

Ask a Doctor: Clean Air Laws Save Lives and Money

Strong state policies will address the health and economic costs of air pollution by giving toxic air pollution the same high priority that the law now gives to carbon.

Proposed legislation will:

- Reduce pollution-caused illness
- Invest in communities with greatest needs
- Reduce climate impacts



Who's at Risk?

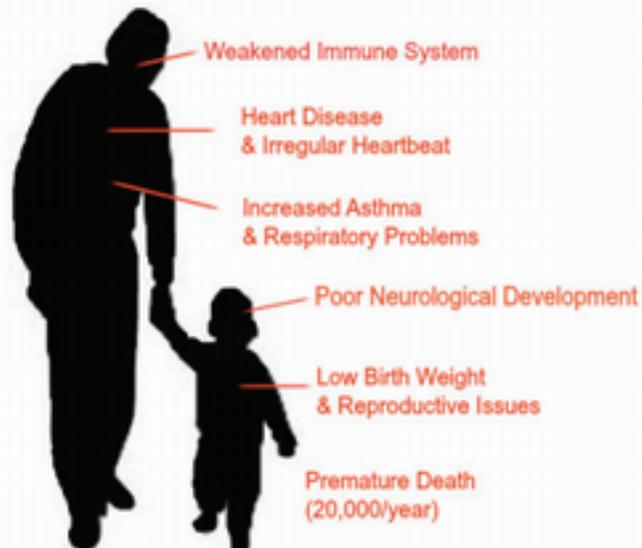
We all are. But communities of color are disproportionately exposed to air toxins.

- African Americans experience higher exposures to air toxics, especially from oil refineries
- Latinos experience higher exposures from chemical plants and oil refineries

The Cost of Doing Nothing

It's no surprise that breathing air toxins can have serious repercussions – especially for those living near petroleum refineries. A recent analysis by RAND found a significant connection between clean air policies and health costs, estimating that California could save **\$193 million** and avoid nearly **30,000 hospital admissions and ER visits** with cleaner air.

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Proposed Clean Air Legislation Will:

Reduce Pollution-Caused Illness

Burning fossil fuels releases toxic gasses and particles that are harmful to people. These “co-pollutants” are responsible for a host of illnesses and billions of dollars in avoidable health expenses. Communities near polluting facilities suffer the worst consequences.

Invest Communities

in Disadvantaged

Existing law requires that revenues from California’s new cap-and-trade auction go to a special fund used to create jobs and support clean air projects in disadvantaged communities. But the 2013-14 budget borrowed \$500 million from the fund. Enacting strong anti- pollution laws will ensure that starting January 1, 2014, auction revenues are spent as intended to improve air quality and health.

Reduce Climate Impacts

New laws will help close a loophole in California climate policy which makes it too easy for polluting industries to avoid actual reductions in harmful emissions. Incorporating co-pollutants into climate policies, rather than focusing on carbon alone, maximizes both climate and health benefits.

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Households Living Within 2.5 Miles of a Polluting Facility

Across all income levels, African Americans and Latinos are far more likely to live closer to polluting facilities.

Source: “Cooling the Planet, Clearing the Air,” Boyce and Pastor, 2012

