

10 Health Facts You Need To Know

1. Pittsburgh ranks as one of the top 25 most polluted cities in the nation in regard to year-round particle pollution (PM2.5). [1, 3]
2. Allegheny County ranks in the top 1 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 2022, air quality in the Pittsburgh region was considered NOT GOOD for 204 days (over 1/2 of the time). [3]
- From 2020-2022, one regional air monitor registered particulate matter (PM 2.5) concentrations worse than 90% of the U.S. [3]
- From 2020-2022, three out of 4 monitors in the Pittsburgh region had PM 2.5 levels worse than 50% of the U.S. [3]
- For 2020-2022, four of the Pittsburgh region's 7 ozone monitors ranked in the worst 50% nationally. [3]

SOURCES

1. ["State of the Air, 2023."](#) American Lung Association, 2023.
2. [National Air Toxics Assessment and Cancer Risk in Allegheny County Pennsylvania Updated – May 2021](#). Cancer & Environment Network of Southwestern Pennsylvania
3. Pittsburgh's Air Quality Data Analysis by John Graham, Ph. D., Clean Air Task Force 2023.
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" <https://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.
7. Kurt Straif, Aaron Cohen, Jonathan Samet, ["Air Pollution and Cancer"](#) 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 Fact Sheet 2021](#)
9. ["Case-Crossover Analysis of Air Pollution and Cardiorespirator Hospitalizations: Using Routinely Collected Health and Environmental Data for Tracking"](#)
10. [The Lancet Commission on Pollution and Health, Oct. 19, 2017](#)