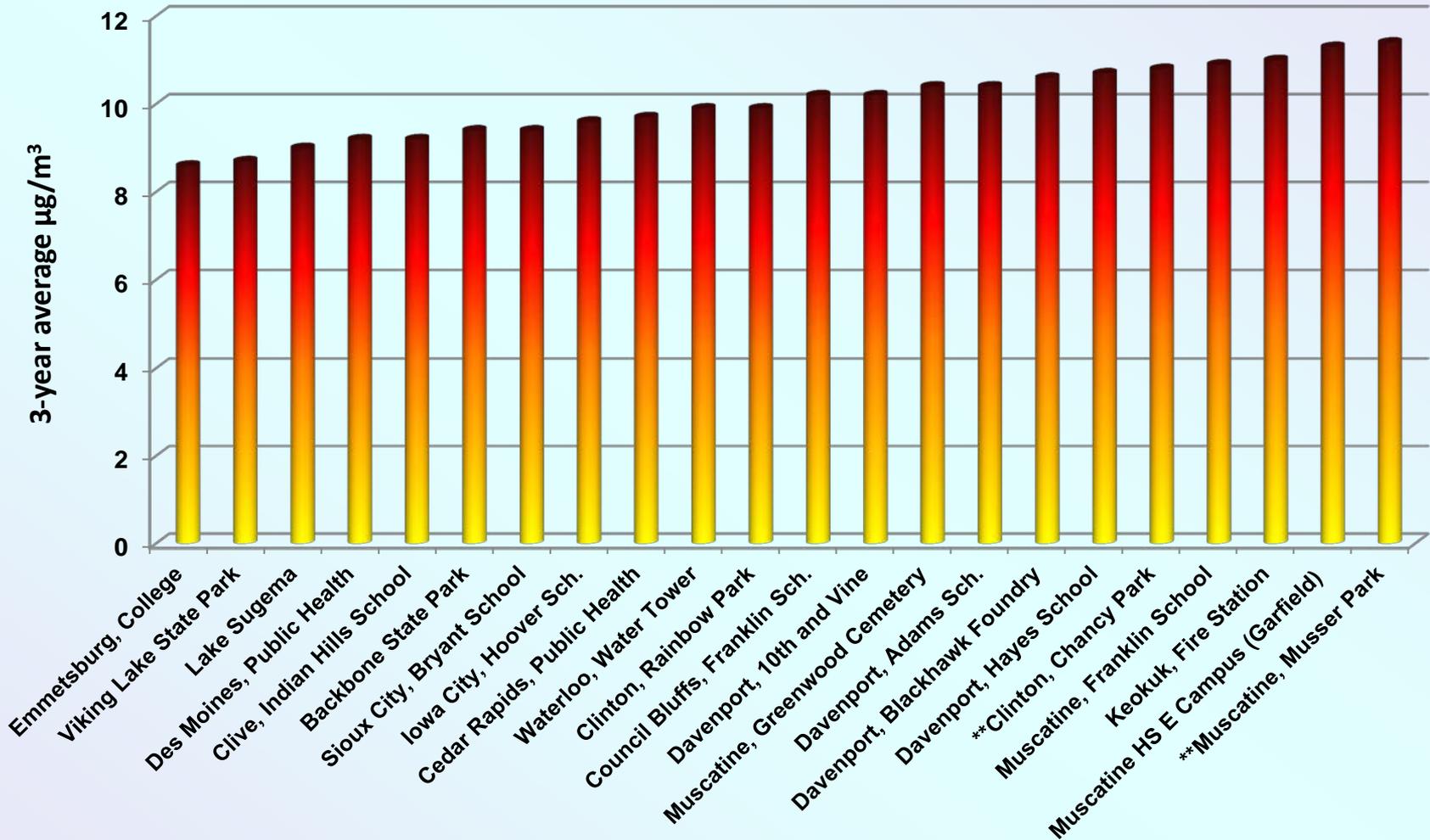
# Iowa PM<sub>2.5</sub> Annual Design Values 2011-2013

(NAAQS Standard is 12.0  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )



