

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, 4]
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, 2, 3, 4]
4. Pittsburgh remains one of the most challenging places to live with asthma in the country. Children living near smokestack pollution sources in communities like Clairton, Woodland Hills and Allegheny Valley have as high as a 1 in 4 rate of having asthma. (Gentile Study) [12]
5. Suspected carcinogens in air pollution are associated with lung cancer, bladder cancer and childhood leukemia. [8, 11]
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. [11]
7. Low birth weight and developmental effects in babies are linked to chronic exposures to toxic air pollutants and particulate matter. [10, 11]
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. [9]
9. Fine particulate matter may alter metabolism in genetically susceptible populations, leading to higher body mass index (BMI) and obesity. [10,11]
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. [6]

SOURCES

1. "State of the Air, 2021." American Lung Association, 2021. Online:
<https://www.lung.org/getmedia/17c6cb6c-8a38-42a7-a3b0-6744011da370/sota-2021.pdf>
2. Graham J, Jacobs M, Hoppin P. National Air Toxics Assessment and Cancer Risk in Allegheny County Pennsylvania. Clean Air Task Force and Cancer and Environment Network of Southwest Pennsylvania; 2021 May. Available from:
<https://censwpa.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/NATA-Factsheet.pdf>
3. Pittsburgh Regional Environmental Threats Analysis (PRETA) Report PRETA AIR: Hazardous Air Pollutants (2013)
http://www.heinz.org/UserFiles/Library/PRETA_HAPS.pdf
4. *EPA AQI Data 2018 - 2020*
5. Circulation: Journal of the American Heart Association, "Particulate Matter Air Pollution and Cardiovascular Disease," Brook et al. June 1, 2010.
<http://ahajournals.org>
6. Clean Air Council, "Health Impact Assessment of the Shell Chemical Appalachia Petrochemical Complex"
<http://cleanair.org/wp-content/uploads/HIA-Final.pdf>
7. 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>
8. Kurt Straif, Aaron Cohen, Jonathan Samet, "Air Pollution and Cancer"
<http://www.iarc.fr/en/publications/books/sp161/AirPollutionandCancer161.pdf> Page 166-168 of the report, "Although the studies were limited in scope, the results indicate that the joint contribution may be substantial."
9. 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>
10. "Case-Crossover Analysis of Air Pollution and Cardiorespiratory 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
11. The Lancet Commission on Pollution and Health, Oct. 19, 2017
<http://www.thelancet.com/commissions/pollution-and-health>