

10 Health Facts You Need To Know

1. Pittsburgh ranks as one of the top 10 most polluted cities in the nation in regard to year-round particle pollution (PM2.5). [1, 3]
2. Allegheny County ranks in the top 2 percent of counties in the U.S. for cancer risk from air pollution. [2]
3. Our air poses a significant threat to public health with an increased risk of heart and lung disease, asthma, diabetes, cancer and premature death. [1, 3, 6]
4. Asthma, cardiovascular disease and stroke can be aggravated by short-term exposure to particulate pollution. [7]
5. Suspected carcinogens in air pollution are associated with lung cancer, bladder cancer and childhood leukemia. [6]
6. Air pollution may be the cause of neurodevelopmental disorders (autism spectral) and neurodegenerative disorders (Parkinson's, ALS, Alzheimer's), which have increased at alarming rates in recent decades. [6]
7. Low birth weight and developmental effects in babies are linked to chronic exposures to toxic air pollutants and particulate matter. [6]
8. Air pollution has been linked with pregnancy and birth complications among women living in Allegheny County, including increased risk of preeclampsia, gestational hypertension and preterm births. [1]
9. Fine particulate matter may alter metabolism in genetically susceptible populations, leading to higher body mass index (BMI) and obesity. [6]
10. The construction of the Shell Petrochemical facility in Beaver County could erase 30 years' worth of regional air quality improvements and bring a variety of health risks from the VOCs it will emit. [5]

Our Region's Air **IS STILL POLLUTED**

MONITORS SHOW OUR REGION'S POOR AIR IS CAUSED MOSTLY BY LOCAL SOURCES

- In 2016, air quality in the Pittsburgh region was considered NOT GOOD for 249 days (2/3 of the time). [3]
- From 2014-2016, four regional air monitors registered particulate matter (PM 2.5) concentrations worse than 90% of the U.S. [3]
- In 2016, seven out of 10 monitors in the Pittsburgh region had PM 2.5 levels in the worst 25% in the nation in 2016. [3]
- For 2014-2016, three of the Pittsburgh region's 11 ozone monitors ranked in the worst 25% nationally. [3]
- EPA estimates that emissions from Pennsylvania sources will contribute over 50% of human-caused ozone at four sites in western Pennsylvania counties in 2017 (one each in Allegheny, Armstrong, Indiana and Lawrence Counties). [3]

SOURCES

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