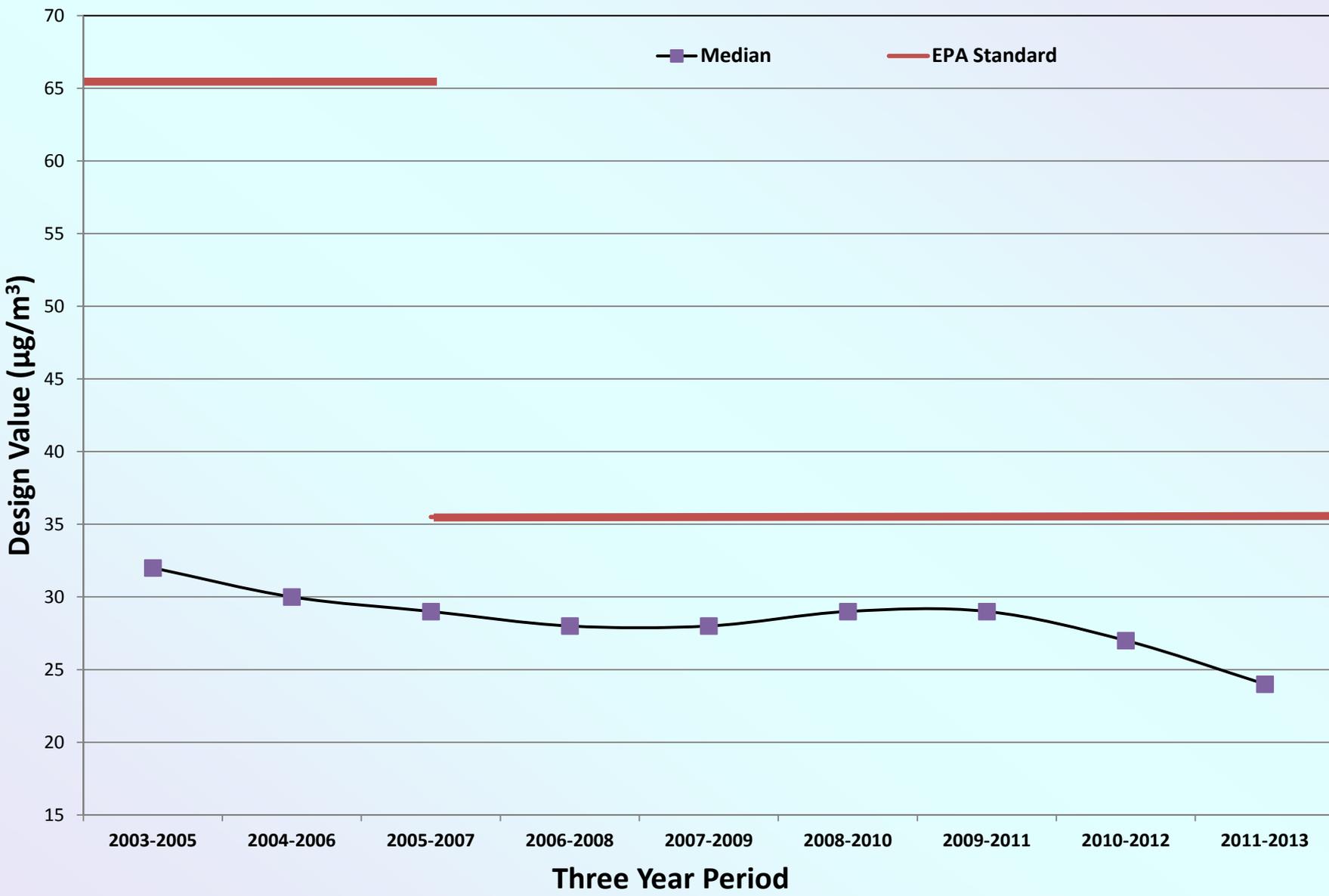
# Annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> Design Values 2011-2013

(NAAQS Standard is 12.0 µg/m<sup>3</sup>)



