

## 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 2018, air quality in the Pittsburgh region was considered NOT GOOD for 229 days (2/3 of the time). [3]
- From 2016-2018, three regional air monitors registered particulate matter (PM2.5) concentrations worse than 90% of the U.S. [3]
- From 2016-2018, seven out of 10 monitors in the Pittsburgh region had PM2.5 levels worse than 80% of the U.S. [3]
- For 2016-2018, two of the Pittsburgh region's 10 ozone monitors ranked in the worst 20% nationally. [3]

## SOURCES

1. "State of the Air, 2019." American Lung Association, 2019. Online: <https://www.lung.org/assets/documents/healthy-air/state-of-the-air/sota-2019-full.pdf>
2. Pittsburgh Regional Environmental Threats Analysis (PRETA) Report PRETA AIR: Hazardous Air Pollutants (2013) [http://www.heinz.org/UserFiles/Library/PRETA\\_HAPS.pdf](http://www.heinz.org/UserFiles/Library/PRETA_HAPS.pdf)
3. Pittsburgh's Air Quality Data Analysis by John Graham, Ph. D., Clean Air Task Force 2019.
4. Circulation: Journal of the American Heart Association, "Particulate Matter Air Pollution and Cardiovascular Disease," Brook et al. June 1, 2010. <http://ahajournals.org>
5. Clean Air Council, "Health Impact Assessment of the Shell Chemical Appalachia Petrochemical Complex" <http://cleanair.org/wp-content/uploads/HIA-Final.pdf>
6. Laden, F.; Schwartz, J.; Speizer, F.; and Dockery, D. "Reduction in Fine Particulate Air Pollution and Mortality: Extended Follow-up of the Harvard Six Cities Study," 2006. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/16424447>
7. Kurt Straif, Aaron Cohen, Jonathan Samet, "Air Pollution and Cancer" <http://www.iarc.fr/en/publications/books/sp161/AirPollution-andCancer161.pdf> Page 166-168 of the report, "Although the studies were limited in scope, the results indicate that the joint contribution may be substantial."
8. Pa. Dept. of Health Asthma Prevalence Report 2015 <http://www.health.pa.gov/My%20Health/Diseases%20and%20Conditions/A-D/Asthma/Documents/2015%20PENNSYLVANIA%20ASTHMA%20PREVALENCE%20REPORT%20UPDATED%20FEB%2023%202016.pdf>
9. "Case-Crossover Analysis of Air Pollution and Cardiorespirator Hospitalizations: Using Routinely Collected Health and Environmental Data for Tracking [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/23312248\\_Case-Crossover\\_Analysis\\_of\\_Air\\_Pollution\\_and\\_Cardiorespiratory\\_Hospitalizations\\_Using\\_Routinely\\_Collected\\_Health\\_and\\_Environmental\\_Data\\_for\\_Tracking\\_Science\\_and\\_Data](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/23312248_Case-Crossover_Analysis_of_Air_Pollution_and_Cardiorespiratory_Hospitalizations_Using_Routinely_Collected_Health_and_Environmental_Data_for_Tracking_Science_and_Data)
10. The Lancet Commission on Pollution and Health, Oct. 19, 2017 <http://www.thelancet.com/commissions/pollution-and-health>