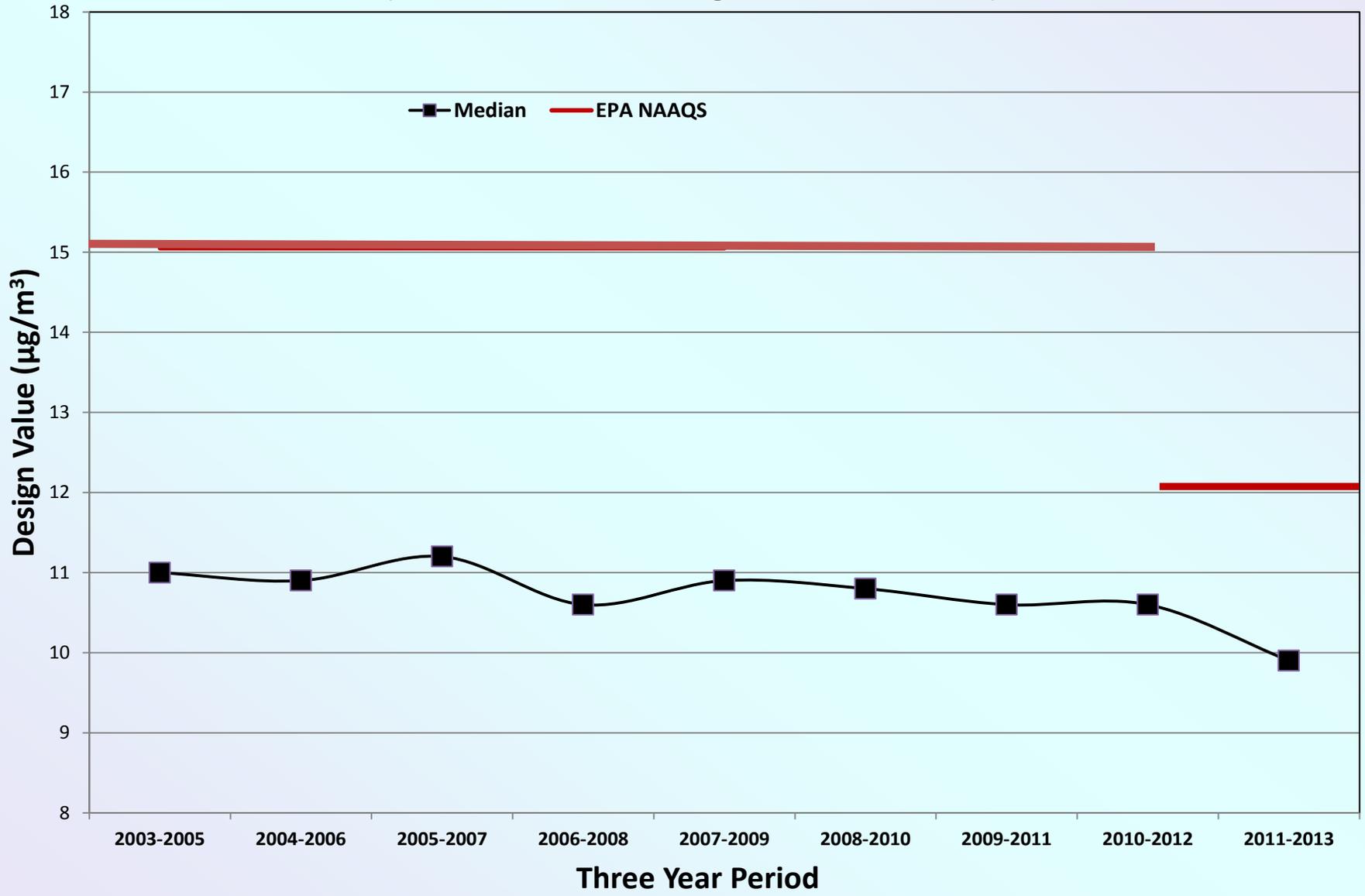
\*\* Muscatine, Musser Park and Clinton, Chancy Park are “source oriented” sites and the annual standard does not apply.

# Median PM<sub>2.5</sub> 24-Hour Design Values in Iowa PM<sub>2.5</sub> Monitoring Network



# Median PM<sub>2.5</sub> Annual Design Values in Iowa PM<sub>2.5</sub> Monitoring Network

(source oriented monitoring sites are not included)



# Web Resources

*Calculation of the  $PM_{2.5}$  Design Values is treated in Appendix N of 40 CFR Pt. 50:*

[http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title40/40cfr50\\_main\\_02.tpl](http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title40/40cfr50_main_02.tpl)

*EPA's Design Value calculations for  $PM_{2.5}$  and other pollutants:*

<http://www.epa.gov/airtrends/values.html>

*Information from EPA on  $PM_{2.5}$  standards:*

<http://www.epa.gov/airquality/particlepollution/actions.html#dec12>

*Historical Air Pollution Data for Iowa and Other States:*

<http://www.epa.gov/airdata/>

This report was updated on 5/27/14 as the original report had the Clinton sites transposed on the map of annual  $PM_{2.5}$  design values.

*Web links listed are as accessed on 4/17/2014.*